

In This Issue:

President's Message	1-2
Board Highlights	3
WTC Memorial Golf Club & Invitational	4
WTC Fund Scholarship.....	5
Remembrance through Renewal... 	6
NJ Football – Story behind 9/11 Memorial Flag	7
Port Authority and Memorial Sloan Kettering Partnership	8
Port Authority Benefits.....	9
Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA)	9
Reporting a Member's or Retiree's Death to NYSLRS	10
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is Turning 100!	11
We Want to Hear From You	11
Those We Have Lost (In Memoriam).....	11

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



A Message From Your President

We are still in the midst of our special anniversary – 30 years since we organized as a formal PARA association in 1989. It is a tribute to all the members – both past and present - that this organization has continued to thrive throughout the years and is seen as a benefit for our broad retiree community. We look forward to continuing to serve this important role for decades to come. Thanks to all.

While PARA celebrates its founding this year, Port Authority staff are in the very early stages of planning a variety of activities to recognize its centennial which will occur on April 30, 2021. It is our understanding that there will be a number of events and exhibits reflecting the history and accomplishments of the Port Authority over these many years. Memorabilia and artifacts from this past century will be gathered for display during the celebration period. As these efforts take shape, we have offered our collective assistance to work with the planning committee if asked. Those of us in the retiree community have been an integral part of many of the great projects and professional accomplishments of the Port Authority over these many decades. Our memories are long and the traditions are deep going back through multiple generations. We remember too those who have gone before us who set the standards of excellence from those early times.

On balance, this has been a relatively quiet year insofar as PARA matters are concerned. It is a welcome relief from the intensity of the past few years when there was a sense of continuing duress for a variety of reasons. We have done our best to keep you apprised of the developments as they were reported in the media and we continue to follow some of the activities of the Port Authority from our distant perch. In that regard, the Port Authority is in the midst of an unprecedented capital program designed to renew and upgrade the Port Authority's transportation infrastructure across the network of facilities. It is a long-range effort designed to address the region's needs for the decades to come. It is a tribute to the staff - both past and present - who have been a part of this important effort. At the same time, as retirees, our basic focus continues to be the integrity and reliability of the overall retirement benefit programs that have served as a major part of our own personal planning during our years of active service and now in our post career lives. As time marches on they become even more and more critical as a necessary resource for addressing a number of serious situations that may arise for us and for our dependents.

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
Arnold Karvasarsky
Richard Lee
Enoch Lipson
Frank Lombardi
Maria Malone-Hodges
Michael Morrow
George Murtagh
Ken Philmus
Peter Rinaldi
Herb Somerwitz
Donna Tucker

President's Message - continued from page 1

I was among the group of PARA members who joined the many attendees at this year's Port Authority Remembrance Service at St Peter's Church on September 11th marking the 18th year since The World Trade Center was attacked for the second time. Following the kudos to the Port Authority and words of appreciation from the various dignitaries, there was the somber reading of the names of our colleagues who were lost on that day and in the 1993 attack. Ernesto Butcher's recorded voice resounded throughout St Peter's Church in those clear, deep tones that made it seem like he was there - still - - speaking from the podium. As we all listened quietly to his reading of the names, it was emotional - - and gut wrenching - - yet again.

Finally, we are most thankful to those retirees who participated in the annual **Remembrance Through Renewal** (RTR) program this past September, organized by Port Authority staff in conjunction with New York and New Jersey nonprofit groups. There has been a growing level of retiree participation in the various volunteer opportunities in recent years and that has been most welcome. We hope that it continues in the years ahead. In addition, a number of retirees joined in the inaugural Remembrance Walk on The World Trade Center Memorial Plaza on October 2nd. This new event was established this year to conclude the overall RTR program. Again, we extend our thanks to all who joined in these events.

As we begin this year's holiday season, we send our best wishes to all and we hope that you and your family will enjoy a happy and healthy 2020.

www.paranynj.org

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Newsletter • Edition #62 • Fall 2019

Published By:
Port Authority
Retirees Association, Inc.

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.

