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

Please Remember to Pay 2025 Dues to See All PARA Has to Offer.

Co-Presidents' Message

Our Spring issue of *PARA-phernalia* discussed an important change effective next Spring in what PARA members in good standing — those who have paid their annual (January-December) dues for the year — will see on our website: www.paranynj.org, (click on the PARA News tab) and in other benefits such as receiving this newsletter. We have made it easier for people who want to be members of PARA to do so online, choosing the "Member Login" tab on the upper right on our website to create a member account and pay dues by credit card.

We have more details about this change inside this issue, and it is important for you to pay your 2025 dues, preferably online, or by check for those who wish to go through this process, by March 31, 2025, so that you will receive future issues of this newsletter and have access to the key features of the website that are of the most importance to PARA members. These are Benefits, PARA News, PA News, In Memoriam, and 9/11.

Simply put, if you have paid your dues by March 31, 2025, you will receive the newsletter and have access to these pages online. For those who wonder why pay dues, please read on.

This organization is run wholly by volunteers, who serve as officers (i.e., President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Board Secretary), or other members of the Board, many of whom have specific tasks, such as the editor of this newsletter, and the Chairs of the Benefits, Membership, Nominating, Finance and Website committees.

The expenses arise with what it takes to maintain our upgraded website, financial transactions for memberships, a database, website security, graphics, printing, mailing, and other financial necessities that are part of running a nonprofit organization in good standing.

This newsletter illustrates both the range of information and services that PARA provides to members and the latest examples of our work to sustain the connection between PANYNJ/PATH retirees and the agency where many of us served for most or all of our careers. In addition to the semi-annual printed newsletter, PARA eBulletins and the website offer timely information and updates throughout the year.

Highlights covered in this issue include the following: The Port Authority's executive leadership has decided to create a Digital Remembrance Library (DRL) as an ongoing archive to share the impact of the February 26, 1993 bombing and the September 11, 2001 destruction of the World Trade Center complex on the agency and its workforce, and the efforts of Port Authority and PATH employees to sustain operations at all its facilities and rebuild for years to come. The impetus for this is to create a dedicated resource specifically for

Officers & Board of Directors

Past Presidents

Harold A Milley (1987-1993)

Al Rubbert (1994-2003)

Richard Helman (2004-2011)

Dave Gallagher (2012-2021)

Karen Eastman (2021-2023)

Rae Ann Hoffmann, Co-President
Maria Malone-Hodges, Co-President
Michael Shannon, Treasurer
Susan Bush, Secretary
Holly Blausler
Steve Borrelli
Elizabeth DeLaura
Frank DiMola
Rita DuBrow
Dave Gallagher
Al Graser
Cynthia Hadley-Bailey
Bob Isaacs
Arnold Karvasarsky
Kirby King
Richard Lee
Kevin Lejda
Dennis Lombardi
Frank Lombardi
Michael Morrow
George Murtagh
Ken Philmus
Jerrilyn Raczynski
Peter Rinaldi
Herb Somerwitz
Louis P. Venech
Keith Walcott

www.paranynj.org

PARA Newsletter • Edition #72 • Fall 2024
-phernalia

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Paul-Mark Printing, Freehold, NJ

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.

Co-Presidents' Message - continued from page 1

current and future Port Authority and PATH employees where they can go to learn what their predecessors did to recover from these two terrorist attacks. Retirees also will have access to this special remembrance library.

Your Co-Presidents have thanked the Port Authority's outgoing Chief of Human Capital, Mary Lee Hannell, on behalf of our organization, and have met with the new Chief, Christina Callahan. She has a very impressive background in employee relations, business, public administration, labor negotiations, and facility operations. Please see our interview with her on Page 10.

Susan Bush has joined PARA's Board and has taken on the position of Board Secretary, replacing Jerrilyn Raczynski, who served as Board Secretary for more than twelve years. Please see a profile of Susan Bush, whom we are delighted to have on our Board. Jerri will remain on the Board, contributing her deep knowledge of all things PARA.

PARA is a remarkable collaboration of retirees who long ago chose a path of public service, and who continue to support a unique community, for mutual benefit. Thank you for being a part of the PARA family. Thank you for making sure your dues are current so we can keep going.

We wish you and your families a very happy and healthy holiday season and new year.

