

PARA-phernalia

Your **P**ort **A**uthority **R**etirees **A**ssociation

Newsletter • Edition Number 43 • Spring 2010

A Message From Your President

In This Issue:

President's Message	1 & 3
Para Website	2
The All Star Project	4
Dues and Voting	4
Board Highlights	4
WTC Volunteers.....	5 - 6
A Common Language	7
2010 Election.....	8
Canidate Biographies.....	8

Unfortunately, we cannot expect much understanding from our fellow citizens when we seek to improve or protect our pension or benefits. Indeed, we are lucky if we only sense unspoken hostility. The present state of the economy with so many out of work and studies claiming to show that governmental workers now often earn more than private sector workers for comparable work, makes the atmosphere less than favorable.

Of course, when most of our retirees were employed, this was not likely the case and the “trade off” for us was the promised pension and benefits packages that enticed us to accept lower pay upon entry and throughout our careers than would have been possible in the private sector. While we fully expect such promises to be honored by the State as to our pensions and the Port Authority as to our benefits, the public has a short memory so we are lumped in with the current situation and “tagged” in the press with the small number of abusers, but importantly the overwhelming majority of us did not participate in abuses.

Living in Roslyn New York, where school officials, including its Superintendent Frank Tassone were involved in an 11 million-dollar embezzlement, I am particularly aware of the public mood. As the January 30th edition of the newspaper Newsday correctly noted, “What really set blood boiling, was knowing that Tassone will continue to receive his annual state pension of \$173,493 ... as he did while in prison.” The stories about attorney’s double dipping for six figure pensions and the disgrace of former Comptroller Hevesi’s administration, where “pay to play” involving pension fund investments was all too common, has poisoned the atmosphere. A page one New York Times April 16th article reported a \$12 million settlement with a financial firm allegedly involved in doing favors that resulted in their being allocated \$100 million of State Pension Fund money to invest and thus earn \$5 million in fees. The article indicated this could be the “tip of the iceberg” of such alleged improprieties involving public pension funds nationwide.

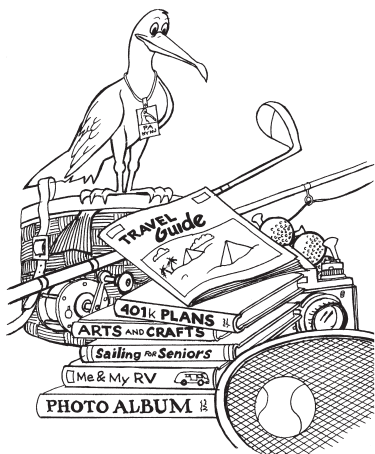
While these stories should not affect the retirees who worked long and hard for their pension and benefits, the reality is that they do impact adversely. As earlier columns have noted, the losses in the New York State Common Retirement Fund (NYSCRF), from which we are owed our pensions, from a high of \$154 billion to as low as \$110.9 billion on March 31, 2009 has meant substantial increases in employer contributions, which translates to higher taxes for our fellow taxpayers and us. By April 16, 2010, the NYSCRF had risen to about \$130 billion, per the New York Times.

Continued on page 3 From Your President

*“You grow up the day you have
your first real laugh--at yourself.”*

— Ethel Barrymore

*“Don’t forget Where You Put
Your PARA-phernalia.”*



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www.paranynj.org

PARA-phernalia

Published By:

Port Authority
Retirees Association, Inc.

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PARA's WEBSITE CONTINUES TO GROW

It is abundantly clear that you, our members, are continuing to find that the information on the PARA website is both interesting and useful. Remember: www.paranynj.org. The website contacts have grown from virtually zero in April 2006 when the site was first launched to an average of more than 11,000 contacts each month so far this year. And the trend is growing. This is a terrifically positive response from our members and we all appreciate the work that has been done by our webmaster Joe Sansevero in developing and constantly enhancing the site since its inception. Kudos as well to Tom Kearney who has worked so diligently with Joe and written articles about the site.

Those of you who frequently visit the website may tend to log on to your "favorite" page or section. Others may look for one specific kind of information. Still others may go to the forum and "chat" with other retirees. The range of topics includes everything from benefits and current news to retiree luncheons, personal stories and news stories (including press articles and publications like "PA News" and "Growing the Region"). In addition, many of the past articles and publications are archived on the site and can be readily accessed as well.