Happy Thanksgiving

Merry Christmas / Happy Hanukkah / Happy Kwanzaa

Happy New Year

Dave Gallagher, President



Board Highlights

The second Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors was held on April 24, 2019, at Times Square Hall in the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Present at the meeting were Katie Cann, Blair Wegescheide and Anily Palacios, Leadership Fellows from the Port Authority and the planning team for Remembrance Through Renewal (RTR), a program held during the month of September that brings awareness to and honors the memory of our friends and colleagues lost on 9/11. The program partners with the communities and community organizations in a variety of events such as food pantries, shelters, parks renovation and a host of other objectives for which Port Authority employees and retirees volunteer their help. All retirees were encouraged to participate. Also part of this program was a Pillars of the Community award, presented on September 4 for the categories of public service, industry expertise and strength and resilience. Several PARA Board members and PARA Representatives participated in the review and selection of the award recipients.

Committee reports were given. December was a heavy dues collection month and new members are joining on a slow but regular basis. The PARA Board members discussed the idea of forming a scholarship fund but no action was taken as further discussion is required. The PARA newsletter will continue to be sent to the PA Executive staff and will be expanded to the Chiefs so that they may provide information for events and articles for future issues. PARA will continue to attend the Port Authority pre-retirement seminars whenever they are held to further our recruitment effort.

The Annual Meeting and third Quarterly Meeting were held on July 10, 2019, at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Present at the meeting were guest PARA members James Filipone, Vivian Jenkins Johnson, Lou Venech and Howard Bonsaing. President Gallagher welcomed the guests and reviewed various issues brought to the attention of the membership throughout the year. He also reported that Jameson Doig, who wrote a book on the history of the Port Authority from its inception to 1950 entitled "Empire on the Hudson" is now collaborating with several colleagues from local universities on a sequel entitled "Mobilizing the Metropolis" documenting events from 1950 to present. He then recognized George Jensen on his retirement from the Board and thanked him for his years of service and all his contributions and insight. Steve Borrelli will take over George's role as Chairman of the Finance Committee. Director Rinaldi was involved in stabilizing The World

Trade Center slurry wall after 9/11 and was invited by the Memorial Museum to participate in a panel discussion on the history of the structure. Director Hoffmann met with the Museum's curator regarding Port Authority artifacts and items that may be available for donation to the Museum's collection. PARA guest, Lou Venech, discussed creating an archive of all Port Authority artifacts that can be gathered in time for the Port Authority centennial in 2021. Further information on this effort will be forthcoming.

The election results were accepted which reinstated President Gallagher, Vice-President Hoffmann, Secretary Raczynski, Treasurer Isaacs and Assistant Treasurer Cutler for a term of one year or until superseded. It also approved the following Directors for three-year terms: Isaacs, Philmus, Raczynski, Morrow, Karvasarsky, Somerwitz, Malone-Hodges, Eastman and Murtagh.

At the third Quarterly meeting, the PARA Board discussed the new Tier 6 benefit plan. Certain non-represented, eligible employees have the option to either stay with the New York State Retirement System or go to another contributory (401 type) retirement plan which they can take with them should they leave. The PARA Board is considering adding additional sections to the newsletter such as "letters to the editor" and "photo flashbacks." In addition, the newsletter will list those PA colleagues that we have lost. The PARA website continues to be a vital part of this organization and our singular webmaster, Joe SanSevero, who built the website continues to do a masterful job of managing and protecting it from the myriad hacks it receives on a daily basis. Backup for PARA's website is being explored. The Port Authority labor agreements still have some unresolved issues which are being worked out. PARA will be available to disseminate information to retirees should that become necessary.

Jerrilyn Raczynski

NOTE: Since this meeting, we have learned of Jim Doig's passing. This is sad news for the Port Authority's extended family as we have lost a very vocal and supportive advocate of the Agency. We are grateful for his documentation of the Agency's accomplishments in "Empire on the Hudson" and hopeful that his colleagues will complete the next phase of this documentation in "Mobilizing the Metropolis". Rest in peace, Jim.

WTC Memorial Golf Club & Invitational

The WTC Memorial Golf Club was started following the tragic losses of September 11, 2001 and was later established as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Public Charity incorporated under the name WTC Memorial Fund, Inc.

In 2002, at Pebble Creek Golf Course in New Jersey, Port Authority employees along with other supporters got together on the golf course for the first annual WTC Memorial Golf Invitational to reflect and honor the 90 friends and colleagues who lost their lives on February 26, 1993 and September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The mission of the WTC Fund is to continue to raise money for charitable and worthy organizations or individuals with both financial assistance and donations. To date, over four hundred thousand dollars has been donated to multiple charities. The WTC Fund also provides college scholarships in the names of those lost in the terrorist attacks at the WTC and plans to erect and maintain a monument at the ground zero site dedicated to the employees of The Port Authority of NY & NJ lost in the attacks.

