

February 2015

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

Feb 4- [23rd Mayors Legislative Day-Statehouse, Trenton](#)

Feb 7- [Orientation for Newly Elected, Re-Elected, or Experienced Officials, Renaissance Meadowlands Hotel, Rutherford](#)

Feb 12-Lincoln's Birthday

Feb 16- President's Day

Feb 22-Washingtons Birthday

Feb 25- [The Heroin Addiction Epidemic: What It Is and How To Address It-Doubletree Hotel, Tinton Falls](#)

Feb 27- [A Quick Review of Budget Updates Webinar-Your Computer-SOLD OUT](#)

Feb 28- [Budgeting For Elected Officials – Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)

- ✓ 100th Anniversary Banquet
- ✓ Mayors Legislative Day
- ✓ Elected Officials Hall of Fame
- ✓ 2015 Scholarship Competition
- ✓ NJLM Turns 100
- ✓ Annual Conference Session Topics
- ✓ 2015 Municipal Directory
- ✓ Police and Fire Labor Data
- ✓ League History
- ✓ Women in Government Day
- ✓ Budgeting for Elected Officials Seminar
- ✓ Help the Borough of Edgewater
- ✓ ACA Open Enrollment
- ✓ Five Ways to Connect With State and Local Officials

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By, Mayor Brian Wahler, President

As mayors, we have a serious responsibility to lead our communities and indeed our state during difficult times. Our constituents, citizens, and neighbors look to us as the headlines trumpet fear of foreclosure, and the need for major restructuring of our public finances. And as mayors, we can count on the League to help us respond to these major public policy questions.

The League has many resources available with valuable information that is needed. Visit our [website](#) where you can find links to our Mayors Corner, Important Issue Alerts, a full listing of League Committees, and Grant application information. You can also order various publications on several different topics such as Police and Fire Salary Survey and a Newly Elected Officials Handbook.

The League is also hosting the 23rd Annual Mayors Legislative Day on February 4th. This event will feature speakers from the Governor's Cabinet as well as a Legislative panel with members of the Legislature. To find out more about this event visit the link: <http://www.njslom.org/seminar-documents/Mayors-Legislative-Day.html>

All this information and effort is only a start. Your voice and action will make the difference on these issues. So please review the information available and resolve to make your voice heard by your legislators, and by the League. Send your input and concerns so your staff in Trenton can keep them front and center in these discussions as we all lead our state through these difficult times.

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

-For more information visit www.njslom.org/100banquet

This year marks the 100th 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.

**ATTEND THE 23RD ANNUAL
MAYORS LEGISLATIVE DAY**

-Contact Danielle Holland-Htut ext. 118 or dholland@njslom.org

Be sure to register for the 23rd Annual Mayors Legislative Day to be held February 4, 2015 at the State House Annex in Trenton. This is a great way to kick off your administration by hearing about the State's legislative agenda from Administration officials and key members of the Senate and Assembly. For more information please click on the following link: <http://www.njslom.org/seminar-documents/Mayors-Legislative-Day.html>

ELECTED OFFICIALS INDUCTED IN LEAGUE HALL OF FAME

-Contact Michael Darcy ext. 116 or mdarcy@njslom.com

The League will induct new members into the Elected Officials Hall of Fame during the 23rd Annual Mayors Legislative Day February 4, 2015 at the State House Annex in Trenton. This honor is reserved for those governing body members, active and retired, who have served 20 years in elected municipal office. There are currently 429 inductees in the Elected Officials Hall of Fame. Congratulations to our most recent members! See the list below and the 2015 Hall of Fame page for more information at http://www.njslom.org/hallelec_cover.html

The 2015 Elected Officials Hall of Fame inductees are as follows:

Councilman Daniel Wimer, Allentown Borough
Mayor Kirk O. Larson, Barnegat Light Borough
Councilwoman Dorothy Reynolds, Barnegat Light Borough
Councilman E.L. Pete Green, Burlington Township
Councilwoman Sandra V. Stewart, Burlington Township
Councilwoman 3rd Ward Quilla E. Talmadge, City of East Orange
Committeeman John Carman, Jr., Egg Harbor Township
Committeeman William Boettcher, III, Hainesport Township
Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Hasbrouck Heights Borough
Councilwoman Dr. Mary Jane Celli, Long Branch City
Councilman at Large Luis A. Quintana, Newark City
Deputy Mayor Neil J. Lewis, Plainsboro Township
Mayor George Fosdick, Ridgefield Park Village
Mayor Emeritus Karen Chamberlain, Saddle Brook Township
Councilmember John H. Klose, Surf City Borough
Councilman Stephen Black, Watchung Borough
Councilman Glenn Corbett, Wharton Borough