For those who haven't wandered through the website's pages recently we invite you to take a few minutes from time to time just to see what's included and what's been changed or updated. We think you'll find it to be topical, interesting and useful. And if you have some suggestions about improvements for finding things on the website or about an item or topic that you think should be included (or not included) please contact our webmaster (webmaster@paranynj.org) and he'll check it out. Basically, this is your website so constructive comments and suggestions are always welcome. One added important note: if your contact information has changed (email, mailing address, etc.) please be sure to let us know. We strive to keep our information as current as possible.

We recently heard from a long time retiree, now living outside the NY-NJ area, who wrote to tell us that he had not been aware of the contents of the website but thought he would just take some time to look through each section to see what was there. He mentioned that he was very pleasantly surprised by the overall design and found the information to be most helpful. We encourage more of this kind of periodic exploration.

In the future, we expect the internet to be used more and more as a vehicle to reach our members.

Meanwhile, log on to www.paranynj.org and see what you can find - - and encourage your PA friends to do so as well.

Dave Gallagher

From Your President - continued from page 1

Unfortunately, many who worked in the private sector ended up facing significantly diminished access to defined benefit pension plans with many such plans from bankrupt companies, and other situations, ending up under government stewardship—often resulting in reduced pension payments. Also, private sector health and retiree benefits were reduced or dropped in some cases. While many of us are being pressed financially, by comparison with many private sector retirees we have fared relatively well which may not be saying very much. In that relative context, I see many of us as being like the tortoise in the race between the tortoise and the hare. Fortunately, we can take considerable comfort in our pensions being protected by the New York State constitution.

DOES THIS MEAN WE CEASE OUR EFFORTS? NO!! It means we have to push harder and make a better case to maintain our pension and benefits. For example, in fiscal year 2009 the average New York State retiree had an Employee Retirement System pension of only \$17,615. Let me share with you my reading of the reason for the passage of some legislation in Albany that makes the point. The Teachers Union(s), for many years, successfully pushed for the passage of a law each year that prevented a cut of certain retiree health benefits for a one year period while a similar bill protecting other public retirees was vetoed each and every year. The Teachers Union(s) as part of “the legislative ‘sausage making’ obtained Permanent Health Insurance Protection.” (See NYS TRA Spring 2010 Newsletter). In December of last year, a new Pension Tier known as Tier V was enacted into law. As you are aware, each new Tier has been less favorable to new employees. However, the Teachers’ Tier V is not nearly as onerous to new teachers as that applicable to non-teachers. For example, prior to Tier V, both teachers and non-teachers could retire at age 55. Under Tier V, most non-teachers must wait until reaching age 62 or face a penalty of up to 38 percent while teachers need wait only until age 57. Why? I, along with others sometimes refer to the Teachers Union(s) as the 800-pound gorilla in the room. Far from being a swipe at the Teachers Union(s), it reflects admiration for those Union(s)’s effectiveness. Indeed, my wife, a retired teacher has advised my bachelor sons to marry a teacher as my oldest son has done. Recent headlines reflect even teachers today are facing layoffs and givebacks.

While our numbers and budget prevent us from being an 800-pound gorilla, perhaps PARA can be the mouse that roared. If PARA is to roar, we will need you to respond by contacting those in power to let them know that we expect commitments to retirees to be kept. Given that government may well try to cut expenses at our expense, don’t be surprised to hear from PARA asking you to take “protective” action. All PARA can do is ask you to act when the time comes to make your voice heard.

Forgive me for a personal remembrance on the passing in December of Pat Falvey, a former long term General Counsel of the PA, and as such, my boss for many years. I will not write about his skills as a lawyer, for he would not have held the post if he did not have those skills in abundance. I will tell you of his character as a man of principle who inspired loyalty in part because he was loyal to those down the chain. A certain powerful politician and former high State office holder apparently complained to a PA Commissioner that I had caused him to withdraw from a case. Pat called me to his office and told me I had done exactly the right thing, and it was his job to protect me, which he did on more than one occasion. He was one tough Irishman, as a would be mugger in a men’s room at the WTC found out much to his regret. Let us hope that the PA will always have men and women of principle and character to lead it as it had with Patrick J. Falvey, Esq.

And, I wanted to thank Barry Weintrob, Arnold Karvasarsky, as Advisors to the Board, and Michael Krieger, your Vice President, Richard Lee and George Jensen for serving on our special “Pension Committee” with me in maintaining a close liaison with the New York Comptroller’s Office Staff concerning our continuing interest in understanding/reviewing the reporting and decision-making relating to the NYSCRF. A consultant who works on integrity issues with state pension funds thinks the most important protection against “shenanigans” is the awareness on the part of those managing pension funds that their actions are being watched.

