MINUTES OF THE , 2024 September 17, 2024

**NEW JERSEY WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**

**NORTH JERSEY SECTION**

**CALL TO ORDER**: President Lisa Oberreiter called the meeting to order at Lumis at 6:18 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Lisa Oberreiter, Chris Pabst, Cathy Pabst, Joe Bonaccorso, Ann Bonaccorso, Dan Carey, Sean Sauder, Natalie Pisarcik, Kellie Markert, Vicky DeBlock, Debbie Cardena, Greg Cardena, John Mulroony, Rick Eustace, Dan Carey, Stacey Felts-Bock, Greg Burde, Steve Wendowski, Kimberly Wendowski, Brian Valliere, Bob Fischer, Jim Wancho, Mike Frank, Brian Carey, Kevin Cosman, Rob Watkins, Lloyd Belinsky Hayley Bundz, Liliana Calix, Anna Pimenta, Mohit Manglani, Francis Bonaccorso, Jennifer Marques, James Reid, Robert DeBlock

**RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:**

Chris Pabst

Fran Bonaccorso

Steve Wendowski

Joe Bonaccorso

Bob Fischer

Robert DeBlock

**STATE OFFICERS-**

Fran Bonaccorso

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Lisa Oberreiter noted that the minutes for the February 21,2024 meeting were distributed, as well as available online and asked if anyone had any corrections or comments. Motion was then made by Steve Wendowski to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Jim Wancho.

No Discussion.

The motion was approved unanimously. Motion Carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

 **NORTH JERSEY SECTION EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:**

**President’s Report:** Lisa Oberreiter

Thank you past President Chris Pabst. He led us through a successful 2 years in the North Section and before that in various other roles including multiple technical sessions and networking events that have continued to provide the membership with the space to share and gain knowledge. I am looking forward to continuing that mission as all the presidents before me and I appreciate everyone’s support.

I would also like to introduce you to our 2024-2026 North Section Executive Committee Vice President Humbertt Mortola, Secretary Natalie Pisarcik, and Treasurer Jennifer Marques.

**Vice President’s Report**: Humbertt Mortola

No Report

**Secretary’s Report:** Natalie Pisarcik

No Report.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Jennifer Marques

Signatories were updated in June for the TD Bank account and Wells Fargo Scholarship account.

**SECTION STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Awards Committee:** Chairman Robert De Block

The NJWEA North Section Awars Committee will be meeting virtually in the month of November for the purpose of preparing nominations for the Outhouse and Supporting Benefactor Award for presentation at the 2025 Frank S. Miller Dinner Dance and Awards Night.

Any member who would like to forward names for consideration by the Awards Committee can email recommendations to RDeblock@NJWEA.org.

The State Awards Committee is presently soliciting nominations for all awards that will be presented at the 2025 John J. Lagrosa Conference. Online nomination forms and updated award descriptions are available on the NJWEA Awards Committee page, <http://www.njwea.org/awards_committee.php>. Nominations for State Awards will be closed on October 1, 2024.

**Education & Meetings Committee:** Sean Sauder:

Big thank you to Two Bridges SA, an immaculate plant you could have ate off of some of those floors there. We are always open to ideas for future tours or technical sessions. Please reach out to myself or Lisa and we will put you on the roster for upcoming events.

**Membership Committee:** Chairman Rob Watkins

There was a virtual WEF Membership meeting today 9/17/24.

WEF membership is up 1.7%. Retention down from 84.9% to 83.5% from last year. Mostly due to dropping some student memberships who were not paying member anyway.

Still looking for Vice and Regional Chair people.

Membership is working on customer service improvements, new SOPs and new training.

**Nominating Committee:** Mario Bonaccorso, report read by Fran Bonaccorso

The NJWEA North Section Nominating Committee was convened virtually on September 3, 2024, for the purpose of preparing nominations for North Section Delegates/Alternates to the NJWEA Governing Council and Section Trustee

The following nominations were unanimously approved by the Committee and are being forwarded for the first reading at the September 17, 2024, North Section Business Meeting.