Every September, on the Friday after the 11th, the WTC Memorial Golf Invitational is held and for those who don't want to play golf, they are always welcome to attend and join in for the luncheon and activities. Acknowledgment before the start every year begins with a moment of silence and prayer for our friends and colleagues that were lost and those that continue to become ill.

This year on September 13, opening remarks by WTC Fund Committee President, Paul Iannacone, welcomed all the attendees, thanked all the many supporters and noted some of the additional ways that our fallen friends will be remembered. He stated that, to date, we know of 11 Port Authority Police Officers that have passed as a result of the recognized 9/11 illnesses contracted from toxins at and around ground zero. In 2019, TB&T's Operations Duty Manager,



with cancer, sadly passed on June 20.

He also mentioned, sadly, that individual pavers dedicated "In Loving Memory" will be placed at the Pebble Creek WTC Memorial for those we lost during the year. Paul then called for a moment of silence, acknowledging all those that have passed.

The moment was accompanied by a single bagpiper, Anthony Sierra from the Port Authority Police, who piped a slow and somber melody of Amazing Grace in their remembrance.



Also recognized, was committee Vice President John Foye, whose father recently passed. John's father, Jack, was part of the Belmar Fishing Club and has provided significant donations these past eighteen years. The Belmar Club donated one thousand dollars on his behalf.

Reaffirmed was the recent loss of TB&T employee Chris O'Halloran, who was also a US Navy Veteran, and both a supporter of the Fund and attendee at every outing since 2002. He further remarked how others continue to struggle with conditions associated with September 11.

Paul then introduced Committee Trustee Bob McKee, who followed with a heartfelt speech noting Chris' service to our country, contributions of his more than three decades of Port Authority service, his response on September 11, 2001, and

Christopher O'Halloran, was another employee that was diagnosed with lung cancer attributed to his 9/11 exposure, and after a valiant battle

his support in the weeks and months following. In part, are some of the words Bob expressed; sentiments we all live each day.



"We will never forget" - those words resonate through all of us. They say that "time heals all wounds" but I don't know when it comes to September 11. It seems that all too often, we hear of another first responder either becoming ill or passing away as a result of their exposure to the toxins from that horrible event.

In fact, over time, sadly more first responders, construction workers, innocent people who worked in the WTC and in the vicinity of the WTC, and others who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, will die as a result of their exposure to the elements from September 11 during the months of rescue and recovery operations that followed. Unfortunately, more of these individuals will die and far surpass the number of people lost on September 11. Meanwhile, thousands of others will be permanently impacted by illness and sickness.

As Physical Plant Manager of the Holland Tunnel, I had the privilege, as many of you did, of working with Chris on September 11 and the days, weeks, and months that followed. Chris responded to the emergency that day as did thousands of first responders, including Port Authority Police and other Port Authority personnel.

Continued bottom of next page

WTC Fund Scholarships

On September 11, 2001, 38 Port Authority civilian employees and 37 Port Authority Police died in the terrorist attacks on The World Trade Center. Five employees died in a bombing before that on February 26, 1993. In their memory and for their selfless actions the WTC Memorial Golf Club Committee is awarding an annual scholarship to graduating high school seniors who plan to continue their education beyond high school, in the amount of \$15,000 for a 4-year undergraduate degree and \$7,500 for a 2-year associate degree. To receive the full benefit of the scholarship, the recipient must maintain a 3.0 GPA while in college.

The Fund's Committee is made up of family members of those who lost their lives in 1993 and 2001. The purpose of the scholarship is to recognize a graduating senior annually who has the desire to further their education. The program has been awarding scholarships since 2014.

Paul and Scholarship Committee Chair Jessica Dobrin continued with the announcements of the annual WTC Scholarship awards. This year presentations were made to Brook Matthews, the daughter of Holland Tunnel's Maintenance Supervisor Mike Matthews, in the amount of \$15,000 over 4 years, and the second award went to Ashley Pepe, daughter of Police Officer Tom Pepe, for a one-time amount of \$2,500. Since 2014, the WTC Fund has awarded over \$110,000 to 13 recipients.

