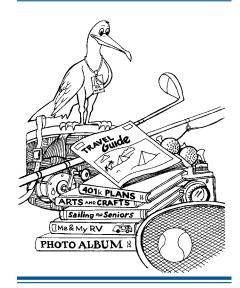
PORT AUTHORITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.

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



A Message From Your President

My plan was to write to you about the upcoming PARA Board elections, the terrific camaraderie at various retiree gatherings, future plans and such...... but then reality set in.

These past few months have been a time of challenge and uncertainty for our members. I've been in touch with a number of retirees during this time and the overwhelming theme of the conversations has revolved around two central points: 1) what is happening with the Port Authority these days; and, 2) are our retirement benefits safe? Unfortunately, the short answer to both questions is: "Right now, we don't know". We didn't ask for- - nor did we ever expect - - these questions to be such a central concern for us in our retirement years. All of this is still playing out.

The feelings and reactions run high on both counts - - and understandably so. As retirees, we have had a personal and professional stake in the organization's success over the course of our working lives regardless of where we worked. But, for better or for worse, the PA has been in the eye of a political and media firestorm over these past few months. The discussion has focused on everything from the organization's leadership, its structure and its staffing appointments to its financial integrity, toll and fare increases, compensation / benefits and project costs at the World Trade Center.

The recent management audit was conducted at the direction of both governors (as a condition of their approval of the toll and fare increases) and it was less than complimentary in many respects. Some observers have claimed the outcome was politically pre-ordained. Others have commented that there is no balance because there are glaring omissions, oversimplifications and highly questionable conclusions. The media has been filled with opinions, analyses, condemnations and defenses of the audit review. The Phase I report was issued at the end of January and Phase II is scheduled to be completed in June. For your information and reference, a link to the full report and some of the recent press articles can be found on the PARA website home page – Current Issues.

Many of us have been following these developments to a greater or lesser extent. The PA has been in a constant state of flux for a number of years and it has wrestled with changing and/or competing priorities and pressures. In addition, there has been a procession of gubernatorial appointees including PA Board members, Executive Directors and internal staff who have assumed responsibility for the organization's policy direction and day-to-day decision making.

But, all that having been said, this is today's Port Authority and, as retirees, we are no longer a part of the organization despite our very close connection with its current employees, its past history and its outstanding accomplishments. For a variety of reasons, we remained dedicated and loyal to the Agency. Although it may be personally difficult and disappointing to observe today's landscape, these issues are not of our doing in any respect nor are they ours to address or to resolve.

As retirees, our concerns are much more parochial. They center on the integrity and continuity of our benefits which serve as a major pillar of our individual financial stability and our retirement security. The elimination of the E-ZPass benefit affected many, but not all, of our members but any negative change in our retirement benefits affects each and every one of us.

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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.

Update: E-ZPass Issue

The following is a brief summary of the status of the lawsuits and related activity regarding the E-ZPass issue.

As far as we are aware, as of this writing (mid-April), there are at least three lawsuits that have been filed in connection with the elimination of the E-ZPass benefit for retirees. Two have been filed in New Jersey and one in New York. One of them, submitted by attorney Tom Westfield (PAPD-retired), is seeking to be treated as a class action suit filed on behalf of the hundreds of PA employees and retirees who filed a timely Notice of Claim. We have been advised that it may well be some time before there is any final resolution of these cases. Meanwhile, several PA unions are currently in arbitration with the PA on their labor contracts and we understand that the E-ZPass issue, for current employees and for retirees from the particular union, is one of the key stumbling blocks.

In late March the arbitrator in the case of the Electrician's union found in favor of the union and directed the Port Authority to reinstate the E-ZPass benefit to all retirees from that union and to reimburse them for any tolls costs they incurred since the benefit was revoked. The PA has indicated its strong opposition to the decision and their intention to submit an appeal.

As of this writing (mid-April) the final resolution of this and the other labor issues is still unresolved.

Dick Helman and Rae Ann Hoffmann

REMINDER RE: USE OF PAPER PASSES AT PA'S TUNNELS, BRIDGES & AIRPORT PARKING LOTS

We have been advised that some retirees are still attempting to use their paper passes at the Port Authority's tunnels and bridges, and for airport parking. The E-ZPass benefit for most employees *and all retirees* was rescinded as of 01/01/2011, and PA staff have been directed to no longer accept paper passes.

Please pass this along to your fellow retirees as a reminder not to try to use the paper passes anymore.

