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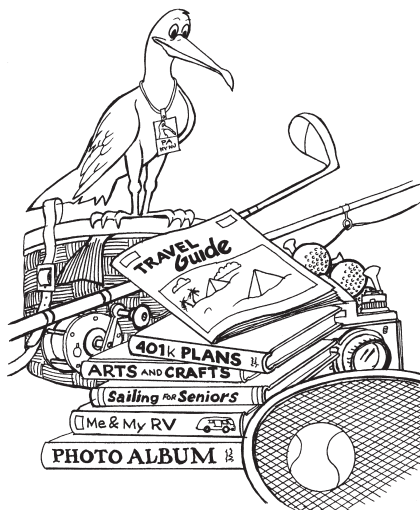
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“Don’t forget Where You Put Your PARA-phernalia.”



A Message From Your President

The region’s political and media groups have continued their intense focus on the Port Authority activities during these recent months even as the general public interest in the Bridgegate scandal seems to have ebbed. As many of you know, the scrutiny has spread well beyond the Bridgegate incident itself and has revealed other questionable actions by appointees whose allegiance and acts were not consistent with long standing Port Authority values. Late last year, the legislatures in both states had unanimously passed identical bills designed to reform the PA, and they were vetoed by both governors in late December. Since the Bridgegate incident first became public in early 2014, your PARA Board has been posting a number of media reports on the PARA website in an effort to provide you with ongoing current information on these important developments. We encourage you to log in from time to time to keep abreast of the changing scene.

In the aftermath of the two governors’ vetoing the “reform legislation” in December, we have learned that the PA is currently in the process of implementing certain recommendations in the Governors’ Special Panel report which was issued in late December concurrent with the veto action and which contains recommendations for programs and projects as well as for governance reforms. The full report is available on the PARA website. A small group of PARA Board members met with Sean Fitzpatrick, Chief of Staff to the PA Chairman, in late January to discuss the report in some detail and to offer our views – and concerns - about its contents. The exchange was open, free flowing and energetic and we were most appreciative of the opportunity to discuss this with him. We will continue to follow the developments and we have offered to provide any assistance that the PA leaders feel would be helpful as the implementation process proceeds.

During these past months we have also learned that the New York State Court of Appeals has rendered final judicial decisions in two cases regarding the E-ZPass issue. Both of the decisions were in favor of the plaintiffs, the IBEW and the Police Sergeants and Lieutenants unions. It is our understanding that there are no further appeals available in these two cases. As of this writing (early April), we are not aware if any specific actions to implement the decisions have yet been taken. Although there are other cases still awaiting final resolution, these decisions continue the consistent pattern of favorable findings for the union plaintiffs based upon specific provisions in collective bargaining agreements since the actions were first begun in 2010. We have reiterated our request to reinstate this benefit for all retirees, (including non-represented staff who did not have the opportunity to memorialize the PA’s commitments in binding contracts), in accordance with the decades-long PA policy and organizational commitments to staff regarding post employment benefits.

On a different note, earlier this year, the PA main office staff have moved into their new offices at 4 World Trade Center. This represents a major step forward in the long term recovery effort stemming from the attack on the WTC in 2001. We wish all the staff well in their new location.

Continued on page 2 **From Your President**

Officers & Board of Directors

Richard Helman, President Emeritus

New Jersey:

Dave Gallagher, President
Bob Isaacs, Treasurer
Jerrilyn Raczynski, Secretary
Elizabeth DeLaura
Rita DuBrow
Arnold Karvasarsky
Richard Lee
Maria Malone-Hodges
Michael Morrow
Herb Ouida
Ken Philmus
Jack Savage
Herb Somerwitz
Ken Vitty

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Rae Ann Hoffmann, Vice President
Holly Blausler
Steve Borrelli
John Fitzpatrick
Al Graser
Rich Hellenbrecht
George Jensen
Enoch Lipson
Frank Lombardi
Peter Rinaldi
Chick Seliga

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Retirees Association, Inc.

Correspondence:
P.O. Box 2002
East Millstone, NJ 08875-2002

Dues:
P.O. Box 7493
Monroe Township, NJ 08831-7493
bobisaacs@paranynj.org

The Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc. does not provide, and this newsletter does not constitute, legal, accounting, tax or other professional advice. We recommend you contact your own legal, accounting, tax or professional advisor as neither The Port Authority Retirees Association nor anyone associated with the Newsletter assumes responsibility for your relying on the information provided even though we have attempted to ensure that it reflects our understanding of what is presented.