Note: WTC Scholarship Awards are only awarded to family members of those Port Authority employees who lost their lives in 1993 and 2001. The reference to five employees from the 1993 attack includes an unborn child.



Established with the support of owner Ray Longobardi at the Pebble Creek Golf Course, is a permanent Memorial. Three large Memorial Stones, donated by the support of WTC Golf Club/Fund, the Port Authority PBA and the Pebble Creek Golf Course have been placed and are engraved to include words of recognition and the names of all those lost in both WTC attacks. In part, *"This place of remembrance On September 11, 2001 the Port Authority lost 84 co-workers and friends. This memorial honors their memory and all others who perished in The World Trade Center,"* and goes on *"We will never forget those Port Authority workers and friends who we lost on February 26, 1993"*.

The tall black stones are interconnected by dozens of individual and group

pavers have been placed in the memorial area that include both personal and group dedications and sentiments to permanently beautify the reflective grounds.

This section of steel was salvaged from the WTC after the attacks on September 11, 2001 and has been permanently placed at the memorial site at Pebble Creek. This steel piece of the Twin Tower "Tridents" also has a sister section that is displayed in the atrium of the National September 11 Museum.

This year's event hosted 245 golfers, and more than 50 friends, family, co-workers, retirees and sponsors joining in the luncheon and activities.

Closing remarks by Paul Iannacone reasserted the Committee's recognition of all the employees, retirees, other attendees, the many sponsors, the Port Authority Unions and the Pebble Creek owner Ray Longobardi and staff for their continued support these past eighteen years and that we will never forget our fallen friends.

For more information on the WTC Memorial Fund and the annual Invitational event go to: WTCMemorialGolfClub.com.



WTC Memorial Golf Club - continued from page 4

For months afterwards, Chris supported recovery operations in any way that he could, even on his own time.

Chris had a larger than life personality and was an avid golfer, shooting 7 holes-in-one during his lifetime. He attended this WTC outing for the last 17 years and always looked forward to it. He will always be with us in spirit."

Following these kind words, a Flag Box, coordinated by Trustee Lou

Gallo, and handcrafted by Joe Piekarz, and John Degenova of the Holland Tunnel where Chris last worked, was presented to Chris' son Steven, to display the United States Flag that graced his coffin. Closing words from Bob McKee, sustaining the phrase **"We will never forget"**, underpinned the steadfast commitment of the WTC Fund Board, our employees, our unions and many other supporters, to those we lost and those that continue to suffer.

Remembrance Through Renewal

For the fourth year, members of PARA participated in the Port Authority's Remembrance Through Renewal program. This month-long series of service events which pays tribute to those we lost on 9/11 was once again a resounding success. Over 35 members of PARA participated in this year's program consisting of 22 community-based events. To close out the month long program of service, the Port Authority instituted the Remembrance Walk and Reflection Ceremony. The inaugural Remembrance Walk consisted of a candlelight walk around the WTC Memorial and Museum, ending in a ceremony in Liberty Park on the evening of October 2. The PAPD's Pipe and Drums led the walkers. Executive Director Rick Cotton opened the ceremony, making remarks on the agency's remarkable ability to move on despite the horrors of 9/11. PARA Board members Frank Lombardi, retired Chief Engineer, and Peter Rinaldi, retired Assistant Director of Engineering, offered their thoughts on resilience and their personal 9/11 experiences at the Liberty Park ceremony. PAPD Deputy Chief Raymond Bryan also spoke about his deep connection to the events of 9/11.

Participating Retirees: Kirit Desai, Tim Volonakis, Dave Hood, Marie Bauso, Al Anton, Susan Komorowski, Vilen Roisenberg, Marileen Brown, Steve Stibrany, Carl Wood, Tina Hansen, Maria Malone Hodges, Rae Ann Hoffmann, Ruth Russell, Catherine Bergamini, Charles R. Daye, Jr., Richard Lee, Anthony Cracchiolo, Margaret Zampini, Saroj Bhol, Michael Podolak, L Michael Krieger, Linda A. Krieger, Abbe R. Krieger, Marianne Pellegrino, Michael Morrow, Barry Weintrob, Keith Walcott, Sheryl Fields, Deacon Stephen Kern, Charles Rathjen, Patricia Bonny, Roberta Schnur, Alice Kee, Jerry Doherty, Don Lee



More Photos on page 12



NJ football: Story behind 9/11 memorial flag Piscataway will unfurl Friday night

The meeting was held in room 129, a lecture hall in Piscataway High School, on Thursday, September 12, 2019.