I also wanted to thank Gerry Doherty for literally going “the extra miles” traveling to Albany to represent PARA at Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations (APRO) meetings, so important in these particularly sensitive times, to show our presence and receive firsthand information on pending legislative thinking and developments affecting retirees.

Further, and last, but certainly not least, on behalf of the PARA Board and PARA Members, I want to extend a sincere thank you in particular to the three “retiring” Board Members, Tom Kearney, Dick Rowe and Al Pettenati, for their many years of dedicated service to PARA and helping PARA members. We will miss their participation as Board Members but look forward to their valued input as issues arise. Again, Tom, Dick and Al, thank you!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE ALL STARS PROJECT

The PA through its Human Resources Department had spoken to us regarding the All Star Project which the PA supports. Subsequently President Richard Helman invited Gloria Strickland, Director of the All Stars Project of New Jersey, and Diane Stiles, Managing Director of the Castillo Theater, to speak to Board members at the March 25th PARA Board meeting, about volunteer opportunities available through the All Stars Project, Inc (ASP). ASP is a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting human development through the use of an innovative performance based model. It sponsors community and experimental theatre, develops leadership training and pursues volunteer initiatives that build and strengthen communities creating activities for poor and minority young people.

Programs offered to young people include:

- All Stars Talent Show network: young people ages 5 - 25 are invited to perform and/or produce community based talent

shows in local school auditoriums.

- Development School for Youth: leadership-training program for young people between the ages of 16 - 21 that focuses on development.
- Youth Onstage!: is the youth theatre of the ASP. It offers young people, aged 14 - 21, the opportunity to perform on stage in plays that have something to say about the world and its future.

Becoming Producers (NYC only): focuses on teaching high school students how to be producers of youth culture.

For those of you with a “thespian leaning” who may want to learn more about All Stars or get information about volunteering opportunities, please contact:

All Stars Project, New York, Diane Stiles, dstiles@allstars.org

All Stars Project of New Jersey, Melanie Hoffman, mhoffman@allstars.org

DUES AND VOTING

As reported elsewhere in this Spring 2010 Newsletter, there is an election for Board Members at the scheduled PARA Annual Meeting on Friday, June 25, 2010 at the Times Square Conference Room at the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

To be eligible to vote in this upcoming 2010 election, PARA members must have paid their \$5.00 (five dollars) Annual Dues by May 31, 2010—postmarked payments with this date or earlier, even if thereafter received by PARA, will suffice. If you first joined PARA in the year ending May 31, 2010, your Annual Dues were waived for this first year and you are eligible and encouraged to vote in this upcoming 2010 election. The Board thanks those Members who have already made these required dues payments for the past Membership Year, which expired May 31, 2010.

Thus, the envelope included in this Spring 2010 Newsletter is for payment of the Annual Dues of \$5.00 (still just five dollars)! for the “Membership Year” that began June 1, 2010 and runs through May 31, 2011. Members making this \$5.00 Annual Dues payment in a timely manner will be eligible to vote in the PARA Board Members’ 2011 election—next year.

Again, your PARA Board thanks you in advance for making your Annual Dues payments, required for Members to vote, and for any additional, but completely voluntary “sponsor” contributions, you may have made in the past and may again choose to include with your current Annual Dues payment at this time.

Board Highlights

The last Quarterly Meeting of the Board for 2009 was held at the Port Authority Bus Terminal on December 3.

In response to an invitation to address the Board Ken Vitty, President of the PANYNJ Retired Detectives Association (PARDA) was present. He explained that PARDA had been formed after the events of 9/11 indicated a need for a coalition of Port Authority Police Retiree associations to provide a ready supply of help in the event of an emergency. In connection with 9/11 many retired PA Police Officers assisted the PA in various capacities. He indicated that PARDA was happy to work with PARA in dealing with common issues affecting retirees.

The Board discussed the recent proposals reported in the press to replace the NYS Pension System’s sole trustee with a thirteen person politically appointed board of trustees. A Board member, who had spoken to Comptroller DiNapoli at a meeting of the Retired Public Employees Association, Inc (RPEA) in Albany, indicated that Mr. DiNapoli did not favor the creation of a board. It was also reported that RPEA had also come out against the proposal. The PARA Board deferred consideration of adopting a formal position on this issue.