From Your President - continued from page 1

Finally, it is time once again to vote for the members of your PARA Board. We ask that everyone review the information and take a moment to cast their ballot. Please see the details about this below. It is a way for you to express your support for the work of the board members who volunteer their time and effort on behalf of the entire retiree community. As a related part of this voting period, we ask each of you to consider reaching out to your PA retiree colleagues (current staff are also most welcome to join PARA) and invite them to become a PARA member if they have not already done so. It is only through strong membership support and regular growth that PARA can continue to serve the interests of the entire retiree community.

We wish you all the very best for a healthy and active summer.

Dave Gallagher, President

2015 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

The Annual meeting and re-election of directors whose terms are about to expire will be held on July 22, 2015 at 11:15 am in Times Square Hall, Port Authority Bus Terminal in the Borough of Manhattan in the City of New York. Voting is a privilege and all PARA members who have paid their 2015 dues (on or before July 10, 2015) are eligible to vote in this election. Current PARA Board members seeking re-election for a three-year term are: Elizabeth DeLaura, Rita DuBrow, Al Graser, Rich Hellenbrecht, Richard Lee, Chuck Seliga, Jack Savage and Ken Vitty. Board members seeking re-election for a four-year term are: Robert Isaacs and Ken Philmus. Enclosed is an 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 is in good standing. You do not have to attend the meeting to vote. Just return your completed Ballot in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope, postmarked no later than July 3, 2015 and received no later than July 10, 2015 in order for your vote to be counted.

If you have not already paid your 2015 Annual Dues, you may include your check along with your Ballot. If you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please let us know of your intentions by July 15, 2015 since seating is limited. You can mail us notice at PARA, PO Box 2002, East Millstone, NJ 08875 or send an e-mail to davegallagher@paranynj.org.

Board Highlights

The fourth Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors was convened on October 15, 2014, in the Times Square Hall at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Special guest, Sean Fitzpatrick, Chief of Staff to the Chairman of the Port Authority Board attended and spoke about his role in the agency and his and Chairman Degnan's vision for taking the Port Authority forward. This was a continuation of a prior meeting that a smaller group from PARA had with Mr. Fitzpatrick, John Degnan, Chairman of the Board and Karen Eastman, Secretary of the Port Authority. Mr. Fitzpatrick made some positive comments about the agency. He clearly recognizes that the Port's regional role is very important and that its daily operations are both challenging and amazingly well executed. The restoration of public trust is a key objective of the Chairman's agenda as well as a focus on how the agency is run and how appointments are made to staff and the Board. Returning to the agency's core transportation mission is also an objective. He assured PARA that the suggestions it made are being taken seriously and he indicated a commitment to putting in place a system that would be sustainable through different and changing administrations. Both he and the Chairman are committed to the agency's continuing success. We shared with him PARA's concern about the possible erosion of retirement benefits. Mr. Fitzpatrick did not foresee any immediate concern in this area.

Reports of the Committees of the Board were given: Treasurer Isaacs reported no significant financial changes since last quarter and reported that almost 24% of PARA's membership resides outside the region. Director Savage reported a quiet legislative quarter in New Jersey as pertains to PARA's interests. Directors Seliga and Somerwitz reported on the RPEA lawsuit in New York regarding increased retiree contributions to medical benefits. Director Malone-Hodges reported that PARA will distribute material at future PA retirement seminars and that HR will try to improve response time to questions received from retirees.

The first quarterly meeting of 2015 was held on January 14 in the Times Square Hall at the Bus Terminal. The Committees reported as follows: Director Jensen reported an increase in PARA's investment finances since last year and Director Isaacs reported an increase in dues received since the Fall newsletter. PARA now has approximately 4100 members. President Gallagher reported through PARA's webmaster that the website has received approximately 2 million hits since it was established in 2006. For information, there is a link on the website whereby the dedication ceremony for Ernesto Butcher can be viewed. Director Savage again reported no significant PARA related activity in New Jersey. On the New York side, Chuck Seliga has been elected Treasurer of APRO and will continue to monitor New York legislative activity related to PARA. Director Lombardi reported that membership has been slowly increasing. Director Somerwitz reported that the appeal by the RPEA to the Appellate Division regarding New York State's ability to require increased retiree contributions for medical benefits has been denied, leaving RPEA with little chance of further appeal. In light of this decision, Barry Weintrob advised that in the late 1980's the PA board, in recognition of the obligation of the Port Authority to pay post-retirement health benefits, established a fund for that purpose in accordance with a Board resolution authorizing such action. The fund still exists and this obligation is reflected in each Annual Report.

