

March 2016

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

- March 4- [A Brief Recap of the Governor's Budget Address-Your Computer](#)
- March 9-
[A Brief Overview of the Most Common OPRA Exemptions Webinar-Your Computer](#)
- March 16-
[Budget, Ethics, and Procurement Update-Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)
- March 18-
[The Open Public Meeting Act: A Discussion of the Proposed Changes, Best Practices, and Procedures Webinar-Your Computer](#)
- March 22-
[Dealing with Difficult Employees: What Are Your Rights and Responsibilities as an Employer in the Public Sector-Doubletree Hotel, Tinton Falls](#)

- ✓ 2016 Scholarship Competition
- ✓ 2016 Municipal Directory
- ✓ Mayoral Conference Suggestions

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mayor Joseph Tempesta, President

On February 3 in Trenton, Mayors from all around New Jersey gathered for the League's 24th Annual Mayors' Legislative Day. I began the day by welcoming Lt. Governor Guadagno. The Lt. Governor highlighted the importance and need to work with the local businesses to continue economic growth. Lt. Governor Guadagno also noted that she was heading down to Cape May that day to assist municipalities recovering from Jonas.

After the Lt. Governor spoke, I asked key Christie Administration leaders to discuss their priorities for the coming year. Department of Transportation (DOT) Acting Commissioner Richard Hammer spoke about need to reauthorize the State's Transportation Trust Fund. He emphasized the costs we all pay for inadequate maintenance of our roads, bridges and railways.

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) Commissioner Chuck Richman discussed the status of affordable housing, electronic submission of documents, new housing initiatives, as well as listing resources that the DCA has made available to help meet the needs of municipalities and of individuals impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

Continued on next page under President's Message....

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President's Message Continued

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. Commissioner Richman also brought Mayors up-to-date on the Department's efforts to address homelessness, particularly regarding initiatives to end homelessness for veterans.

Board of Public Utilities (BPU) President Rick Mroz 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.

This was followed by a lively legislative policy roundtable discussion, moderated by NJ Spotlight writer John Reitmeyer. The panel included Senate President Steve Sweeney, Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean, Assembly Speaker Vince Prieto and Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick; These State-level leaders were joined by League Second Vice President, Mayor Jim Cassella of East Rutherford, and League Third Vice President, Mayor Colleen Mahr of Fanwood.

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. Of particular note was Senate President Sweeney's strongly worded assurance that he would not support comingling of local and State pension system assets. The program also included 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.

2016 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

-Contact Michael Darcy ext. 116 or 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 Mayor Albert B. Kelly, Mayor of Bridgeton City and League 2nd Vice President 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 1, so we can announce the three statewide winners by May 5.

2016 MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

-Contact Dee Kotch ext. 115 or 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 \$30 each and PDF copies are \$49. Use it to keep in touch with your colleagues around the state.

SEEKING MAYORAL CONFERENCE SUGGESTIONS

-Contact Michael Darcy ext. 116 mdarcy@njslom.com or fax 609-695-0151

Your League staff will shortly begin preparing the schedule of educational sessions for the 101st 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.