Rae Ann Hoffmann Maria Malone-Hodges
Co-Presidents

WORKING ADVANTAGE DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Port Authority employees and retirees can take advantage of hundreds of discounts at stores, theaters, theme parks, and more through Working Advantage, the PA's Employee Discount Program partner.



Visit www.workingadvantage.com and use the PA Member ID number, 405042634.

PA Plans Digital Remembrance Library To Preserve Legacy of 9/11 and 1993 WTC Bombing

How can the Port Authority carry forward the memory of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and the 9/11 attacks, so that current and future employees can understand the impact of these tragedies on the agency and the example of the Port Authority's recovery from these traumas?

With each passing year, retirements thin the ranks of employees with first-hand knowledge of either or both episodes. Time is growing short to ensure that these definitive chapters of the Port Authority's experience remain a living legacy for decades to come. Already, roughly half of the agency's workforce are Millennials or members of Gen Z.

Port Authority executive management has responded by authorizing the creation of a "Digital Remembrance Library" of photos, videos, and documents intended to be available only to Port Authority employees and retirees. The goal is to provide an accessible touchstone especially for current and future employees to understand the impact of both events and the resilience demonstrated by Port Authority staff and leadership to sustain operations at its facilities and persevere through the arduous process of WTC redevelopment now nearing completion.

The youthful staff project team has asked that PARA alert our members to the effort and invite you to offer relevant materials for this digital archive. Kirsten Hernandez, Manager, Executive Initiatives and Policy for the Executive Director's office, and project leader Benjamin Hunter met with the PARA Board this Fall to outline the project. "Our goal is to launch the digital library by the end of this year, Ms. Hernandez explained, "but it will be a living archive with more images to be added in the future."

Ben Hunter, a Leadership Fellow new to the agency, added, "I'm a perfect example of this project's importance. I was three years old on 9/11. Until I began working on this assignment, I had no understanding of how these events affected the Port Authority and how it responded."

PARA Board Members were quick to offer specific materials – and a dose of advice. They stressed that for the 9/11 attacks especially, the immediate impacts spread far beyond the WTC complex and PATH to include the airports, Holland Tunnel, and other facilities vital to the regional economy. The agency overcame many challenges to operational recovery. Board Members also noted that images alone cannot convey the reality of those episodes without sufficient context

provided by text or available video interviews and presentations.

PARA Co-President Rae Ann Hoffmann thanked the project leaders for meeting with the Board, concluding, "You can tell from this conversation how important we think this effort is for the agency, and how much we want to help." PARA leadership is consulting with the staff team through this Fall.

The Port Authority asks that retirees with relevant material to offer contact the project team via email at digitalremembrancelibrary@panynj.gov You can use this address to submit digital photos and documents, with brief notes to provide context. The archive will not include new oral history interviews. It will be wholly digital; the project team is not accepting donations of physical objects. If you have an item you cannot digitize, send a description to the email address to request further guidance.

Retirees who want access to the site should send an email to digitalremembrancelibrary@panynj.gov, noting the email address they would use to access the DRL. After verifying that the request is from a PANYNJ/PATH retiree, those individuals would have access once the site is launched. The link will open if, and only if, access to the retiree's email address has been granted.



PARA Board Welcomes New Secretary

At its July 24th Board Meeting, the PARA Board approved the appointment of Susan Bush as the organization's Secretary, to serve through the 2025 Annual Meeting. Susan succeeds Jerrilyn Raczynski, who served ably in that role for more than twelve years. Jerri will remain on the Board.

Susan joined the Port Authority in 1987 in the World Trade Department. A year later she moved to the Aviation Department, where she worked until retiring in 2019. During her 32-year tenure at the PA, she assumed increasingly responsible positions in both the financial and business development areas from senior financial analyst to Manager Concessions Programs. In that role, Susan was responsible for the management of a \$1.3 billion revenue budget for 16 airport terminals at the PANYNJ airports.

Board Highlights

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors held on April 10, 2024

The April quarterly meeting was convened at 9:30 am via Zoom. The following officers and members of the Board were present: Co-Presidents Hoffmann and Malone-Hodges, Secretary Raczynski, Treasurer Shannon and Directors Murtagh, Isaacs, Philmus, Morrow, Somerwitz, Gallagher, F. Lombardi, Blauser, Rinaldi, Borrelli, Walcott, Venech, King, DiMola, Lee, DeLaura, Graser, DuBrow, Shannon and Lejda. The Minutes of the January 17, 2024 meeting, as previously circulated, were adopted pursuant to unanimous resolution of the Board.

