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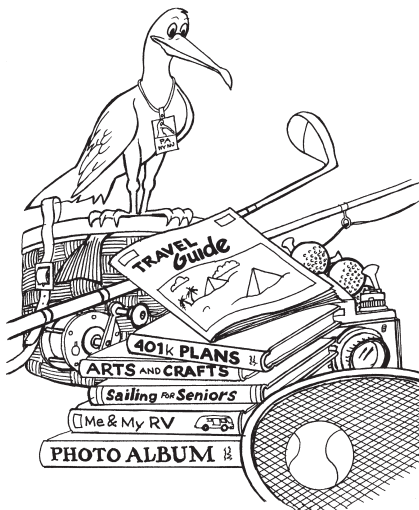
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“Don’t forget Where You Put Your para-phernalia.”



A Message From Your President

2019 marks a key milestone achievement for our PARA organization. We were officially incorporated thirty years ago in the summer of 1989. We continue to appreciate the outstanding efforts of those early founders and members from that generation. We marvel at their perseverance in establishing this organization and pursuing the case for instituting a COLA provision for our pension system. All this was done in a world without the widespread use of the internet – without email, fax, or scanning. The key communication options for at-home retirees in 1989 were the telephone (landline only) and the US postal system. How was this done?? See the article on page 5 by Liz DeLaura to look back with a brief snapshot of our history.

PARA has reviewed and revised its priorities over these thirty years. We have moved from a primary focus on the COLA issue in the pension system (*NYS approved a modest COLA provision in 2000 as part of an intense lobbying effort by PARA in concert with several other NY public sector organizations*) to an emphasis on expanding our ability to keep in touch with the broader retiree community and on preserving the retirement benefits we earned during our career service with the Port Authority. We do our best to keep current on real or potential changes to our benefits and to make our voices heard when it appears that there may be an erosion of some aspect of the benefit plan. We readily admit our continuing disagreement -- and disappointment -- with the PA Board’s decision to arbitrarily revoke the E-ZPass benefit in November 2010. Fortunately, the PA union groups have successfully pursued the judicial process and the benefit has been restored for a large segment (but not all) of their active and retired members after a long and difficult process. But there are still many retirees who are not yet able to enjoy that benefit despite it being a basic part of the PA policy for many decades stretching from initial recruitment through retirement.

And so, our own individual priorities also change as we navigate through our post-PA chapter. What rises to the top of the list as we move from the world of work to the next chapter that we fondly call “retirement”?

Priorities are important. One way or another they impact how we spend our time. Sometimes they are set by others and we follow them blindly. But in retirement we have the freedom to step back and reset them according to our own interests or pressing needs. Our activities evolve into a new order. And, in many respects, it is an exciting (or perhaps, in some

Officers & Board of Directors

Past Presidents

Harold A Milley (1987-1993)
Al Rubbert (1994-2003)
Richard Helman (2004-2011)

Dave Gallagher, President
Rae Ann Hoffmann, Vice President
Bob Isaacs, Treasurer
Jerrilyn Raczynski, Secretary
Holly Blausler
Steve Borrelli
Elizabeth DeLaura
Frank DiMola
Rita DuBrow
Karen Eastman
John Fitzpatrick
Al Graser
Cynthia Hadley-Bailey
Rich Hellenbrecht
George Jensen
Arnold Karvasarsky
Richard Lee
Enoch Lipson
Frank Lombardi
Maria Malone-Hodges
Michael Morrow
George Murtagh
Ken Philmus
Peter Rinaldi
Herb Somerwitz
Donna Tucker

www.paranynj.org

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Port Authority
Retirees Association, Inc.

Correspondence:

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

Dues:

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

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

President's Message - continued from page 1

cases, even an unsettling) experience. It is an opportunity to examine what is important and to determine how we want (or need) to spend our time as we adapt to this newfound freedom. For some, it may be travel. For others, it may be embarking on a new hobby or a second career or engaging in community service. Still others may find an opportunity to spend more time with grandchildren and other family members. Others may relocate to a different area. The possibilities are plentiful. Those of us who have been retired for a while have gone through some version of this initial re-ordering process but it continues to evolve as the months and years pass. However we approach the process, it seems that one key element inevitably forces its way into prominence. Focusing on health issues looms large as time marches on.

