

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



ISSUE NO. 72

AUGUST 2010

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Chet Andres

I hope everyone has successfully endured the 100+ temperatures we faced during the last few weeks. Now that the temperature is only in the 90's and high 80's, it seems that normal summer temperatures have returned to N.J. For those members who chose to move to southern states or the southwest, you probably are more used to these elevated temperatures and wonder why we in NJ are complaining.

As a result of the last DOTLINE offering the option for DOTRA members receiving the Quarterly Newsletter electronically, at least 60 members have signed up, provided current email addresses and soon will see the DOTLINE on their computer screens. Getting your DOTLINE this way will help offset the rising cost of traditional mailings.

With thanks to Bruce Strickland way out in New Mexico, past and current issues of the DOTLINE are available by signing into our Website at: www.dotra.org

I want to thank our Board of Directors for helping to guide DOTRA thru the years. Some have served for more than 5 years, others are fairly recent, but all have been dedicated to making DOTRA a successful organization. Special thanks to Mary Bock for her work both in DOTRA and the NJDOT Memorial Committee.

DOTLINE ELECTRONICALLY

If you are willing to receive your DOTLINE via electronic mailing, please submit your email address to us at:

DOTRAexpress@yahoo.com.

We are now hit with printing expenses not incurred previously and an anticipated increase in US Postage fees, - so if you are able to, consider this Option!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual DOTRA Picnic
Belle Mountain-Valley Road -County Picnic Area
Wednesday September 15, 2010
Return Flyer in this Issue !!

Annual Holiday Lunch
Mercer Oaks CC – Mercerville NJ
Wednesday, December 8, 2010
Details in November Issue

Holiday Trip to New York City
-Radio City Christmas Show-
Monday December 6, 2010
See Flyer in this Issue !!

DOTRA BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS

DOTRA continues to hold its regular Monthly Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. All are invited to attend. Hope to see you there. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday – August 2, 2010 at 11 AM at :

Tessara's Restaurant
812 Route 33 Hamilton Twp

Our business meeting starts at 11 AM followed by Dutch-treat luncheon.

Schedule of future meetings at Tessara's:

Tuesday	August 2, 2010
Tuesday	September 7, 2010
Tuesday	October 5, 2010
Tuesday	November 2, 2010
Tuesday	December 7, 2010

LOOK AT YOUR DOTLINE LABEL NOW !!!!

Notice your name and address? Note there is also Dues Pd: and a Year. That is the year that you last Paid your DOTRA dues.

Lucky you if it says LIFE.!

So, if it does not indicate LIFE or 2010 or later, you are now in arrears with your Dues!&

Please bring your membership up to date by paying \$10 per year through 2010. Use the Form on the last page of this News Letter. Your Dues keeps our organization going.

Your response to these notices is always great! Thanks for your support!!

DOTRA EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEES

CHAPLAIN –	Sal Noto	609-882-8395
MEMBERSHIP –	Dot Andres	609-818-1921
	Janis Stia	609-882-3862
BY-LAWS –	Art Egan	609-585-9145
HISTORIAN –	Mike Eckel	
ACTIVITIES –	Jim Dixon	
DOTLINE –	Dot Andres	609-818-1921
DATABASE -	John Waldner	
WEBSITE -	Bruce Strickland	505-705-5578

DIRECTORS/ TERM OF OFFICE

Chet Andres	(12)	Don Hutchinson	(13)
Dot Andres	(12)	Jay Johnston	(13)
Jim Dixon	(12)	Lou Papp	(13)
Mike Eckel	(12)	Bruce Strickland	(13)
Sal Noto	(12)	Phil Vecere	(13)
Hazel Rockhill	(12)		
	Donna Troiano	(12)	
	Joe Bodnar	(11)	
	Art Egan	(11)	
	Al Gallo	(11)	
	Frank Herrera	(11)	
	Janis Stia	(11)	
	Peter Yull	(11)	
	Andea Mannifield	(11)-newly appointed	
	Jerry Sellner	(11)-newly appointed	

Directors Emeritus

Dolores Murphy & Adrian Lincoln

VACANCY = 1

DOTRA
PO BOX 77160
WEST TRENTON NJ 08628

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

By SAL NOTO

We would like to keep 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 information to share, please call or send a note to me at 75 Stonicker Drive Lawrenceville NJ 08648 or 609-588-0930. My email is **judy_and_sal@yahoo.com**

Recent Obituaries:

*Jack Datz	(87)	NJDOT
*ER "Bob" Wokoun	(77)	NJDOT
*Harold Yaede	(87)	NJDOT
*Julia Barry	(92)	NJDOT
Richard Gramlich	(54)	NJDOT
Ruby Lee Vickers		NJDOT
*Ruth Newton	(85)	NJDOT

*DENOTES DOTRA MEMBER

DOTRA'S ON THE INTERNET !!

