

March 2017

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

Mar 1-  
[Budget, Ethics, and DLGS Updates on Best Practices and Procurement-Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)

Mar 4-  
[Budgeting for Elected Officials-Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)

Mar 14-  
[Licensed Professionals: The Impact of Employee Handbooks, the NJLAD and Other Municipal Actions \(Shared Services\) On Tenure and Employment- Double Tree Hotel, Tinton Falls](#)

March 21-  
[Leaves of Absence in New Jersey-A look at the Family Medical Leave Act, the New Jersey Family Leave Act, and ADA Compliance-DoubleTree Hotel, Tinton Falls](#)

April 4-  
[Avoiding Wage and Hour Pitfalls and Hot Topics in the Union/Management Relationship-DoubleTree Hotel, Tinton Falls](#)

- ✓ Louis Bay Scholarship Competition
- ✓ Mayors Hall of Fame
- ✓ Mayoral Conference Suggestions
- ✓ 2017 Municipal Directory
- ✓ Budgeting For Elected Officials

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Mayor Albert B. Kelly, President*

On February 8, Mayors from across the State convened at the League's 25th Annual Mayors Legislative Day. Topics discussed included affordable housing, reimbursement for Transportation Trust Fund projects, pension, health benefits funding, and property tax relief.

I began the day by outlining my priorities as League President which include reforms to the current regressive property tax system; to fully restore the energy tax receipts; to tie the Interest Arbitration Cap to the property tax levy cap; for the Administration and Legislature to meet us in the middle of the room and enact a reasonable, rational and achievable housing policy; and recognize it is municipal government where the most innovative and creative governing gets done. I then asked key Christie Administration leaders to discuss their priorities for the coming year.

Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Chuck Richman discussed the status of affordable housing, including the significant amount of financing from DCA for affordable housing, a fact often overlooked. The Commissioner also brought Mayors up-to-date on the Department's efforts to address homelessness, particularly regarding initiatives to end homelessness for veterans.

*Continued on next page under Presidents Message.....*

### OFFICERS:

#### **ALBERT B. KELLY**

President,  
Mayor, Bridgeton City

#### **JAMES L. CASSELLA**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Mayor, East Rutherford

#### **COLLEEN MAHR**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Mayor, Fanwood Borough

#### **JAMES PERRY**

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
Mayor, Township of Hardwick

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Mayor, Pleasantville City

### **Executive Staff**

**MICHAEL J. DARCY, CAE.** Executive Director

**MICHAEL CERRA,** Asst. Executive Director

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bob Martin focused on DEP's efforts in regards to water infrastructure, storm water management and the MS4 permitting process. The Commissioner also encouraged municipalities to seek financial assistance from the [New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust](#).

In response to a question, the Department of Transportation (DOT) Chief of Staff John Case indicated that the methodology to determine TTF grant priorities was the same as previous years and that local aid was expected to go out in June.

Elizabeth Connelly, Commissioner of the Department of Human Services (DHS) – the largest and most diverse Executive Branch Department – spoke about the effort to provide 'three generation services' to the citizens and families most in need of a hand up. She complimented all who joined New Jersey Mayors, in the successful push to make New Jersey a player in the Federal Department of Agriculture's SNAP Pilot program, which will give needy New Jersey families better access to fresh and healthy foods. The Commissioner highlighted areas where DHS works in tandem with DCA and stated her hope the Department could work more closely with New Jersey Mayors to address social service needs and remedy problems, as they emerge first in New Jersey municipalities.

The program then moved to 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.

This was followed by a lively legislative policy roundtable discussion, moderated by Politico New Jersey writer Matt Friedman. 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 First Vice President, Mayor Jim Cassella of East Rutherford, Second Vice President, Mayor Colleen Mahr of Fanwood and Third Vice President Mayor Jim Perry of Hardwick.

The Mayors engaged the Legislators on a diverse range of issues important to municipalities, including affordable housing, TTF funding and reimbursements as a result of the shutdown, the upcoming expiration of the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards at the end of 2017 and support for the ongoing efforts of the Administration and Legislature to address drug addiction.

For more information on Legislative Day please contact Mike Cerra, Assistant Executive Director at 609-695-3481 ext 120 or [mcerra@njslom.com](mailto:mcerra@njslom.com)

## **LOUIS BAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FUTURE MUNICIPAL LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

*-Contact Ciara Bradley at ext. 128 or [cbradley@njslom.org](mailto:cbradley@njslom.org)*

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 James Anzaldi, Mayor of Clifton and League Past 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.

**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT  
FOR MAYORS HALL OF FAME**

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

The League is accepting nominations for the [2017 Mayors Hall of Fame](#). To qualify, a mayor must be serving in at least their tenth cumulative year for the silver level, twentieth year for the gold level, or 30<sup>th</sup> year for the platinum level. Mayors who rotate into office can qualify after holding the office of mayor for ten years.

Qualifying mayors will be inducted into the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Mayors' Hall of Fame during the Mayors' Luncheon at the Annual Conference Wednesday, November 15 in Atlantic City. For nomination forms and more information about the Mayors' Hall of Fame, visit the [Mayors Corner](#) or contact the League at 609-695-3481 ext. 116.

**SEEKING MAYORAL CONFERENCE SUGGESTIONS**

-Contact Michael Darcy ext. 116 [mdarcy@njslom.com](mailto:mdarcy@njslom.com) or fax 609-695-0151

Your League staff will shortly begin preparing the schedule of educational sessions for the 102<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**2017 MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY**

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

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.

**DON'T MISS OUT ON THE "BUDGETING FOR THE ELECTED OFFICIAL: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO CREATE, BALANCE, AND APPROVE YOUR MUNICIPALITY'S BUDGET" SEMINAR**

--Contact Danielle Holland-Htut ext. 118 or [dholland@njslom.org](mailto:dholland@njslom.org)

Creating and approving a feasible budget is one of the most important tasks of an Elected Official. It is also one of the most complex and time consuming tasks. To aid in this endeavor, the League has created a special half day program geared towards Elected Officials to help them in the Municipal Budgeting Process. The program will take place on Saturday, March 4, 2017, at the Conference Center at Mercer. Additional program details and registration fees are available at: <http://www.njslom.org/seminar-documents/2017-budget.html>