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



## A Message From Your President

In the NY/ NJ region we have emerged from a long, hot and humid summer and we are now already entering the holiday time of year. It's hard to imagine. These seasons seem to fly by more and more quickly each year. Surely it must be an illusion!!

During these recent months there seems to have been an eerie sense of calm and stability for PARA. It seems to have affected the Port Authority as well. The turbulence of these past few years appears to have receded. It is a welcome respite from the negative headlines. Although the daily media reports about the PA have all but disappeared — replaced by more pressing issues of concern on other matters across the region and the nation — we continue our vigilance of the PA's activities with a primary focus on any potential impact on our ever-growing retiree community. It is with an uneasy sense of wonder that I feel that the pressing issues of interest and concern to retirees (primarily related to benefits) are relatively subdued at this time. We surely hope this aura of stability continues.

At the risk of succumbing to the charge of seeing the world through rose-colored glasses, I'm inclined to take a moment to be thankful at this time of year for some of the "good" things going on these days. Within the segment of life involving the PARA community and the Port Authority, I offer my own thanks to:

.. the PARA Board members for their amazing commitment and whose interest and energy is directed to advocating on behalf of the broad PA retiree community;

.. an ever-growing number of PA retirees and current staff who have been friends and colleagues over many years whose comments, feedback and support we have appreciated so much over the years;

.. the PA Board Chairman and Executive Director who have welcomed PARA and have expressed their recognition of and appreciation for the contributions of retirees to the PA's history of accomplishment and professionalism over nearly a century since the founding of the Port Authority; and

.. the current staff at the PA — former colleagues and newer, more recent members of staff — whose efforts day in and day out continue to be directed to providing the best level of service to the public, all in keeping with the core functions of the organization's founding principles .

Some retirees have wondered why we continue to care about the activities

***President's Message - continued page 2***

## Officers & Board of Directors

### Past Presidents

*Harold A Milley (1987-1993)*

*Al Rubbert (1994-2003)*

*Richard Helman (2004-2011)*

Dave Gallagher, President  
Rae Ann Hoffmann, Vice President  
Bob Isaacs, Treasurer  
Jerrilyn Raczynski, Secretary  
Holly Blauser  
Steve Borrelli  
Elizabeth DeLaura  
Frank DiMola  
Rita DuBrow  
Karen Eastman  
John Fitzpatrick  
Al Graser  
Cynthia Hadley-Bailey  
Rich Hellenbrecht  
George Jensen  
Arnold Karvasarsky  
Richard Lee  
Enoch Lipson  
Frank Lombardi  
Maria Malone-Hodges  
Michael Morrow  
George Murtagh  
Ken Philmus  
Peter Rinaldi  
Herb Somerwitz  
Donna Tucker

[www.paranynj.org](http://www.paranynj.org)

para  
-phernalia

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## President's Message - continued from page 1

of the PA now that we have left active service. It is a legitimate question. After all, we have completed our tenure. "It is no longer our concern", some say. But this is our legacy. It is our history. It constitutes a major segment of our working life. There have been good times and not-so-good times to be sure. But, on balance, we want to be able to stand tall with a sense of professional pride when we look back over the past decades or when we are asked where we worked before we retired. We want the many substantial contributions that the Port Authority has made to the NY/NJ region to be a recognized part of its legacy. For many of us, we want to feel a sense of connection with our PA friends and with the organization after all these years. It is in that spirit that some of our retirees maintain regular contact with current staff as well as other retirees. Others volunteer their time as docents at the WTC Memorial Museum, or the Tribute Center or during the Remembrance Through Renewal volunteer program organized by the PA. Still others meet with former colleagues at periodic retiree luncheons held throughout the region — and also in Florida during the winter months.

So — yes — at this time of year I am thankful. And when I take a moment to step back from the negative headlines and relentless dysfunction of the day there is much to be thankful for — in our families, in our friendships, and in our own history.