After the Piscataway football team completed a walk through on the field, players and coaches retreated to the high school for a weekly awards presentation, during which the top performers from the previous game were honored. This week's meeting, which took place on Thursday in Room 129, a lecture hall with auditorium style seating, concluded with junior lineman Nick Lodato being selected to lead his team onto the field against Sayreville Friday night.

Lodato will be carrying a Port Authority of New York and New Jersey World Trade Center Memorial flag that proudly flew at The World Trade Center and has been displayed at military bases around the world bearing an image of the twin towers across which Old Glory is superimposed. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Sign Shop designed and created the flag after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The flag, of which there are replicas, is the property of recently retired Port Authority employee Bob McKee, who most recently served as general manager of redevelopment for The World Trade Center and who is the father of Piscataway quarterback's coach Nick McKee.

"I gave them a little history of Sept. 11," Nick McKee said of his talk with the players in Room 129.

"(Piscataway) Coach (Dan) Higgins has got a saying. When something gets botched up on the field, you reload." The word reload is part of Piscataway football lore and players recite it from the sidelines in unison while thumping their thigh pads with their hands following a penalty or a miscue.

"When I asked the kids what did we do as a country after Sept. 11," Nick McKee said, "I told them we reloaded. I could tell I had their attention. I tried to look at everybody's eyes in the room. I could tell how much (Lodato) respected the flag when he got it in his arms. He made sure it didn't touch the ground."

Navy SEALs in Iraq and U.S. Army soldiers

in Afghanistan, where the Global War on Terrorism, a United States-led international military campaign in response to the Sept. 11 attacks is being fought, have proudly displayed Bob McKee's flag.

On Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four planes that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York City, Washington D.C. and Stonycreek Township, Pennsylvania. Among the victims were Sayreville residents Vinod K. Parakat and Robert T. "Bobby" Hughes Jr., and Piscataway

Center towers and the American flag."

Bob McKee said the design of the flag became so popular that decals bearing the image were made for first responders, military personnel and others to wear.

"When the military was sent abroad to attack, a lot of the airplanes, ships and even bombs that were dropped carried that same logo," Bob McKee said. "It signifies that we will never forget those that were lost on 9/11."

Bob McKee is the son of a mechanical and industrial engineer who also worked for the Port Authority, which oversees much of the regional transportation infrastructure – including bridges, tunnels, airports, and seaports – within the New York-metropolitan area's port district. Bob McKee said his father was involved in the design and construction of the original World Trade Center and that he had "the good fortune to work on the building of the new World Trade Center."

"That was the pinnacle of my career," Bob McKee said, "and with the new World Trade Center, its bigger and stronger, so it sends an important message out to New York City and the world that we will never be kept down as Americans, and that we will never forget."

The deadly Sept. 11 attacks, which al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden orchestrated, occurred at The World Trade Center, the Pentagon and aboard United Airlines Flight 93. More than 2,700 people died at The World Trade Center after two hijacked planes intentionally crashed into the north and south towers. Those who perished included 343 New York City firefighters, 37 Port Authority police officers and 23 New York City police officers.

The death toll has risen as first responders, firefighters, police officers, EMS technicians, construction workers and others who volunteered at Ground Zero died as the



residents Harry Glenn, Liming (Michael) Gu and Yeshavant Moreswar Tembe.

"I'm very proud," Bob McKee said of Piscataway taking the field with his flag. "I think a lot of people have forgotten what that day was like. For younger generations, some of these kids were infants and maybe not even born. They really don't understand the impact it made on the world. I think it's important for everyone to fully understand what happened that day."

Of the flag, Bob McKee said the Port Authority, "Came up with the concept that they wanted to permanently establish something meaningful to the Port Authority, and their vision was having The World Trade

NJ FOOTBALL, Continued page 12

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Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Direct for Port Authority

The Port Authority has partnered with MSK for its MSK Direct Program, which provides guided access and expert cancer care as well as practical and emotional support for all Port Authority employees, retirees, and their loved ones.

MSK Direct for Port Authority of NY and NJ

An MSK Guide to Breast Cancer pamphlet is included as part of the newsletter.



