

DOTRA'S



DOTLINE

A Publication of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Retirees Association



President's Report....by Clint Griggs

Summer is now in full swing for 2023. We're in the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer!

We have already enjoyed several great DOTRA social events so far this year. Several more are yet to come. Our Thunder Baseball Game Night is on tap for August 10 and our Annual Summer Picnic is set to go on September 13. Make your plans to join us for one or all of our great get-together events.

Moving on to other business, our DOTRA Board of Directors is currently experiencing some changes. Three of our outstanding long-term directors have left the board after serving for most of DOTRA's history. Joe Bodnar, Jay Johnston, and Janis Stia are "moving on" from their responsibilities on the board. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors and all DOTRA members, I wish to thank them for all the hard work, service, and advice they have provided to our organization for these many years. From keeping track of our board members, trip planning and organizing, and chairing our major social events, these great individuals have done their best for our organization.

In order to keep DOTRA moving forward, here are the latest board changes of note. I am pleased to announce that Janice DeJohn will now serve as our First Vice President. Ann Laurie Fratticcioli is our new Second Vice President, in addition to all the other functions she performs for us! Mike DeAngelo is our current Assistant Treasurer.

This is where I make the pitch to any and all DOTRA members to come join us on the Board of Directors and be a part of the planning process moving forward. This is not a life-altering decision, you can do as little or as much as you feel comfortable doing. Try us out!

As always, information on our upcoming events can be found in this edition and on our website. Stay informed.

Membership Report....

Since our last DOTLine the following new members have joined DOTRA.



Shanoskie, Judi - Project Mgmt.
Baj, Andrea - Access & ROW Engrng.
Eugene, Alvin T. - CPM
Katz, Cindy Lee - ROW & Access Mgmt.
Yacovino, Daniel - Design

Chaplain's Report....

We would like to be informed about any retiree who has passed away, is ill, confined to their home, in a rehabilitation center, or needs help in one way or another. Please send any information to NewJerseyDOTRA@gmail.com.

Recent Obituaries

Gephart, Richard - 91
Cochran, William - 81
*Rainiero, John - 79
Verner, Robert A. - 75
*Kraml, Robert B. - 85

*Sharpe, Walter - 80
Hendrickson, Susan C. - 75
*Dill, William - 89
*Maresca, J. Joseph

Stathopoulos, Thomas - 70
Romanowsky, Karen - 68
Sichick, David Andrew - 77
Accera, Joseph - 81
*Downs, Edward - 94

***Denotes DOTRA Member**

DOTRA Floridians, Snowbirds, etc.

Remember, we are looking to hear more from our fellow DOTers who aren't in the Garden State any longer. Let's hear what you're up to and share your adventures with us. Please send your stories so we can "catch up".



CHECK DOTRA'S WEBSITE FOR LOCATION AND ANY OTHER UPDATES

2023 Anniversary Luncheon...



See more pictures at:
<https://www.2023-anniversary-lu.dotra.org>



SOFTBALL NEVER ENDS... by Jim Dixon

I haven't written about softball in some time. Here is an update on the Mercer Over 60 League. We continue to play on Monday and Wednesday nights at 6 PM in Mercer County Park on softball fields #1 and #6. Yours truly will turn 80 this season, but I still play! I probably lost a step or maybe 10 and dropped my hitting average by 100 points, but my defense has kept me around to play first base, right field, or catch. I have to admit that the 60-year-olds can run circles around our 70 and 80-year-olds. No one ever calls me "Fleet Feet" anymore! We have two 80-year-olds on our team and one more on another team. I advised my team that I have developed a Florida attitude and will try to play until 90! Hope it never stops. PLAY BALL!



Canals....By Mike Eckel

Canaller (someone who works on canal transportation, especially on a canal) was a profession that sprang up throughout the East when more than 4,400 miles of canals were built between 1790 and 1860 to transport goods between rivers. They were expensive and required thousands of workers to plan, build, manage, and work.

While public money was generally used to construct canals in other states, the corporations that built New Jersey's Delaware and Raritan (D&R) and Morris Canals were chartered by the state, similar to Turnpikes. The D&R Canal Corporation sold stock to raise the necessary funds.

Harsh conditions for the Europeans abroad became a boon for the canal labor problem. The canal companies employed thousands of the newly arrived Irish immigrant men to dig ditches, wield pick-axes, push wheelbarrows, and work as carpenters, masons, wheelwrights, and surveyors.

They also employed Irish women who worked along the canals to cook and clean and to run the boats. It solved the labor problem. But it had its downside too. Those in the trenches were mostly Irish, with some German and Welsh immigrants, and local laborers. They worked from sunup to sundown for 50 cents to a dollar a day plus whiskey. In 1832, Asiatic cholera struck the canal workers. A hospital was quickly assembled inside the Princeton Town Hall. Although hospitalization stopped any further spread of the disease, it is estimated that hundreds of Irish immigrants lost their lives and were buried where they died. Grave markers of the immigrant canal workers can be seen on Raven Rock Island in the Delaware River near Stockton and Bull's Island State Park.