Healthcare Benefits for PA Retirees

The following is a re-print of the e-bulletin issued on April 5, 2012. If you haven't already signed up, please go to www.paranynj.org, click on 'Members', then click on 'Add your email address for e-blast'.

Many of you may be aware that the Port Authority's Board of Commissioners made significant changes to the compensation and benefits programs for PA employees at its meeting on March 29th.

PARA's President, Dave Gallagher, contacted the Director of the PA's Human Resources Department, Mary Lee Hannell, to clarify whether or how these changes to PA-provided benefits affect current retirees. She responded immediately, assuring that none of the PA Board's actions with respect to healthcare and compensation affect current retirees in any way. These changes apply only to current employees and future retirees.

Knowing how urgent this concern is to PARA's retiree members, we wanted to share this information as soon as possible.

Thank you for being a PARA member,

YOUR PARA BOARD

From Your President - continued from page 1

Our benefits are the remaining "official" vestige of our ongoing relationship with the PA now that we have retired. Throughout our career we were often reminded of the value of our total compensation (including salary and benefits when compared to the higher salaries of the private sector) and we were advised of the PA's historical long term policy commitment that they would continue without diminution for the duration of our retirement years. In addition, this commitment, plus the pension from the New York State Retirement System, has served as a basic building block for planning our financial future after completing our working years with the PA. In effect, these building blocks represent the terms and conditions of our retirement and they ought not be subject to erosion in any respect.

Based on recent discussions we've had with representatives from the retirement system, our pension fund continues to be financially sound and well managed. The New York State retirement system is reported to be one of the best funded public pension systems in the nation. Our concern now is focused squarely on the integrity of the benefits we received from the Port Authority when we retired from active service.

In reading the recent Phase I audit report, prepared by Navigant, there are indications that the PA may look for ways to curtail the costs of retiree benefits as one way to save money. The Phase II report on this and other items is due to be submitted to the PA Board in June. Our retirement planning relied in a significant way on the organization's

promises regarding our future benefits. Clearly, any revision which adversely affects them is definitely a matter of serious concern. Any negative impact could only be viewed as an abandonment of the organization's long standing promise to its staff and to the PA's retiree community.

Your PARA Board members are doing what we can to learn about any such plans and to prepare for possible actions that may be needed in the future. We are aware that there are significant changes affecting current employees but, as of this writing (mid-April), we are not aware of any details regarding prospective or proposed changes affecting us. But neither have we received any assurances that our benefits would remain intact. This uncertainty is unsettling at best. We will pursue this core issue as best we can in the weeks and months ahead. If any of our members become aware of specific proposals that affect us, please let us know.

Our message is simple and clear: We rely on the Port Authority to hold to its long standing commitments to its retirees. It should honor, without reservation, the promises made to us regarding our earned retirement benefits - - promises which we were given throughout our career and which have been a basic part of the organization's policies and practices for many decades.

Dave Gallagher, President, PARA

Did You Know . . .

The original eight Port Authority retirees who created PARA back in the 1980's were:

Officers:

Harold A. Milley, President; Cyril V. Storer, Vice President; John A. Huston, Jr., Treasurer

Board Members:

Cletus F. Bamber, Richard Brady, Ralph A. Johnson, Stephen P. Kenny, Francis H. Werncke

This concerned group of eight recognized the fact that pensions were not keeping up with inflation so they decided to organize the power of all 3000+ Port Authority retirees by creating PARA and working with them and other NY State Retirement System retirees to press for a COLA bill. The first COLA adjustment appeared in retiree's September 2000 pension check.

From the first issue of the PARA Newsletter, to this the 47th Issue, we have expanded to nearly 4200 Port Authority and PATH retirees. The modest annual dues of \$10.00 helps us keep retirees apprised of what is going on that may affect them.

Let us know your thoughts . . . please.

Oara 2012 Election & Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting date is fast approaching and we will again be re-electing Directors whose terms are about to expire. We will also be voting for new Board Members: Richard Hellenbrecht; Ken Philmus; Chuck Seliga; and, Ken Vitty, whose biographies are included below.