Also discussed was proposed NY State legislation that would prevent the reduction of health benefits provided to State retirees. Although this legislation would probably not directly affect the PA as a Bi-State Agency, PARA has joined with other members of The Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations of New York (APRO) in support of it.

Reports were presented by Board Members on PARA’s web site, the development of an Eblast membership communication program, PARA membership and the study of ways to improve the position of long-time retirees whose pension benefits have lost value.

PA RETIREES VOLUNTEER AT TRIBUTE WORLD TRADE CENTER

Last April and May the PARA Board, in conjunction with the Tribute Center staff in the persons of Lee Ielpi, Chairman, Jennifer Adams, President and Tracy Grosner, Volunteer Coordinator, along with other enthusiastic staff, arranged two visiting days for Port Authority retirees at the Tribute World Trade Center.

Last year's spring edition of the newsletter covered the reactions and responses from many of those who attended this very special event. Several were so moved by the experience that they now volunteer at the Tribute Center. Some were enticed by Tracy, and some volunteered after visiting on their own. We caught up with Pete Tomolonis (Personnel), Marianne Pellegrino (Aviation), Rudy Hohenfeld, (JFK and The Trade Center), Josephine Brune, (Special Services) and Hank Mazurczyk (TBT, WTC, Economic Development and Port). Lila Speciner, shared her thoughts via email. Tracy also participated and gave her thoughts.

As we gathered in the Tribute's conference room above Century 21, we saw firsthand the work going on at the site. We were reminded again that the Tribute Center is a place for visitors to connect with the September 11th community. I asked several questions and have recorded their answers (including some meandering conversation).

Q: What made you decide to go to the visiting days last year? Did you meet former colleagues?

Both Marianne and Pete had attended last year's sessions. Marianne had wanted to see how the events were portrayed and hopefully to see and re-bond with people she had not seen in awhile – people she “grew up with”. Rudy concurred with her characterization, “many people started in the organization together and interacted over the years. It can't help but become like family”. The group went off on one of its many tangents of the morning theorizing about the uniqueness of our years in the organization, many of us 25 + years. We wondered about how workers today, who move from job to job, will describe their work years. We circled back to the description of the work experience many used during the conversation – “it was like a family.”

Tracy said that she and many of her colleagues who observed PA retirees say the PA work experience seems “unique”. Many of the Tribute staff were struck by this sense of family we all mentioned.

Lila along with Rudy, Jo and Hank who had gone independently to the Center wrote that, like Marianne, she was curious as to “how the events of 9/11 would be presented to the public. Since Ground Zero is now essentially a construction site, I wanted to see how the vitality of the downtown area, as well as the events of 9/11, would be described.”

When relating to The WTC itself, Rudy described it as an air craft carrier only vertical. Hank, who like Rudy, was in Maintenance,

related to all the machinery of the building. I threw in my 2 cents saying as a Lease Negotiator in those days, I saw floors that were leased and the tenants in them, Jo talked about it as “my building”, and Marianne said the same thing about JFK. It was “her airport”.

Rudy concluded, “you can't help but remember what happened here - you are looking at sacred space” he tells his tours. It took Hank two years after 9/11 to come back, but it was very healing. Pete said he had felt a little disjointed in retirement, and hoped the visit would help him “reconnect”. It did. He decided to volunteer that day, after seeing old friends.

Q: What moved you about the experience?

“The photos of those lost” said Josephine. “The origami cranes” said Hank - a gift from Japanese children. “The silence after hours” said Rudy. “We had exposure to the displays at night, and everything seemed to have a greater impact”. “It is heart wrenching to look into the eyes of those lost knowing they were someone's son or daughter, husband or wife”. Those who were lost in 1993 are one of the things Rudy is sure to mention on his tours. They all worked for him. Lila said that she appreciated the “respect and understanding with which the stories, quotes, and photos were presented”. In the first room, called The Port Authority room, the WTC model is displayed. One can remember what it was like to work in this vibrant area. There is a rail of pictures of the activities that went on besides working – birthday parties, promotion celebrations, enjoying the Plaza. Lila said, “searching the photos for familiar faces was very gratifying”. “Remembering the WTC complex prior to 9/11 left me with a feeling of nostalgia and poignancy.”

Q: What made you decide to volunteer as a docent?