Log onto DOTRA's own Web Site

<http://www.dotra.org>

You can read the current issue of the DOTLINE on the WebSite- as well as check back issues!!!
Look at the latest pictures from the FLReunion in February 2010

Want to read the latest NJDOT Transporter?
Go to our WebSite! The Transporter is no longer mailed out to Retirees!

A brief note was received right after our last DOTLINE was mailed out. from "The Portal " in Mountain Air, New Mexico from Director Bruce Strickland.

"Winter seems to be over. Finally. We did have a little snow last Sunday (in May), kind of a last gasp. I got a nice picture of a fairly large snake on the road yesterday. No rattles on the tail so I have no idea what it was."

(in response to question about border problems in New Mexico-) "I don't hear much about illegals but then I am fairly ignorant on this. The reaction to

Arizona's new law may result in more business for NM- so that's good for us."

"El Paso is having all kinds of trouble with the drug and firearms trades and I think some of that spills over from southern NM. On I-25, coming up from Las Cruces (next to El Paso), has a border patrol station where EVERYONE going north has to pull over for an interview, Last spring, on my way back from the Senior Olympics in Las Cruces, the car behind me was detained. So they seem to be on the job."

FLASH: 7-16-10 "At 6AM we had a fierce storm pass through. High winds, hail, driving rain ..and a little bull snake driven onto the front portal for shelter. Temps about 60 degrees, the snake left the portal v-e-r-y s-l-o-w-l-y."

Our readers love your stories- keep them coming Bruce.

NEW MEMBERS

The following former NJDOT'ers have joined (or re-joined) DOTRA. We welcome them all and look forward to seeing them at our DOTRA events.

Jill Sentak LIFE Bordentown C&M
Joseph Filippo West Trenton

MEMBER'S CORNER

A nice note received from **Marty Van Riper (Construction)** from sunny southern California who reports the clouds have disappeared and the blue skies have arrived.

"Our little town of Hemet has been making news throughout the country. We have had four attempts by gang members to kill police officers. A big raid a few weeks ago netted about 21 suspects and the town has been quiet for a while. I am actively involved in the police force being a police volunteer for the last four years. We never considered it dangerous until these last few incidents. We do drive the police black and white patrol cars at various times when we are called out for vehicular

accidents or other incidents. We have a volunteer staff of over 60 members and I am in charge of one of our two substations. I also do patrol. We work in teams and it is a rewarding job when you locate a lost person or issue a ticket for a non-moving violation such as parking in a handicap spot without a placard or handicap plates. It's amazing how many excuses you receive when you issue a ticket, especially parking in a handicap slot. Out here the fine is \$350. My partner is a retired civil engineer from New York City and we have a good time discussing our careers while on patrol."

"My wife and I just passed our 50th wedding anniversary and we plan to celebrate with a 14 day land/sea cruise to Alaska. "

"That's it from sunny Southern California."

TRAVEL CORNER

Andy Schiro (Reg 2-C&M) and wife Kathy recently returned from a trip to South Africa. Kathy writes "they went on morning and evening game hunts for close to 10 days, plus another 18 days spent touring Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Victoria Falls and more. They finished building nine soccer stadiums and are having trouble selling tickets (written in May) .to fill them, so tickets are being rewarded left and right at banks, soda companies, cell phone companies, market places, etc. They are even having trouble getting people to sign up to work in the stadiums because they would rather stay home and view the game on their huge TV screens....

Despite the richness of this area, the ability to grow just about any type of crop, the vast area for raising farm animals, the many colleges and private schools that the country has, and the movie-perfect scenery, it is no longer the place of choice to call home for many. There are tent cities among beautiful homes, gardens, beach front properties and city tourist areas.

There was much to learn from the locals – not included in newspapers, tourist books and coffee table books. We would recommend this trip to others as the animals, birds, flowers and scenic views are worth three plus weeks of vacation time.- but only with much caution for personal safety.

Sounds like quite an experience- thanks for sharing this Kathy and Andy Schiro!

