

# DOTRA'S...DotLine.....



ISSUE NO. 68

AUGUST 2009

A Publication of the N.J. Department of Transportation Retirees Association Inc.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Chet Andres

### Dedication of Engineering and Operations Building in honor of Jack Freidenrich, P.E.

In honor of former Assistant Commissioner Jack Freidenrich on Tuesday September 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. In the Courtyard of NJDOT's E&O Building.

Commissioner Steve Dilts invites all DOTRA members to participate in this Dedication Ceremony to honor Jack for his commitment to the Department and the citizens of New Jersey.

Legislation (S-2369/A-3507) was signed and passed into law on May 9, 2009 directing the Commissioner of Transportation to designate the Engineering and Operations Building of the Department of Transportation in Ewing Township as the "Jack Freidenrich Engineering and Operations Building" in honor of the distinguished services performed by Mr. Freidenrich during his engineering career at NJDOT.

If you have any questions about this Dedication Ceremony, please feel free to contact Chet Andres via telephone at (609) 818-1921 or by email at [dandcon50@aol.com](mailto:dandcon50@aol.com). Ann Fratticcioli via telephone at (609) 530-5531 or by email at [ann.fratticcioli@dot.state.nj.us](mailto:ann.fratticcioli@dot.state.nj.us)

Light refreshments will be served compliments of the NJDOT's Employee Memorial Committee.

We hope to see you on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## DOTRA BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS

DOTRA holds its regular Monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Currently, we are meeting at Tessara's Italian restaurant in Hamilton Twp. Our business meeting **starts at 11 AM**, followed by Dutch-treat luncheon.

Our next meeting will be

**Tuesday, August 4th, 2009**  
**At 11:00 AM**

**All members of DOTRA are welcome !!!**  
Schedule for Future Meetings:

Tuesday September 1, 2009  
Tuesday October 6, 2009  
Tuesday November 3, 2009  
Tuesday December 1, 2009

Tuesday – January 6, 2009 at Tessara's  
812 Route 33 Hamilton Twp

**DOTRA'S ANNUAL PICNIC**  
**BELLE MTN PICNIC AREA**  
**September 9 Wednesday at NOON**  
**(See Attached Flyer)**

**BUS TRIP TO "American Music Theater"**  
**Lunch at Shady Maple**  
**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2009**  
**(See Attached Flyer)**

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**MERCER OAKS CC**  
**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2009**  
**Info in November DOTLINE**

**DOTRA**  
**PO BOX 77160**  
**WEST TRENTON, NJ 08628**

### CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

**By Sal Noto**

We would like to be kept informed of any retiree who is ill, anyone confined to their home, or any retiree who needs help in one form or another.

If you have any information to share about members or retirees, please call or send a note to Sal at **609-882-8395** or e-mail at [judy\\_and\\_sal@yahoo.com](mailto:judy_and_sal@yahoo.com)

or write to Sal at 75 Stonicker Drive  
 Lawrenceville NJ 08648.

#### **Recent Obituaries:**

*James Springstead (77)	NJDOT
Joseph Meszaros Sr	NJDOT
Richard C. Murray (75)	NJDOT
Victor Mattola (97)	NJDOT
Anthony Garafola (92)	NJDOT
Robert Mellor (78)	NJDOT
Christopher DiCostanza (66)	NJDOT
Betsy Jane Cantwell (60)	NJDOT
Leigh Shaw (65)	NJDOT
Charles Williams (90)	NDOT
Peter Tanzone (97)	DMV
Brian Dombrowski	NJDOT
Joseph Hilbert	NJDOT
Joyce May Dickson	NJDOT
Clare Gray	NJDOT
Donald Erbie	NJDOT

\*DENOTES DOTRA MEMBERS

Sadly, we report the recent passing of one of DOTRA's long-time Directors -Jim Springstead, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Jim was a pleasant guy who never missed a DOTRA Board meeting, always armed with the official DOTRA American flag, a DOTRA picnic where he was busy selling 50:50's, a DOTRA Luncheon where he had his special "vegetable" order, a DOTRA bus trip to Radio City or even one of DOTRA's big trips like Hawaii. Jim truly was a loyal DOTRA member. Jim, you will be sorely missed by all the Directors !

### DOTRA'S ON THE INTERNET

Log onto DOTRA's own Web Site at:  
<http://www.dotra.org>

You can read the latest issue of the NJDOT TRANSPORTER on our Website, as it is no longer being mailed out automatically by the NJDOT to Retirees.

