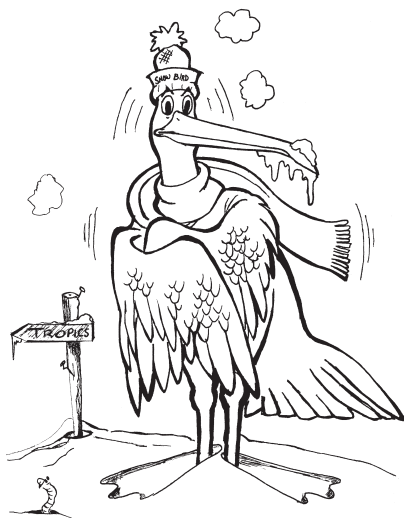


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***"Don't forget Where You Put
Your PARA-phernalia."***



A Message From Your President

On behalf of your PARA Board, I extend heartfelt Season's Greetings to each of you and to your families. This is indeed a special time of year.

As 2012 begins to draw to a close and we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, each of us can look back and recall those events and experiences which stand out in a special way for us this year. As we move through the various stages of our retirement years we find that the times are marked by the ups and downs of everyday life. We celebrate and relish the joys of family or travel or new learning experiences but we also find there are times marked by loss or sadness or illness. Hopefully, for each of us, the balance leans toward the positive side of the ledger in large measure. I, and the PARA Board, sincerely wish that the new year will be filled with joy and peace and good health for each of you.

One aspect of our retirement life that continues to be special in so many ways is the outstanding spirit of camaraderie that endures among many of our PARA members throughout these post employment years. This spirit is marked, in part, by a number of periodic gatherings in various locations throughout the port district and beyond (including Florida in the winter months). Groups of retirees meet to catch up on each others' lives and to reminisce about the events or projects of years ago that have become such an integral part of our own history with the Port Authority. For example, it's hard to believe that it's now fifty years ago this past August that the Lower Level of the GWB was opened and fifty years ago September 1st that the PA took over the Hudson & Manhattan Railroad - now the PATH system. There are a myriad of luncheons and dinners and golf outings and travel adventures that retirees enjoy together. In addition, many are engaged in a wide variety of volunteer activities including serving as docents at the WTC Tribute Center and at the WTC National Memorial in lower Manhattan. Taken together, this spirit is a continuing reflection of the professionalism, personal respect and the commitment to public service that represent the hallmarks of our years with the Port Authority. And, because of this enduring spirit, we are not merely former colleagues. In great measure, we have become friends in the full sense of the word.

We are aware that over the past several years a significant number of staff have retired from active service in response to the incentive programs offered by the Port Authority and in light of other personal considerations. Unfortunately, PARA has not been afforded the ability to establish contact with these individuals as they left and, because of this, we have not had the opportunity to invite them to join. **So here's how you can help:** If any of your PA friends and former colleagues have retired in the past several years or if they are planning to retire in the near future please reach out to them and encourage them to join PARA if they have not already done so. They can simply go to the homepage on the PARA website www.paranynj.org and they can sign up very quickly. As you know, annual dues for each calendar year are only ten dollars.

We look forward to 2013 and we hope that each of you will enjoy a terrific year! Regards to all!

Dave Gallagher, President

Officers & Board of Directors

Richard Helman, *President Emeritus*

New Jersey:

Dave Gallagher, President
Bob Isaacs, Treasurer
Jerrilyn Raczynski, Secretary
Elizabeth DeLaura
Rita DuBrow
Arnold Karvasarsky
Richard Lee
Michael Morrow
Ken Philmus
Jack Savage
Ken Vitty
Harmon Williams

New York:

Ralph Verrill, Vice President
Rae Ann Hoffmann, 2nd VP
Holly Blauser
Al Graser
George Jensen
Rich Hellenbrecht
Frank Lombardi
Chuck Seliga

Massachusetts:

Lee Goodman



Photo Courtesy of Liz DeLaura

Your PARA Board Members

Seated (L to R): Dave Gallagher, President; Ralph Verrill, Vice President – **Standing (L to R):** Holly Blauser; Arnold Karvasarsky; Rich Hellenbrecht; Rita DuBrow; Dick Lee; George Jensen; Rae Ann Hoffmann, 2nd Vice President; Bob Isaacs, Treasurer; Al Graser; Liz DeLaura; Harmon Williams; Jack Savage; Mike Morrow; Ken Philmus; Jerry Doherty; Chuck Seliga; Frank Lombardi; and Herb Somerwitz, Advisor to the Board

