

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION  
SOUTH JERSEY SECTION  
Minutes of December 4, 2025 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 19:44 hours at O'Connor's located at 1383 Monmouth Road, in Eastampton, New Jersey. The following members were present at roll call:

President Steve Blankenship  
Vice President Kevin Whitney  
Treasurer Kathy Collinge  
Trustee Rocco Maiellano  
Trustee Joe Rizzuto  
Past President Joe Pantalone

**Approval of Minutes:** President Steve Blankenship made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2025 business meeting, approved by Kevin Whitney, seconded by Joe Rizzuto and unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President's Report:** Steve Blankenship

- The South Section's nominations for new Officers for the upcoming year of the two year cycle are as follows:
  - President – Kevin Whitney
  - Vice President – Vacant
  - Treasurer – Kevin O'Donnell
  - Secretary – Vacant
  - Trustee (term 2024 to 2027) – Joe Rizzuto
  - Trustee (term 2026 to 2028) – 2025 Rocco/Kathy Collinge
  - Trustee (term 2026 to 2029) – Joe Pantalone
- The South Section's Executive Committee has unanimously approved to cut the small stipend Recording Secretary position at term end, in May 2026. The Officers will share the duties of the position.
- Proposed the following 2026 delegates and alternates to attend the Governing Council meeting on April 17, 2026:
  - **Delegates:** Bill Cathcart, Chris Jepson, Bill LaPorte, Danielle Farrell, Kevin O'Donnell, Dennis Palmer, Josh Palombo, James Ditzel, Katherine Collinge
  - **Alternates:** Tim Fisher, Samantha Licchetto, Ray Longo, Jeff Rollins Emily Zidanic and Nicole Brown
    - Rocco Maiellano motioned to approve the delegate lists as presented and Dennis Palmer seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

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

- The South Section's 2026 Scholarship application is posted on our website, and March 31, 2026 is the deadline for submission.
- The Section's 2026 Calendar of Events is posted on our website.

- There will be quite a bit of changeover come May 2026 and we are putting together a plan to handle that efficiently as possible – we will set goals and expectations for our new Committee members and have another Orientation Meeting in April 2026
- We are also planning to schedule some training with the State to review how to utilize and post things on our website page
- We also plan to review and write our own Section Bylaws to be completed during 2026 and approved by the end of next year.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Kathy Collinge

- The South Sections Association checking account balance as of October 31<sup>st</sup> , 2025 was \$57,497.55.
- The Section’s Wells Fargo scholarship portfolio for September 2025 had a closing value of \$26,373.07. This value includes (6) CDs and a Cash Sweep Balance.
  - The breakdown is:
    - \$2000 maturing on March 18, 2026,
    - \$6000 maturing on November 23, 2026,
    - \$2000 maturing on March 18, 2027,
    - \$6000 maturing on May 10, 2027,
    - \$1000 maturing on March 20, 2028,
    - and \$7000 maturing on November 10, 2028.
    - The current market value is \$24,275.12 and the cash and sweep balance is \$2,097.95.
- 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. Thank you.
  - Kevin Whitney made a motion to approve the submitted Financial Statements, seconded by Joe Rizzuto and unanimously approved.

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

**Past President’s Report:** Joe Pantalone

- Attended the NJDEP PFAS Summit on October 9<sup>th</sup>, representing the State Association.
- Assisted with the NJWEA booth at the League on November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Participated at the executive committee level to discuss nominations, committees, policy and calendar.

**NJWEA Report:** No Report

- Steve will attend NJWEA meeting next week and report back to the section.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Health & Safety:** Vacant, No report

**Memberships:** Rocco Maiellano

**Sick & Welfare:** Rocco Maiellano

- Please let us know of any members who are sick or have passed.

**Nominating & Awards:** Rocco Maiellano

- I would like to have someone step-up and volunteer to be the Nomination & Awards Committee Chairperson. There are only three awards. Please let me know.
- Nicole Brown volunteered to assist Rocco.