Director Borrelli reported that one treasury bill will become due in May which will be rolled over at that time. The annuity has two more years and will most likely be closed out at that time & reinvested.

Director Shannon gave an overview of finances for the first quarter of 2024. PARA finances are stable and a considerable amount of 2024 dues has been received thus far. Director Hoffmann issued an E- Bulletin regarding the increase in the hearing aid benefit to a considerably large data base which may have triggered the burst of dues payments.

Director Venech reported that the Spring newsletter is being worked on and is expected to be in the mail prior to Memorial Day. He suggested that it include an article about the increase in hearing aid reimbursement. He also reported that he spoke with Al Doblin about the Port Authority's proposed Archive program and learned that, unfortunately, there isn't much interest on the part of the PA to further this effort. He also suggested that perhaps PARA might take up this effort by encouraging the agency to reconsider. This will be discussed further. Director Hoffmann suggested that PARA should more definitively shape and communicate its goals and representations so that more PA employees and retirees may be encouraged to join and participate. Director DiMola suggested that a Committee or support group be formed to be available to spouses of PA retirees who have passed in order to disseminate pertinent information and make the process more welcoming and easier to navigate. This also will be further discussed.

Director DuBrow reported that the change in hearing aid benefits was issued by United Health Care and that PA benefits was not aware of it nor did they send out any information to the PA or otherwise. She heard about it from a PA retiree who alerted PARA. A discussion followed as to the reason for this and the lack of communication between Benefits and United Health Care as well as other issues that may not be getting the proper attention. We also discussed how best to get the most information to the most people as possible. She will follow up with Benefits to see what other information may be available to report to the PARA constituency. She also reported that she has gotten

a significant amount of correspondence on various issues, many requiring fact finding and interaction with Benefits. When these inquiries come in, she routinely follows up with the correspondent regarding dues payments. She also reported that the various Police organizations delete those members that don't pay dues and perhaps we should consider doing the same at some point. She further reported that an International Claim Form with United Health Care exists for those traveling abroad and needing health care. She also reported that HR will be sending out reminder letters regarding individual funding requirements for Medicare Part B reimbursement.

Director Malone-Hodges reported that Director Hadley-Bailey attended a pre-retirement seminar to promote PARA membership. She continues to get good results and continues to follow up as well.

Director Blauser reported that Donna Tucker has resigned from the Board effective April 9, 2024. She also reported that she will write an article for the Spring newsletter which will include those who left the board and those whose terms are up for renewal for another 3-year period.

Director Hoffmann reported that the new website is being updated on a regular basis and is running smoothly. Director DeLaura reported that she often has to research various sources and obituaries to get information for the In-Memoriam section of the website. Unfortunately not everyone notifies PARA of this information.

Director King reported on the Rules adopted for access to the new website and how it is going to be set up for those who are paying members and those who are not. There will be certain pertinent information not available to non-paying members which, hopefully, will encourage them to become paying members. We will craft a statement to those inquiring why they can't access this information which will require that they either become current or join PARA. Director Lee brought up the fact that there is no By-Law requirement to be a paying PARA member. Director Somerwitz confirmed that no By-law change is necessary to restrict certain information to paying members.

Director Hoffmann reported that she posted a tribute to Joe SanSevero on the new PARA website. Director Malone-Hodges reported that the By-Laws are being amended to increase the treasurer's single-signature authority from \$1,000 to \$5,000 when writing checks for PARA. A motion was made, seconded and approved to make this change. The next meeting and the Annual meeting be held in the Manager's Conference Room at the Bus Terminal on Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at 10:00 am.

Jerrilyn Raczynski

Bylaw Amendment *(Adopted and Attested to on April 10, 2024 – Page 17 of 17)*

RESOLVED, that Article VIII, Section 1 of the By-laws be amended by substituting “\$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Dollars)” for “\$1,000.00 (One Thousand Dollars)” as the limit on single-signature authorization of PARA checks.

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant Treasurer be added to the list of authorized check signatories set forth in Article VIII, Section 1.

THIS AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PORT AUTHORITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC., AT A REGULAR BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM TECHNOLOGY ON APRIL 10, 2024, WITHOUT OBJECTION.