The proposed bi-state legislation, recommending various reforms to the agency, was vetoed by both Governors in favor of the recommendations of the Governors' Special Panel report. The findings and recommendations of the Special Panel Report were discussed in detail in a subsequent meeting with Sean Fitzpatrick.

Jerri Raczynski

George Washington Bridge Trivia

- The Hudson River was originally crossed by Native Americans in canoes. Later, early Dutch settlers used rowboats.
- George Washington, the “father of our country”, actually crossed the Hudson River between Washington Heights in upper Manhattan and Fort Lee in the Palisades of New Jersey over two centuries ago, by boat.
- Local newspapers had fun inventing names for the Hudson River bridge, now called the George Washington Bridge, before it was constructed. Their suggestions? Gate of Paradise, Bridge of Prosperity, Experiment, Prohibition, Pride of the Nation, Public, Bistate and Mother’s Bridge!
- The George Washington Bridge was dedicated on October 24, 1931 and opened to traffic on October 25, 1931. It was designed by Othmar H. Ammann to have the room and strength to accommodate either a railroad or a second deck for vehicular traffic. It was the longest suspension bridge in the world when it was built. The lower level opened on August 29, 1962.
- On its first day of operation, 55,523 vehicles, 33,540 pedestrians and a man named Martin Solomon on a horse named “Rubio” crossed the Bridge. On the Bridge’s 50th anniversary on October 25, 1981, Mr. Solomon said, “The Bridge holds very fond memories for me, for I was a young man then. Give me a horse and I’ll try it again.”
- Four giant cables, each three feet in diameter, hold the Bridge in place. The cables contain 26,424 wires, each thinner than a pencil. Stretched out, the wires would reach 107,000 miles—nearly halfway to the moon! That 107,000 miles of wire would go around the earth about four times at the equator!
- The George Washington Bridge’s two giant towers are constructed from 43,000 tons of steel, and top out at 600 feet.
- In 1935, an aviation beacon was installed on top of the New York tower. It is named the Will Rodgers-Wily Post Memorial Beacon, after the popular entertainer and the early aviator.
- The Little Red Lighthouse (officially Jeffrey’s Hook Light), made famous in the children’s book “The Great Gray Bridge and the Little Red Lighthouse” by Hildegard Swift and illustrated by Lynn Ward in 1942, is located on the New York shore near the Bridge. It was built, by the Coast Guard, in 1902 to steer grain barges and other vessels away from the shoals of Jeffrey’s Hook. It was no longer needed when navigational lights were put on the bridge. It was saved from the auction block in 1951 and is under the jurisdiction of the New York City Parks Department.
- In 1943, the first female toll collectors were hired, temporarily, in response to the war effort. They were not police officers and were replaced by police when World War II ended.
- Also in 1943, the Bridge made its film debut in “Ball of Fire”, starring Barbara Stanwyck and Gary Cooper. Many other films have followed, including “How to Marry a Millionaire”, “The In-Laws”, and “Desperately Seeking Susan”.
- Since 1948, a 60 x 90 foot American flag has been flown on major U.S. holidays beneath the arch of the New Jersey tower. It is the world’s largest free-flying flag.
- The distinguished American composer William Schuman wrote a musical composition entitled “George Washington Bridge” in 1950. Schuman said it was inspired by the impression the Bridge gave him as he crossed it and observed it at different times of the day. Schuman wrote, “This bridge has had for me an almost human personality.”
- From 1962-1967, civilian toll collectors began replacing police, who had been assigned to the job since the Bridge opened. All of those hired to replace police officers in the tollbooths were female until 1973 when the job was opened to those of both genders.
- The famous “diamond necklace” or necklace lights on the cables of the GWB consisted of 148 mercury vapor lights. The lights were added to the Bridge in April 1964, and added a special glimmer during the 1964-65 World’s Fair. In 2009, new energy efficient lights were installed. The new LED necklace lighting is now lit by 156 Crossover LED NL fixtures providing a 220,000-pound estimated reduction of carbon dioxide per year
- In the 1960’s, a small plane safely landed on the two center upper level roadways. Luckily for the plane, the median barrier wasn’t added until 1970!
- In 1970, the one-way toll collection system went into effect.
- In 1981, the George Washington Bridge was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers. It also has been recognized with numerous other engineering, architectural and design awards.
- The George Washington Bridge is one of the world’s busiest bridges, accommodating over 100 million vehicles each year. In its first year of operation, it accommodated more than 5.5 million vehicles!