When faced with cancer, getting the right diagnosis and treatment plan is critical. Port Authority of NY and NJ has partnered with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the top-ranked cancer hospital in the Northeast, to offer **MSK Direct**. This program provides **guided access** and **expert cancer care** as well as **practical and emotional support** for all employees, retirees, and your loved ones.



CALL US IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE:

- has been diagnosed with cancer
- has a suspicion of cancer
- want to discuss cancer care options



OUR EXPERT AND COMPASSIONATE TEAM WILL SUPPORT YOU BY:

- scheduling an appointment at your convenience, as quickly as two business days
- gathering your medical records
- meeting you at your first appointment
- facilitating an MSK Remote Second Opinion (fees may apply)



PORT AUTHORITY'S BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS:

- no need to enroll
- no fee for MSK Direct (clinical care is billed through your insurance)
- open to all members and their eligible dependents (pending insurance verification)
- MSK is an in-network provider for most Port Authority offered insurance plans

Call MSK Direct on the dedicated phone line for Port Authority of NY and NJ employees, retirees, and their families: 844-303-2124.

MSK has locations across Manhattan, Westchester County, Long Island, and throughout New Jersey.



National Comprehensive Cancer Network®



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

THE PORT AUTHORITY
OF NY & NJ

MSK Staying Healthy Around the Holidays Seminar

On Tuesday, December 3, Memorial Sloan Kettering's registered dietitian, Cara Anselmo, will be sharing tips on how to eat healthy and still have fun with friends and family during the busy holiday season. This event will be hosted at the United Federation of Teachers Union

— 52 Broadway, 19th Floor., New York City. Registration is required. ***If you are interested in attending, please send an email to Karen Eastman at karen7360@gmail.com requesting the registration form.***

Port Authority Benefits

A Message from the Human Resources Department and Service Delivery Team

In support of the agency's employer of choice agenda, the Human Resources Department is committed to our customer's experience. Our goal is to provide easy to access resources and tools for our active employees, retirees and external customers, such as Port Authority's self-service systems. The Service Delivery team strives to provide outstanding service to reply to all inquiries in a timely manner and continually makes it a point to gain a better understanding of our employee's/retiree's requests.

Most recently, we announced that the Service Delivery team is using the Customer Relationship Management (CXm) system which provides the team with a significant tool that is used to implement best practice methods to track and reference calls from employees, creating a single reference data base for call management and case resolution. The implementation of this system will improve the service we provide to everyone who calls the Service Delivery Call Center.

We are now excited to share that we have created a new unique email account to expand the ways that we can be contacted:

hrsdcc@panynj.gov.

By streamlining our business processes, we aim for quicker problem-solving and case management. Effective immediately, you can begin using this email address to send your general inquiries, including the following topics listed below:

- Employee Benefits Inquires
- Employee Relations Issues
- Forms (2298: Employee Status Change and the relevant documentations, Life Insurance, Dental, Medical)
- Policies

The Human Resources Department and Service Delivery team hope to further continue this dialogue to build tools and mechanisms that benefit our valued retiree population.

Pension Fund Shows Strong Growth

Comptroller Tom DiNapoli has reported that the value of the Pension Fund has risen to \$216.2 billion, following a robust return of 3.4% in the first quarter of the state fiscal year, which ended on June 30th.

Comptroller DiNapoli stated, "The fund is off to a strong start this fiscal year. Markets have been volatile, however, warranting caution from investors. Our constant goal is to ensure that New York State's pension fund remains one of the nation's strongest and best funded, providing state and municipal employees with retirement security for generations to come."

This is indeed good news. In June, the Pew Charitable Trusts once again ranked the New York Pension Fund one of the best funded in the nation, with a funded ratio of 96.1 percent. Only eight states had a funded ratio of 90 percent or higher based on 2017 data, with New York ranked fourth behind Wisconsin, South Dakota and Tennessee.

In other news related to the Pension Fund, Comptroller DiNapoli announced that the employer contribution rate for the Employees' Retirement System for the next fiscal year will remain the same, while the Police and Fire Retirement System will have a slight increase. Taking a conservative approach to future market environments, the Comptroller also lowered the anticipated rate of return on investments from 7 percent to 6.8 percent.

RPEA commends Comptroller DiNapoli on his outstanding stewardship as "Sole Trustee" of the Pension Fund, ensuring a safe retirement for current and future retirees.