It is a necessary and unavoidable priority that demands appropriate attention on a regular basis. Even as we enjoy so many aspects of our retirement years, we become all too aware of the need to focus on our health and well-being and to take the necessary steps to protect and nurture it as best we can. No procrastination. No avoiding appointments or medical tests. No ignoring the doctor. No forgetting the prescription meds.

We all know family members or friends who may have ignored signs or symptoms of health concerns until an issue grows to the point that it can no longer be avoided. It is at these times that we begin to appreciate the value of our own PA medical benefit plan as we navigate through the overwhelming morass that characterizes today's healthcare system. As these issues become more serious, they rise to the top of the priority ladder. Whether we find ourselves to be a caregiver or a patient, we often find we must commit more and more time and energy for appointments, tests, recovery protocols and the like. And, of course, there is the inevitable mountain of paperwork. It can be daunting. It can feel unmanageable at the very time that there is a need to attend to the many details involved in getting better.

One way or another we each find a way to navigate and to attend to this emerging priority. Some may have sought the help of a patient advocate to assist in these matters. Others may contact one of the special programs like *MSK Direct* (cancer assistance) or *Hear in America* (hearing issues) which were mentioned in our last newsletter. You can find previous issues of para-phernalia at www.paranynj.org, under the tag, "PARA News". Sometimes hospitals or pharmaceutical firms have special assistance programs as well.

In the final analysis our health is priority #1.

We wish you all a happy – and **HEALTHY** – summer.

Dave Gallagher, President

NOTE: It's time once again for our annual election for the PARA Board of Directors. Please take a few moments to cast your vote and mail it in.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

It's that time of year again, when you get to vote for members of the PARA Board of Directors. Up for election are interim Board members Karen Eastman and George Murtagh. Up for re-election are: Bob Isaacs, Arnold Karvasarsky, Maria Malone-Hodges, Mike Morrow, Ken Philmus, Jerri Raczynski, and Herb Somerwitz.

The Annual Meeting will be held at 11:15 A.M. on Wednesday, July 10 2019 in Times Square Hall at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, in the Borough of Manhattan in the City of New York. Members who have paid their dues for 2019 on or before June 28, 2019 will be entitled to cast their vote. The names of the candidates up for re-election, as well as their proposed term of office, are listed on the enclosed Official Proxy Ballot Card on which

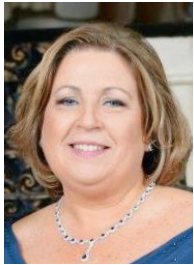
you can indicate your vote for all, some, or none of the candidates, or you can submit a write-in candidate of your choice if the individual is a member in good standing. You need not attend the meeting to vote. Just return your completed ballot in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope on or before June 21, 2019. If you have not already paid your 2019 Annual Dues, you may include your check along with your ballot. We always encourage members to exercise their right to vote and play an active role in PARA. Since seating at Times Square Hall is limited, it would help with our planning if you advise us of your plans to attend. Please let us know of your intentions by June 28, 2019 by mailing us notice at PARA, PO Box 2002, East Millstone, NJ 08875-2002 or by e-mail to: davegallagher@paranynj.org.

Reelections

Up for reelection for three year terms are:

Bob Isaacs, Arnold Karvasarsky, Maria Malone-Hodges, Mike Morrow, Ken Philmus, Jerri Raczynski, Herb Somerwitz

Candidate Biographies



Karen Eastman

Karen Eastman joined The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in June 1978 and retired in June 2018.

Karen, a career service employee, worked for a year in Engineering and then went on to work in various positions in the Office of the Secretary for 39 years, rising from a clerical position to Management positions, such as Executive Assistant, Freedom of Information Officer, Executive Advisor to the Executive Director and Assistant Secretary. Karen was made Acting Corporate Secretary in 2001 following the 9/11 attacks and was appointed Secretary of the Port Authority in April 2002, a position she served in for over 16 years, fulfilling her duties with the utmost honesty and commitment to the highest ethical standards.

