

Community



CONNECTION

FALL 2012

Five decades of progress

- 1958 First meeting between New Jersey and Delaware to talk about their mutual goals
- 1959 Agreement reached between states for a bi-state compact
- 1962 **The Delaware River and Bay Authority Compact approved by Congress on Sept. 20**
- 1963 The initial meeting of the new Delaware River and Bay Authority takes place with the topics of a second span and a new ferry service
- 1964 Ferry service begins between Cape May, NJ, and Lewes, DE
- 1968 **Authority opens second span of the Delaware Memorial Bridge; first span closes three days later for reconstruction**
- 1969 Both spans open in December
- 1971 Ferry service is reduced to 8 hours daily from the original 24
- 1974 Two new ferry vessels, the MV Delaware and MV New Jersey, begin service
- 1990 The compact is revised to allow the Authority to invest in economic development projects within its region
- 1992 **One-way tolls are initiated on the Twin Spans**
- 1995 The Authority enters into a 30-year lease to operate the New Castle Airport. Four additional aviation facilities follow
- 1997 Three Forts ferry service joins DRBA transportation family
- 2001 E-ZPass debuts on DMB
- 2011 DRBA merges its own E-ZPass operations into those of New Jersey's
- 2012 **The Delaware River and Bay Authority celebrates its 50th anniversary** ■

Delaware River and Bay Authority celebrates 50 years of service to region



WINNING ART WORK—Eric Pritchett of Dover, Delaware was named grand prize winner in the Delaware River and Bay's 50th Anniversary Art and Photography Contest. His digital painting appears above.



NEW CASTLE—In celebrating its Golden Anniversary, its 50th, the Delaware River and Bay Authority reached out to its customers, asking them to take part in the festivities, not just as guests, but as active participants. And they did. People from ages 8 to 75 and from as far away as California unleashed their creativity with paint, computers, or cameras and participated in the Authority's celebration of its facilities.

"Without our customers," Executive Director Scott Green explained, "this organization would not be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

"So, this art contest gave us a chance to connect with our customers in a highly interactive way while also highlighting the impact this organization has had on the region."

The Authority was created in 1962 from a compact agreement between the states of Delaware and New Jersey. During those 50 years, the bi-state agency has evolved into a dynamic organization responsible for the operations and maintenance of the Delaware Memorial Bridge Twin Span, the Cape May-

Lewes Ferry, Three Forts Ferry and five regional airports: New Castle Airport, Civil Air Terminal, Delaware Airpark, Millville Airport, and Cape May Airport.

The two-month long contest was open to students and adults in four categories: children (4-9), students (10-13) high school (14-17), and adults (18 and older).

The category winners are: Brandon McNeill of Downingtown, PA—children category; Sophia Bloton of North Cape May, NJ—student category; Kaitlin Poling of Villas, NJ—high school category; and Rachel Espinoza of Fontana, CA—adult category.

Because of the quality and number of entries, the Authority created an honorable mention category. The entries of both winners and honorable mention categories are displayed in the lobby of the Delaware River and Bay Authority's administrative building in New Castle.

Scott Hewitt, who is a professional photographer in Wilmington, and Mary Rodgers, an Associate Professor in the Visual and Performing Art Department at Salem Community College, were the judges for the contest. ■

DELAWARE RIVER & BAY AUTHORITY

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3 new commissioners named; two reappointed



Shirley R. Wilson



Three new DRBA commissioners, two from New Jersey and one from Delaware, joined the Commission in July.

SHIRLEY R. WILSON of Seaville, New Jersey, succeeds Susan Atkinson DeLanzo. Her term extends to July 1, 2016.

Ms. Wilson is a retired certified school social worker who spent much of her career with the Lower Cape May Regional School District. She is a graduate of Temple University.

The new Commissioner participates in numerous civic and community activities, including the William J. Moore Scholarship Foundation, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,



Richard S. Mroz, Esq. (at right)

and the Cape May Art League. **RICHARD S. MROZ, ESQ.** of Haddonfield, NJ, succeeded Commissioner Niels Favre. His term extends to July 1, 2015.

Mr. Mroz is the principal in a government affairs consulting business and also is Of Counsel to Archer & Greiner. Mr. Mroz was Gov. Christie Whitman's Chief Counsel and Director of the Governor's Authorities Unit and served as County Counsel for Camden County from 1991-1993.

Mr. Mroz is a graduate of the University of Delaware and Villanova University School of Law.

FERNANDO N. GUAJARDO of Lincoln, DE, was sworn in by Chairman Bill Lowe. His term extends to July 1, 2017.



Fernando N. Guajardo

Mr. Guajardo is president and CEO of Guajardo Parks Group, a company he co-founded in 2006.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Guajardo worked for the Delaware State Housing Authority for two years and also for Discover Bank.

A graduate of the University of Southern California, he serves on the board of directors of Nanticoke Health Services and the advisory board for Delaware Community Foundation.