Marianne was the first to say “to give back”. Hank seconded, and all agreed. Pete liked meeting the people, but never thought he would give tours. But Tribute impressed him. What made Rudy decide to volunteer? “Tracy Grosner”, he replied! She offered to reschedule him when he could not make the date, then followed up with an invitation to volunteer. Rudy continues “with the dedication she exemplifies I was putty in her hands!” Lila declared that she wanted “to honor the memories of friends, co-workers, and the many brave men and women who joined in the rescue and recovery efforts”. She wanted the people who came “from near and far to visit NYC to realize what was lost on 9/11 and to provide a sense of hope for the future”.

Q: What do you do as a volunteer?

Pete is a tour leader and just recently led a tour for the new trainee docents. Hank and Rudy consider themselves the “shepherds” in the back, making sure no one gets lost from the group. Rudy remarks that when it comes time to tell his story he talks “about those who worked for him and died in 1993”. Lila also works in the support capacity for tours, and has the opportunity to explain her personal connection to the WTC as a survivor.

Marianne does both tours and gallery talks. She encourages kids to touch the steel beam that is included in the exhibit, so they truly have an experience they remember. "Take a picture to help you remember", she tells them. She believes the education surrounding this experience is important to this generation of children. "This is their history, their Pearl Harbor" she says. "They can say I was there". Tracy adds that the Tribute Center is in fact preparing a curriculum that will be tested in several schools. Josephine, unique among the group, works in the administration office two days a week working on the comment cards people write as they leave the exhibit. She is moved most by the cards from children. "Some people believe 9/11 changed the world, and many have praise for the Police, Firefighters and other volunteers at the site". "Some cards are so beautifully written" she says.

Q: Would you recommend volunteering to other retirees? Why?
"You establish a relationship on the tours" said Pete, "and have magnificent conversations". "Where were you?" many visitors ask, and "they share their 9/11 experiences with you". "We get to express our feelings", says Rudy. The "visitors are never bored, they get emotional". It's "an opportunity to be in the company of other World Trade Center veterans, whether from the PA or one of the other companies". It's like being "home again with family". Lila reported. "As a survivor of the North Tower, I find the experience both rewarding, in that I get to relive, in a sense, my days at work in the exciting environment of the WTC complex, and cathartic, in the retelling of my experience on 9/11, I find it easier to remember."

Tracy adds that "PA employees as volunteers have such a vast knowledge of the site, the organization, and that they are wonderful docents".

Q: What does it feel like seeing construction going up at the old WTC site?

"You look forward to where it's going", said Pete. Rudy says he still sees the generating plant beneath the original PATH buildings. "I am happy to see any progress in returning the area to its former importance to the entire downtown neighborhood", Lila wrote us.

Marianne says, "this is today and tomorrow". "It's hallowed ground".

Q: Anything else you'd like to share? Lila recommends that, "if you haven't had a chance to see the museum, try to spend some time there. It's really worth a visit."

Q: Anything else of interest?

These employees worked anywhere from 18 to 38 years with The Port Authority!

We learned that both Rudy and Hank had played Santa Claus at the World Trade Center, Marianne started at age 16, and Jo at 18. Some started under Austin Tobin, some under Peter Goldmark.

Jo sat at a meeting once holding "Mr. Tobin's hat" in her lap. Marianne says every time it snows she recalls "snow duty at JFK". Pete noted that in his position in Personnel he moved around the whole organization, from The WTC, to the facilities; for maintenance, support, or technical staff, doing testing and training. He saw everyone as family!

Lila reminds us of the reason we are talking together. On 9/11 she was working in the Real Estate Department on the 88th floor of One WTC. She tells us "the floor was affected by the impact of the first plane. It was smoke-filled, and there was considerable damage to the ceiling and doorways". With a group of co-workers, she "made her way down through an open stairway only to be caught on the Concourse by the collapse of the south tower". Despite "complete darkness, with the presence of emergency workers with headlamps, we were able to make our way along the walls to the street level".

I took the opportunity to speak directly to Tracy about the PA volunteers.

Q: What are your thoughts about the PANYNJ volunteers?

"Our volunteers who are currently employed with the PANYNJ or retired all have an enormous amount of dedication to participating in the Tribute Center's program. Each person brings a specific expertise and knowledge base stemming from the diversity of departments, positions and projects of the PA. The overall passion for sharing their personal experiences provides a genuine connective link between our visitors and the evolving history of the WTC".