NY Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) Loses Appeal on Increased Retirees' Contributions for Health Care Coverage

Prior to 2011 New York State paid 100% of health premiums for employees retiring before January, 1983, 90% for those retiring thereafter, and 75% of premiums for dependent coverage per fixed contribution rates set forth in NY Civil Service Law Sec. 167 (1) (a).

In August 2011, to address severe financial challenges, the statute was amended to allow reductions in the state's contributions if a collective bargaining agreement between the state and an employee organization was entered into reflecting such reductions. The amended statute also stated that once such an agreement was entered into, the President of the Civil Service Commission could extend such reductions to persons not covered by the agreement. After a collective bargaining agreement was entered into calling for a reduction in the state's contribution by between 2 and 6%, the reductions were extended to retirees who retired on or after 1/1/1983, thereby increasing their premium contributions.

RPEA sued. The state moved to dismiss, which motion was granted by the state Supreme Court (trial court). RPEA appealed to the Appellate Division, Third Department.

1. RPEA argument on appeal #1-the original statute imposed a FIXED contribution rate so modification should not be allowed. New rates should apply only prospectively. The court found that the language of the amendment is clearly intended to change the contribution rates and that there was no inconsistency between the amendment and the original statute. Legislative history shows that the intent of the amendment was to modify the original rates which was not prohibited in the original statute.

2. RPEA argument on appeal #2-retirees have a contractual and vested property right to the original rates and any modification violates their rights under the Contract Clause of the US Constitution and the Due Process Clause of the NY State Constitution.

The court stated that in order to find a contractual obligation a statute must be found to be plain and susceptible of NO OTHER reasonable construction but that a contract was intended. In this case the court found nothing in the original statute language that allowed it to find that the legislature intended to create a contractual or vested right. The court determined that the original statute only sets forth a policy which can be later altered and that nothing in the original statute shows an intent to fetter power in the future to change rates. Further, the original statute does not contain "words of contract".

3. RPEA argument on appeal #3- there was an unconstitutional delegation of legislative authority to the President of the Civil Service Commission to set the new premium payment rates. The court determined that as long as reasonable safeguards and standards were set forth, the legislature can delegate lawmaking functions and here the basic policy was clearly stated as well as sufficient safeguards and standards.

The RPEA suit was therefore dismissed with little chance of further appeal.

Herb Somerwitz

Are Your Dues Due?

PARA dues (a very reasonable \$10 per year, but feel free to send more) are collected on a calendar year basis. If you're unsure if you've paid your dues, 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. If you know you haven't paid yet, you can use the Dues Remittance Form and mail it along with your check to me.

Thanks for your continued support of PARA.

Bob Isaacs, Treasurer

To our PARA members:

We know that many of you have been following the multiple developments which have been ongoing at the Port Authority over the past 18 months or so. We have been posting numerous media articles about this on the PARA website on a regular basis for your ready reference.

In an effort to re-focus the organization's energy on its core mission, the PA Front Office issued the following Office Memorandum in early April. We reprint it here for your information and we extend our very best wishes to the staff for success as this effort proceeds in the months ahead.

Your PARA board

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

PORT AUTHORITY NEWS BULLETIN

Offices of the Chairman, Vice Chairman & Executive Director

Bulletin #15-02

April 6, 2015

As you know, at its February 19 meeting, the Board of Commissioners endorsed the recommendations of the Special Panel on the Future of the Port Authority as set forth in its December 2014 report, Keeping the Region Moving. Together, the Board and staff of the Port Authority have embarked in the last year on an ambitious agenda of reforms, reflecting a renewed commitment to transparency and accountability at the agency. Implementation of the Special Panel's recommendations will expand upon this agenda and operationalize that commitment.