On behalf of the PARA Board, I extend our greetings to you all and wish you a very Happy Holiday season and the very best for a Healthy and Peaceful 2019.

*Happy Thanksgiving*

*Merry Christmas / Happy Hanukkah / Happy Kwanzaa*

*Happy New Year*

**Dave Gallagher, President**



# Board Highlights

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The second Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors was held on April 3, 2018, at the Port Authority offices on the 23rd floor of 4 World Trade Center. Chairman Kevin O'Toole, Executive Director Rick Cotton, Board Secretary Karen Eastman, Peter Simon, Chief of Staff to the Chairman, Adam Barsky, Chief of Staff to the Executive Director and Scott Ladd of the PA Media Group were guests at the meeting. Chairman O'Toole indicated that he is impressed with the professionalism and knowledge of the Port Authority staff and the contacts he has made and that both he and Executive Director Cotton are committed to working towards improving the image of the organization, and furthering its Capital Plan. They indicated major focus on customer service and the customer experience at PA facilities. Executive Director Cotton said that integrity remains a high priority with zero tolerance for any violations of ethical standards. They both believe that public/private partnerships are the future to accomplishing the Capital Plan. PA Board Secretary Karen Eastman indicated that PA union contract negotiations were back on track with a streamlined approval process.

Committee reports were given. The first quarter brought in a good amount of dues. The use of PayPal for dues payment was explored but rejected due to the associated fees and security weaknesses of that system. Adjustments were made to the PARA website to limit confusion regarding the membership sign up procedure.

The Annual Meeting and third Quarterly Meeting were held on July 24, 2018, at the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

President Gallagher reported a good year. Certain PA labor contracts were settled by then with others to be completed in the near future ensuring labor harmony and retiree benefits. Most unions have gotten their E-Zpass benefits reinstated. It was also reported that Jameson Doig is in the very early stages of writing a sequel to his book "Empire on the Hudson" which will cover the accomplishments of the Port Authority from 1950 to the present and he may contact retirees for input. The annual election reinstated all the PARA Board Officers for one year and approved the following Directors for 3-year terms: Lee, DeLaura, Graser, DuBrow and Hellenbrecht.

At the third Quarterly Meeting Vice-President Hoffmann reported on a volunteer program that the Port Authority is considering implementing which would involve using retirees as information agents at Port Authority airports to supplement current staff. PARA will keep retirees informed as this program progresses. President Gallagher and Director Isaacs met with NJ Assemblyman Dan Benson, Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Independent Authorities. They exchanged information and discussed some of PARA's concerns. Director Isaacs met with Commissioner Kevin McCabe and introduced him to PARA and offered to arrange a meeting to discuss issues of interest to PARA. Port Authority reform legislation, which was approved in New York, has completely stalled in New Jersey. The future of this legislation is uncertain at this point. PARA will continue to monitor this.

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## New Interim PARA Board Members

At its third quarterly meeting, the members of the PARA Board voted to increase the number of Board members from 24 to 26, and adding Karen Eastman and George Murtagh to the Board. Both Karen and George will be up for election by the general membership of PARA in July. Here are brief bios of our newest members:

**Karen Eastman** – started working for the Port Authority in 1978 and retired in June 2018. She worked in Engineering for a year and then accepted a position in the Office of the Secretary (OSEC). She went on

to work in various positions in OSEC for 39 years, rising from a clerical position to her appointment as Corporate Secretary of the Port Authority in April 2002. Over her 40-year career, she worked with numerous administrations, including 10 Chairmen, 8 Vice Chairmen, 91 Commissioners and 11 Executive Directors.

**George Murtagh** – started working for the Port Authority in 1981. He worked his way through the TWU (Transport Workers Union) ranks, starting as a temporary Building and

Grounds Attendant, then several FS (Field Supervisor) levels, and had over twenty years as an Instructor at the Training Academy. He retired in 2018 as a Tour Manager (FS 8). He simultaneously held elected positions as Vice President and President of the Port Authority Field Supervisor's Association (PAFSA) Union since 2003 with experience negotiating, administering PAFSA's Memorandum Of Agreement, representing his membership and maintaining parallel relationships with PA Labor and Management.