As Secretary, Karen served as a trusted liaison between staff and the

Board, playing a key role in advancing the Port Authority's mission. Her efforts were crucial in developing and implementing numerous governance reforms to promote the highest level of honesty, integrity and transparency. Over the course of her career, Karen was an invaluable source of knowledge, guidance, support and wisdom to numerous Agency administrations, including 9 Chairmen and 1 Chairwoman, 8 Vice-Chairmen, 91 Commissioners and 12 Executive Directors.

Karen received numerous citations for her efforts in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks at The World Trade Center and played an integral role in supporting the rebuilding of the site.

Upon her retirement, Karen was honored by the Board of Commissioners with the award of the Howard S. Cullman Distinguished Service Medal, the highest honor the Board can bestow on a Port Authority civilian employee, in recognition of her four decades of exemplary service to the agency and the region.



George Murtagh

George Murtagh started working for the Port Authority in 1981. He worked his way through the Transport Workers

Union (TWU) ranks, starting as a temporary Building and Grounds Attendant, then several Field Supervisor (FS) levels, and served over twenty years as an Instructor at the Training Academy. He retired in 2018 as a Tour Manager (FS8). He simultaneously held elected positions as Vice President and President of the Port Authority Field Supervisor's Association (PAFSA Union) since 2003 with experience negotiating, administering PAFSA's Memorandum of Agreement, representing his membership and maintaining parallel relationships with PA Labor and Management.



Retiring Board Member

George Jensen has opted not to seek re-election and has been an invaluable source of common sense and creative suggestion to the Board. As a member of the PARA Board since 2011, he has served as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, as well as a member of the Executive Committee. We extend our sincere gratitude for all that he did for us in his quiet and unassuming way. It was a pleasure having him on the Board.

Board Highlights

The fourth Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors was held on October 16, 2018, in Times Square Hall at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. At this meeting were Joe Morgan, Supervisor, Benefits, PA Human Resources Department and Cailin Kelly and Marcy Miller, Partner Engagement Associates, MSK Direct, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK). They spoke about a program called MSK Direct, which is a special arrangement with Memorial Sloan Kettering for all Port Authority employees and retirees, including immediate and extended family members, which provides priority access in the event there is a need for consultation regarding a cancer illness. The program is not contingent on coverage by PA insurance only, therefore, those covered by other accepted insurances, referred by Port Authority employees or retirees are eligible as well. The program is designed to make the process easier, smoother, less stressful with focus on support, speed and awareness. The main hospital is in Manhattan with outpatient locations in New Jersey, Long Island and Westchester. MSK will also provide referrals outside the Metropolitan Area. The MSK phone line (844) 303-2124 is dedicated for Port Authority calls and is available Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

The Board also approved increasing the number of PARA Directors from 24 to 26 and to nominate Karen Eastman and George Murtagh for an interim period until July 2019. It was reported that Amy Rosen was nominated as a Commissioner to the Port Authority Board but not confirmed by the NJ Senate at that time. Seventeen retirees participated in the Remembrance through Renewal program in September 2018, and there is the possibility that those retirees with physical restrictions who want to participate next year will be accommodated. PARA negotiated an agreement with a company called "Hear in America" (HIA) that can help reduce the costs of hearing

aids and examinations. The contact number is 1-800-286-6149. HIA will connect you with a local provider.

The first Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors was held on January 15, 2019, in Times Square Hall at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. PARA continues to attend the pre-retirement seminars of both PA and Police. Police members seem to be increasing although the overall general membership has declined slightly. PARA will continue to maintain a relationship with the Port Authority representatives who run the seminars and will continue its presence and recruitment efforts. There are nine Directors up for re-election or election in July for terms expiring in 2022. The roster will be finalized and the balance between NJ/NY Directors will be maintained.