ATTESTED TO:

SIGNED BY JERRILYN RACZYNSKI
JERRILYN RACZYNSKI, Secretary

Date APRIL 10, 2024

Minutes of the Board Meeting July 24, 2024

The July quarterly meeting was convened at 10:00 A.M. in hybrid format, in-person at the Port Authority Bus Terminal with Zoom access. The following officers and members of the Board participated: Co-Presidents Hoffmann and Malone-Hodges, Acting Recording Secretary Venech, Treasurer Shannon and Directors Blauser, Borrelli, DuBrow, Graser, Hadley-Bailey, Isaacs, Karvasarsky, King, Lee, Lejda, D. Lombardi, F. Lombardi, Morrow, Philmus, Raczynski, Walcott, and newly elected Director Susan Bush.

The Minutes of the April 10, 2024 meeting, as previously circulated, were adopted pursuant to unanimous resolution by the Board.

Co-President Malone-Hodges presented the nomination of Susan Bush to join the Board and to serve as Secretary, for an interim term through July 2025. The nomination was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer Shannon presented the financial report for the first six months of 2024 (see attachments). Highlights:

- Total Income: \$ 31,583.98
- Total Expenses: 15,928.33
- Net Income: 15,655.65
- Income included \$1,705 interest from a Treasury Bill
- The largest expenses were for printing/postage of the Spring newsletter and website contractor fee
- Online credit-card payments accounted for about 50 percent of dues income

Director and Finance Committee Chairman Borrelli reported that additional funds were invested in the renewed T-Bill to increase interest income, while retaining sufficient funds for ongoing expenses. He also noted that 18 months remain on the term of an annuity investment, stewarded by former Treasurer Bob Isaacs.

Treasurer Shannon then reported on the Annual Election of Directors. The Spring newsletter mailing included election details, noting that only PARA members current in their dues status were eligible to vote. The newsletter mailing went to 3,572 members, with ballot cards and

dues reminder cards enclosed. Eligible members numbered 1,920, with 1,600 not paid for the current year by the July 8 deadline (the mailing total includes some non-members).

The Treasurer received 677 valid ballots (about 35 percent of those eligible to vote), with 611 voting for the slate of nominated Board Members and 66 casting ballots for specific nominees. All eight of the Board Members nominated for new terms received votes from more than 90 percent of the ballots cast. Co-President Malone-Hodges and Acting Recording Secretary Venech certified the election results, and their approval was moved, seconded, and approved by the Board.

Director Karvasarsky asked about plans to limit access to PARA services to members who had not paid dues. Co-President Hoffmann noted that the Board had approved a plan to limit full website access to paid-up members, but that the timing for implementation as well as continued receipt of the newsletter would be determined on a coordinated basis rather than piecemeal.

Co-President Hoffmann then moved to the appointment of officers for 2024-25. With no additional nominations offered, the Board moved, seconded, and unanimously approved the appointment of Co-Presidents Hoffmann and Malone-Hodges, Treasurer Michael Shannon, and Secretary Susan Bush.

Director DuBrow reported that she handled 15 contacts via the website for assistance with human-resources/retirement-related issues, with Director Lejda's help noted on a PATH-related issue. She checks whether the member has paid PARA dues and, if not, advises them to do so. She also reported that there were a few changes in HR staffing, and she was trying to stay in touch. Most recent questions have been getting quick responses. She also noted that Mary Lee Hannell had retired as PANYNJ Chief of Human Capital, replaced by Christina Callahan. Director DuBrow suggested inviting her to a PARA meeting, possibly at the World Trade Center.

Director D. Lombardi noted that the process for accessing the enhanced hearing-aid benefit still is confusing to some. The request first must be rejected by Medicare. Director DuBrow said that requests filed with Medicare automatically get to United Health Care. She said that the

Continued page 6

most recent PARA newsletter and the FAQ benefits section of the PARA website explain the process.

Director and Membership Committee Chair Hadley-Bailey reported that she had participated in a Port Authority pre-retirement seminar on April 4 that went well. She follows up potential membership contacts with personal notes.

Director King and Co-President Hoffmann reported that the board website team is continuing to assess how the website is being used, though the Google Analytics data is limited. They noted that activity spiked after events, such as mailing a newsletter or sending members an eBulletin. He said that they would request more detail from PODI on what areas of the website were most popular. It is valuable to understand how visitors are accessing the website: "organic" via internet search, "direct" to the website address, or "referral" from the PARA Facebook page.