Reporting a Member's or Retiree's Death to NYSLRS

When a NYSLRS member dies, whether before or after retirement, it's important that survivors report a member's or retiree's death to NYSLRS as soon as possible. Survivors can report a death by email, phone or mail. They will need to send NYSLRS an original certified copy of the member's death certificate regardless of how they notify NYSLRS.

Once NYSLRS receives the death certificate, they will send beneficiaries or their certified representatives (guardians, powers of

attorney, executors) information about death benefits and, if applicable, information about continuing monthly retirement benefits. They will also send them forms to complete. Beneficiaries should be aware that it could take **three months** from the date NYSLRS is notified of the death before any death benefit is paid or any monthly benefit payment begins.

If a member is retired when he or she dies, NYSLRS will stop payment of any outgoing

pension benefits. Survivors should be aware that any uncashed pension checks in a deceased retiree's name must be returned to NYSLRS. NYSLRS will automatically reclaim any direct deposit payments that went out after a member's death. See below chart for options to report a death.

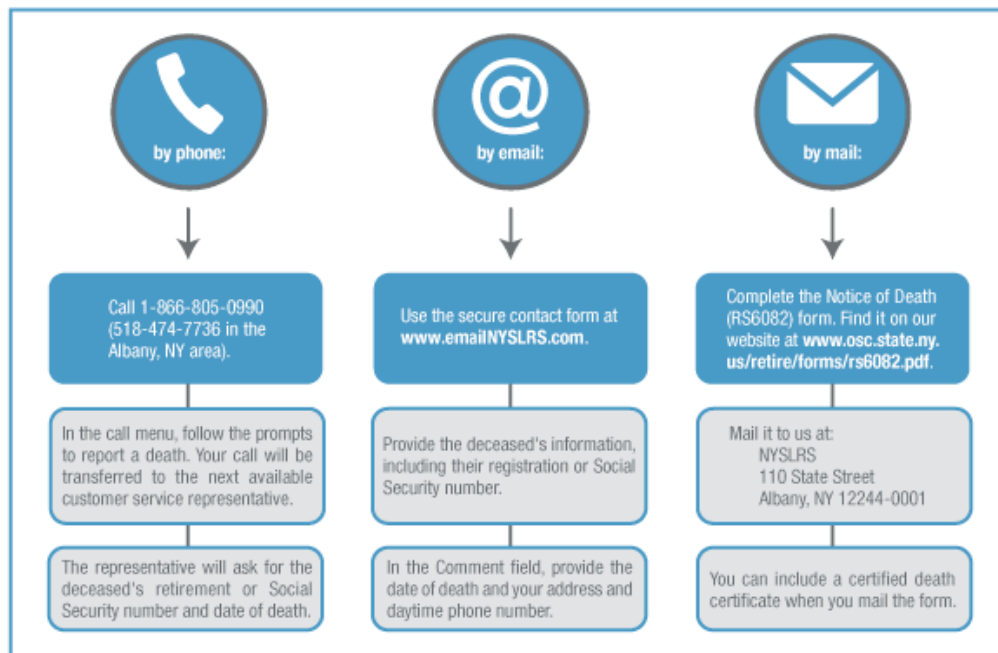
Additional information can be found at <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/vo1874.php>

Reporting a Death




When NYSLRS members or retirees die, their survivors need to report their death to us.

Step 1: Contact Us



Step 2: Send Death Certificate



Before we can pay any death benefits, we'll need an original, certified death certificate. Please mail it to:

NYSLRS
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12244-0001

What Happens Next

Once we receive the death certificate, we will contact and provide forms to the named beneficiaries or certified representatives (guardians, powers of attorney, executors).

It can take three months from the date we are notified of the death to process the required forms.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is Turning 100!

We Want to Hear From You

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which was established on April, 30, 1921, will be turning 100 in approximately 18 months. To commemorate this milestone event, the Port Authority has begun preliminary planning for the Centennial, with various celebrations beginning in January 2021 and running through December 2021.

Alfred Doblin, the Director of Strategic Communications at the Port Authority, has been asked to lead the process, meeting with current and retired employees to learn about the agency's history, in addition to meeting additional stakeholders and members of the community. As part of that process, he recently met with the PARA Board.