### **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ??**

Any questions about your dues? If any members want to write and update their info, find someone, we will be happy to hear from you anytime. Just send it to our **DOTRA P.O. BOX.**

### **DOTRA EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT-</b> Chet Andres	609-818-1921
<b>1st VP-</b> Jay Johnston	609-588-0930
<b>2nd VP-</b> Jim Dixon	609-298-3398
<b>TREASURER-</b> Lou Papp	609-585-7697
<b>ASST.TREAS-</b> Frank Herrera	609-392-0633
<b>REC.SEC-</b> Hazel Rockhill	609-581-3560
<b>CORRES. SEC-</b> Donna Troiano	609-298-5962

### DIRECTORS/ TERM OF OFFICE

Chet Andres (09)	Mary Bock (10)
Dot Andres (09)	Don Hutchinson (10)
Jim Dixon (09)	Jay Johnston (10)
Mike Eckel (09)	Adrian Lincoln (10)
Sal Noto (09)	Lou Papp (10)
Hazel Rockhill (09)	Bruce Strickland (10)
Donna Troiano (09)	Phil Vecere (10)
Joe Bodnar (11)	
Art Egan (11)	
Al Gallo (11)	
Frank Herrera (11)	
Jim Springstead (11)	
Janis Stia (11)	
Peter Yull (11)	

Director Emeritus- Dolores Murphy  
 Vacancy = 0

### COMMITTEES

<b>CHAPLAIN –</b>	Sal Noto	609-882-8395
<b>MEMBERSHIP –</b>	Dot Andres	609-818-1921
	Janis Stia	609-882-3862
	Art Egan	609-585-9145
<b>BY-LAWS –</b>		
<b>HISTORIAN –</b>	Mike Eckel	
<b>ACTIVITIES –</b>	Jim Springstead	609-392-0848
<b>DOTLINE –</b>	Dot Andres & Bruce Strickland	609-818-1921 609-538-8189
<b>DATABASE -</b>	John Waldner	
<b>MEMORIAL</b>		
Committee Liason –	Mary Bock	609-882-0704
<b>WEBSITE -</b>	Bruce Strickland	609-538-8189

**VIEW FROM THE PORTAL-  
(por-TAHL- New Mexican for Deck)**

by **Bruce Strickland**

General attitudes are vastly different in New Mexico. There are no vehicle inspections so we're a long way from NJ's tyrannical trial by fire at Baker's Basin (MVS). Therefore, I'm not too concerned about the windshield crack on the Pontiac.

And then there's water, or the lack of same. We recently had some landscaping done around the house, which consisted of lots of boulders, rocks and stones. In addition, we sprang for a water catchment system that captures and stores runoff from the roof. There are stories of people out here who don't have wells and live off that runoff. So far our catchment system is used for watering plants but this contractor ran pipes for a connection to the house. Another water filter will be required for that. The timing of the installation is perfect. As soon as the tanks and pipes went in, the monsoon season started, so we're in pretty good shape for water.

And then there are firearms. The State constitution expressly permits the carrying of firearms as long as they are not concealed, including in vehicles. This adds an element of excitement and risk to tailgating, although it's not a large risk, considering the drivers in Albuquerque.

A bunch of us from the neighborhood took a concealed carry class in May. I took it because any gun training is good for me since I recently bought a .22 automatic and it's been decades since I fired at anything. The .22 is good for any territorial beer cans I encounter on my walks. I haven't decided whether to apply for the concealed carry permit, it may be more trouble than it's worth. You carry in any government building, school or business serving alcohol. Then again, you never know when you're going to run into a snake. Or a Texan.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Again, some familiar names are added to our current DOTRA members – as the State of New Jersey has offered another early “buy-out.” And some of you will probably say, “they are too young to retire!” So here is our latest list with some brief info we received- provided by the **new members**.

**Sandra Sheris** - Freehold NJ Retired from Local Aid after 25 years of service. Would like us to schedule some events in the Monmouth area, if possible.

**John Sindora** – West Trenton NJ – retired from Materials in 2008 after 38 years of service.

**JUNE ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON**

Many thanks to Donna Troiano (Design) for arranging the June Luncheon at Charley's Brothers in Kingston NJ. It was a nice turnout of DOTRA members and guests. Food was excellent and the company was great! Donna pitched in at the last minute and did a fine job for our organization!