**Affiliates:** Bill LaPorte

- Vendor's Day is officially scheduled and booked with the Collingswood Foundation for the Arts (Scottish Ballroom) for Friday, 2/6/26.
- I am still waiting for confirmation and pricing from Summit Catering; however, I expect to receive this information soon.
- Once we know what our food costs are going to be, we can then determine if a price increase is warranted and finalize the meeting invite for both vendors and attendees.
- We have two (2) training classes confirmed and one of them has already been submitted to Joe Bonoccorso for training credit approval. The second class will be hosted by Xylem Flygt and I anticipate receiving an abstract and bio from them soon so that I can submit this one for training credit approval as well.
- In closing, I anticipate having a Committee Meeting sometime before the end of this year or early January so that we can get the planning details wrapped up.
- Per our recent discussion, please note that I would like to transition the planning for Vendor's Day to someone else, and will stay on until the end of Vendor's Day 2027 to help with the training/transition of my replacement.

**Industrial:** Chris Jepson, No Report

**Legislative Report:** Dennis W. Palmer

- Committees are back in the legislature with hearings on Dec 1 and 4 this week and the 8 and 11th next week. It is Lame Duck, so this is a time when legislation can fly through committees.
- Senate Environment Committee;
  - Bill S1042 "Protecting Against Forever Chemicals Act"; establishes requirements, prohibitions, and programs for regulation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
  - Two bills for nuclear reactors:
  - Bill S4689/A5517 Directs BPU to study feasibility of developing advanced reactors Statewide.
  - Bill S4876 "New Jersey Energy Security and Affordability Act"; establishes advanced nuclear reactor, distributed energy storage, and demand optimization programs in BPU.
- Senate Labor Committee
  - Bill S1518 Establishes procedures and standards regarding public services privatization contracts.  
As amended, this bill prohibits the privatization of public services unless there are cost savings which are not based on increased charges or reduced services to the public, or lowered workforce standards. Each prospective private contractor would be required to demonstrate cost reductions based on improvements such as management efficiencies or technical innovation
- For Thursday

- Bill A5991 Requires DEP to establish online flood, rainfall, river level, and sewer capacity dashboard.

**Golf Outing:** Joe Rizzuto

- Golf Outing took place on Friday September 19, 2025 at Valleybrook Country Club
  - 22 groups, totaling 88 golfers registered, totaling \$11,000 in revenue
  - 3 dinners only registrants, totaling \$105 in revenue
  - 16 hole sponsors totaling \$1,840 in revenue
  - 10 skills, “Big Board”, Driving Range and personal donation, totaling \$2,110 in revenue
  - Miscellaneous revenue totaling \$260 • Putting Contest revenue totaling \$400 • Total Revenue \$15,815 •
  - Expenses, including 23% service charges, paid to Valleybrook \$10,302.98 •
  - Door Prizes expenses totaling \$430.06 •
  - Expenses totaling \$10,733.04 •
  - Profit to Scholarship Fund, unofficial and unaudited by Treasurer is \$5,081.96 •
  - 2026 Golf Outing confirmed for September 18, 2026 at Valleybrook •
  - Thanks to all that assisted!

**Scholarship Awards:** Kevin Whitney

- The Scholarship application is now open.

**Seminar & Technology:** Vacant

**Young Professionals:** Meka Berry

- Our first YP event was a nice outreach event. Thank you, Josh, for helping.
- We have been busy building more connections by reaching more young professionals through the Universities.

**Archives:** Kathy Collinge, No Report

**Publications:** Vacant

**Program:** Ray Longo, No Report

**New Business:**

- Kathy announced the meeting at the Cape May County Zoo will be named to honor the late Bob Carlson.

**Old Business:** No Report

**Good for the Membership:** No Report

**Adjournment / Time:**

President Steve Blankenship made a motion to adjourn the meeting, approved by Dennis Palmer, seconded by Josh Palombo and unanimously approved at 20:30 hours.