It was reported that since agreements have been reached with the labor unions, inquiries are being received from retirees regarding the impact of retroactive payments on Social Security benefits and potential tax implications. For those on Social Security, the payments could affect Medicare parts B & D as well. HR has been notified so that they may get ahead of the situation as the HR service number may likely be overwhelmed. Any questions regarding these retro payments should be directed to the PA service delivery number 1-212-435-2870.

PARA has renewed its membership in APRO (Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations of New York). Express Scripts has initiated some changes leaning towards the use of generic drugs and will now require pre-approvals for certain non-generic medications. Police, FM and FS groups won arbitration permitting the use of local pharmacies as well as Express Scripts for medications. The Aviation Volunteer Program, requesting retirees to provide assistance at Port Authority airports seems to be a non-starter for now.

Jerrilyn Raczynski

PARA Inc. Turns 30

PARA (Port Authority Retirees Association) was formed in 1987 by eight retirees (Hal Milley, Cy Storer, John Huston, Clete Bamber, Richard Brady, Ralph Johnson, Steve Kenny and Francis Warneke) who got together in Toms River, NJ initially just to form a social organization and to stay in touch with former PA co-workers. In its first year, PARA recruited 1150 members out of approximately 3000 retirees. Hal Milley was initially named Acting President of the group and in 1990 was formally elected as PARA's first President, a post he held until 1994. In 1988 the still informal organization decided to charge members dues of \$5.00 per family per year to offset the costs of printing and mailing the Newsletter, pay PARA's membership in the Albany-based Alliance of Public Retirees Organizations (APRO) and expenses incurred for representatives to attend briefings in Albany, NY. That fee remained constant until the Board approved an increase to \$10.00 effective June 1, 2011.

PARA was incorporated in 1989 in the State of New York as a not-for-profit corporation that promotes the welfare of PA retirees by fostering and encouraging a united effort to maintain and improve legislation as it affects the pensions of the New York State Retirement System's members. The first meeting of PARA Inc. took place on October 5, 1989. The PARA Board is an all-volunteer body that contributes its knowledge and time to advocate on behalf of PA and PATH retirees. The Board holds quarterly meetings in January, April, July and October. It also holds an Annual Meeting in July where members are invited to attend. Since its inception, PARA has maintained liaison with the Port Authority's Human Resources Department, a relationship that is

especially welcome in these times when any communications on our benefit programs merit accurate knowledge and shared dialogue.

Hal Milley wrote the first PARA Newsletter in 1987. Since that time, PARA continues to issue Newsletters twice a year – in May and November. Staples of the Newsletter are the President's Message and Board Highlights. It also serves to provide updates on actions that affect retirees. Early on it continued to keep members informed on the progress the Board was making in getting retirees a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment). In 2000, a COLA was finally passed by the New York State Senate and Assembly, a goal that took over 10 years to accomplish working closely with APRO and RPEA (Retired Public Employees Association).

The PARA website was created by fellow retiree Joe SanSevero in 2006 to provide information quickly and easily to a large number of PA and PATH retirees. Joe helped streamline a way of referring online benefits questions to the PA's Human Resources staff. On behalf of PARA, Joe has established a strong and effective working relationship with the HR benefits group, expediting information for retirees and directing PARA members to pages on the PARA Website where they can get forms, contact information and other updates that PA benefits has provided. Joe maintains the various features of the website, from current events to member information to In Memoriam updates when necessary. The site provides links to the NY State Retirement System, Social Security, United Healthcare, Medicare and Express Scripts, among others. Another section gives you quick access to a number of forms you may need that deal with

medical and dental insurance claims, changes in personal status, retirement publications, electronic funds transfer arrangements and more. Joe provides all of this on a voluntary basis and has continued to administer, maintain and improve the website over the years.

PARA launched eBlasts, also known as eBulletins, (emails with graphics and text) in 2010 to bring important matters to your attention in an efficient and effective way. They are used to supplement PARA members' main sources of information – such as our Website and Newsletters. The eBlasts are especially effective in sending important information to members in between the publications of the Newsletter.