**ANNUAL PICNIC AT BELLE MOUNTAIN  
on September 9<sup>th</sup>**

Once again, **Phil Vecere** and his hard working Picnic Crew of **Joe Notaro, Frank Scarpati, Ed Skwara , Frank and Janis Stia** and other helpers will be preparing for the Annual DOTRA PICNIC. There were 117 people there last year. We're returning to Belle Mountain County Park - recently renovated, located off of Route 29 between Titusville and Lambertville.

Many thanks in advance to all the workers who made this event so successful, including the “ladies” who donate the home-made baked goods - always a welcome addition.

**Hope our newest DOTRA members will sign up quickly, along with the DOTRA faithful**

who never miss the picnic. We are ordering good weather in advance!!

### DOTRA's TRAVEL CORNER

There is still space available for the Niagara Falls/Canada Bus Trip on September 9 – 13, 2009 The cost is \$439 per person twin or \$599 per person single. The closing date has passed but if you are interested and send your payment in full now, you can be part of this great bargain. It is during the best season to be traveling North. Currently there are 23 people signed up and anyone interested is welcome to join this beautiful trip ! Call Jay at 609-588-0930 today!

### DOTRA's HOLIDAY TRIP

DOTRA will again have a bus load heading for Pennsylvania Dutch Country on Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup> for a Smorgasbord Lunch at the Shady Maple Restaurant, followed by a special holiday show at 3 PM at the American Music Theater. The cost is \$75.00 and includes bus trip, theater , lunch and gratuities.

Space is limited. The trip is usually SOLD OUT early so act now!!

Our Pick up will be at 9:30 AM at the AMC Theater complex in Hamilton Twp- off of Sloan Road at the I-295 exit- behind UNO's. Our return will be approximately at 8PM.

If you have any questions, call Jay Johnston at 609-588-0930.

### HOLIDAY LUNCHEON DECEMBER 10th

#### Save this Date!!

Arrangements have been made by Sal Noto and Janis Stia for our DOTRA Holiday Luncheon at the Mercer Oaks Country Club. The event will take place on Wednesday December 10 from 11:30 until 2:30. Flyer will be available with the November DOTLINE.

### DOTRA's WINE TASTING !! by Peter Yull

Yes, I will be hosting a couple of wine tastings this fall! The first will be during the week of October 5<sup>th</sup> and will focus on wines from below the equator. The second will be the week of November 9<sup>th</sup> and will focus on bubbly, sparkling wines (maybe even some champagne).

Those of you who are interested, please email me at [pyull@aol.com](mailto:pyull@aol.com) or call me at home 609-394-7145. I want to know: 1. which tastings you want to attend and 2. which day is best for you: and 3. how many people will be coming.

Please note that the tastings are limited to a total of 22 people. Cost will be \$25,00 per person. It will be at Mama Flora's, Olden Avenue in Ewing. Food is included.

The last tasting was enjoyed by all that came. **(Ed.Note: It was fabulous!!)**

### REMEMBER WHEN.....

by Mike Eckel

### THE 15 ORIGINAL STATE HIGHWAYS

There weren't too many responses received to our "puzzler" in the MAY DOTLINE- guess many of you folks have forgotten that we used to work for "the Highway Department."

Correct responses were received from Ed Downs of Willingboro (Plant Engineering), Dot Andres (E&O) and honorable mention to Gary Gronroos of Metuchen (Field Survey).

Correct answers were:

1917 Highways	ANSWER
1	Route 1
2	Route 130
3	Route 30
4	Route 1 to Route 9
5	Route 124, 24,10 to 46
6	Route 45,77, to 49
7	Route 33
8	Route 23

9	Route 22
10	Route 46
11	Route 21, 46, to 19 <b>OR</b> Route 7
12	Route 46, 57 to 22
13	Route 27 to 206
14	Route 50 to 9
15	Route 49,47,83,to 9

Thanks to the participants. We will have to resolve the Route 11 dilemma with an old Straight Line Diagram Book !!!

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROUTE 29

Conceived in the early 1950's as part of the "Trenton Complex," the 9.4 mile-long NJ 29 Freeway- originally called the East-West Highway, and later called the John Fitch Parkway- was designed to provide access to downtown Trenton from outlying suburbs to the east and west.

The initial section of the four-lane divided NJ 29, a 6.2 mile-long stretch from South Warren Street in downtown Trenton north to I-95 (future I-295 extension in Ewing Township, was constructed between 1954 and 1957.

Linking the "Trenton Complex" to the East, from 1990 to 1995, the NJDOT constructed the eastern section of NJ 29 Freeway, extending from NJ 129 in Trenton south to the I-195/ I-295 interchange in Hamilton Twp.

