

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION  
SOUTH JERSEY SECTION  
Minutes of the December 5, 2024 Business Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

The business meeting of the New Jersey Environment Association South Section was called to order by President Steve Blankenship at 18:30 hours at O'Connor's American Bar & Grille located at 1383 Monmouth Road, Easthampton Township, New Jersey. The following members were present at roll call:

Steve Blankenship, President  
Kevin Whitney, Vice President  
Kevin O'Donnell, Secretary  
Rick Eustace, Trustee  
Rocco Maiellano, Trustee  
Joe Rizzuto, Trustee  
Joe Pantalone, Past President

**Approval of Minutes:** Joe Pantalone made a motion to approve the minutes from September 5, 2024, seconded by Dennis Palmer, and unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President's Report:** Steve Blankenship

- Attended the Industrial Waste Committee's October 15<sup>th</sup> tour of the Oatly facility in Millville
- Finalized proposed South Section delegate list for 2025

**Vice President's Report:** Kevin Whitney

- **Scholarships**
  - Applications are open for the 2025 South Section Scholarships, with the deadline for applications on March 31, 2025
  - One scholarship has been received at this time
  - Please get the word out about scholarships at your places of work and family, as applicable
  - There are four (4) \$1,500 scholarships available that include:
    - Manganaro Scholarship for graduating HS seniors or full-time college students pursuing a degree in an Approved Program such as Environmental Science, Engineering or a related field with an emphasis in environmental protection, water resources, biology and/or chemistry
    - Maloney Scholarship for someone continuing their education in Technical Certifications such as plumber, millwright, electrician or instrumentation tech
    - Ingles Scholarship for a student who has completed at least one semester in a County College toward an Associate's degree in science
    - Memorial Scholarship for a student seeking a degree, preferably Master's level, in an Approved Program
- 2025 Section Calendar
  - Presentation of the 2025 NJWEA South Section Calendar of Events, with focus on notable upcoming events
  - Full calendar, including NJWEA State events, posted on the NJWEA South Section website

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**Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Collinge

- The South Sections Association checking account balance as of October 31, 2024 was \$54,905.09.
- The Section's Wells Fargo scholarship portfolio for October 31, 2024 had a closing value of \$25,279.94. This value includes (4) \$6,000 CDs maturing November 2024, March 2025, November 2026, and May 2027. The current market value is \$24,777.02 and the cash and sweep balance is \$1,002.92.
- The Executive Committee approved the purchase of a 4-year, \$7,000.00, CD using the funds from the maturing CD and the Cash & Sweep account.
- The most recent reconciliation, current budget vs. actual reports and profit/loss statements were submitted electronically for ratification. The reports are available on request for anyone who would like to look at them.
- Rocco Maiellano made a motion to approve the reported reconciliation, current budget vs. actual report and profit/loss statement, seconded by Kevin Whitney and unanimously approved.

**Secretary's Report:** Kevin O'Donnell, No report

**Past President's Report:** Joe Pantalone, No report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**NJWEA Report:** Rick Eustace

- December 13, 2024: Executive Committee Meeting in Eatontown.
- March 1, 2025 NJWEA Scholarship application deadline.
- March 10, 2025 Tech Transfer
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**Health & Safety:** Janette Kessler, No report.

**Sick & Welfare:** Rocco Maiellano

- Reiterated the passing of Bob Grodeska and Mark Gulbinsky.
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**Nominating & Awards:** Rocco Maiellano

- To date, one nominee was received for each of the following awards: Knights of the Golden Shovel, Leo Saverese and William B. Pine Affiliates.
- The deadline for any additional nominations is January 31, 2025.

**Affiliates:** Bill LaPorte, No report

**Industrial:** Chris Jepson, No report

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**Legislative Report:** Dennis W. Palmer

- **Bill A4124** Establishes minimum qualifications for persons employed on public works contracts. Any contractor submitting a bid for a contract which is paid for in whole or in part out of the funds of a public body in this State will certify that each employee completing work established in the contract meets at least one of the following qualifications (1) has earned a high school or GED diploma; (2) is currently enrolled in an apprenticeship program that is equivalent to the building and trade union that is specific to their craft; or (3) has completed four years of documented work as a tradesperson that can be verified by their tax filings.  
**11/14/2024** Reported out of Assm. Comm. With Amendments and referred to Assm. Labor Committee.
- **Bill A4965** Requires paint producers to implement or participate in paint stewardship program.  
**11/14/2024** Reported and Referred to Assm. Appropriations Committee.
- **S3849** Increases certain local public contract bid threshold. Raises the \$17,500 to \$22,000 – small improvement.

**Program:** Ray Longo No report.

**Golf Outing:** Joe Rizzuto

- September 20 , 2024 Golf Outing
  - 103 registered golfers
  - Three dinners only registrations
  - Twenty-three hole sponsors
  - 3 “Skills” contest sponsors
  - 5 “Big Board” sponsors
  - 2 Driving Range sponsors
- Net proceeds from the outing **fully funded** the \$6,000 South Section scholarship offerings.
- 2025 golf outing is scheduled for September 19, 2025 at Valleybrook Country Club
  - Increase from \$60 to \$65 per golfer
  - Increase from \$9 to \$10 for draft beer/soda package (1 hour before and 2 hours for dinner)

**Operations Challenge:** Flyers for the 2025 Battle by the Bay were posted on the tables and members were encouraged to participate and/or attend the events

**Scholarship Awards:** Kevin Whitney – see Vice President’s report

**Archives:** No report

**Membership:** Chair is currently vacant, but ACUA may have someone who is interested.

**Publications:** Vacant – no report

**Seminar & Technology:** Andrew Lieb – no report

**Young Professionals:**

- Mike Raczak talked about YP spotlights.
- YPs to meet Monday night at the next Tech Transfer
- The 2025 annual conference will once again have YP hospitality events

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**New Business:**

- Steve Blankenship proposed the following 2025 delegates and alternates:
  - **Delegates:** Blake Maloney, Bill Cathcart, Chris Jepson, Dave Kennedy, Bill LaPorte, Kevin O'Donnell, Dennis Palmer, Josh Palombo, Steve Watson & Kevin Whitney
  - **Alternates:** Katherine Collinge, Danielle Farrell, Tim Fisher, Samantha Liccketto, , Ray Longo, Jeanne Maiellano, Rocco Maiellano, Joe Rizzuto, Jeff Rollins and Emily Zidanic. Dennis Palmer motioned to approve the delegate lists as presented and Kevin O'Donnell seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.
- South Section Website Update Katherine Collinge
  - South Section pages on the NJWEA website were updated
    - List of Committees and Chairpersons
    - Scholarship information and applications
    - List of past Presidents
    - A booklet of previous award recipients (back to 1982)
    - Nomination forms
    - A Calendar of Events
    - Photos from previous Section events
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**Old Business:** None

**Good of Membership:** None

**Adjournment / Time:** Dennis Palmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rocco Maiellano, and unanimously approved at approximately 20:00 hours.