Two major New Jersey canals were: Morris Canal - Completed in 1831, the canal ran from Jersey City to Paterson and Newark. It is based on a British system of several inclined planes to avoid the need for a lot of locks. The canal rose and fell 1,674 feet in 90 miles and used a car as part of the system. A boat could rest on the car, slowly lower on tracks into the next level of the canal, and avoid dropping less footage in several locks.

Delaware and Raritan (D&R) Canal - Completed in 1834, the D&R ran from the Delaware River to the Raritan River in the center of the state. The main channel was 43 miles long and 75 feet wide at the water line. Coal, clay, grain, and other farm products were carried on this canal.



Full and Part-Time Bowlers Needed



On September 5th the NJDOT Bowling League will begin its 64th Season! They are looking for full and part-time bowlers. If you are interested or have any questions at all, you can contact fellow DOTRA members Cindy Katz at cinworr7@aol.com or Judi Shanoskie at tapgal34@comcast.net.

Membership Dues

You can still send in your renewal for 2023. Perhaps you'll want to consider a Lifetime Membership!

Contact Info

Don't forget to notify DOTRA if you have a change of address, phone or email!

Monthly Board Meetings

DOTRA holds regular meetings on the first Tuesday of the month. Our business meeting starts at 11:00 followed by a dutch-treat lunch. Our next meetings are:
Sep 5 | Oct 3 | Nov 7 | Dec 5

Padrino's Restaurant
2452 Kuser Road | Hamilton, NJ

DOTLine Electronically

All members who have provided an email address will receive their DOTLine via email. Hard copies will still be mailed out to members who prefer USPS. However, due to the cost of mailing via USPS, we ask all members to consider switching to email. Thank you!

Executive Board & Officers

President - Clint Griggs - 609.888.0115
1st Vice President - Janice DeJohn - 609.471.2405
2nd Vice President - Ann Laurie Fratticcioli - 609.851.4657
Treasurer - Dave Bizuga - 609.439.7920
Assistant Treasurer - Mike DeAngelo - 609.306.4824
Recording Secretary - Andrea Mansfield - 609.890.9497
Corresponding Secretary - Donna Troiano - 609.298.5962

Directors (Term of Office)

Donna Troiano (24)	Janice DeJohn (24)
Mike Eckel (24)	Sandy Furness (24)
Andrea Mansfield (24)	Bob Miller (25)
David Bizuga (25)	Clinton Griggs (25)
Frank Palise (23)	Ann Laurie Fratticcioli (26)
Mike DeAngelo (26)	

Committees

Audit - Janice DeJohn - 609.471.2405
Chaplain - Vacant
Membership - Ann Laurie Fratticcioli - 609.851.4657
Bylaws - Janice DeJohn - 609.471.2405
Historian - Mike Eckel - 609.694.0048
DOTLine - Sandy Furness - 609.585.2877
Database - Ann Laurie Fratticcioli - 609.851.4657
Website - Ann Laurie Fratticcioli - 609.851.4657
DOT Memorial - Janice DeJohn - 609.471.2405
Nominating - Vacant

Directors Emeritus

Chet Andres	Lou Papp	Guy LoBue
Dot Andres	Dick Hobson	Hazel Rockhill
Adrian Lincoln	Phil Vecere	Margaret "Peg" Wieger

*LAST WORD...You have the last word. Maybe
someday you will tell us what it is!*



Department of Transportation Retirees Association

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL

- ☐ **LIFE MEMBERSHIP REQUEST** → \$75
- ☐ **NEW** Annual Membership → \$10/Year
- ☐ **RENEWAL** Annual Membership → \$10/Year
- ☐ **CONVERT FROM ANNUAL TO LIFE MEMBER** → \$75
- ☐ **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**



Please fill in the form with your **Name, Address, Phone, Email**, etc.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Former Unit Within NJDOT _____

Years Worked _____ Year Retired _____

☐ I Am Willing To Work On A DOTRA Committee

COMMENTS (optional)



Enclosed is my
payment payable to
DOTRA for \$ _____

Mail to: DOTRA
111 Arneytown-Hornerstown Road
Allentown, NJ 086501



Department of Transportation Retirees Association

Annual Fall Picnic

September 13, 2023

Wednesday

12 Noon-4:00 PM

Food Served 12-3



Rosedale Park

424 Federal City Road

Pennington, NJ 08534

Tip: Input above address into GPS rather than the name of the park.



Burgers ~ Hot Dogs ~ Pork Roll ~ Sausage w/Peppers + Onions
Baked Beans ~ Macaroni Salad ~ Potato Salad ~ Deviled Eggs
Beer ~ Soda ~ Water ~ Coffee ~ Plus all the fixins' and more!

Payment Options

Checks Payable to DOTRA

Mail Reservation Form To DOTRA @
111 Arnetown-Hornerstown Road
Allentown, NJ 08501

Zelle

Janice DeJohn
609-471-2405

Venmo

(Please DO NOT Select Goods or Services)
@AnnLaurie-Fratticcioli
609-851-4657

If paying by check, cut here and mail in with payment.

Annual Fall Picnic Reservation Form

*Please return by:
Sept. 1, 2023*

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number Attending _____ @ \$20/person = Total _____