Q: What do the volunteers bring that is valuable?

"Every volunteer brings the internal strength and need to share personal experiences related to the memorable times spent at the World Trade Center, the horrific events of September 11, 2001 and the accounts of how they were affected. It is inspiring to be in the company of the volunteers, who are all here for positive reasons and are motivated to educate the world through trauma they have faced".

We hope these interviews gave you the opportunity to learn just what it's like to volunteer at the Tribute World Trade Center. Consider the possibility!

Volunteer by mail: tear off and send to Tracy Grosner, 22 Cortlandt Street, Suite 801, New York, NY 10007

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Best time to contact: _____

A Common Language - Or, Getting A Head In England

By Sam Notkin

The advent of all-conquering TV, cell phones, email and texting has blurred the entertaining variations of the English language as she was spoken in England and America in the latter part of the Twentieth

Century. The decline and fall of grammar, spelling, and the nuances of subtle linguistics have decreased former differences between certain national “Englishness,” but have been leaving a dismal wreckage of once-fine language—much as calculators and computers have eroded the knowledge of basic number relationships among so many of today’s youngsters.

My “American” English is better understood in England 2010 than it was some forty years ago, due to the demolition effects of global telecommunications. In 1963, however, when I was assigned to the London Trade Development Office of the Port Authority, we did have fun and games, and misunderstanding and embarrassment aplenty with comparative English.

So let me take you by the hand, and lead you through the streets of American versus “English” English.

My secretary, a well-educated English girl, arranges a car rental with Avis for my first out-of-London trade development trip. When I collect the car, a polite man supervises the paperwork, then shows me around the motor car and gives me a taste of the mild language chaos to come.

It was either Winston Churchill or Columbus or Manfred Von Richthofen who, commenting on the intricate misunderstanding and general confusion inherent in Anglo-American relations, observed that these were two nations separated by a common language.

I soon learned to take this seriously. First, the motor car. Avis man raises the “bonnet” (hood) to show me the clean motor. Next, I am shown how roomy the “boot” (trunk) is, and am advised which grade of “petrol” (gas) is suitable. I agree to the more costly comprehensive insurance option so as not to be liable if I were to “prang a wing” (damage a fender). Mr. Avis bids me farewell, and “good hunting” when he learns I plan to meet with companies in Yorkshire, and adds: “Mind how you go—they eat their young Up North.”

My first trade development venture to Northern England almost ends at a “roundabout” (traffic circle) when I start to go around it, counter-clockwise and am confronted by a wall of oncoming cars. We all stop in time to avoid a mass collision; I reverse in shamed retreat, turn, and proceed in the proper clockwise direction. Not one of the oncoming English drivers sounds his “klaxon” (horn) or shouts at me.

I am nearing Northampton, my first destination, and—remembering to drive on the left side of the road—I decide to confirm that I am not off course, since signposting has not yet been adopted in many parts of England. I pull over and ask a bright-looking pedestrian if I am on the right road. “Indeed you are,” is the cheerful reply. “Go straight on until you see the green man, where you take the right fork and go right along for about two miles, to the king’s head. Take the first left turning after the head and Bob’s your uncle.” (All is well).

The full impact of these incomprehensible directions strikes me after I thank the man and drive off. I recognize the individual words, but as a message they say nothing meaningful to me.

What green man? What king’s head?

I drive straight on slowly and am rewarded when I see, not a Robin Hood-like archer dressed in Lincoln green, but an artistic sign over the entrance to a pub, identifying the hostelry as, The Green Man. I make the right turn, and a short time later come to another pub—not a severed cranium—named The King’s Head.

With great relief, I find the shipping manager of the company with which I have an appointment. He mentions that he is looking forward to my after-lunch talk. His casual reference to my forthcoming address was the first I’d heard of it, and therefore came as something of a surprise. Preoccupied with the content of my upcoming speech, I am only vaguely aware of being presented to the staff of the International Division as “A key executive of the New York Harbour (British spelling as per notes on the luncheon menu) Authority.” The shipping manager adds that I will entertain questions from the floor following the talk. Stimulated by the challenge of producing a credible impromptu address for a professional audience, I lean on experience gained at 32 Broadway with the Eastern Trade Development Office, staffed by the now legendary George Gundersen, Joe Carmody and John LoPinto. My after-lunch speech about the fabulous marine and aviation resources of the PA is well received with some applause and a feel-good thank you from the director. Then comes the gauntlet of blunt questions spiced with words and phrases that merit an English-to-English interpreter. I receive inland transportation questions about “trucks” (railfreight units) and about “lorries” (trucks) and I almost decide to “call the whole thing off.” (Give up)