# Two Friends Remember Milton Pachter

## Lew Rosenberg and Walter Frank

*Most of us who knew Milton Pachter figured he would live to at least 110. Undoubtedly, so did Milton. Indeed, he might have thought we were being a bit conservative. His friends can easily imagine him at the pearly gates giving St. Peter a piece of his mind. Milton gave the term "old school" a good name. His ethics were the highest. He once returned a draft of something clearly misdirected to him by the opposing lawyer without opening it. It never occurred to him to do otherwise. He was dedicated to getting the details right and the facts. Always the facts. There was also his incredible energy, his consummate legal skills and his deep love for his family: parents, siblings, nieces, and nephews and their children.*

*We have each set down a couple of brief remembrances below.*

**Walter:** I got to know Milton when we worked together defending the Port Authority from the claim brought by the City of New York that we owed the City more than a billion dollars in back rent under the Airport Lease. It was a great learning experience for me. Among other things, Milton was a terrific writer and editor. And I laugh now when I think how many times he would have to say, "Walter, you don't have to say I believe in this sentence, they already know who's writing this." At this point, however, I'll remember how much he enjoyed putting a curse on me at our monthly poker games. Sometimes it worked and, lucky for me, sometimes it didn't.

**Lew:** I met Milton in August 1964, on my first day at work at what was then PONYA at 111 Eighth Avenue, the Port Authority building, now Google's office in NY.

Luckily, my first job out of Boston College Law School was with the Law Department in the Litigation Division where Milton was Deputy Chief. Despite his being then immersed in preparation for the condemnation of the property that was to be the World Trade Center and PATH, he took time to introduce me to the staff and provided me with an office and my first assignments. He shepherded me through what was an internship with the litigation work I was to assume, and remained ever available to discuss issues that arose, both legal and practical. For the more than 10 years I served with him I always looked up to him for advice and support.

We socialized then and in the 40+ years that followed, his availability to discuss problems of practice and life generally never wavered. Milton's advice was particularly valued on

ethical questions and he served as a moral compass.

His enthusiasm for the law and the collegiality it offered were indefatigable. He experienced the good fortune to have his work and play to be the same thing. It was no surprise that he never would retire. Despite his having been admitted to practice for more than 60 years, the only surprising thing was it didn't last longer.

It was not only the law I learned from Milton. Don't bet into an inside straight was also an expensive lesson I learned from him at the periodic poker games we played with other PA alumni at card games he hosted at his apartment. He never tired of learning new exotic poker variations, which he introduced to us, his friends who regularly lost to him.

When his building was evacuated in advance of hurricane Sandy, my wife and I had the pleasure of hosting Milton through the storm and driving him north to a niece's house afterwards when the power was still off in our neighborhood. He regaled us with his stories at all waking hours although I must admit three days straight was quite enough.

All Milton's friends miss him and hold him dearly in their hearts.





***Milton Pachter was honored by his colleagues at the Law Department's first annual awards breakfast in April 2017. Photo credit: Mike Dombrowski***

## **View your Medicare Claims Faster**

Want to see your Medicare claims sooner? MyMedicare.gov is a fast and convenient way to see your Medicare claims. With MyMedicare.gov, you can see your claims online as soon as they're processed. And if you sign up for Electronic Medicare Summary Notices (eMSNs), you'll get your MSN each month by email, instead of waiting three months for a paper copy in the mail.

Checking your Medicare claims more frequently can help you protect yourself against fraud. The sooner you spot and report errors, the sooner you can help stop fraud.