New Jersey Commissioners James N. Hogan of Franklinville, and the Rev. Edward Dorn of Pedricktown both have been reappointed to second terms on the Commission by Governor Chris Christie. ■



Honoring 50 years of serving the citizens of New Jersey and Delaware

UNVEILING—At a ceremony on September 20, 2012, former Chairmen Richard Cordrey and Al Fralinger unveiled on behalf of all former Authority commissioners, many of whom are shown in this photo, a plaque celebrating the DRBA's 50th anniversary. Standing (l-r): Gary Simmerman, Harold Smick, Gary Traynor, Reverend Edward Dorn, Robert McWilliams, Bill Lowe, Richard Cordrey, Al Fralinger, Jim Hogan, Sam Lathem, Al Filiaggi, Scott Green and Michael Parkowski. Seated (l-r): Paul Morris, Ken McDowell, Verna Hensley, Hilda Donnelly, Warren Wallace, Rick Downes, Maureen Koebig, and Gary Patterson. ■



It's a first on the First—of September, that is



CARDING—The Cape May-Lewes Ferry has joined the hugely popular AAA “Show Your Card & Save” program, giving AAA members a round-trip promotional fare on the CMLF system. ■



CAPE MAY—With the first of September came a new benefit for AAA members who choose to take the Cape May-Lewes Ferry across the Delaware Bay. For the first time the Ferry has joined AAA’s popular program, “Show Your Card & Save@.” AAA members can receive round-trip promotional passenger fares, \$2 off for adults and \$1 off for children, through the end of 2013.

“AAA has more than four million members in the region and the Cape May-Lewes

Ferry is excited to participate in this program with them,” said Heath Gehrke, director of operations at the Ferry. “AAA is a respected, well-known organization that provides tremendous value and service to all of its membership. We anticipate continuing to explore additional partnerships that open up new markets and opportunities for the Ferry.”

Gehrke noted that the AAA partnership is the first ever offered at the Ferry. For many years the CMLF has offered books of six tickets and of twelve tickets, but never a per ride promotion like that offered by AAA. ■



INDUCTING—Former DRBA Executive Director Bill Miller was inducted into the Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame.

DRBA’s Bill Miller inducted into DE’s Maritime Hall of Fame



LEWES—William J. Miller, Jr., the Authority’s first executive director, has been inducted into the Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Delaware’s maritime heritage.

Nominated by the current DRBA Executive Director, Scott A. Green, Esq., and Chairman Bill Lowe, Mr. Miller served the Authority from its inception in 1963 until his retirement at the end of 1991.

Mr. Green noted his predecessor had steered the agency through the development of the second span of the Delaware Memorial Bridge and also the creation of the Ferry, which is a vital link between the two states and serves as an economic engine for the region. “The Ferry’s introduction was a significant achievement in Delaware’s maritime history,” he noted. In 1964, the bi-state agency initiated the Cape May-Lewes Ferry. Mr. Miller’s untiring efforts made the link between the resort communities of Lewes, DE and Cape May, NJ a reality.

In 1984, Mr. Miller wrote *A Ferry Tale*, an account of the creation of the ferry system. Among many honors in his career, Mr. Miller was named the Outstanding Professional Engineer of the Year in 1968. In the mid-1970s, he was President of the Delaware Society of Professional Engineers. ■

Celebrating Delaware’s historic lighthouses



LEWES—Delaware’s first-ever Lighthouse Festival was held in August at the Lewes Ferry terminal, and it featured exhibits and programs related the state’s historic lighthouses.

From chats with descendants of former keepers to lighthouse art and photography, the festival featured activities highlighting a number of Delaware lighthouses, including Cape Henlopen Light, the Harbor of Refuge Light Station and more. Sponsored by the Delaware River & Bay Lighthouse Foundation, admission to the festival was free and took place on the Green at the ferry terminal in Lewes.

Among the day’s activities were guided tours of the Delaware Breakwater East End lighthouse for a nominal fee.

“A beacon of hope for sailors and merchants, lighthouses are unique to beach towns such as Lewes and Fenwick and therefore are an important part of local culture,” noted Heath Gehrke, director of ferry operations. The festival was packed with fun activities and entertainment, and it was also a great opportunity for the community to learn about these important structures and the people who spent their professional lives manning them. ■



LIGHTING—Located on the eastern end of the Delaware Breakwater, this brown conical structure was built in 1885. It was equipped with a fourth order Fresnel lens, showing a fixed white light. Its focal plane was 61 feet above sea level with visibility of 13 nautical miles. ■

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BREWS-BY-THE-BAY



Lewes—Cheers! A first-ever event held at the Lewes Terminal at the end of June had people raising their (beer) glasses in celebration.

Delaware, known for many things, is now making a name for itself in brewing, too. The terminal was the site of the first-ever Brews-By-The-Bay celebration, which was sponsored by the Delaware Brewers Guild. The guild is a 501-(c) (6) not-for-profit organization that exists to unify the Delaware brewing community. Its mission is to protect, promote, represent, and educate members and customers alike.

“The Lewes terminal is the perfect venue for the Guild’s celebration,” said Nikky Fisher, Lewes Operations Supervisor. “Great food, music and the best finely crafted beers you can find!” Beer-lovers brought friends, blankets and lawn chairs to the event. ■

Authority police department dedicates police range to memory of fallen bridge police officer



NEW CASTLE, DE—On October 16, the Authority Police department dedicated its firing range to the memory of Patrolman Harry P. Cloud, the first DRBA Police Officer to be killed while on duty. Patrolman Cloud, who served on the DMB police force for 19 months before his death, was struck by a passing vehicle on the DMB Span on July 2, 1955.

Patrolman Cloud’s sons, Dwight of Berlin, Maryland, and Dennis, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, are shown here shaking hands after they unveiled the memorial signage on the building. The firing range has been used by law enforcement personnel for training since its inception in the early 1950s. ■