The meeting will be held at 11:15 A.M. on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at the Times Square Hall, Port Authority Bus Terminal, in the Borough of Manhattan in the City of New York. Members who have paid their 2012 dues on or before June 30, 2012, will be entitled to vote. The names of the new candidates and those up for reelection, as well as their proposed term of office, are listed on the enclosed Official Proxy Ballot Card on which you can indicate your vote for all, some or none of the candidates or submit a write-in candidate of your choice if the individual is a member in good standing. You need not attend the meeting to vote. Just return your completed ballot in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope postmarked on or before June 30, 2012. If you have not already paid your 2012 Annual Dues, you may include your check along with your Ballot. We always encourage members to exercise their right to vote and play an active role in their organization. Since seating at Times Square Hall is limited to approximately 70, it would help with our planning if you advise us of your plans to attend. Please let us know of your intentions by July 2, 2012 by mailing us notice at PARA, PO Box 2002, East Millstone, NJ 08875-2002 or by e-mail to davegallagher@paranynj.org.

Retiring PARA Board Members

As you prepare to send in your ballot for selecting members for the PARA Board, it is important to mention that two of our current board members are "retiring" from their respective positions on the Board.

On behalf of the PARA Board and the general membership at large, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Jerry Doherty and Dominic Varricchio for their service to PARA over the past several years. Both have been officers -- in addition, Jerry served as PARA's liaison with several of the New York State retirees organizations. We wish them well as they transition to other activities and we hope they will continue to enjoy their retirement for many years to come.

Candidate Biographies

Richard Hellenbrecht - Began his 34 year career with the PA in July, 1966 as a Clerical Aide in Comptrollers after graduating Cardinal Hayes High School. He held a number of increasingly responsible positions in Engineering , Public Affairs, and The Office of Business and Job Opportunity, before being promoted into the Executive Band within Technology Services. He served briefly in Procurement before retiring in late 2000.

Rich is currently working with the Regional Alliance for Small Contractors, Inc. serving as Manager of Community Relations for Delta / JFKIAT Terminal Redevelopment Program. He holds a BS Degree from St. Johns University and an MBA from Long Island University.

For the past 25 years, he has been an active member of the Queens Community Board 13 serving most of that time as Chair of the Land Use Committee. He served as Chairman of the Community Board from 2001 to 2009. Rich serves as President of the Queens Civic Congress, as well as Secretary and Treasurer of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association. He is founding president and current director of the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy. He enjoys sailing and computer technology and resides in Bellerose, NY.

Ken Philmus - Joined the Port Authority in 1971, retiring after 34 years of service in 2005. He served his last six years as Director of Tunnels, Bridges, and Terminals where he was responsible for all management activities related to the operations, maintenance, security, toll collection, administration, and capital rehabilitation of the George Washington Bridge, Lincoln Tunnel, Holland Tunnel, Port Authority Bus Terminal, and several other highway related facilities.

Ken has a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo and is also a member of the Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society. He also holds a Masters of Public Administration from New York University. Ken also serves on the Intelligent Transportation Society of America and ITS World Congress Boards. Ken is also a former Board member of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association where he remains very active.

At the present time, Ken is a part-time Senior Vice President with Xerox within the Transportation Solutions Group where he facilitates transportation revenue solutions with a primary focus on tolling and user fees. Ken's goal is to assist these agencies in

Candidate Biographies - continued from previous page

minimizing traffic congestion while maximizing revenue, mobility and environmental quality.

Ken lives in Matawan, NJ with his wife, Irma. He has 2 children and is the proud grandparent of 5.

Chuck Seliga - During the summer of 1964, Chuck worked in Operations Standards as a full-time temporary employee and continued as a part-time employee while going to Graduate School in the evening. He joined the Port Authority as a full-time employee in 1966 in the Operations Standards Division after graduating from Seton Hall University's Graduate Program. Prior to that time he had served as a full/part time temporary employee for two years. He served in the Human Resources and World Trade Departments before moving on to become The Restaurant and Hotel Administrator for The World Trade Center. In 1988, he became Manager of Property Development and Business Administration at JFK, and ultimately became the General Manager of JFK.

Chuck left the PA in 2000 to become the President and COO of Stewart International Airport retiring in 2007. During his tenure with the Port Authority, he was part of the TAG group, the Management Trainee Recruitment Program and the Executive Development Program. Chuck is Secretary of his community's

Homeowners' Association Board, working with Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties in a fund-raising capacity and worked with PARA on a part-time basis with Jerry Doherty dealing with a group of outside retirees focusing on pension protection and benefits.

Ken Vitty - Was appointed to the PA Police Department in 1971 serving four years as a uniformed Police Officer and 16 years as a detective retiring in 1991. Prior to his employment with the PAPD, he served two years as a uniformed Police Officer with the Nutley, NJ Police Department.