A common language- continued next issue



PARA - 2010 Election & Annual Meeting

Although it hardly seems possible here we are again at that time of year: Elections and our Annual Meeting. This year we'll be voting for three new candidates who have been selected by the Nominating Committee, Arnold Karvasarsky, who has been serving in an advisory capacity, Mike Morrow and Jerri Raczynski. Their bios are included elsewhere in this Newsletter. In addition we will be voting for four Board members who are up for reelection.

Details regarding eligibility to vote are included in the article, "Dues and Voting" elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, June 25, 2010, at 11:15 AM at the Times Square Hall, Port Authority Bus Terminal in the Borough of Manhattan, City of New York. The names of the new candidates and those Board Members up for reelection are listed on the enclosed Official Proxy Ballot card on which you can indicate your choice for all, some or none of the candidates. You may submit a write in candidate/s of your choice if a member in good standing. You don't have to attend the meeting to vote. Just return your completed Ballot in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope by June 21, 2010. Since seating at the Times Square Hall is limited to approximately 70, it would be helpful if you let us know if you'll be attending. This will help us plan the logistics of accommodating a large number of attendees. Please let us know of your intentions by June 18, 2010 by mailing us notice to PARA, PO Box 486, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577 or by e-mail to Richard@helman.net.

NOTE-We have a special guest who will be attending. Kevin Murray, Deputy Comptroller for the Division of Retirement Services has agreed to attend our meeting. At our last Annual Meeting, he participated via telephone conference and provided great information and insight into the status of the pension system. He is extremely knowledgeable about the System and we encourage you to attend to see what he has to say.

Candidate Biographies

Arnold Karvasarsky enjoyed a thirty year career at the Port Authority. Prior to retirement at the end of 1999, as Assistant Director of Finance in the Office of the CFO, he culminated his career as the lead of the Office of World Trade Center Options, charged with privatization of the WTC. Formerly, he led the office of Financial and Real Estate Policy and Analysis, was Manager of Financial Analysis and Supervising Financial Analyst in the Finance Department. Arnold began his Port Authority career in 1969 as Staff Economic Analyst in the Tunnels and Bridges Department and was later promoted to Supervising Economic Analyst.

From 1963 to 2003, Arnold taught graduate and undergraduate courses at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York and the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University. In retirement he has served in a number of volunteer positions: Trustee for the East Brunswick Community Housing Corporation, assuring affordable housing in the Township, as a Counselor for SCORE (counselors to America's Small Businesses) and is an income tax preparer for AARP.

Mike Morrow joined the Port Authority in 1967 as a Marine/Cargo Representative in Port Newark. Prior to that, he sailed in the Merchant Marines with American Export Lines out of the PA's Hoboken Piers and after coming ashore, worked for Cargocaire, a Marine Equipment Mfg. Company. After 13 months at Port Newark, a call from the Personnel Department led to an assignment at 30 Church Street working for Ray Monti and later uptown for Mal Levy on the original construction of the WTC.

Mike later rejoined Marine Terminals as a Pier Rentals Representative. Following completion of an Executive Development Program Mike completed a six month assignment with Maersk Line. Upon his return he became part of the Consultant Group that worked on the development of the South East Asian project. Later assignments included an eight month stay in London and handling the Real Estate Sales effort in Pt. Newark/Elizabeth. One week after his retirement, in August 1995, Mike joined Port Elizabeth Terminals & Warehouse, as Vice President of Sales, where he continues to attract cargo to the Port of NY, as he did while at the PA.

Jerrilyn (Jerri) Raczynski's career spanned 40 years of PA service beginning with the Engineering Department and the Office of the Secretary. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Peter's College, she moved on to various positions in the Aviation Department in transportation planning, administration and supervisory capacities before joining the EWR Leasing Division in which she negotiated leases and operating agreements with ground transportation providers, cargo operators, rental car operators and master airline lessees. In 2000, Jerri became the Leasing Manager for the Port Commerce Department negotiating and managing leases for Ports Newark and Elizabeth, the Auto Marine Terminal, the Brooklyn, PA Marine Terminal and the Howland Hook Marine Terminal. Jerri retired from the PA in 2007.