Director Borrelli reported some difficulty successfully logging into his account, which Director King said he would check out with PODI. They concluded the website report with a reminder that timing for the payroll implementation previously approved by the Board would be discussed in the near future.

Shifting to new business, Co-President Malone-Hodges asked whether Board members were familiar with a Bylaw provision to designate "honorary members" of PARA. The question arose in considering some

acknowledgement for Mary Lee Hannell's retirement. It was noted that the newsletter mailing list includes some former Executive Directors and Chiefs. No one recalled the use of the honorary-member designation for these individuals.

The Co-Presidents reported that they had sent a message to Chief Hannell with congratulations on her retirement and thanks for supporting closer ties between PARA and the agency. They will follow up as discussed with a letter to HR Chief Callahan. As an example of the benefits to the agency, Co-President Malone-Hodges noted that she and Director Lejda were participating in the annual Pillars of the Port Authority evaluation process.

The meeting concluded with discussion of the date and location for the next quarterly Board meeting. It was set for Wednesday, October 23 at 10 AM, in person but with a Zoom option. Director Hadley-Bailey suggested convening in New Jersey. Director Lejda offered to pursue the option of meeting at PATH's Journal Square offices.

Director Isaacs moved to adjourn, Co-President Hoffmann seconded, and the Board adjourned the meeting shortly after 11 AM, before proceeding to the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lou Venech

Acting Recording Secretary

Port Authority Retirees Association

Minutes of Annual Meeting July 24, 2024

Co-Presidents Rae Ann Hoffmann and Maria Malone-Hodges convened the 2024 Annual Meeting shortly after 11 AM, in-person with Zoom access, hosted at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. In addition to the Co-Presidents, those present were as follows: Acting Recording Secretary Venech, Treasurer Shannon and Directors Blauser, Borrelli, Bush, DuBrow, Graser, Hadley-Bailey, Isaacs, Karvasarsky, King, Lee, Lejda, D. Lombardi, F. Lombardi, Morrow, Philmus, Raczynski, and Walcott. PARA members James Griffin and Bernie Wagenblast were in attendance.

Treasurer Shannon reported on the election of eight current Directors nominated for new terms as certified by the full Board at its quarterly meeting earlier in the day, along with the addition of Susan Bush as Director for an interim term of one year. At that meeting, the Board also elected officers for 2024-25: Co-Presidents Hoffmann and Malone-Hodges, Treasurer Michael Shannon, and Recording Secretary Susan Bush.

Treasurer Shannon summarized PARA financial results for the first half of 2024, as follows:

- Total Income: \$ 31,583.98
- Total Expenses: 15,928.33
- Net Income: 15,655.65

Co-President Malone-Hodges invited questions and/or new business items. There being none, Director King motioned to adjourn, Co-President Hoffmann seconded, and the Board concluded the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lou Venech

Acting Recording Secretary.

What Happens in 2025 If Your Dues Aren't Current?

This newsletter mailing includes the customary call to pay your annual dues to be a PARA member in good standing. There's a difference this year: access to all PARA has to offer will be limited to paid-up members after this coming March 31. What would you be missing? Here is the answer, in brief:

1. You will no longer receive *PARA-pherernalia*, our semi-annual newsletter; and
2. Access to the following information on PARA's website will be restricted to "Members Only:" Benefits (FAQs, contact information, forms, updates, etc.), PARA News (*PARA-pherernalia* issues and eBulletins), PA News, In Memoriam, and September 11 and February 26 list of names of those killed.

PARA exists because its Board members, all volunteers elected by the membership, take on jobs to keep the organization running. The website, newsletters, eBulletins, databases, dues management, and participation with other NYS (e.g., the Retired Public Employees Association - RPEA) are all also expense items, in addition to being functions that take lots of volunteer hours. PARA also exists because of the thousands of retirees who have been supporters of our organization, many for years and years.

The strength of PARA lies in the collective power of our members. By paying your dues, you're helping to ensure that PARA can continue its mission to protect and to promote the welfare of Port Authority and PATH retirees for years to come.

How do I know if I paid my dues?

1 Go to the Home page of PARA's website

www.paranyj.org – and click on "Member Login."

2 Next, enter your email address and password, and select Dues History.

3 If Username and/or password doesn't work,

- select the "Check Email Address" button to confirm we have your correct email address.
- if the system confirms "An Account already Exists with that email," then select "Log in to access your member content" and then select "Forgot/Reset password." To receive an email link to reset your password.