Not pictured: Lee Goodman; Jerri Raczynski, Dom Varricchio, Ken Vitty

Have you visited the PARA Website recently?

www.paranynj.org

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Correspondence:
P.O. Box 2002
East Millstone, NJ 08875-2002

Dues:
P.O. Box 7493
Monroe Township, NJ 08831-7493
bobisaacs@paranynj.org

The Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc. does not provide, and this newsletter does not constitute, legal, accounting, tax or other professional advice. We recommend you contact your own legal, accounting, tax or professional advisor as neither The Port Authority Retirees Association nor anyone associated with the Newsletter assumes responsibility for your relying on the information provided even though we have attempted to ensure that it reflects our understanding of what is presented.

One of the principal goals of our website is to facilitate communication among PA retirees. At your fingertips you will find access to: Links to PA contact information; PAPD Links; Benefits; Retiree Lunch Groups/Meetings; PA News; PARA News; Members; Personal; In Memoriam; and, 9/11.

If you need to inform PARA about your change of address, go to Forms - PARA Change of Address section of our website to complete the address change form. However, if you need to change your address with the New York State Retirement System visit the appropriate section of the Forms pages.

If you haven't joined the PA Retirees E-mail Directory yet, now would be a good time to do so. It's a great way to keep in touch with former colleagues -- and to let them know how they can reach you. It's in the "Members" section. You'll find it's easy to join. Just go to the PARA Website at www.paranynj.org and click on "Members" and "Retiree E-mail Directory."

PARA does not have a direct telephone number as we are all volunteers and do not have an actual physical office. Correspondence can be sent to: Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc., PO Box 2002, East Millstone, NJ 08875-2002 or davegallagher@paranynj.org. Dues payments and inquiries can be sent to: PARA, PO Box 7493, Monroe Township, NJ 08831-7493 or bobisaacs@paranynj.org. In addition, Joe SanSevero, our Webmaster, has agreed to receive telephone inquiries and/or faxes at the following numbers: Phone: (718) 866-5354; Fax: (408) 351-0282.

In Memoriam

DICK HELMAN

PARA's Board was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Richard Helman on June 15, 2012. He was PARA President from June 2004 to June 2011, and most recently President Emeritus.

Dick's tenure as PARA President enabled it to grow into an increasingly well-connected, well-informed and well-governed organization. He strengthened relationships with Port Authority executives, and the Director of the Human Resources Department (HRD), and he engaged the PARA Board in a close and meaningful dialog with top executive staff of the NYS Retirement System, and the NYS Comptroller's Office. Dick fostered relationships with other public service retiree organizations in NY State including RPEA, APRO, and the PA police retiree associations. PARA's member communications expanded during Dick's presidency through "President Messages" in an upgraded newsletter, the introduction of PARA's dedicated PA retiree Web site and e-Bulletins for distributing immediate electronic messages to members. He also initiated and led PARA's participation in the PA's pre-retirement planning seminars, and through wise governance and excellent management, grew membership to some 4,200 members. Prior to joining the PARA Board, Dick was one of eight founders of the Port Authority Pension Action Committee (PAPAC) that successfully challenged the Retirement System regarding a Final Average Salary issue.

Dick joined the PA Law Department following his graduation from Columbia Law School, and served as Chief of the Commercial Litigation Division. He received the Distinguished Service Medal from the Port Authority. Dick also taught at NYU's Institute of Real Estate for more than 30 years. He enjoyed playing tennis and golf, and traveling.

Dick was selflessly dedicated to PARA, and his primary focus was the protection of PA retirees' earned benefits. He had a profound grasp of legal and social issues, history, wisdom, good sense, disarming humor, and compassion. Dick was a consummate professional.

PARA's Board and members will miss him beyond measure.

Jim Carlock

We were also saddened to learn of the passing of James Carlock on September 8, 2012. Jim was an early member of the PARA Board and we are grateful to him for his untiring efforts as he and several others worked through the many details to establish the organization and push for authorization from the NYS legislature to approve a cost of living adjustment for retirees. His efforts set the foundation for today's PARA where there are now more than 4200 members.

He began his PA career as an Engineering Draftsman and subsequently held engineering positions of increasing responsibility until his assignment to The World Trade Center in 1962. Jim was Project Administrator of the Planning and Construction Division of The World Trade Department, retiring from the Port Authority in 1988. His reputation as a thorough and thoughtful engineer was well known to all who worked with him.