Port Authority retirees are unique. During the course of their careers with the PA and/or PATH, they developed long lasting friendships and they maintain contact with those friends through a variety of luncheon groups. Just to mention a few, there is the long-standing LWOM (Last Wednesday of the Month) group that meets in Fort Lee. There is a Florida chapter of the LWOM group as well. The SCJR (South Central Jersey Retirees) meet in Forked River quarterly in January, April, July and October. Another group meets near Newark Airport each June and December. Still another group gets together on Long Island. All of these luncheon groups provide an opportunity to meet up with old friends, as well as make new friendships with retirees you never met before.

The PARA Board is proud to serve on behalf of your interests and thanks all of its members for their support over the years.

Liz DeLaura

New York State Deferred Compensation Plan (457) and New Jersey Residents

The New York State Deferred Compensation Plan (NYSDCP) has provided information pertinent for New Jersey residents regarding the taxability of either the required distributions at age 70 1/2 or other distributions.

If you were a New Jersey resident while participating in the NYSDCP, your salary-deferred contributions were subject to NJ State Income Tax at the time they were deferred. Therefore, when these contributions are withdrawn, they are not subject to NJ State income tax but the earnings or the growth on these original deferrals will be subject to NJ income taxes. So in retirement, when a withdrawal is made from your 457 plan, you will be taxed on amounts received in excess of those contributions.

For retired NYSDCP participants, you may request the inception-to-date contribution information (also indicated on each quarterly statement) by contacting the Helpline at 1-800-422-8463. They will send you a letter detailing this information, which should allow the calculation of your tax liability to be completed. This information is solely for the purpose of assisting you or your tax preparer in determining your NJ State Income tax liability and does not consider your federal tax liability.

More information regarding NJ Tax liability is available from the New Jersey Division of Taxation website www.njtaxation.org under the topic of "Pensions and Annuities" which explains the calculation under the "General Rule Method". Using this method, part of your withdrawal is taxable and part is excluded from your income every year and will be useful to calculate your NJ taxable income.

For those of you who have rolled your Deferred Compensation Plan funds into a different IRA, which is not co-mingled with other funds, the General Rule Method would still apply as long as you know the value of your original deferred contributions compared to the current value of these funds. In this situation, the Helpline at (1-800-422-8463) may also be able to research your original salary deferred contributions and provide you with this information.

Please be advised that the foregoing information does not constitute legal or tax advice, and it should not be construed as such. Rather the information is provided as a means to assist you in your research of this matter. Individuals should consult their tax advisor/preparer for specific advice in their own individual case.

Remembrance through Renewal

The Port Authority's Remembrance through Renewal (RTR) Planning Team shared their overview of the 2019 programming with PARA Board members at their second quarterly meeting in late April. The overview included volunteer opportunities during the PA's Month of Service in September, honoring the memory of our friends and colleagues who were lost on September 11th. Additionally, the overview included information about the RTR Kick-Off Event and the Pillars of the Port Authority Award Ceremony. This is the fourth year that PARA has partnered with the RTR Planning Team. We hope that retiree participation will continue to grow as it has been. Details on the specific volunteer activities will be communicated to the PARA community via eBulletin as the program is firmed up. If you haven't signed up for eBulletins, you can do so by going to our home page www.paranyj.org.

Maria Malone-Hodges



The image shows a promotional graphic for the Working Advantage Discount Program. It features the text "working ADVANTAGE" in a sans-serif font, with "working" in black and "ADVANTAGE" in orange. To the right is a stylized orange icon of a person with arms raised, surrounded by a circular network of lines. A teal starburst graphic contains the text "Discount Program Available to Retirees" in white. Below this, the text "Discount Program" is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a paragraph of text explains that Port Authority employees and retirees can take advantage of hundreds of discounts at various locations through Working Advantage, and provides the website www.workingadvantage.com and the PA Member ID number 405042634.

Come join us!

TLC MEMBERSHIP - HOW DOES IT WORK?



Members will receive a "TLC Flash Offering" describing upcoming performances.

Members should email their request; no phone calls. Orders must be received by the time specified on the "Flash". Emails received are handled on a first come-first served basis. All seats are subject to availability. TLC is not responsible for seat locations.

