

# DOTRA'S DOTLINE

A Publication of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Retirees Association



## President's Report....by Clint Griggs

Happy Spring! We just came through the winter that wasn't (at least in New Jersey) to summer conditions as I write this. But...it's New Jersey, if you don't like the weather, wait a couple of minutes and it will change!

In mid-March we held our annual Spring Breakfast at the Town & Country Diner in Bordentown. We entertained a great number of DOTRA members and guests. It was a great time and we got to see some faces we haven't seen in a while. We were fortunate to have several hand-crafted items to raffle off, compliments of Ed Baker and his wife. That was a wonderful way to cap off our event. Our thanks to the Bakers. Also, our thanks to the members of the Board of Directors who planned and made this event the success that it was. Check out our website for the latest event photos and up to the minute DOTRA information.

Our next social event is fast approaching. Our Anniversary Luncheon is slated for June 14, 2023. All the details are available in this issue of the DOTLine. Don't forget about the monthly Happy Hour gatherings as well. Every 4th Thursday. Check the website for where and when.

I am happy to report that over the course of the last 12 months, our membership is growing. We have welcomed several new members to our organization, and we are delighted they are part of our DOTRA family. At this time we are actively recruiting members to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors. If you have an interest in serving on the board, please step up and let us know.

In the February DOTLine we announced that we no longer maintain a Post Office Box at the West Trenton facility. The cost became prohibitive for the amount of mail we receive. In the event there is a need to move information by 'snail mail' we will be sure to provide the directions to do so.

Lastly, please remember that we are always anxious to receive information on what's going on with our members so that we can post the info here in the DOTLine. Long or short, your story is always welcome.

Best wishes for a happy and productive Summer.

# Membership Report....

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



Charles Filipowicz, Jr. - RR Engineering  
Diane Stratton - Structural Engineering  
Shawn Rabban - Reg. Const. North  
James Badgley - Freight Services/Planning  
Lawrence Vogel - CPM  
Ron Kuzma - Design/ Geodetic Survey  
Robert Cedrick - Environmental Resources  
David Kook - Working in Right of Way

## 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](mailto:NewJerseyDOTRA@gmail.com).

### Recent Obituaries

\*Margaret "Peg" Wieger - 93

\*Wayne L. Davis - 98

\*Michael B. Kjetsaa - 85

\*Charles Edson - 86

Charlotte Edson - 86

Peter Radice - 94

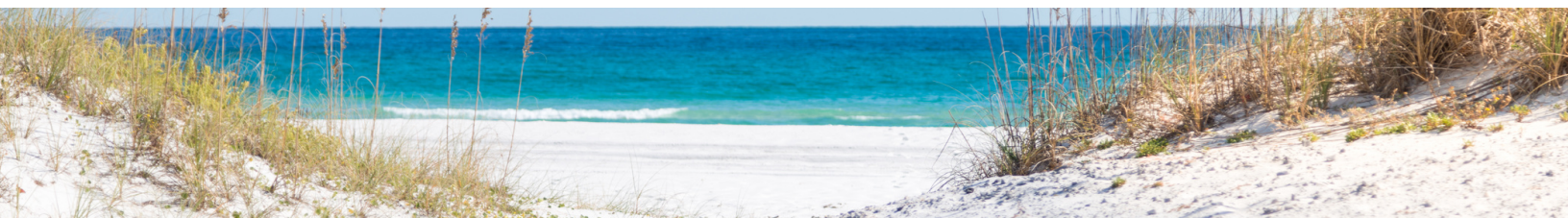
Jack Croteau - 85

Raymond Laird - 80

\*Denotes DOTRA Member

## DOTRA Floridians and Snowbirds... By Jim Dixon

The DOTRA Board is trying to have the Florida event, usually held in February or March, to get up and running again. Steffan Franklin had organized a luncheon for the last several years but health issues have forced him to follow doctor's orders and lessen his activity involvement. We need a volunteer or two for resetting a Florida event such as a brunch, lunch, dinner or whatever other idea y'all may consider. Remember that Florida is a BIG state and there may be a need for area volunteers to organize an event in the Northern, Central and Southern Regions. Please contact me at 609-577-4849 or [jdixonsr@comcast.net](mailto:jdixonsr@comcast.net). I can provide you with emails, phone numbers or addresses from DOTRA records and Steffan's information. It would be helpful for snowbirds to let us know when you are in Florida and where you nestle for the winter. I am happy to let you know we had hardly any snow in New Jersey this winter. Sadly, no White Christmas either!





# 2023 Spring Breakfast....



See more pictures at:  
<https://www.2023-spring-breakfa.dotra.org>

## Somewhere Else....by DOTRA Member Bob Mitchell

In 1936 we got a car which was a rarity for some in the middle of the depression while living in the Chambersburg section. All of a sudden heavens reach included a fairly rare but exciting trip to Philadelphia or even rarer to the shore. I had become a traveler. Wow!

Work trips took me to West Virginia, Minnesota, North Dakota and California in my early twenties. I bought a 1952 Ford Convertible and went to Quebec.