Another Construction retiree **Ernie Nolan** writes that he just returned from Egypt. Rode a camel through the Sahara Desert . Enjoyed the sites, the Pyramids, King Tut's Tomb etc.”

Lou Papp and wife Eileen took a cruise with family to Bermuda this July. **Carl and Mary Breccia** also took a 10 day cruise to the eastern Caribbean with their entire family to celebrate Carl's “big birthday”

ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON BELD **ON JUNE 17th**

DOTRA celebrated its 20th Anniversary Luncheon on June 17 at the German American Club. Thirty eight members and 28 guests enjoyed the outstanding food prepared by the German-American Club. Many thanks to Donna Troiano, Joe Bodnar and Jay Johnston for arranging the event!

The group was entertained by Karl Dentino, a self-proclaimed “musicologist” who performed ragtime blues and folk music on the guitar and harmonica from the 20's and 30's.

Many thanks to Joe Bodnar (Traffic Engineering) who appears not to have lost any of his traffic engineering skills - he had detour signs set up to the GA Club for DOTRA members - after discovering road closures on the day before our luncheon!

ANNUAL PICNIC

DOTRA's Annual Picnic is in the final planning stages by Phil Vecere and his Picnic Committee. The Picnic will be held on Wednesday September 15th at Belle Mountain /

Mercer County Park ,off Route 29 near Lambertville- starting at Noon- until 4PM. Price is held down to \$10 per person!

Phil and “his boys” are very well organized with the cooking, fire starting, and food acquisition. BUT, we are all getting older We always need helpers for this affair- particularly for setting up/cleaning the tables, picking up the ice, getting food and paper goods arranged, getting drinks on ice, watermelons to cut, etc. etc. We do need someone to be at the Welcome Table to check off attendees. If you are willing to “pitch in” and can get there by 11:15 AM - your help would be really appreciated!!

No desserts are ever turned away !!

Return the Attached Flyer

DOTRA TRIPS REPORT **by Jay Johnston**

The New York City XMAS TRIP will be held on Monday December 6, 2010. There are great seats at Radio City to view the early afternoon Holiday Show and sufficient time before to visit the tree at Rockefeller Center and have lunch on your own.

Return the Flyer with your check ASAP as there are limited seats and this trip is always a sell out ! Call me at 609-588-0930 or email me at jrj0506@verizon.net for more information.

HISTORIAN'S COLUMN

“IN THE BEGINNING” **- Part 3 - By Mike Eckel**

(continued from January & April 2010 Issues of DOTLINE)

Interstates

The maximum mileage of the interstate system nationally was to total 40,000 miles and most states had their routes designated on paper by 1955. While the system was to consist of only about 1.1 percent of all rural roads, it was designated to carry 20 percent of all rural traffic. It was to connect all state capitals and most cities with populations of at least 50,000. The interstates

offered a national network of major highways – New Jersey interstates included 78,80,95,195,280,287 and 295 to provide these benefits:

national defense
reduced cost of transporting goods
clean,wide,safe, inexpensive highways for tourists.

A major portion of post-way highway planning and construction had been devoted to develop more than 415 miles of newest, most modern freeways that would comprise New Jersey's part of the huge 42,500- mile National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

Lincoln Tunnel

Before the war, the Port of Authority of New York and New Jersey took over administration of the Holland Tunnel and began construction of a three-tube tunnel called the Lincoln Tunnel to connect Routes 1 and 9 in New Jersey with Manhattan. Ole Singstad was an engineer on the Holland Tunnel construction who oversaw construction of the new tunnel with Chief Engineer Othmar Ammann.

Construction on the center tube started on May 17, 1934 and was completed on December 11,1937. The other tubes opened in 1945 and 1957.

Garden State Parkway Unlike the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway is a barrier toll road. Although the barriers are seen by some as undermining speedy transportation, there is simplicity in the fact that everyone is charged the same amount. Started in 1947, only 19miles had been completed by the State Highway Department due to limited appropriations. Then the Legislature created the New Jersey Highway Authority in 1952, to take over construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed Route 4 Parkway. The entire length of the originally planned 164-mile main route, from Paramus to Cape May, was opened in 1955 as the Garden State Parkway.

Over the years some widening has increased the number of lanes, but very few additions have been made.