In order to keep the ticket price at a low cost, we request that members be responsible by paying for their tickets promptly so we can use those proceeds to purchase tickets for the next offering. Our operating margin is very slim. Members are responsible for tickets ordered even if, for unforeseen circumstances, you cannot attend. TLC will make every effort to resell tickets ordered; if the tickets cannot be resold, you will be responsible for payment.

We ask that members please settle their account when receiving/picking up tickets. If you are located at a facility, tickets will be mailed inter-office unless you tell us otherwise. You are responsible for tracking and ensuring receipt of your show tickets.

Name:	
Current Employee or Retiree:	
Employee Number:	
Phone Number:	
PA Mailing Address or Retiree Home Address:	
Preferred Email Address:	
List shows you are interested in for the 2019 season:	



Please make your \$5 check or money order payable to: TLC (please do not send cash)

**Addressed to: Michele Martin, JSTC 110P
Or, if sending by mail:
Michele Martin
Port Authority Trans-Hudson
One PATH Plaza – 10th Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07306**

Photo Flashbacks

Are you in these pictures?

Do you have photos from the past you can share?

These photos are courtesy of Diane Rogers.



ABOVE:
Advanced Secretarial
Training Class
February 1970.

RIGHT:
A Basic Clerical
Training Program
July 1968



*If you would like to receive PA News sent to your personal email,
send a note to panews@panynj.gov*

Still Not Signed Up To Receive PARA's eBulletins?

As a PARA member, you know that we send you a printed newsletter twice a year. We know it is well worth the time and money PARA invests in it, and we know that our members appreciate it as an important member benefit.

Most of you use emails to communicate with family and friends. If you are missing out on the eBulletins that PARA sends when news breaks, then you aren't really getting your full advantage of membership. Here is how to sign up: <http://paranynj.org/signup.htm>. Don't wait, do it now.

How Often Do You Visit PARA's Website?

One of the most important benefits that PARA provides its members is information. PARA's website, www.paranynj.org, is updated a minimum of once a week, usually more often than that.

This is a very crucial source of information for our members, including benefits numbers and forms, links to PARA eBulletins and PA News, In Memoriam listings, Retirement Flyers, Current Events for members, and lots more. When you go to the PARA website, be sure to **refresh your link** (also known as reloading the page) to be sure that you have the latest posted information. Don't miss out on one of your PARA benefits!

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING RETRO PAYMENTS FOR LABOR GROUPS—MAY 2019

We received this from PA staff as the newsletter was going to print and we wanted our members who are receiving these retro payments to be aware.

SCHEDULE OF BACK PAY PAYMENTS & NYSDCP

Pursuant to the payment schedule below, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (the “Port Authority”) plans to issue payments for back pay based on the terms of the recently ratified collective bargaining labor agreements. Please note, these back pay payments will be issued in the form of a “paper” payroll check. Back pay payments are subject to applicable federal, state, and local tax withholdings, and if applicable, additional New York State and Local Retirement System (“NYSLRS”) employee contributions.

For those employees that are enrolled in the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan (“NYSDCP”), back pay payments will be subject to the employee’s designated pre-tax NYSDCP voluntary contribution. Deferred compensation contributions are subject to an annual maximum, as determined by the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”), which for 2019 is \$19,000. If an employee is eligible for “Catch-Up” provisions (either \$25,000 or \$38,000), he/she must submit the Catch-Up application to NYSDCP as set forth below.

If employees would like to change their NYSDCP contribution rate for back pay payments, they must contact the NYSDCP’s Helpline (1-800-422-8463) as set forth below. When calling the Helpline, it is important that the employee request to change his/her NYSDCP contribution rate for the back pay payment and provide the payment date (listed below). Employees may also adjust their NYSDCP contribution rate online (nysdcp.com), but such does not allow the employee to select a specific pay date when the change should take effect, so employees are encouraged to contact the Helpline.

Please note, changes to an employee’s NYSDCP contribution rate will impact both the employee’s bi-weekly paycheck and back pay payment. Due to IRS regulations and NYSDCP protocols, it can take one or two pay periods to implement changes in contribution rates. The updated contribution rate will remain in effect until the employee contacts NYSDCP and re-adjusts his/her contribution rate.