The Special Panel's recommendations can only be successfully pursued with the thoughtful participation of the Port Authority's greatest asset: its staff. To oversee and manage the advancement of these recommendations, the Board has established the Special Panel Implementation Office, led by Nicole Crifo, which will coordinate nine employee-staffed teams to address governance and mission deliverables outlined in the report. We are happy to announce those teams today, and invite you to review our Internal Bulletin, which is now posted in PeopleSoft Self-Service to apply to join the initiative as a Member at Large.

Members at Large will provide the teams with energy, perspective, hard work and innovation. This is an excellent opportunity for employees who are looking to contribute to an initiative that will shape the agency as we recommit to our core mission of transportation and continue to position the Port Authority for long-term success.

The Special Panel Implementation teams, goals and their Captains, Members and Executive Sponsors are listed in the table below. We are certain the experience and leadership of the appointed Captains and team members will help ensure the successful implementation of the Special Panel's recommendations.

This is a very exciting time for our agency and we are looking forward to working alongside you as we plan for the future.

John J. Degnan
Chairman

Scott H. Rechler
Vice-Chairman

Patrick J. Foye
Executive Director

GOVERNANCE TEAMS

Ethics & Transparency

The Ethics & Transparency Team will focus on continuing governance and transparency reforms by supporting the effort to inform Employees, Commissioners and Vendors on enhanced Code(s) of Conduct policies. The team will also foster stronger transparency by reviewing the process for documenting the basis for executive session discussions, establishing guidelines for increasing posts of public information on the Port Authority website.

Captain: Howard Kadin

Members: Julia Basile, Luke Bassis, Linda Handel, Stephen Marinko, Alan Reiss, Chris Valens

Executive Sponsor: Lillian Valenti

Board Calendar & Metrics

The Board Calendar & Metrics Team will focus on continuing governance and transparency reforms by working with OSEC to create a 12-month calendar for Port Authority Board of Commissioner meetings. This calendar will include monthly dashboards for reporting key performance metrics and standards for measuring alignment of Port Authority activities with the agency's core transportation mission. Other tasks include modernizing management processes to achieve efficiencies in information

Captain: Morgan Keane

Members: Rosemary Chiricolo, Paul Crist, Jim McCoy, Dave McGrath

Executive Sponsor: Karen Eastman

MISSION TEAMS

ARM & Capital Plan

The ARM & Capital Plan Team will focus on supporting the offices of the Chief of Capital Planning & Asset Management, the CFO and the Chief Engineer in the regular review and revision of the 10-year Capital Plan. The team will utilize the newly-developed Asset Review Metric (ARM) to institutionalize processes and criteria that can ensure funds meet regional transportation needs and will work to create a plan to redeploy \$600 million in unallocated regional development funds to transportation projects.

Captain: Beth Siegel

Members: Glenn Guzi, Alexander Heil, Sherien Khella, Jim Starace

Executive Sponsor: Mike Messiah

Aviation

The Aviation Team will focus on continuing efforts to reinstate the Port Authority's regional leadership role in transportation and revitalize its core assets, in this instance in the world of aviation. The team will support the work of the Aviation Department to revitalize Port Authority airports by expanding Governor Cuomo's design competition to all our airports, leading visioning exercises for notable redevelopment projects, and continuing coordination with state and federal officials to address regulatory constraints on airport development.

Captain: Patty Clark

Members: Heather Enos, Krista Harvey, Carlene McIntyre, Scott Murrell, Diane Papaianni, Bill Radinson

Executive Sponsor: Tom Bosco

Trans-Hudson

The Trans-Hudson Team will focus on continuing efforts to reinstate the Port Authority's regional leadership role in Trans-Hudson transportation and revitalize its core assets. The Team will support the work of the Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals, Engineering and Planning Departments in initiating a 12-month visioning process with key stakeholders to create a strategy for Trans-Hudson capacity. The Team will also support the pursuit of a new Port Authority Bus Terminal, as well as the investigation and analysis of financing alternatives.