Mr. Doblin is open to hearing any Port Authority history or ideas that you would like to share with him. He can be reached at 212-435-5836 or at adoblin@panynj.gov.

In the meantime, our PARA Board will provide periodic updates along the way.

Port Authority retirees are an interesting and diverse group of people. Many of us are enjoying retirement by spending quality time with family and friends, many have gone on to other careers, volunteer work, charity work, travel and adventure seeking. Your colleagues would love to hear from you. If you have a specific story you would like to share about your post Port Authority adventures, don't just tweet about it or put it on Facebook, send us an article. PARA will keep your articles and publish them in future newsletters subject to editorial and space constraints. Please keep your articles to between 300 and 600 words and submit them to Karen Eastman at karen7360@gmail.com.

Those We Have Lost (In Memoriam)

as of 10/31/2019

William G. "Bill" Backes, Jr.	01/02/2019	Richard (Red) Joseph Zwyczewicz	05/03/2019
William J. Thomas	01/05/2019	John Joseph McVetty	05/05/2019
Michael E. Colbert	01/08/2019	Anthony P. Fusco, Jr.	05/19/2019
Michael Kelly	01/11/2019	John F. Pytel	05/21/2019
Donald Korba	01/13/2019	John E. Hauptert	05/22/2019
Michael A. Burke	01/19/2019	Sabrina W. Coston	06/03/2019
Thomas James O'Reilly III	01/22/2019	William J. Leahy	06/06/2019
Sandra Elaine Dixon	01/25/2019	Robert Joseph Walsh, Sr.	06/07/2019
Carroll F. White	01/25/2019	Marilyn G. Guilfoyle	06/12/2019
John Francis DeSanto	02/12/2019	Robert Jones	06/16/2019
John Maini	03/01/2019	Christopher P. O'Halloran	06/20/2019
Michael G. Carnevale	03/04/2019	Thomas Butler	06/26/2019
Paul Dante Segalini	03/11/2019	Raymond P. Mannion	06/26/2019
Steven M. Cernak	03/16/2019	Roy F. Arena	07/11/2019
Michael Edmund Teel	03/21/2019	Edward Michael McCaffrey	07/25/2019
Emanuel Angelo Baratta	03/31/2019	Allan J. Lonschein	08/01/2019
Deborah J. Coady	04/04/2019	Andrew Joseph "Panda" Rizzo	08/05/2019
Timothy P. McNamara	04/06/2019	Julius T. Warzybok	08/08/2019
Robert (Bob) Yturraspe	04/24/2019	Joseph Jay Randazza	08/21/2019
George Laing Rover	04/26/2019	Kevin C. Higgins	10/20/2019
Sam Arne Nordmark	04/28/2019	Richard A. "Dick" Fredholm	10/22/2019
Melchior (Mike) D'Angelo	05/02/2019	James J. Nachstein	10/30/2019

Names of deceased include those who were reported to PARA



From the Remembrance Through Renewal program to the World Trade Memorial Golf Club & Invitational to the flying of a Port Authority flag in Afghanistan - there is only one thing we can say . . .

WE WILL NEVER FORGET



NJ Football - continued from page 7

result of inhaling toxic substances from a dust cloud the twin towers' collapse generated.

"It is definitely a very difficult anniversary," said Bob McKee, who was stationed on Sept. 11 at the Holland Tunnel, the closest Port Authority facility to The World Trade Center and the facility of which he was the physical plant manager at the time.

"Every time you read something in the paper, it's like a wound that never heals. Many first responders and people that were exposed to 9/11 toxins have since died, and that's going to carry on, unfortunately."

Earlier this year, President Donald Trump signed into law a bill that in effect permanently reauthorizes the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, which pays out claims for deaths and illnesses related to first responders who fell ill after working at Ground Zero or the Pentagon in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The bill that has been passed," Bob McKee said, "will help people who have been sick, injured and died from that event."

Bob McKee is a committee member for The World Trade Center Memorial Golf Club, which holds an outing every September on the first Friday after the 11th of the month at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Colts Neck, New Jersey. The outing, held annually since 2002 and during which participants take time to honor and reflect upon those who died as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks, has raised more than \$300,000 for charitable organizations and has funded college scholarships in the names of those lost in the terrorist attack on The World Trade Center.

Nick McKee, who has been a part of the golf outing since its inception, will return from the links in plenty of time to watch Lodato run onto the field with his father's flag.