Under applicable IRS guidelines, employees who retired from Port Authority service prior to 2019 are not eligible to have NYSDCP voluntary contributions deducted from back pay payments. However, employees who retired from service during 2019 will have NYSDCP contributions deducted from their back pay payments based on the contribution rate currently on file with the Comptroller’s Department.

Below is a schedule of back pay payments, together with the deadlines to contact NYSDCP to modify employee’s voluntary contribution rate and/or apply for a “catch-up” provision.

	IUOE	IBEW	BTU	FS	FM	UOAT	CWA
Back Pay Payment	04.05.19	04.19.19	05.03.19	08.09.19	04.19.19	05.03.19	06.28.19
Deadline to Modify NYSDCP %	03.18.19	03.29.19	04.15.19	07.22.19	03.29.19	04.15.19	05.31.19
Deadline to Apply for NYSDCP Catch-Up Provision	03.04.19	03.15.19	04.01.19	07.08.19	03.15.19	04.01.19	05.17.19

Special Notice continued:

	PBA Employees	PBA Retirees	LBA	SBA	DEA
Back Pay Payment	05.17.19	06.14.19	05.31.19	06.14.19	06.28.19
Deadline to Modify NYSDCP %	04.26.19	05.24.19	04.30.19	05.24.19	05.31.19
Deadline to Apply for NYSDCP Catch-Up Provision	04.12.19	05.10.19	04.16.19	05.10.19	05.17.19

If you have any questions, or need further information as to deferred compensation, please call NYSDCP's Helpline at 1-800-422-8463.

NYSLERS REPORTING

Due to the unique nature of this situation, the Port Authority has been in constant contact with NYSLERS. Thus, it is a coordinated and concerted effort. Ultimately, it was determined that the Port Authority would provide NYSLERS with updated earnings per employee, by month, for the relevant retroactive period. Consequently, the Port Authority employee/retiree need not submit anything to NYSLERS.

Please note that since the back pay payments are being paid in two installments of 50%, NYSLERS will not compute the Final Average Salary ("FAS") until after the second payment.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES

Each back pay payment will include a detailed earnings description ("paystub"). The Port Authority recommends that employees/retirees keep this paystub for their record keeping and in the event that the Social Security Administration (SSA) contacts the employee for additional information.

As part of the Port Authority required 2018 wage reporting, The PANYNJ will provide active and retired employees a 2018 Form W-2 Wage and Tax statement for these back wages, also referred to as "special wage payments" by the SSA. In accordance with SSA reporting guidelines, the PANYNJ will classify these payments, to mitigate the SSA from requesting additional information from retired employees.

For reference, the attached fact sheet issued by the SSA as it relates to special wage payments.

If you require a copy of your back-pay paystub, please contact Dominic Macaluso at 201-395-3464. The 2018 Form W-2 Wage and Tax statement will be issued by January 31st. If you require a copy of Form W-2, please contact Edwin Alequin at 201-395-3173.

DECEASED EMPLOYEES/RETIREES

For a multitude of reasons, the Port Authority must verify the beneficiary information prior to mailing a deceased employee/retiree's back pay payment. Accordingly, the Port Authority recommends advising any known beneficiaries (surviving spouse, next of kin, etc.) to contact Service Delivery, at 212.435.2870, to confirm where the Port Authority should mail the back pay payment.



Special Payments After Retirement

Bonuses, Vacation Pay, Commissions, Sick Pay, Insurance Commissions, Carryover Crops, and Other Special Payments

What are “special payments”?

After you retire, you may receive payments for work you did before you started getting Social Security benefits. Usually, those payments will not affect your Social Security benefit if they are for work done before you retired. This fact sheet describes some of the more common types of special payments, helps you to decide if you received any and tells you what steps to take if you did.

What qualifies as a special payment?