Since his retirement, Ken has worked for the Sterling Technical and Forensic Division of Asset protection group, LLC of South Amboy NJ, and is currently the Vice President of the technical services division. Ken is also one of the founding members and current President of the Port Authority Police Retired Detectives Association. His goal is to establish a close networking relationship between PARA, PARDA and the other police retiree associations. This effort has successfully materialized to date especially in the area of police retirees attending the South/Central Jersey Retirees quarterly luncheons. His goals are to support the Board and retirees of all our related retiree associations, protecting the welfare of our retirees as the primary goal.

Board Highlights

The last quarterly meeting of 2011 of the PARA Board was held on December 5, in the Times Square Hall at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. The highlight of the meeting was the presence of Alan Dorn, President of The New York Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) who spoke at length and answered Board Members questions about the legal action brought by REPA to stop New York State from requiring State (not PA) retirees to contribute to the cost of their medical insurance. The Board also passed resolutions amending the By-Laws to conform the membership year and fiscal years of the association to a calendar year basis, clarifying voter eligibility, and opening membership to include former employees who did not retire from the Port Authority.

The first quarterly meeting of 2012 was held on March 19, 2012 at the Port Authority Bus Terminal with discussion and reports from all committees, covering among other things, the recently issued Port Authority audit report and its possible impact on benefits; the nomination of candidates for Board membership, the status of PARA's print and electronic media programs; relevant activity in Albany and Trenton affecting retirees; recent news items and opinion articles dealing with retiree issues; and, PARA's continued support of the WTC Tribute Center.

Ralph Verrill and Jerri Raczynski

Just a Reminder . . .

As you probably know, last year PARA changed its membership year from a fiscal year (June-May) to a calendar year (January-December) basis. This is consistent with all other record-keeping and reporting requirements. During this transition year, even though you may have paid your dues for the 2011-2012 year, dues for 2012 are now due. This is a one-time overlap, and dues will be collected on a calendar year basis going forward. If you are unsure if you have paid your dues for the current year, just go to the PARA web site (http://www.paranynj.org/Dues/index.htm) and click on the link at the bottom of the page. This will generate an e-mail to me requesting your dues status. Please note that payments to PARA (dues or sponsor contributions) are NOT tax deductible.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of PARA.

Bob Isaacs, Treasurer

Visit to the Tribute Center and Memorial

In 2009, PARA and the staff of the Tribute Center hosted Port Authority retirees and spouses on a tour of the Tribute World Trade Center. On May 1, 2012, PARA and the staff of the Tribute Center and Memorial hosted yet another successful day for Port Authority retirees and their guests to tour the Tribute Center AND the Memorial reflecting pools and museum. This year's invitation was widely received, in fact so overbooked that the Committee had to assign times on ½ hour shifts in order to accommodate everyone!

Retirees arriving for the visit were greeted by PARA Committee Members for this event Holly Blauser, Jerri Raczynski and Mike Morrow. Other PARA Board members on hand to assist were Dick Lee, Rae Ann Hoffman, Bob Isaacs, Gerry Doherty, Harmon Williams,

and Arnold Karvasarsky and their spouses Bonnie Williams and Harriet Karvasarsky. The day began with an opportunity to relax with a cup of coffee provided by the Tribute Center staff – Jennifer Adams, CEO of Tribute Center and Nancy Gamerman, Volunteer Outreach Coordinator. PARA President, Dave Gallagher welcomed everyone with a special greeting. The Tribute Center was established by the 9/11 Families Association and later joined by others including The Port Authority who provided construction funds for the Center. The main mission is to educate visitors and students so that they could understand the living history of the community that was The World Trade Center.

The role of the docent is a special one – each docent must have a connection to the site either as a responder, neighbor, survivor, family member, or former worker which makes the position personal thereby relating to the guests in a special way. The Tribute Center continues to welcome PA retirees for these positions so if you are interested in becoming a member of this special family, please see the contact information in the last paragraph of this article. Tickets were given to the docents for those who wished to tour the Memorial on The World Trade Center site and a docent accompanied each group over to the site and stayed with the group for the tour. The Memorial pools are each nearly an acre in size, set in the footprints of the Twin Towers.

Around the pools, the names of the victims are inscribed in bronze.

