



## Retirement News

**Al Graser** is retiring after 40 years of service. His farewell celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach.



**Andrea Roitman's** retirement celebration is set for Wednesday, January 23, at Blue Smoke & Jazz Standard, 116 East 27th Street in Manhattan, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

A retirement celebration for Audit's **Bob Friedrich** and **Vilma Brown** is set for Friday, January 18, from noon to 3 p.m., at Arthur's Tavern, 237 Washington Street in Hoboken.



See Employee Bulletins for details.

## PA Welcomes Skybus to SWF

**P**ort Authority officials welcomed the first Skybus Airlines flight to Stewart International Airport on January 6. The discount carrier became the sixth airline operating at Stewart, joining AirTran Airways, Delta Air Lines, JetBlue Airways, Northwest Airlines, and US Airways.

Stewart Airport General Manager **Diannae Ehler** and Operations & Security Manager **Jack Martini** met the first flight, chatting with some of its 85 passengers.

Ms. Ehler and Aviation Director



*Skybus Flight 101 arrives Sunday from Columbus. Inset: Diannae Ehler greets passengers at the gate.*



Don Amis

**Bill DeCota** will travel to Europe next month to meet with international carriers and solicit interest in instituting air service between Stewart and Europe.

Skybus, which offers 10 seats at \$10 each on every flight, will start service between SWF and Greensboro, NC, next month, and announced this week it is adding three more destinations: Niagara Falls, NY; Wilmington, DE.; and Gary, IN, near Chicago. That will bring the number of cities served to 18. Skybus was launched in May and operates an all-Airbus A-319 fleet.

## Board of Commissioners Approves Toll, Fare Increases

**T**he Port Authority Board of Commissioners on January 4 approved the agency's first toll and fare increase in seven years to help pay for escalating security costs and nearly \$30 billion in capital investments to promote mass transit, maintain its existing facilities in a state of good repair, and ease congestion.

The approval followed extensive community outreach that included seven public hearings in both states, including the agency's first online hearing. As a result of the hearings, the Board approved several changes to the original proposal announced last November 15. They are:

- Cash fares on PATH will increase from \$1.50 to \$1.75, a 25-cent

reduction from the original proposal. Daily PATH commuters who use the 20- or 40-ride fare card will see an increase from \$1.20 to \$1.30 per ride, less than half of the original increase proposed. PATH also will introduce 1-day, 7-day, and 30-day SmartLink cards for \$6, \$18, and \$54, valid for unlimited travel.

**"These are the soundest possible investments in the region's future."**

- The discount toll for preregistered carpools will rise from \$1 to \$2, \$1 less than the original proposal.

The increase in bridge and tunnel tolls and PATH fares will allow the agency to proceed with an ambitious \$29.5 billion, 10-year capital plan, which includes \$3 billion for a new Hudson River passenger rail tunnel; \$3.3 billion to overhaul and modernize PATH; \$8.4 billion to rebuild the World Trade Center site; \$4 billion to keep bridges and tunnels in a state of good repair; and \$3.1 billion to expand, modernize, and enhance security at the airports.

The plan also will provide the necessary resources to fund \$650 million in annual security costs. 2008 security expenses will bring the total since

# Achievements

## Elected to SICC Board

**Maria Luongo**, Senior Policy Manager, Planning, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce for a three-year term beginning January 1.



## A Poet at EWR

EWR Administrative Secretary **Dottie Harris** has published a book of poetry, "This Side of the Rainbow and Other Stuff." It is available in hardcover and paperback.



Frank Loprano

## Honored for 'Outstanding Service'

LaGuardia Airport General Manager **Warren Kroeppel** was honored for outstanding community service by the Visiting Nurse Association of Long Island at the organization's Fifth Annual Bridgid Noreen Fife Memorial Luncheon.

The event benefited VNA-LI's Maternal Child Health Program. The luncheon is named for the granddaughter of retiree **Bill Fife**, who died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.



Bill Fife

From left, VNA-LI Chief Executive Officer Orael Keenan, Warren Kroeppel, and Luncheon Chairwoman Patricia Fife.

# Calendar

## MLK Breakfast

New York State Senator Malcolm A. Smith will keynote the Port Authority Network of Black Employees' 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast on January 17 at the Gateway Hilton in Newark. All employees are welcome. RSVPs to 10-6916 are required. See Employee Bulletins for more details.

## MLK Food Drive

The Port Authority is participating in New York State's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Food Drive, and has established drop-off locations at the following facilities:

225 Park Avenue South, lobby; One Madison Avenue, 7th floor security desk; PA Bus Terminal Manager's Office; SIB Administration Building, 2nd floor hallway; JFK Building 14, lobby; LGA Hangar 7, 3rd floor; and the PA offices in LGA's Central Terminal Building.

Most needed are canned goods, pasta, rice, whole-grain cereals, and long-shelf-life milk. They will be distributed by the Food Bank Association of New York State, representing the state's eight regional food banks.

## Three Kings Celebration

The officers and members of the Port Authority Hispanic Society invite PA employees and friends to their annual Three Kings Celebration on Friday, January 18, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Manhattan Penthouse, 80 Fifth Avenue at 14th Street. The cost is \$45. See Employee Bulletins for details.

# Trading Post

Want Devils, Nets or circus tickets? How about a timeshare in Orlando? Visit Trading Post on EmployeeNet.

# The PA & You

## COBRA Reminder

To ensure that your dependents receive COBRA benefits in the case of a qualifying event (i.e., divorce, legal separation, or a child's loss of dependent status), employees should notify Employee Benefits as soon as possible, but within 60 days, from the end of the month that the dependent becomes ineligible for Port Authority group health benefits in order to qualify for COBRA benefits.

An Employee Personal Status Change Form, PA 2298, can be used to delete ineligible children or ex-spouses from coverage. It is available on EmployeeNet and also can be obtained from your departmental administrator.

Dependent children are covered until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 19. Coverage may be extended through the end of the month in which the child graduates from college or through the end of the calendar year the child turns 26 if the dependent child is unmarried, attending an accredited educational institution full time, and dependent on the employee for support.

An ex-spouse for whom you are not legally required to provide health care coverage should be deleted from coverage to ensure that you will not be responsible for any claims paid on behalf of your ex-spouse.

COBRA enrollment/information packages will be mailed automatically to all eligible individuals by Ceridian, the PA's COBRA administrator, after Employee Benefits processes the completed PA 2298.

Please note that COBRA enrollees are covered under their own ID number, not the employee's.

# Board of Commissioners Approves Toll, Fare Increases

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9/11 to more than \$3.7 billion.

Chairman **Anthony R. Coscia** said, "With today's action we believe we can build a transportation network that will encourage mass transit use, reduce congestion, and provide the safe and secure environment our customers expect."

Executive Director **Anthony E. Shorris** said, "We'll use this toll increase to put more than \$1 billion

toward new security projects and to build more than \$6 billion worth of affordable mass transit options. These are the soundest possible investments in the region's future."

Tolls for drivers using E-ZPass will increase from \$4 to \$6 for off-peak travel and from \$5 to \$8 in peak hours. Cash tolls will increase from \$6 to \$8. Tunnel and bridge customers who use qualifying low-emission

vehicles will be eligible to register for the PA's GreenPass Plan, which will offer a \$4 E-ZPass off-peak toll.

The toll for trucks and buses will vary depending on the number of axles and payment method.

The toll plan provides for future adjustments based on increases to the Regional Consumer Price Index.

The new toll and fare structure will take effect March 2.