

March 2015

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

Mar 4- [The Right to Farm Act and Resolving Agriculture Related Disputes in NJ Webinar-Your Computer](#)

Mar 11- [Budget, Ethics, and Procurement Updates-Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)

Mar 17- [A Review of the Open Public Records Act-Bergen County College, Paramus](#)

Mar 20- [Women in Government Day-Princeton Marriott, Plainsboro](#)

Mar 26- [Disciplinary Actions in the Public Sector and What Constitutes a Hostile Workplace-Doubletree Hotel, Tinton Falls](#)

April 17-[How New Jersey Manages it Fiscally Distressed Cities Webinar -Your Computer](#)

April 24- [D Variances under The MLUL: What Are They And How Do They Get Approved Webinar-Your Computer](#)

- ✓ 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet
- ✓ 2015 Scholarship Competition
- ✓ Annual Conference Session Topics
- ✓ 2015 Municipal Directory
- ✓ Women in Government Day
- ✓ Mayoral Summit on Afterschool Programs

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By, Mayor Brian Wahler, President*

On February 4, 2015, over 150 of your colleagues from all around New Jersey gathered in Trenton for the League's 23rd Annual Mayors' Legislative Day. The meeting opened with me, asking key Christie Administration leaders to outline their priorities for the coming year. Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Jamie Fox spoke about need to reauthorize the State's Transportation Trust Fund and urged all mayors to talk to their constituents to help them to understand the imperative need for adequate funding. He emphasized the costs we all pay for inadequate maintenance of our roads, bridges and railways – noting that the last great investments in these facilities were made over 50 years ago. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bob Martin focused on DEP's efforts to expedite reviews and to streamline processes, in order to assist municipalities in navigating DEP. He also discussed the Department's continuing response to Super Storm Sandy, including efforts to assist municipalities that were devastated. Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Deputy Commissioner Chuck Richman listed resources that the DCA has made available to help meet the needs of municipalities and of individuals impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

He also discussed the Department's continuing efforts to develop reasonable Affordable Housing policies and procedures, again asking Mayors to urge their Legislators to address Fair Housing Act reforms. Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Commissioner Diane Solomon talked about the need to hold utilities accountable for unacceptable maintenance and timely repair of equipment, conduits and rights of way, and of the need to modernize utility operations.

*Continued under "Presidents Message"*

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This was followed by a lively legislative policy roundtable discussion, moderated by award winning NJ 101.5 Statehouse reporter Kevin McArdle. The panel included Senate President Steve Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Vince Prieto, Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick, Assembly Transportation Committee Chair, Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Assembly Transportation Committee Member, Assemblywoman Betty Lou DeCroce, and State Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Member, Senator Jennifer Beck. These State-level leaders were joined by League Second Vice President, Mayor Albert Kelly of Bridgeton, League Third Vice President, Mayor Jim Cassella of East Rutherford, League Past President, Mayor Tim McDonough of Hope Township, and League Board Member, Mayor Susan Howard of Monmouth Beach.

One topic that generated enthusiastic support from State Legislators and Mayors, alike, was the need to reinvigorate the Transportation Trust Fund and to supply a greater level of aid to local governments. Also, agreement was expressed to end the State diversion of Energy Tax funding. Legislators stated their agreement that the Energy Taxes do belong in local coffers and their hope to begin to address the problem, soon.

The need to protect the integrity of local pension systems, to provide municipalities with predictability regarding affordable housing requirements and the need to promote economic recovery also received favorable comment.

The program concluded with the presentation of certificates to the new class of inductees into the League's Elected Officials' Hall of Fame. These dedicated men and women have completed at least two decades of service to their fellow citizens in elected local office.

Mayors' Legislative Day is an annual highlight of the League's continuous efforts to keep local elected officials informed on what's happening in the State Capital and how that can affect you and your constituents. I hope to see you at next year's event.

### **100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY & WILLIAM G. DRESSEL, JR. RETIREMENT BANQUET: CELEBRATING TWO MAJOR MILESTONES IN ONE EVENING**

*-For more information visit [www.njslom.org/100banquet](http://www.njslom.org/100banquet)*

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities; 100 years of local government cooperation and dedication to good self-government. All 565 municipalities choose to be members of the League and this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to pause and recognize the importance of local government in New Jersey. At the same time, we are commemorating Bill Dressel's retirement after 41 years of service with the League. This event will be held on **May 7** at the **Hilton East Brunswick**, commencing at **6:30pm**. Tickets are on sale now! **Order before March 6 for early bird savings**. For more information, or to order tickets, visit [www.njslom.org/100banquet](http://www.njslom.org/100banquet).