Dick Rowe

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dick Rowe on September 15, 2012 after a battle with lung cancer. Dick served on the PARA Board from June 1994 to June 2010. He joined the Board after retiring from the Port Authority where his career spanned 42 years. He served with distinction in many capacities throughout his career starting as a police officer and culminating as the General Manager of Kennedy Airport, a position he held for 12 years. In addition to his service in the Aviation Department, he also held positions in the Human Resources Department, as well as the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

Dick had a passion for aviation, a keen interest in public administration, commerce, human resource management, facility operations that would pay-off for both he and the Port Authority. He was the past president of the International Personnel Management Association and a distinguished member of the Airport Operators Council International.

We are grateful for his sixteen years as a Director on the PARA Board.



Photo Credit: Jennifer Bates

Congratulations to Mel Wasserman (left), retired Chief Traffic Engineer, who was presented with the first “Leon Goodman Distinguished Member Award” from the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) for his “distinguished and significant contributions to the organization and the profession.” The Metropolitan Section of the ITE renamed the award to honor Lee Goodman, retired manager of the Port Authority’s Transportation Planning Division, and current member of the PARA Board, for his long and distinguished service to the organization, including stints as ITE International president in 1993 and Met Section president in 1975. Lee Goodman (right) had the honor of presenting the award to Mel Wasserman at the Newark Club on June 13, 2012.

Election Results

The Annual Meeting of the Port Authority Retirees Association was held on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 in Times Square Hall at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Results of all ballots received for the Annual Election of Officers were announced. The six current Board members re-elected were: Rita DuBrow, Al Graser, Elizabeth DeLaura, Dick Lee, Jack Savage, and Bob Isaacs. Four new members were elected to the Board: Chuck Seliga, Ken Philmus, Ken Vitty, and Richard Hellenbrecht. Departing Board members were Patricia Beckhard, Jerry Doherty, and Dom Varricchio, to whom we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation.

In total, 1386 proxies were received, of which 62 were unsigned, and 8 were from members who had not paid their 2012 dues, and therefore not counted in the final tally. Of the 1316 valid ballots received, 1019 members voted for the entire slate.

Board Highlights

The Annual Meeting of PARA and the second Quarterly Meeting of the Board were held on July 11 at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Election results were reported at the Annual Meeting. President Gallagher noted the profound loss during the year due to the passing of President Emeritus Dick Helman. President Gallagher also remarked at the contributions of Board members Pat Beckhard, Dominick Varricchio and Gerry Doherty whose terms were expiring, as well as the assistance of John Nolan, Assistant Treasurer, who stepped down. At the Quarterly Meeting, the Board elected officers as follows: President Dave Gallagher, Vice-President Ralph Verrill, Second Vice-President Rae Ann Hoffmann, Treasurer Bob Isaacs, Assistant Treasurer Warren Cutler and Secretary Jerri Raczynski, all for a term of one year.

The third Quarterly Meeting of the Board was held on September 24 at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Guest Speaker, Leonard Pack from the firm of Wechsler & Cohen, retained by PARA to advise on Authority provided retiree benefits, reported on the findings and recommendations concerning the rights of retirees. Discussions and reports from all committees followed covering among other things the results of the Navigant study as it pertains to retirees; activity in Albany and Trenton relevant to retirees; and, a discussion on a way for PARA to educate prospective retirees about the association.

Jerri Raczynski

Author, Author

Three accomplished PARA members recently have found the time and motivation, during their retirement, to blossom into the public literary sphere, each by writing, producing and having published their own stimulating volume: Gerald (Jerry) Fitzgerald, Daniel (Dan) Keough and Walter Frank.

Jerry Fitzgerald retired from the PA in 1996 stepping down as Director of Aviation after 34 years of outstanding service all with the Aviation Department, moving on to head up an Aviation Subsidiary of Parsons Brinkerhoff (PB), then to form his own Management Consulting firm: Aviation Perspectives. In between leaving PB and forming his own firm, Jerry devoted his time and “smarts” to writing and publishing the truly relevant novel: “Seat of Power”. It is a fascinating tale about the Vatican granting sanctuary to a mid-east terrorist, during a contentious US Presidential re-election campaign. The story’s intrigue is heightened by the coincidence of the mysteries intrinsic to an ongoing Papal election.

The hero of the book is a Washington news reporter known for his aggressive coverage of big city political corruption. The book was published by Vantage Press and is available on Amazon.com.