4 If all else fails, go to "Contact Us" on our website and send message with your login issue.

Is your contact information up to date?

We don't know whether your mailing address or email address has changed unless you tell us. However, you can update this information yourself by using the email you last provided to access your PARA account.

(See the steps above.)


2024 Current News

1 Why do I need to log in to the PARA website?
We are setting up member logins so we will be able to securely process dues payments online. In the future, we will also be making some information on the website available to dues-paying members only.

2 How do I log in to the PARA website?
Enter your username (your email address) and your password (initially set to be your home zip code) and click on the blue Log In button above. Once you have successfully logged in, please edit your profile to change your password to something known only to you.

3 I was not able to log in successfully with my email address / zip code. What do I do now?
Check to see if your email address is in our system by clicking the yellow Check Email Address button above.
If your email is not recognized, please join PARA using our online form or contact PARA for assistance.
If your email is recognized, you will need to reset your password by clicking on the red Forgot/Reset Password button above.

FOR YOUR BENEFIT



Medicare Part B Reimbursement - Account Review

Eligible for Medicare Part B Premium Reimbursement?

PA HR Reminds Retirees: *Update Account, Mind the Deadline*

This Fall, the Human Resources Department is reminding retirees to ensure that your Health Equity Medicare Reimbursement account information is up to date: As the retiree enrolled in the reimbursement program, we are asking that you please review your account to ensure the funding for you and your eligible spouse is correct. If your amount is incorrect, please submit copies to us of both your and, if applicable, your spouse's Benefit Verification Letter from Social Security.

The letter will detail the amount you are being charged for Medicare Part B. If you receive Part B through the Railroad Retirement Board, please contact RRB and request a verification letter. The letter must include the amount you and your spouse are charged for Medicare Part B premiums for 2024. If your account is correct, no action is required.

The 2024 Medicare Part B reimbursement deadline will be on March 31, 2025. Your early review of your account will help ensure timely receipt of your funds. **Claims received on or after April 1, 2025, will not be processed.**

Note: There is no reimbursement for Medicare Part D. To be eligible, you must meet all the following:

1. Retired after July 1, 2000; and
2. Retired as a Port Authority/PATH permanent non-represented employee, including Field Police (FP), or a member of the FM or FS Unions; and
3. Are age 65 or older (a dependent spouse is not eligible until the retiree turns 65)

To review your account, or to create an account with Health Equity, please log onto www.healthequity.com. As a reminder, you must submit one of the following acceptable documents showing proof of your Medicare Part B premium, for acceptable documentation please see the samples for each one below:

- 2024 Benefit Verification Letter, or
- 2024 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Letter or,
- Medicare Bill (if you are paying monthly or quarterly)

***Please note:** RRB retirees must submit a copy of their Benefit Verification Letter or COLA letter to receive reimbursements. To obtain a current Benefit Verification or COLA letter please contact the Railroad Retirement Board at 877-772-5772. For all other members, please contact the Social Security Administration at www.ssa.gov/manage-benefits/get-benefit-letter.com

Your Health Equity account is funded based on your Medicare Part B premiums. You must provide us with any updates regarding your Medicare Part B to receive the correct funding. Please email us at HR_EmployeeBenefits@panynj.gov with your updated information or questions regarding your Medicare Part B funding.

How Eligible Represented PANYNJ Retirees Can Obtain the Orange PA E-ZPass Tag

If you retired as a PANYNJ represented employee, and per your union contract are eligible for a Port Authority Orange E-ZPass for use at PA Facilities, here is how you can obtain it:

- Human Resources must confirm your eligibility for an E-ZPass based on your date of retirement, job title, and union affiliation, and will then notify the Port Authority E-ZPass office of your eligibility. Request confirmation by writing to HR_EmployeeBenefits@panynj.gov
- Once eligibility is confirmed by HR you will contact the PA E-ZPass Office by email at e-zpasscustomerservice@panynj.gov or 212-435-2250 to receive an application via email.
- The applicant will have a choice of funding the PA Orange E-ZPass, which would allow it to work for PA facilities and also those of other toll agencies accepting

E-ZPass. If the Orange E-ZPass is funded, the applicant must provide a funding source (i.e., credit card) to cover costs for using the non-PA facilities.