## **Cancer Care Benefit – Priority Care from Memorial Sloan Kettering**

The Port Authority has established a special arrangement for priority access to Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) services for all employees and retirees in the event there is a need for consultation regarding a cancer illness. This was announced a number of months ago and has been posted on the PARA website but we have learned that many retirees are not aware of this agreement. We highlight it here as a gentle reminder of this benefit in the event that you, or a family member, may have need for this special medical service.

Please refer to the PARA website for further details and do not hesitate to contact MSK directly regarding questions about specific circumstances. This is the link to the website posting: <https://www.paranynj.org/Benefits/Pdf/MSK-Direct-PANYNJ.pdf>. Any questions? The dedicated phone number for PA retirees and family members for this MSK program is (844) 303-2124.

## **Connect with the IRS using IRS2Go**

Taxpayers who need tax help can simply pull out their phone and download the IRS mobile app IRS2Go, available for free on any iOS or Android device. You can use IRS2Go to:

- Check the status of your refund. Taxpayers can check the status of their federal tax refund within 24 hours after the IRS receives an e-filed return, or about four weeks after you mail a paper return.
- Make a payment. The app offers easy access to mobile-friendly payment options like IRS Direct Pay, offering a free secure way to pay directly from your bank account.
- Find free tax preparation assistance. Eligible taxpayers can access free tax software from their mobile devices using the Free File tool within IRS2Go. They can use this software to quickly prepare and file their taxes and get their refunds. Taxpayers who received an extension of time to file their taxes can use the app to file through the October extended filing deadline.
- Get helpful tips and information. You can use the app to access IRS accounts on social media, including links to helpful YouTube videos and the IRS Twitter accounts. You can also use the app to sign up to receive IRS Tax Tips by email.

IRS2Go is available in both English and Spanish and available to download from Google Play, the Apple App Store or the Amazon Appstore.



# Remembering the Annual Retort - May 21, 1982

## *A spoof on the history of the world if the PA had been in charge.*

The Annual Retort was the brainchild of the PA Angel Sid Frigand. He helped bring to life the very-off-Broadway production as a backer, but he also infused it with a true spirit of fun. Being a professional whatever and working hard is very important, but there also must be a side of life that doesn't take the world too seriously and lets us laugh at ourselves. Sid made it happen.

The plot took you from the Stone Age and the invention of the wheel, to the age of the great Pharaoh (portrayed by Executive Director Peter Goldmark). Winifred (Winnie) Preston, who wrote the script, served as the Director, and she had very high standards. She also had professional Broadway experience in her prior-to-the-PA life. The audition process was grueling. It was amazing how many turned out for the auditions as well as the talent that emerged. Rae Ann Hoffmann as choreographer had the cast swaying and kicking, even those who didn't know the difference between a two-step and a tap. Maxine Finkelstein wrote new lyrics to American popular standards, since this was after all a musical, with just enough skewering and much hilarity.

It took tremendous effort, imagination and many hours to transform the 43rd floor Cafeteria into a cabaret. But the real surprise was the music, singing and dancing, acting, costumes and props, that the cast and crew exhibited. And, even better, it was a full house with lots of laughter. The Annual Retort ran for two years; it was a team production and it was great fun.

The Annual Retort provided an opportunity to see colleagues, known previously only by their Port Authority job descriptions, who took on new dimensions. Beneath the

surface of engineers, technicians, accountants, mechanics and every other job title was creativity and talent. Who knew! It brought people working together from all over the PA, such as "Hal the Welder" from the Holland Tunnel performing alongside Peter Goldmark. Laura Radin was working in Risk Management and when she informed Harry Poole about the Annual Retort, he joined the troupe as well. It was where Mark Rosen introduced Laura to Rodney Leinberger, and after 30 years they are still wishing they could find Mark and thank him. Peggy Reynolds remembers her one and only encounter with Peter Goldmark. He approached her (and her fiddle) and asked if she was a Port Authority employee. She took it as a great compliment.