Dan Keough retired from the PA in 1991 after 29 years of stellar service, completing his last 15 years as Editor of the Port’s international commerce publication: “Via Port of New York - New

Jersey”. Prior to joining the Port Authority, Dan served actively with distinction as an officer aboard a US Navy destroyer throughout the Korean War. Appropriately, Dan’s novel: “No Tombstones in the Sea” covers the fascinating, challenging operations of a vintage American destroyer and the related call-up of reservists throughout the course of the War. It cleverly covers in vivid detail the lives, relationships and the very “humanness” of the characters forming the essence of this exciting presentation. Of note is the fact that Dan received a personal, written kudo for his work from Herman Wouk, noted author of “The Caine Mutiny”. Dan’s publisher is Rose Dog Books, and is available on Amazon.com.

Walter Frank retired from the PA in 2005 after 30 years of distinguished service, the last 10 years ably serving in the critical position of the Law Department’s Chief of Commercial Litigation Division. Walter has seen fit to author and publish a foundation element of his exceptional, renown expertise with his timely work: “Making Sense of the Constitution”, subtitled: “A Primer on the Supreme Court and its Struggle to Apply Our Fundamental Law”. Since retiring, he has taught, lectured and written on various aspects of constitutional law, particularly focusing on the electoral process. The publisher of Walter’s work is the Southern Illinois University Press, which also is available on Amazon.com

Harmon Williams

Taking the Mystery Out of Retirement Planning

For many of us, planning for retirement, either from employment or from social security, was or is an anxious activity. It is so because we must realistically imagine our own future and that of our families. How long will we live? How much money will we need? Will the money last over a possibly long retirement? What if my spouse dies first? These are hard questions to ask and answer. And, no one has a crystal ball.

On August 22, my wife and I attended a workshop hosted by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Social Security Administration. It was entitled “Taking the Mystery out of Retirement Planning”. The workshop was targeted for those who are 10 to 15 years from retirement. Nevertheless, it still offered valuable information to people who are retired from employment, but have not yet decided to start drawing social security benefits.

PARA members who are retired and those who are still actively employed may benefit from viewing the publication “Taking the Mystery out of Retirement”, developed by USDOL’s Employees Benefits Security Administration, at: www.dol.gov/ebsa. PARA members who are not yet receiving benefits from Social Security can also take the mystery out of this type of retirement by visiting useful online sites such as www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator or www.socialsecurity.gov/planners. The above sites provide easy to use calculators that will help estimate your retirement, disability, and survivors benefits.

Take the mystery out of retirement planning by simply visiting these online sites. Also, you can obtain informative articles about Social Security by visiting PARA’s own online site: www.paranynj.org/Benefits/SSA/index.htm.

Frank Lombardi

Docents and Retirees at Tribute Center and the Memorial

This reporter, representing the Board, asked Maria Malone-Hodges if she'd be willing to ask PA retiree docents (some still working) if they would be willing to take retirees to see the Memorial as part of the 5/1/2012 visit planned by PARA. They were enthusiastic! Those on the Board, and those who attended really appreciated the docents' time and interest.

As a follow up to that very special experience, we thought we'd ask how they felt now that 11 years had gone by. 9/11 itself and its aftermath were uppermost in the minds of the docents we interviewed. We kept hearing phrases that spoke of how "nearby" it felt, of its "ongoing impact" and the "always emotional reaction" on the anniversary.

How did you feel now that 11 years have gone by?

Maria Malone-Hodges shared that even though 11 years have passed "I feel like I witnessed the largest attack in our history. The emotions on that day seem to surface without any warning". "It was probably the single most eventful day of my life ...up to this point", says Dave Hood. "Even after 11 years 9/11/01 is always present with me". Mark Duffy told us that he continues to be surprised at the "ongoing impact 9/11 has" on him. While he was "not consciously dwelling on the horror", his wife said it has the same impact every year – he "sleeps longer or catches a nap" a day or two preceeding it. He went away with friends this year on a beautiful hike – and felt renewed.

"I still feel a strong connection to the WTC site" Peter Bitwinski told us. "By supporting tours within Memorial and the gallery guiding and speaking to groups that connection is further maintained". Peter said what I've heard several times but never fully discussed is how the buildings didn't crumble quickly after the planes hit. There was even a poem I read one time about the sheltering arms of the buildings holding on until many could exit. Peter adds "their

initial strength saved my and others lives by allowing us time to exit".