### **2015 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

*-Contact Michael Darcy ext. 116 or [mdarcy@njslom.com](mailto:mdarcy@njslom.com)*

In January, the League mailed information to all mayors concerning the Annual Louis Bay II Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition. League Past President and Mayor Chuck Chiarello of Buena Vista Township chairs the Scholarship Competition and Deputy Mayor Dan Coranoto of Hampton Township also serves as a judge. This popular competition is open to all high school juniors and seniors throughout the state. The top three winners each receive \$1,000 scholarships from the League.

Mayors play an integral role in the success of this program because your office publicizes its availability, judges the local entries, and distributes the checks and certificates supplied by the League. You should publicize the scholarship to your local schools and establish your judging committee.

Your local winning entry must be submitted to the League office by April 2, so we can announce the three statewide winners by May 7.

## SEEKING MAYORAL CONFERENCE SUGGESTIONS

-Contact Bill Dressel ext. 122 [bdressel@njslom.com](mailto:bdressel@njslom.com) or fax 609-695-0151

Your League staff will shortly begin preparing the schedule of educational sessions for the 100th Annual League Conference. To make sure this schedule accurately reflects your needs, we need your input.

Please fax or e-mail your suggested topics and speakers so we may coordinate your ideas into an informative and thought provoking conference. Most conference sessions are based on the input and responses from mayors and elected officials.

## 2015 MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

-Contact Dee Kotch ext. 115 or [dkotch@njslom.com](mailto:dkotch@njslom.com)

The annual Municipal Directory will be mailed to all mayors the first week of March. There is no cost for this first copy. Additional print copies are \$25 each and PDF copies are \$49. Use it to keep in touch with your colleagues around the state.

## WOMEN IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT "WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT DAY" - MARCH 20, 2015

-Contact Lori Buckelew ext 112 or [lbuckelew@njslom.org](mailto:lbuckelew@njslom.org)

The Women in Municipal Government committee will be holding their 7th annual "Women in Government Day" on Wednesday, March 20, 2015 at the Princeton Marriott. At this year's event we are honoring women who demonstrate a commitment to advancing active participation by women in government.

**DR. STEPHANIE BUSH-BASKETTE** Director, Health Department, City of Irvington; Former Commissioner Department of Community of Affairs, and Majority Whip of the New Jersey General Assembly **and CANDACE L. STRAIGHT** Co-Founder of WISH List and former Vice Chair of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority will be honored with the Outstanding Woman in Government Award.

In addition we will also feature an interactive panel on the topic of "Networking." The panel will discuss how to build your network; how to stay connected; and how these relationships can assist you in your professional career and elected office.

**For more information on this event and to register please visit: <http://www.njslom.org/WIMG-2015.html>**

## NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE MAYORAL SUMMIT ON AFTERSCHOOL.

**April 15, 2015 -The Newark Club, Newark**

How do the youth in your city or town spend their hours after school? Do you partner with schools, local childcare providers, arts organizations or athletic leagues and teams to provide a safe and enriching environment for youth during the time outside of the traditional school day? Whether you offer existing programs or realize the need to start or increase the services your city and town offers... you must attend the first-ever New Jersey Statewide Mayoral Summit on Afterschool! All mayors are invited to attend the "Strong Youth, Strong Cities: Building Municipal Systems to Invest beyond the Classroom" Mayoral Summit, hosted by the Honorable Mayor Ras Baraka, Mayor of Newark on Wednesday, April 15th, 2015, 9:00am-3:30pm at the Newark Club in Newark.

Mayor Baraka, in partnership with NJSACC: The Statewide Network for New Jersey's Afterschool Communities, is coordinating NJ's first-ever mayoral summit focusing on the importance of afterschool and out-of-school time programming to the success of all youth and the development of New Jersey's towns and cities. The success of NJ's youth depends on increasing awareness around the issues affecting school-age youth and the areas of great importance to you such as, high school graduation and

retention rates, juvenile justice rates and workforce and economic development. This summit **will** connect mayors and stakeholders on statewide and national policy; increase awareness about the issues affecting school-age youth; and discuss afterschool systems, partnerships, **and collaborations** to build, maintain and sustain quality programming. Speakers from The Wallace Foundation and the National Institute on Out-of-School Time and will also be in attendance.

Mayors are **strongly encouraged** to invite key partners to attend the summit, such as school superintendents, recreation directors, etc. NJSACC will offer free, targeted technical assistance to interested mayors to create a consortium of stakeholders who will continue the messaging of the importance of afterschool beyond the summit. This is a free summit being held at The Metropolitan Room at The Newark Club in Newark (walking distance from Newark Penn Station). For more information about the Mayoral Summit contact NJSACC at [908.789.0259](tel:908.789.0259) or email [egrace@njsacc.org](mailto:egrace@njsacc.org).