Captain: Mark Muriello

Members: Rizwan Baig, Janet Cox, Michael Lavery, Andrew Lynn, Ron Marsico, Roger Prince

Executive Sponsors: Cedrick Fulton, Peter Zipf

PATH

The PATH Team will focus on continuing efforts to reinstate the Port Authority's regional leadership role in transportation and revitalize its core assets, in this instance focusing on PATH. The Team will support the work of the PATH Department in researching, developing and analyzing operating model alternatives for PATH in light of current operating deficits, future capacity and system modernization projections. The Team will also explore potential partnerships with other transportation providers, untapped opportunities for increased system revenue and various federal initiatives to support PATH operations.

Captain: Clarelle DeGraffe

Members: Cynthia Bacon, Matt Baratz, Susanne DesRoches, Tina Lado, Connie Lee, Kevin Lejda

Executive Sponsors: Stephanie Dawson, Mike Marino

Port Commerce

The Port Commerce Team will focus on continuing efforts to reinstate the Port Authority's regional leadership role in transportation and revitalize its core assets, in this instance focusing on port commerce. The Team will support the work of the Port Commerce Department in researching, analyzing and prioritizing modern sustainable systems and infrastructure for our port commerce facilities.

Captain: Robin Bramwell-Stewart

Members: Steve Brown, Matt Ceberio, Nick Raspanti, Risa Resnik, Aaron Sherburne, Christine Weydig

Executive Sponsor: Rick Larrabee

Real Estate Divestitures

The Real Estate Divestiture Team will focus on phasing out real estate ownership and development activities as an element of the agency's mission. The Team will support the work of the Real Estate Department to assess existing real estate holdings based on the

Continued on page 8 Real Estate Divestitures

newly-developed Asset Review Metric (“ARM”), map a process and proposed milestones for divestitures and evaluate monetization of underperforming and non-core assets. The Team may develop subteams to address particular assets or groups of assets.

Captain: Jerry DeTufo

Members: Jim Boffardi, Marci DiFrancesco, Matt Pedersen, James Summerville, Beth Wolfowitz

Executive Sponsor: Michael Francois

Finance

The Finance Team will focus on working with the office of the CFO to retain a financial consultant to develop and employ innovative and flexible finance techniques to increase investment capacity while preserving the Port Authority’s strong credit rating. This team will support the evaluation and update of the Port Authority’s 1952 Consolidated Bond Resolution, the use of up-to-date financing techniques for leveraging increased returns on investments, and, where applicable, initiating proposals to employ PPP, TIF and other innovative financing tools in the Port Authority portfolio.

Captain: Ana Carvajalino

Member: Claudia Dickey, Robert Donahue, Gregory Van De Ven, Allison Voetsch

Executive Sponsor: Libby McCarthy

Don't Miss PARA's Online Bulletins!

If you are one of the PARA members who have not yet gotten around to signing up to receive our email bulletins, please do it now. It's easy. Go to our home page <http://paranyj.org/> and type your email address into the box rather obviously labeled “Sign up for PARA Online Bulletins.”

When your PARA Board has an important notice, announcement or update, online bulletins are the way we reach our members. But you have to sign up first.

Here's a look at the archive of online bulletins member subscribers have received to date: http://paranyj.org/Newsletters/Parabulletin/para_bulletin_archive.htm

If you are already a subscriber, great! Please pass it on to other PA and PATH retirees and employees.

Thanks for helping us keep PARA news in circulation.

Rae Ann Hoffmann

That was then...

Did You Know . . .



- **The PA had a Rowing Team?**
- **It was part of Harbor Festival?**
- **They competed with teams from other NY companies?**
- **Took first place one year?**
- **The bosuns in each boat were from the Maritime academy?**
- **Any of the people in these photos?**

Editor's Note to our Readers:

On May 1st, several weeks after this issue of **para-phernalia** went to the printer we learned from press reports that federal indictments were handed down in connection with the Bridgegate scandal. Although public interest in this issue had been waning in recent months, it now seems that Bridgegate and the various offshoots that have been revealed in its aftermath may again command the public's attention. PARA will continue to post press articles about these developments as we have been doing since this was first reported nearly 18 months ago.

They are available on PARA's website:

<http://www.paranynj.org/CurrentIssues/2015/Index.htm>

As always, we invite you to visit the website on a regular basis to keep current on these items and to explore a wide range of additional information on numerous topics which is of interest to our PARA members.

We appreciate your continued support of PARA