Peter Miller believes that "WTC and 9/11 will always be nearby...(and) will not forget fallen colleagues or what happened to those who survived...because I can't". His comments are profound and one can see why being a docent at the WTC Tribute Center is a perfect volunteering choice. Steve Kern echoes Peter Miller's comments when he says that "he found the day to be as emotional as it usually is for me". As a deacon at his church, he linked the deacon work of service to others with the outpouring of compassion and self-sacrifice seen in the days and months after 9/11. Every year he speaks with his former secretary with whom he made it out of The World Trade Center.

The feelings about the Tribute Center site were summed up by Pete Tomolonis. The more he gets involved with the Tribute Center the better he feels "because he is involved with (something) soothing, which is...accomplishing three things: communication, education and support – with and for the people who want to see us build upon what happened on 9/11 and not just mourn the event". He goes on to share that these activities will provide a "vehicle for learning, and possibly preventing it from happening again or...showing others how to address their differences in a positive manner".

Memorial:

After the visit to The Tribute Center, retirees were taken by the docents to the Memorial.

Maria herself goes to the Memorial on that day because she finds it "comforting and peaceful". Peter Bitwinski adds what we all feel, that by remembering or visiting the Memorial we "continue to remember those not so fortunate"

How was it taking retirees over to the Memorial?

We also asked the docents how it was taking the retirees to the Memorial on

5/1. Something to which all the docents referred was the bond between docent and retiree. We all remember our working life and The World Trade Center. The Board looked forward to meeting these wonderful docents.

"I was honored to escort my retirees' group", says Peter Bitwinski. He got to hear their perspectives and "see some others I had not visited in quite a while". Dave Hood says "it was a privilege and honor to be able to give back to members of the PA family." Readers should note how often the word bond or family came up in these interviews. It seems a frequent theme. Peter Miller says that taking retirees to the Memorial "expands everyone's awareness of the many different ways people connect to the place and events". Hopefully, he adds, "this will increase our knowledge of what 9/11 was about". Mark Duffy's time taking retirees around was especially satisfying since he had time with Jerry Doherty, "my first boss". He captured what many felt and found hard to put into words - the "special bond of Port Authority Vets". "We grew up together" he said and "like it or not, some of us are growing old together". Wow Mark! There is a lot of love he says "spoken and unspoken".

Maria tells us that she had the "privilege of taking the PARA Board on a tour" – believe me Maria it was our privilege! Being with members of the Port Authority family, "our common bond that we are 'home' is apparent while it may not be verbalized". "No matter where our lives take us", she tells us, "we will be connected by our shared experience".

Steve Kern called it a "real treat".

Maria shared what we all experienced from our end. "Many of the PA docents told me that they enjoyed taking the PA retirees on a tour". Retirees said thank you to all of us as well. "Thanks for all the hard work to make a special day for PA retirees".

Holly Blauser

To simplify change of address for retirees this form was created by HR for Port Authority Retirees & PARA members. This allows retirees to mail or fax to both HR and PARA using one single form. Please be aware you also still have to contact NYS&LRS about your change of address status.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Retiree Change of Address Form

Retiree's Full Name

Signature of Retiree / Surviving Spouse / POA

Today's Date

Print Name of Above Signature

Telephone Number of Signature

Employee ID# or Social Security #

Retiree ID (*if known - NOT REQUIRED*)

E-Mail Address (*if you have one*)

FROM:

Old Street Address

Old Telephone Number

Old City

Old State

Old Zip Code

TO:

New Street Address

New Telephone Number

New City

New State

New Zip Code

Return form by mail or fax to both:

Mail:

The Port Authority of NY & NJ
225 Park Avenue South, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10003
Attention: Employee Benefits

Mail:

Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 7493
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

Fax:

212-435-2871

Fax:

408-351-0282



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For your latest issue of PARA-phernalia!

GOT DUES?

***PARA dues, a modest \$10 per year,
are one of the best investments you can make.***

Your PARA Board consists entirely of volunteers and works tirelessly on your behalf to assure that the benefits we were promised will continue to be maintained by the Port Authority and to keep you informed about topics of interest to all of us as retirees. Our goal for 2013 is 100% paid-up membership. We urge each of you to take a moment to complete the membership renewal form and send in your dues for 2013 now. Any contributions over and above the \$10.00 dues will be gratefully accepted. We would also urge you to contact others to join the organization as well.

There is strength in numbers.

Bob Issacs