- If the Orange E-ZPass is not funded, the applicant must have a separate private-use E-ZPass for use on non-PA facilities. That private-use E-ZPass should be shielded when using PANYNJ facilities to avoid being charged.
- Once approved, NY E-Zpass Customer Service will mail the Orange E-ZPass to the applicant.
- If erroneous charges are incurred for a PA facility, the PA E-ZPass office must be notified to reverse the charges
- Only one Orange E-ZPass is provided to a retiree, but multiple vehicles can be listed on the application so that the E-ZPass can be used in more than one vehicle.

How to Obtain a Retiree PATH Rail Pass (Eligible PATH Corporation Retirees)

Retired employees of the PATH Corporation may be eligible for a PATH Rail Pass. Eligibility depends on date of hire/date of entry into a particular Union, the Rail Pass policy, and language contained in the collective bargaining agreement covering a represented employee immediately prior to retirement.

Retirees or employees who are planning to retire must complete an application and submit that application to

the Business Manager in the Division from which they retire(d). The Business Manager will determine eligibility for a Rail Pass benefit and submit the application to PATH's SmartLink team for processing. The SmartLink team will complete the process and mail the Rail Pass to the retiree. A Rail Pass application may be obtained from the Division Business Manager or the SmartLink team through the following contacts:

Division

Director's Office

Director's Office

Director's Office

Transportation

Passenger Serv. & Cust Experience

Track

Structures & Facilities

Car Equipment

Power, Signal & Communication

SmartLink Team

Business Manager (11/24)

Fransisca Shuler – Manager – Business Services

Jeffrey Thomas – Prin. Business Mgr.

Kimberly Sersaw – Staff Business Mgr.

Manal Smalling – Sr. Business Mgr.

Amanda Cashman – Sr. Business Mgr.

Amanda Cashman – Sr. Business Mgr.

Vacant/Call Director's Office

Jessica Carmona – Sr. Business Mgr.

Christine Moyer – Sr. Business Mgr.

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PA's New Chief of Human Capital

Focus on Service to Employees, Retirees

This past summer marked a notable transition at 4 World Trade Center, when Mary Lee Hannell retired as the long-serving Chief of Human Capital, succeeded by Director of Human Resources Christina Callahan. Hannell navigated the Port Authority's workforce through the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks and the challenges of safely sustaining facility operations through the COVID pandemic.

PARA Co-Presidents Rae Ann Hoffmann and Maria Malone-Hodges met this summer with the new Chief, who pledged to continue her predecessor's progress in strengthening her staff's relationship with PARA and the retiree community. Chief Callahan sat down with Maria and *PARA-phernalia* editor Lou Venech and shared more about her priorities and perspective on serving employees and retirees.

Notably, Callahan brings experience in facility management as well as Human Resources skills to her new role. She joined the agency in 2019 as Deputy General Manager of LaGuardia Airport, coming directly from her post as Executive Director of the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority, responsible for management of Syracuse Hancock International Airport. After helping oversee LaGuardia Airport redevelopment, she was named Director Human Resources in 2022.

"There's something to be said for being at a facility," Callahan said. "I liked the airport environment, and the smell of jet fuel. Managing a facility constantly involves problem-solving and coming up with creative solutions."

Asked about her vision for Human Resources, she corrected, "I'd rather call it Human Capital. I want to take the kind of focus the Port Authority has put on improving customer service at our facilities and carry that into how we serve our 'customers'— employees, retirees, departments, and chiefs and directors. We want to provide the highest level of service for employees and the same standard for retirees."

Chief Callahan noted that the Port Authority is meeting the challenge of recruiting and retaining skilled employees in today's competitive job market. "The Port Authority stands apart as a premiere public service agency in the transportation space," adding with emphasis, "That excites a lot of people. Here they get to work on some of the most exciting projects in the world."

She also understands that developing and retaining talented staff means providing continued challenges. "We are talking more and more about the concept of an 'employee journey map,' to make staff

members more conscious of their opportunities to advance and, if desired, to change career directions. This concept also helps us to improve communication with individual employees and to reach out at key touch points in their careers as well as during their progress through the different stages of life."

Chief Callahan spoke about her department's connection to the retiree community. "It's a vital relationship – especially as the retiree population continues to grow. We have about 13,000 retirees compared with about 8,000 active employees. We need to understand how well we are delivering services now. Are we being responsive? How can we strengthen the relationship?"