Completing the Missing Freeway Link: in the late 1960's, the NJDOT and the Tri-State Transportation Commission recommended a \$35 million plan to upgrade NJ 29. To the South, the NJDOT proposed the existing NJ 29 be extended from downtown Trenton for 3.2 miles to the I-195/ I-295 interchange. For years there existed a 1.4 mile gap between the NJ 29 arterial highway to the West and the newer NJ 29 Freeway connection to the east. Lambertson Street was the main thoroughfare through residential sections of Trenton. In 1997, the NJDOT began construction of the "missing link" from the Amtrak-Septa railroad bridge east to NJ 29/NJ129 junction. Funding

for the \$105 Million project was almost 90 percent paid for with State Funds! From downtown Trenton, diverging around the RR complex and WaterFront Park, the road was an urban arterial roadway. Then, it continued eastward and transitioned to a depressed, controlled-access freeway configuration on its way to a tunnel section. The tunnel is not a bored tube, but a covered roadway section built over the banks of the Delaware River.

The tunnel and highway complex has a speed limit of 45 MPH and was expected to handle 40,000 vehicles per day. Before the tunnel was open, the NJDOT banned all trucks exceeding 13 ton weight limit, drawing indignation from officials who thought the new NJ 29 would get trucks off congested local streets.

The NJDOT built a \$15 million, 6.5 – acre park atop the deck of the NJ 29 Tunnel. Completed in 2003, the park featured trees, landscaping and an interpretive area highlighting the history of the South Trenton waterfront. Now in 2009, bike paths, pedestrian walkways and a connecting waterfront park have been added and comprise the "Route 29 Tunnel area."

Since then, the most recent AADT for this area is 49,200 vehicles / day.

### HERE AND THERE

By Dot Andres

Recently heard from **Marie Hagen- RN Support Services** who has re-located to Annapolis, MD to be closer to her son and family. She is now living in a newly built high rise, which is beautiful, with all age groups. She sends her regards to all her NJDOT friends.

Remember **Joe O'Brien from Traffic Engineering?** Where you saw Norm Deitch, you usually saw Joe! Sadly Joe reports that his wife Irene passed away since we last heard from him. Joe lives in Clover, South Carolina and can be reached at his email

address [jjobrien@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjobrien@bellsouth.net) . He thinks of his former friends at the NDOT often and sends his regards.

**Al Alaimo (C&M)** has not been deterred by the real estate down-turn. He's bought a new house in Sebastian Florida! Al and the Alaimo family recently had a big reunion out in Reno Nevada

**Frank Wegel (C&M)** recently returned from his annual summer sojourn to Basel Switzerland to visit his money! He reports that one of the highlights this year was attending the annual Asparagus festival; in southern Germany! He's excited about his new knowledge of how to cook white asparagus 20 different ways. Also, he reports that plans are underway in Altamonte Springs Florida for the 2010 Swiss Independence Day Festival to be

held on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010!! Hear there will be Alpen-horns, music and traditional Swiss dancers. He reminds us to save the date!

Several phone calls from **Nick Nicu (GeoTech)** to tell us about the record-breaking rainfall in the Daytona Beach area in late May. More than 25 inches of rain were recorded in less than one week! Certainly tested the roof!

- **Put Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 on your calendar for the Annual Florida Reunion in the Kissimmee/Orlando area. The location is the Cafe Dough Monde on Route 17 and 92 in Haines City.**
- **“Snowbirds”- make sure you are on the Mailing List! Contact Frank Wegel at 772-388-3991 or write 8060 142<sup>nd</sup> St. Sebastian FL32958. EMAIL- [fwegel@bellsouth.net](mailto:fwegel@bellsouth.net)**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

- NEW** APPLICATION FOR DOTRA MEMBERSHIP - \$10.00/ YEAR (FILL IN FORM COMPLETELY)
- RENEWAL** OF DOTRA MEMBERSHIP FOR YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK FOR \$10.00 ENCLOSED
- REQUEST FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN DOTRA** \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK FOR \$75.00 IS ENCLOSED
- CHANGE OF ADDRESS** (FILL IN NAME ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER BELOW)
- PLEASE ADD YOUR COMMENTS FOR DOTLINE.**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET/ PO BOX:** \_\_\_\_\_ **APT. NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOWN/ CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **COUNTY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FORMER UNIT WITHIN NJDOT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **YEARS WORKED** \_\_\_\_\_ **YEAR RETIRED** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Send Application and Check to: “DOTRA” – PO BOX 77160, WEST TRENTON, NJ 08628**