New Jersey Turnpike Plans for a state-long Route 100super highway showed a 12-lane road that included two express lanes to lead travelers from the northern end of the state to the southern tip. It was the perfect plan for the most densely populated state in the nation. The four-lane turnpike opened with a dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting on November 30, 1951, although the final nine-mile link to the George Washington bridge was opened in January 1952.

The turnpike has inspired artists and songwriters, filmmakers, novelists and poets. They see the 142-mile turnpike surrounded by refineries, industries, railways, an international airport and swamps as a powerful

symbol of life in America in the second half of the 20th century.

To view it as characteristic of New Jersey is to get a distorted version of the state. There is a tendency, by visitors especially, to see New Jersey as a place of unrelieved industry. Traveling along the pike, one is not often aware of the panoramas of pretty countryside, fine beaches, charming colonial towns, productive farmland and the largest deer population in the United States.

If the turnpike had a father, it was Alfred E. Driscoll, Governor from 1947 to 1954. he launched his plan for the turnpike in his first inaugural address to the legislature in 1947. For Driscoll, nothing was more important than the turnpike.

"It was obvious that U.S.Route 1 just couldn't handle the anticipated traffic and that we needed a new artery and we didn't have the money to build a free highway, so we proposed a toll road," he said. His plan was to create an independent authority to issue bonds and charge tolls to pay them off. The state would have a turnpike; riders could cover the costs.

On its completion, Driscoll said "...motorists can now see the beauty of the real New Jersey."

Sometimes described as the "Vital Corridor," the turnpike cuts across the waist of New Jersey, from the Hudson to the Delaware Rivers. With the great ports of New York and Philadelphia on either end, New Jersey's destiny as a corridor state unfolded. The designated speed for the southern section, below the Raritan River, was 75 miles per hour. For the northern section, it was 60-70 miles per hour. The average motorist could drive on this "miracle road" from the Delaware Memorial bridge and continue through the marshlands of Salem County, going faster than a mile a minute- an entirely new driving experience.

More Authorities

In 1956, the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) decided on names for the Delaware River suspension bridge and the new bridge under construction between New Jersey and Philadelphia. They decided to rename the existing bridge the Benjamin Franklin Bridge and the new bridge, the Walt Whitman Bridge, named for Camden's "Good Grey Poet."

New Jersey's Governor Robert B. Meyner and Pennsylvania's Auditor General Charles C. Smith opened the Walt Whitman Bridge on May 15, 1957. This new connection had a major impact on the Delaware Valley on both sides of the river, including the development of the Atlantic City Expressway.

Created by the Legislature in 1962, the New Jersey Expressway Authority was the third road-building authority in the state. The 44-mile roadway that connects Philadelphia with southern New Jersey and terminates at Atlantic City opened in 1965. It is supported by two barrier toll plazas. The Authority is completely self-supporting and no state tax monies are used.

HERE and THERE

Mail box had a few notes with renewals this quarter. Our annual note from **Dominic Tassone** (EQT) finds him doing well. He sends best wishes to the DOTRA Board and all our Members. **Anthony Brinker (Buildings & Grounds)** still lives in Chesterfield and is working part-time at the Auto Auction in Bordentown. He says " There are a few of us retired DOT'ers down there. We have lunch and talk about the old days. It just keeps going on "GOOD."

Jack Dressler (Capital Programming) is a member of the Region 2 Design-DOT Bowling Team. We won the Championship for the year by winning over the Facilities Management Team." Congrats Jack!!

Nice to see folks at the 4Th of July celebrations around the State. Always run into the **Syzmanzki's -Judy (Research) and Frank (Design)** at Blawenburg Band Concerts in the Mercer County area. Also **Shirley Guerieri (Administration)** is a regular in the Ewing 4th of July parade. A concert even brought out **Don Chiacchio (Administration.)** now residing in Washington Crossing, PA.

Summer Wine and Outdoor Food Festivals bring out more serious participants, like former C&M DOT'ers - **Andy Parrella and wife, Pat Bowker, Bill Bielak Frank and Janis Stia.**

Nick Nicu (Soils Design) called to say it was cooler in Daytona Beach than in NJ !

○
○ **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWALS**

- () **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)
- () PLEASE ADD **YOUR COMMENTS** FOR DOTLINE.

NAME: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

STREET/ PO BOX: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

TOWN/ CITY: _____ **COUNTY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

FORMER UNIT WITHIN NJDOT: _____ **YEARS WORKED** _____ **YEAR RETIRED** _____

COMMENTS: _____

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