To satisfy my travel compulsion I have toured over thirty countries and all our states but one.

Covid stopped my travels. It put an emphatic no no on the urge to be Somewhere Else. It did something else that was a surprise positive. The restriction in mobility has had an upside. I love New Jersey and my two hundred year old house in Hunterdon County. The over three years of "confinement" have increased my appreciation of them and bringing into focus that Something Else called home trumps Somewhere Else everytime.

PS... If you think you know what state I have not been to call me and find out. 908-996-3385



# A Short History of New Jersey - Part 3....By Mike Eckel

## Early Statehood

In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution and the first state to sign the Bill of Rights. In 1790, Trenton officially became the state capital of New Jersey. William Livingston became New Jersey's first state governor. New Jersey grew and prospered during the early 1800s. New factories sprung up throughout the state. Paterson became a textile center and later became known for producing trains and silk. Trenton produced clay products, iron, and steel. Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark, and Passaic all became major manufacturing centers in the 1800s. New canals and railroads helped industry grow. Europeans came by the thousands to New Jersey to work in the factories. South Jersey remained rural for the most part, growing the crops to feed the urban areas nearby. Railroads were important in helping the South Jersey seashore areas expand. In 1850, New Jersey's population of nearly half a million and the industries in which most of those people worked were concentrated in the north. During the Civil War, New Jersey provided 31 regiments (groups of soldiers), including cavalry (soldiers on horseback) and infantry (soldiers on foot). Over 25,000 New Jersey men fought for the Union, and New Jersey soldiers participated in almost every major Eastern battle.

## Industry, Immigrants and Innovation

After the Civil War, the industrial revolution was under way, and New Jersey continued to grow. More factories opened, and cities like Trenton, Newark, Paterson, and Camden got bigger as immigrants from Europe came to work in them. Railroads were laid to connect the cities and to transport materials. At first, most immigrants came from Ireland and Germany. Later, people came from Italy and from countries throughout Eastern Europe. In 1910, half the state's population was born or had parents who were born outside the United States. As city populations grew, farm populations shrank. With so many people working in factories, issues like child labor and protection for workers became important. The popularity of these reforms brought Woodrow Wilson to power as governor in 1910. He left office in 1913 to become President of the United States and is the only New Jersey governor to become president. As both governor and president, Wilson supported welfare reforms to protect workers and to keep companies from becoming too big. The state's economic expansion had a lot to do with the genius of its inventors. Thomas Edison is probably most famous. Among his thousands of inventions, including the light bulb, Edison helped develop the motion picture while working in New Jersey. Fort Lee became the motion picture capital of the world in the early 1900s. There, Fatty Arbuckle, Mary Pickford, Pearl White, and other stars revolutionized entertainment with their movies.

## The 1900s

Between 1900 and 1930, New Jersey's population more than doubled. Manufacturing became a \$4 billion industry. Unfortunately, the Great Depression of the 1930s hit New Jersey hard, bringing massive unemployment. The state rebounded during World War II in the 1940s as New Jersey's electronics and chemical industries began large-scale operations. In the mid-1900s, people began moving back into the rural areas from the overcrowded cities. A number of transportation projects helped better connect New Jersey. The New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway opened in the 1950s. The history of air travel has close ties to New Jersey. On May 3, 1919, the first passenger flight in American history was flown from New York to Atlantic City. Today, New Jersey is home to two international airports, Newark and Atlantic City. Newark Airport expanded its passenger and cargo services in 1963. In the 1980s, it became one of the world's busiest airports. Today New Jersey is recognized for its present as well as its past. While remembering its proud history, New Jersey will continue to be the setting for many of the great events of the future.

# New Application and Renewal Form

The application and renewal form has been revised. We are not using the PO Box any longer. There is a new address to use to mail in the new form. The new form is inserted in this newsletter.

## Membership Dues

Time to 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 11am followed by a dutch-treat lunch. Our next meetings are:.  
Jun 6 | Aug 1 | Sep 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 - Jay Johnston - 609.588.0930  
2nd Vice President - Janice DeJohn - 609.471.2405  
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)	Janis Stia (23)
Jay Johnston (23)	Ann Laurie Fratticcioli (23)

## 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





**DOTRA**

**Department of Transportation Retirees Association**

# *Anniversary Luncheon*

**Wednesday ~ June 14, 2023 ~ 11:30 am**

**VILLA MANNINO**

**73 ROUTE 130 ~ BORDENTOWN, NJ 08620**

**B.Y.O.B. (Beer & Wine Only)**

**Family Style Lunch Includes:**

**Appetizers, Salad, Pasta, Choice of 3 Entrées  
Dessert, Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks**

**\$35/pp**

**Please Return By  
June 5th**



## **Payment Options**

**Venmo**

@AnnLaurie-Fratticcioli  
609-851-4657

**Zelle**

Janice DeJohn  
609-471-2405

**Checks Payable to DOTRA**

Mail Reservation Form To:  
20 Greenview Drive | Chesterfield, NJ 08515



*Anniversary Luncheon* **RESERVATION FORM**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35/person = Total \_\_\_\_\_