Section Trustee

3-year term commencing at the conclusion of Annual John J. Lagrosa Conference 2025

 The term that is up is Jim Wancho. He has served 2 full terms so a new nomination should be made.

North Section Delegates to the NJWEA Governing Council.

1 year term commencing at the call to order of the of the NJWEA Governing Council Meeting scheduled for April 2025.

1. Brian Bigler
2. Joseph Bonaccorso
3. Mario Bonaccorso
4. Gregory Burde
5. Frank Pestana
6. Joanne Mancuso
7. Humbertt Mortola
8. Jennifer Marques
9. James Wancho
10. Natalie Pisarcik

North Section Alternate Delegates to the NJWEA Governing Council.

1 year term commencing at the call to order of the of the NJWEA Governing Council Meeting scheduled for April 2025.

1. Daniel J. Carey
2. Jason Chase
3. William J. Cleary
4. Harry L. Ladisheff
5. Terrence McHugh
6. John McNamara
7. Richard Stafford
8. Charles P. Theodora
9. Ramon Vara
10. Steven Wendowski

Motion was then made by Joe Bonaccorso; the motion was seconded by Chris Pabst.

No Discussion.

The motion was approved unanimously. Motion Carried.

**Policy Advisory Committee:** Chairman Chris Pabst
 No Report.

**Scholarship Committee:** Dan Carey

Information will be sent out right after the Beef Steak in November. Normally the applications will need to be submitted by mid-January.

**SECTION SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Affiliates Night:** Charles Theodora

Read by Lisa Oberreiter

The Beef Steak is scheduled for November 7, 2024. Registration is currently open, check the website. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

**Dinner Dance Committee:** Kellie Markert:

No Report

**Golf Outing Committee:** Rick Stafford and Humbertt Mortola:

Another successful golf outing. We were able to raise over $8,000 in scholarship money. The next Golf Outing is scheduled for June 6, 2025.

**Young Professionals:** Brian Carey:

July there was joint tour at Two Rivers with AWWA with a brewery trip after.

August the South Section hosted an event in Mount Laurel

Monday at the Tech Transfer in Eatontown there will be a Young Professionals session with 3 speakers followed by an event at the hotel bar.

Working with the publications committee to add some YP content to the Effluents Magazine.

Continuing to meet virtual for teams, the next meeting is tomorrow.

**NJWEA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:**

Executive Director/ Deputy Executive Director: Jim De Block

Report by Deputy Executive Director Rick Eustace

Anyone going to WEF in New Orleans don’t forget about our luncheon on Monday at Mulate’s. It’s very convenient, it’s right across the street and you can sign up online on the website.

Our Executive Director has been under the weather. He said he apologizes for not being here but he wants to wish you good luck in your two year term.

Federation Directors:

No Report

Other State Officers/Committee Members: Joe Bonaccorso

I want to report on TCHs. The cycle ends September 30th. In July I sent out 500 emails to those individuals who were short training contact hours. I have been informed by the DEP that prior to that email there was about 63% renewals because TCHs had not be completed. They are now over 75%, however there are only 13 days left. A number of us have been working diligently to help those folks who are short. If you know of somebody who is short training contact hours put them in touch with me, like yesterday. We have the ability to have a couple of 2-hour online courses from FEMA that can help catch people up so they don’t lose their license cause that’s an option.

We have also been informed there is a new rule of promulgation that is about to happen that will have a very significant impact on licensees and operations and permittees. I’m not at liberty to go into detail because I have an unofficial insight as to what it is however as soon as it becomes published, I’m going to email it to every licensed operator, not just the members. Today I sent out over 3,000 emails for the tech transfer flier and all the licenses got a copy of this. I need people to get riled up, they are trying to rush through a series of changes of the rules that some of which are rules we have been proposing for years, some of which would be inherently not in favor of the operator or even the owners of treatment plants. So I wanted people to keep their ears open for when we have to make a concerted effort to respond to these issues.