PARA Co-President Maria Malone-Hodges (l) with Christina Callahan (r) at 4 WTC

"PARA helps us know how we're doing. Your communications are an important conduit to get information to employees. Hopefully, retirees see our information as credible, but PARA reinforces important messages that help retirees get the most of their eligible benefits." She also said PARA had a role to play in ensuring that retirees' knowledge, history, and experience gets transferred to current employees now and in years to come.

Asked to comment on how union contracts affect benefit discussions, Callahan said,

"I would not put it in terms of represented or non-represented workers, but focus instead on what's most important for everyone. Compensation may be the priority for active employees, followed closely by benefits, which become the main concern for retirees."

"The benefits are what they are. It's important that employees and retirees have access to health care that meets their and their families' needs through their lives, with options that meet them where they are in life. That includes mental health and wellness programs as well as traditional health care"

Talking about the changing nature of the workforce, Callahan noted, "We recognize that today, many workers are less likely to stay with one employer for 30-plus years. Employees changing jobs will want to be able to take their money with them when they do."

Summing up the appeal of careers at the agency, Chief Callahan voiced a conviction familiar to generations of PANYNJ employees and retirees: "I chose public service as a career. Here we can make a difference and have a positive effect on people's lives."

Days of Remembrance

This Fall New Yorkers and New Jerseyans marked the 23rd anniversary of the 9/11 attacks with the annual reading at the World Trade Center of the names of those lost that day, and other ceremonies across the metropolitan area. Throughout the month, the Port Authority continued its unflinching commitment to remember the tragedy, as well as the February 26, 1993 WTC bombing. Here are highlights of this year's remembrances.



Archbishop of New York Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Rabbi Noam Marans participated in the St. Nicholas service, along with other clergy. Photo Credit: Jillian Nelson



PAPD presented the colors to open an annual interfaith service at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center, with Archbishop Elpidophoros of America presiding. Photo Credit: Jillian Nelson



Chairman Kevin O'Toole led a gathering of PANYNJ employees in an intimate Rose Ceremony on the WTC Memorial Plaza September 5th. PANYNJ Photo



PANYNJ leadership, joined by employees and retirees, attended the solemn yearly September 11th service at St. Peter's Church in Lower Manhattan. PANYNJ Photo



Month of Service



More than 300 members of the Port Authority family volunteered for this year's annual month of service, attending to both sides of the harbor at Liberty State Park and Brooklyn Bridge Park, as well as at a Hoboken homeless shelter and diverse other non-profit facilities around the Port District. Photo Credit: PANYNJ Remembrance Through Renewal Team

Colleagues Who Have Died (In Memoriam)

Names of deceased include those reported to PARA as of November 13, 2024

Mario V. Salzano	11/06/24	Eddie Malave	6/24/24
Zarita Hawley	10/20/24	Louis Principe	6/24/24
Frank G. Boyce	9/26/24	Byron U. Thomas, Sr.	6/22/24
Jack Brewster	9/13/24	Dominico Tolipani	6/07/24
Dominick Ricigliano	9/06/24	John E. (Jack) Anderson	6/06/24
Tennyson G. Lewis	8/28/24	Camille T. Moglia	6/03/24
Frances Underhill	8/27/24	Adell Giles	5/29/24
John Faugno	8/17/24	Patrick T. O'Connell	5/29/24
Eugene Spruck	8/07/24	Rev. Joseph J. d'Angelo	5/21/24
Joyce A. Rodriguez (nee Mizzi)	8/01/24	John Sutton	5/15/24
George D. Elia	7/22/24	Anthony (Tony) Mezzacappa, Jr.	5/14/24
John Stone	7/22/24	Alfred Deutsch	3/31/24
Gregory L. Falco	7/16/24	Sandra Lake-Sims	3/24
Gene Gill	7/15/24	Lillian Bergman Stockerl	3/24
Christopher Carini	7/14/24	Yusimil Un	3/24
Gregory "Wiz" Wieczorek	7/12/24	Quentin (Quin) Sommer, Jr.	2/01/24
William F. Doyle, Jr.	7/09/24		

Go to the "Contact PARA" page on www.paranynj.org and send us information of any recent retiree deaths.

You can get more information for most entries by going to <https://www.paranynj.org/in-memoriam> and clicking on a specific name. Follow additional links in the In Memoriam section for older listings.