### **Listed below are the credits from the original program:**

Producer: ..... Sid Frigand  
Director: ..... Winifred Preston  
Choreographer: ..... Rae Ann Hoffmann  
Written by: ..... Pat Beckhard, Ron Cunningham  
Maxine Finkelstein, Winifred Preston  
Music Arranged by: ..... Mark Rosen  
Chorus Director: ..... Jean Ward  
Stage Manager: ..... Pat Mooney  
Costumes: ..... Charlotte Ivis, Pat Rohr, Bernyce Hay  
Set Design: ..... Rob Coplin  
Company Photographer: ..... Joe SanSevero

Thanks to Maxine Finkelstein, Laura Leinberger, Peggy Reynolds and Joe SanSevero for the photos and narrative they contributed to make this article possible.





and I shall make  
a bridge from the  
necks of throgs

. . . Moses

(L to R) Arnold Karvasarsky (as Moses) and Ken Strier

## Remembering the Port Authority Police Pistol Team

Port Authority police made an impressive showing in the White House Police Pistol Competition, held in Washington, D.C. on May 11, 1965. The Port Authority marksmen (A. Foley, R. Kohan, F. Rizzo and J. Wraga) took first place honors in the four-man team capturing the Coffelt Memorial Trophy as well as four individual White House Medals, beating out 41 other contending teams. In the Individual Event Police Officers Frank Rizzo and Andy Foley each fired perfect "300" scores. For this achievement their names are inscribed on a plaque mounted in the White House.

### 1967 Fall Invitational Tournament – West Point Military Academy

This was a Five-Man Pistol Match. The final score revealed that the Port Authority Pistol team toppled the "Long Gray Line" by a score of:

Port Authority Police --1352

West Point Cadets --1298

#### Team Members:

Sgt. Joe Wraga, Ptl. Frank Rizzo, Ptl. Andy Foley,  
Ptl. Bob Capozzi, Ptl. John Hart

#### Participating Pistol Team Members From the Mid 1950's – Early 1970's

Al Cutillo  
Bob Capozzi  
Andy Foley  
John Hart  
Ray Kohan  
George Michelin  
Frank Rizzo  
Vince Skarzenski  
Joe Wraga



The trophy case which housed over 100 trophies, located at the Police Division Headquarters in the World Trade Center, was destroyed during the Terrorist Attack on 9/11.

**Thanks go to Joe Wraga for making this information available.**





PORT AUTHORITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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***...look inside***

***For your latest issue of para-phernalia!***

## Can You Hear Me Now?

As we age, some of us suffer various degrees of hearing loss. As many of you already know, hearing aids can be very expensive. Recently, we heard about a company that can help reduce the cost somewhat (up to 70% in some cases). The company is Hear in America (HIA), which has a nationwide network of providers who perform hearing tests and can fit you for hearing aids. We heard about this company from one of our members, who is also a member of RPEA (Retired Public Employees Association). We contacted HIA to see if we could enter into an agreement with them to provide this service to our members. They were eager to do so, and we are happy to announce the

agreement between HIA and PARA. The service is available immediately to all those who want to take advantage. All you have to do is call HIA at 1-800-286-6149, tell them you are a member of PARA and they will connect you with a local provider. Our agreement provides for free hearing exams, discounts on devices, warranties on equipment, free repair and batteries for a period after purchase and other benefits. HIA will provide the details. Of course, all transactions are solely between HIA's local providers and its customers and PARA has no liability in connection with this new benefit.

### **NOTE: To all retirees affiliated with the TWU, BTU, IOUE, IBEW, CWA, FS, FM:**

We have been advised that in accordance with the recent union settlements, the retro payments for affected retiree members of these unions will be sent out beginning in mid November 2018. Affected TWU retirees will receive the full retro payment this year. Others will receive a partial retro payment in 2018 and the balance in the second quarter of 2019 as per the new union agreements. The checks will be sent to the address on record at the PA. Therefore, it is important to advise the PA if you have a new address in order to assure that the payment reaches you. If you have a new address, please call (212) 435-2870 to advise them of your current mailing address.