This day would not have been possible without Nancy Gamerman of Tribute who made the event a reality. Wendy Abel-Weiss provided sage advice and Jen Adams developed a special pass, free for the month of May, for those families who could not be accommodated on the 1st. Special thanks also goes to Jenna Moonan and Jim Connors of Memorial for their help in coordinating the groups and assuring access for our retiree groups. Maria Malone-Hodges, a Port Authority retiree and Tribute docent, did a yeoman's job of arranging the day and coordinating the other volunteer docents – Vic Guarnera, Peter Bitwinski, Jim Larsen, Mel Wasserman, Peter Miller, Joanne Riccardi, Brian Edwards, Marianne Pellegrino, Susan Mollo, Hank Mazurczyk,

Peter Tomolonis, Steve Kern, Dave Hood, Mark Duffy, Doug Weir and Peter Rinaldi. As a token of the Board's appreciation, we agreed to support additional training for those who will give tours of the Memorial. A special thank you was presented to Memorial staff as well.

The Board is grateful for the outstanding cooperation given by all and for the opportunity for PA retirees to come together not only to honor those who died but to remember and interact with friends and share the everlasting experiences and fun times working at The World Trade Center. The Port Authority has enriched our lives with wonderful memories and lasting friendships.

For those who would like to "give back" please think about being a docent at Tribute. Docents are asked to commit to only two tours a month inside the gallery. To become a volunteer call Nancy Gamerman at 212-422-3520, Ext. 112 or visit their website at www.tributewtc.org. The Tribute World Trade Center is located at 120 Liberty Street, just across the street from The World Trade Center site. Also, Danilo Minnick, The Memorial's Volunteer Services Coordinator, will happily accept volunteers as a guide to the Memorial Pools. Volunteers should be able to work 4 hour shifts outdoors every other week; 12 hours a month for a minimum 3 month commitment. Please go to the 911 Memorial website to apply on line: http://www.911memorial.org/Volunteer. If you have questions you

may contact Danilo at volunteer@911memorial.org.

spouses Bonnie Williams and Harriet Karvasarsky. The day began with an opportunity to relax with a cup of coffee provided by the Tribute Center staff – Jennifer Adams, CEO of Tribute Center, Lee lelpi, President of Tribute Center and Nancy Gamerman, Volunteer Outreach

Visitors were greeted by PARA

Board Members: Dave Gallagher,
President, Holly Blauser, Jerri
Raczynski, Mike Morrow, Dick Lee,
Rae Ann Hoffman, Bob Isaacs, Gerry
Doherty, Harmon Williams, and
Arnold Karvasarsky.

Other volunteer docents included: Maria Malone-Hodges, Vic Guarnera, Peter Bitwinski, Jim Larsen, Mel Wasserman, Peter Miller, Joanne Riccardi, Brian Edwards, Marianne Pellegrino, Susan Mollo, Hank Mazurczyk, Peter Tomolonis, Steve Kern, Dave Hood, Mark Duffy, Doug Weir, and Peter Rinaldi.

Some Things to Think About

Since the economic downturn of 2008, state budgets have taken a beating with less revenues flowing to their treasuries from taxes, federal subsidies or other sources. With their struggle to fulfill obligations, with fewer funds available, there has been a lot of unfavorable focus of the pensions paid to retired public employees.

National coverage in recent years of state and local governments nearing bankruptcy has been routinely the subject of newspaper and magazine articles as well as television and radio programs. Pension system obligations of many states have brought about a "WE vs. THEM" mentality that has engendered heated discussions even at the dinner tables of some PARA Board members.

We, as members of the New York State Retirement System, have been quite fortunate that the system has earned praise as among the best managed or even THE best managed in the nation. Figures indicate that earnings from a wide range of investments fund about 85% of the required payouts annually. Local governments and employee contributions fill in the gap. That's where the consternation begins. The contributions that local government must make can take the form of property tax increases. With those increases as catalysts, the local press does fuel the fire - so much so that public retirees have been getting a bad rap.

As we have told you before, PARA is a member of the Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations of NY. There are approximately 40 other organizations that are members like us and together they account for almost 350,000 retirees including our nearly 4200 members. All the negative press that public retirees were encountering deeply disturbed the President of APRO, Hiram Eberlein. Though APRO's limited resources prevented him from launching a counter-attack in the form of a "We are public service retirees and proud of it ", he felt a campaign addressed to elected representatives could be a powerful tool in making the point that the work we did while still employed made an important contribution. Retired public employees should not be labeled as the enemy. He himself wrote excellent letters to Governor Cuomo, House Speaker Sheldon Silver, and to Senator Dean Skelos, Majority Leader, defending the work done by public service employees. He resented the fact that in December 2011 a Gubernatorial labor-relations team negotiated with several unions in NYS to increase the premiums paid for healthcare not only by current employees but also to increase premiums for retirees once represented by those unions. Another organization, RPEA, (Retired Public Employee Association) actually brought suit against the Governor in NY for that increase in premiums for retirees. That suit is pending.