If you worked for wages, income received after retirement counts as a special payment if the last task you did to earn the payment was completed before you stopped working. Some special payments to employees include bonuses, accumulated vacation or sick pay, severance pay, back pay, standby pay, sales commissions, and retirement payments. Another example of a special payment is deferred compensation reported on a W-2 form for one year, but earned in a previous year. These amounts **may** be on your W-2 in the box labeled “Nonqualified Plan.”

If you were self-employed, any net income you receive **after the first year you retire** counts as a special payment if you performed the services before your entitlement to Social Security benefits. “Services” are any regular work or other significant activity you do for your business.

Some special payments to self-employed people include farm agricultural program payments, income from carryover crops, or income gained by an owner of a business who does not perform significant services in that business.

How do earnings limits affect benefits?

If a person who gets Social Security retirement benefits is younger than their full retirement age, there are limits to how much they can earn from work. Your full retirement age varies based on the year you were born. You can visit www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/ageincrease.html to find your full retirement age. We reduce benefits, if earnings exceed certain limits.

- If you are younger than your full retirement age, we deduct \$1 in benefits for each \$2 you earn above the earnings limit. In 2018, the limit is \$17,040.
- In the year you reach your full retirement age, we reduce your benefits \$1 for every \$3 you earn above the earnings limit. In 2018, the limit is \$45,360.
- Starting with the month you reach full retirement age, you can get your full benefits no matter how much money you earn.

If you think you received a special payment

If you get Social Security and your total yearly earnings exceed the limit and these earnings include a special payment, contact Social Security. Tell us if you think you received a special payment. If we agree, we will not count the special payment as part of your total earnings for the year.

Example of a special payment

This example shows how we apply a special payment under Social Security rules.

Mr. DeSilva retired at age 62 in November 2017 and began to receive Social Security benefits. In January 2018, Mr. DeSilva receives a check from his employer for \$17,000 for his leftover vacation time. Because this is for vacation pay he earned before he retired, Social Security will consider it a special payment and won't count it toward the earnings limit for 2018.

Insurance salespeople and farmers

Two specific occupational groups that commonly receive earnings which qualify as special payments are insurance salespeople who receive renewal or repeat commissions and farmers who receive income from carryover crops.

Insurance salespeople

Many insurance salespeople continue to receive commissions after the year they retire for policies they sold before retirement. This income will not affect their Social Security benefits, as long as the income was the result of work done before they retired.

Farmers

Many farmers harvest and store crops one year for sale in another year. When farmers fully harvest and store crops before or in the month they become entitled to benefits, and then sell them in the next year, those earnings will not affect benefits for the year they receive the money.

Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to contact us anytime, anywhere is to visit www.socialsecurity.gov. There, you can: apply for benefits; open a *my* Social Security account, which you can use to review your *Social Security Statement*, verify your earnings, print a benefit verification letter, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Medicare card, and get a replacement SSA-1099/1042S; obtain valuable information; find publications; get answers to frequently asked questions; and much more.

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**, if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

If you need to speak to a person, we can answer your calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. We ask for your patience during busy periods since you may experience a higher than usual rate of busy signals and longer hold times to speak to us. We look forward to serving you.



Securing today
and tomorrow

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Special Payments After Retirement
Produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense



PORT AUTHORITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICIAL PROXY BALLOT 2019

If you wish to vote for the entire slate proposed by the Nominating Committee please check here

If you wish to vote only for certain candidates on the slate, check the boxes next to the names you choose in the column below:

Member Vote:

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------|--|---------|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karen Eastman | 3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Maria Malone-Hodges | 3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Ken Philmus | 3 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Isaacs | 3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Morrow | 3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerri Raczynski | 3 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arnold Karvasarsky | 3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> George Murtagh | 3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Herb Somerwitz | 3 years |

If you wish to write in a candidate of your own please enter the name/s here. Attach a sheet with additional names if you require more room and add your name to that sheet. _____

Ballots must be received no later than June 28, 2019 in order for your vote to be counted. By using this OFFICIAL PROXY BALLOT you are authorizing PARA'S Secretary or in his/her absence a Board Member to cast your vote as you directed. (Dues must be current in order for your vote to be counted.)

Your Name (Please Print): _____

Signature _____