Bob Fischer- “Hey Joe they said they were going to have one more session where they were going to have an open forum, are they going to do that?”

Joe Bonaccorso- “As far as I’m told, No. Then again that it not official.”

Bob Fischer- “So the rule of promulgation is eminent?”

Joe Bonaccorso “It’s eminent.”

State holders to date have not been asked for any input, or any evaluation at all. It’s bad, not all bad. There are things we have been asking for, for a long time but there are other things that are going to be challenges.

Lisa Oberreiter -“Will there then be a comment period”

Joe- “There has to be and I have sources who will alert me to the instance that it becomes released for publication. That normally goes to the DEP’s website first and then within a couple of days it gets published in a newspaper. I’m leery because I have been through this before where it didn’t appear properly, and we only have two weeks left for comments. So, we have to be careful. Keep your nose to the grindstone.”

**NJWEA, COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Financial Report:** Jennifer Marques

**BILLS:** Thefollowing bills were presented by Jennifer Marques for ratification by the membership**:**

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|  | **Bills For Ratification** |  |
|  | **Detailed** |  |
| **Section Meeting 9/17/24** |  |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2/21/24 | The Roosevelt | February Business Meeting | $1,176.00 |
| 3/2/24 | Sydney B Kropiewnicki  | Eva Bendlin Legacy Award  | $2,500.00 |
| 3/2/24 | Veronica Komorck  | Robert Fischer Award  | $2,500.00 |
| 3/2/24 | Kyla O’Brien | Steve D’Achino  | $2,500.00 |
| 3/2/24 | All Points Printing Graphics | Frank S Miller Awards Booklet | $1,920.00 |
| 3/2/24 | Lisa Oberreiter | Door Prizes-Frank S Miller Awards Dinner | $479.76 |
| 3/2/24 | Humbertt Mortola | Hobby Lobby Poster Boards and Glue | $43.08 |
| 3/2/24 | O.P.P L.L.C Omar Perez | DJ-Frank Miller Awards Dinner | $995.00 |
| 3/2/24 | CATF Inc | Irish Dance Performance | $1,400.00 |
| 3/2/24 | The Fiesta | Frank S Miller Dinner Dance | $15,458.43 |
| 4/10/24  | Robert DeBlock |  Little Falls Trophy Awards Plaques | $462.75 |
| 6/7/24  | Beaver Brook Country Club | Deposit for 2025 Golf Outing | $500.00 |
| 6/7/24  | Beaver Brook Country Club | Golf Outing 2024 Balance  |  $13,173.41 |
| 6/23/24  | Rick Stafford | 2024 Golf Outing Door Prizes | $1,399.78 |
| 6/23/24  | Humbertt Mortola | 2024 Golf Outing Prizes | $1,099.52 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Total | $45,607.73 |

Motion to approve the bills by Fran Bonaccorso, seconded by Joe Bonaccorso

Motion approved unanimously. Motion Carried.

Discussion: None

**Treasurer’s Report**.

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| --- | --- |
| **For the Period of**  | September 17, 2024 |
|  |  |  |
| TD Bank-General Operating |  | $50,656.90 |
| Wells Fargo Scholarship CD’s |  | $25,092.00 |
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| **Total Assets** |  | $75,748.90 |

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report by Steve Wendowski seconded by Dan Carey.

Motion approved unanimously. Motion Carried.

Discussion: None

**Old Business:** None to Report

**New Business:**

**Good and Welfare:**

Robert Grodeska passed away two months ago.

Bill Clearly is doing better.

John Gardner broke his collar bone while bike riding.

**Benefactors:**

Dan Carey-Magnum Vac

Steve Wendowski-Past President

Greg Burde-PSI

Lloyd Belinsky-Rapid Pump and Meter

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm on a motion by Joe Bonaccorso and seconded by Jim Wancho and was approved unanimously.