APRO's President, Hiram Eberlein has maintained that elected officials have not fully understood or appreciated the contributions of public sector employees or retirees. To make his case, Hiram assembled some personal thoughts and some very relevant facts about the services of career public employees and the economic impact of public service retirees in NYS.

Hiram's "Talking Points" as he labeled them, wished to emphasize that there is nothing wrong with being a public employee or with being a retired public employee (like us). He wrote, "Public employees perform the work that needs to be done to keep our communities and society safe and well maintained." He wrote proudly and powerfully, "Some public employees look after the elderly, the vulnerable and those

with no other support systems. They protect the public from the depredations of the power-hungry and the unethical. Public employees are the difference between our decent society and some of the third world countries we see on television." He continued, "Despite the negative spin that is used to describe some public employees, most don't make a lot of money and given comparable levels of education attained, they are paid less than private sector employees," Hiram went on to comment, "Retirees are now in the untenable position of having their healthcare protection costs increased without a parallel increase in their pensions. This is not an imaginary scenario, as was witnessed by the recent Civil Service Employees Assn. (CSEA) and Public Employee Federation (PEF) negotiations in December 2011 in Albany wherein NYS unilaterally legislated increases in retiree healthcare protection costs." Hiram concluded, "We are only too well aware of the fiscal pressures of all governing bodies in NY. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that most public sector retirees remain in the State and most spend their pensions within the State, not the least of these expenditures being for local property taxes."

Hiram originally drew some pertinent statistics from the 2010, Comptroller's Common Retirement Fund's Annual Report but we have updated them to reflect recent remarks of a senior official of Comptroller Di Napoli's office using 2011 data

- About 640,000 active state employees are members of the state's retirement systems
- Of the 360,000 retirees, 277,000 Common Retirement Fund pensioners live in New York State
- Those pensioners contribute \$6.5 Billion to their communities and to the State that in turns generates \$9.5 Billion of economic activity and 55,000 jobs.
- The average pension for all retirees is \$19,300 and for those over 65, more on the order of \$15,000

You can appreciate the important impact that we, who reside in NYS, have on the New York State economy.

Quite similarly, I was able to find some facts from the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits from their June 30, 2011 Financial Report.

- There are currently over 517,000 active members contributing to the State of New Jersey's variety of retirement systems
- A total of nearly 278,000 retirees and beneficiaries receive monthly pensions
- The total annual value of those pensions exceeds \$7.7 Billion

The New Jersey numbers awed me. But PARA members who reside in New Jersey can see the enormous positive impact public service retirees have on your State and communities' prosperity.

With those facts known and with each of you hopefully now better equipped to hold your head up higher, tell people about the pride in the work you did and the things you were party to during your working days. As to your pension as a retired PA employee, keep in mind those were earned benefits from an agency that took pride in being an economic engine for the region.

Jerry Doherty

"BIRDS OF A FEATHER . . . "

The purpose of the Membership Committee is to retain and increase membership.

This purpose is aligned with the responsibility of the Treasurer, which is to optimize revenues, by the consistent and timely collection of dues and by donations. All revenues support PARA's mission: to serve PA retirees and to promote their welfare. These two-prong missions are achieved by informing us about relevant matters, engaging in activities to further our interests, and fostering and encouraging legislation that maintains or promotes our pensions and health benefits.

To support PARA's mission, the following are essential:

- 1. Become a PARA member, if you are not;
- 2. Renew your membership, if it is delinquent;
- 3. Invite fellow PA/PATH colleagues to join;
- 4. Volunteer your time, experience, talent and skills; and,
- 5. Send a donation.

Take a moment to visit PARA's website: www.paranynj.org. Write a check in the amount of \$10.00, which covers the annual dues from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, made payable to the Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc. and mail it to:

PARA PO Box 7493 Monroe Township, NJ 08331

Thank you for your help to retain and increase membership and to optimize revenues!

Frank Lombardi

"...FLOCK TOGETHER"