2015 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 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.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT COOPERATION: NJLM GIVES A VOICE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN TRENTON

-For more information visit: www.njslom.org/100years or www.njmmagazine.org

The following is an excerpt from an article appearing in the February 2015 issue of *New Jersey Municipalities* magazine:

In the early 1900's New Jersey municipalities were left alone to advocate for themselves; municipalities joined together only when faced with the same problem. After a group of mayors joined forces in 1911 to advocate for lower gas prices, they felt that it was imperative to form an organized alliance for New Jersey, and thus the New Jersey State League of Municipalities was created.

Over the next 100 years, the League's influence over laws effecting municipalities has grown exponentially. The League has continually fought for legislative measures that assist the State's local governments in maintaining their budgets, providing services and complying with state mandates.

Case in point, in June 2014 the League was instrumental in reinstating the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards (A-3424). This law is part of a toolkit developed to provide much needed relief to local tax payers.

To read this article in full, pick up a copy of the February issue of *New Jersey Municipalities* magazine (subscription required). [New Jersey Municipalities](http://www.njslom.org) is the League's official monthly magazine publication (available in print or [digital format](#) by subscription), and will be highlighting the League's centennial each month throughout the year 2015.

Follow the League's centennial celebration at www.njslom.org/100years and #njlm100.

SEEKING MAYORAL CONFERENCE SUGGESTIONS

-Contact Bill Dressel ext. 122 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

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.

POLICE AND FIRE LABOR DATA CONTRACT BOOKS AVAILABLE

-Contact Becky Wright at ext.110 or bwright@njslom.org

The League's 2014 Police and Fire Labor Data Contract Books are available. This series can be bought as a **complete package or a single package for just police and/or fire**. It includes selected police and fire contract provisions, salary scales, and arbitration award summaries. Contact Becky Wright at bwright@njslom.org to make purchase arrangements or fill out a publication form at <http://www.njslom.org/publications/Publications.pdf>

THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF LEAGUE HISTORY IS AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW

In celebration of the League's 100th year, the League will be publishing a chronological history of its first 100 years as an organization on its website: Its creation, milestones, accomplishments, organizational changes and legislative highlights.

Starting today, with an anticipated end date of May 5, a detailed narrative history and accompanying photographs will be posted for each decade. We will keep you updated as to when each new webpage has been updated.

The history for 1910-1919 is available online now. This decade discusses the League's beginnings; its creation and the creation of two of its services that still exist today: The Bureau of Municipal Information and *New Jersey Municipalities* magazine. To view the history for this decade visit <http://njslom.org/history/1910.html>. Follow the League's 100th anniversary celebration at www.njslom.org/100years, and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/njleague) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/nj_league) using #njlm100.

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

-Contact Lori Buckelew ext 112 or 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. More details to follow.

NEW PROGRAM "BUDGETING FOR THE ELECTED OFFICIAL: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO CREATE, BALANCE, AND APPROVE YOUR MUNICIPALITY'S BUDGET"

--Contact Danielle Holland-Htut ext. 118 or 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 understand the Municipal Budgeting Process. The program will take place on Saturday, February 28, 2015, at the Conference Center at Mercer. Additional program details and registration fees are available at: <http://www.njslom.org/seminar-documents/ElectedOfficial022815.html>

DISASTER STRIKES IN THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWATER. HOW YOU CAN HELP

-Contact Bill Dressel at ext 122 or <mailto:bdressel@njslom.com>

On the evening of January 21, 2015, in the Borough of Edgewater, a devastating fire swept through the Avalon Apartments. Approximately 1,000 borough residents have been displaced.

Whenever a crisis of this magnitude hits anywhere our State, New Jersey Mayors contact the League asking what help is needed and how they can help. The League has reached out to Mayor McPartland, who has indicated that financial assistance for the displaced residents would be appreciated. The Borough of Edgewater and the Board of Education sponsored fundraising web sites are www.gofundme.com/edgewater-fire and www.edgewaterstrong.org.

For more information please contact Executive Director Bill Dressel at bdressel@njslom.com or 609-695-3481 ext. 122.

ACA OPEN ENROLLMENT

-Contact Jackie Cornell-Bechelli, Regional Director, US Department of Health and Human Services – Region II at 212-264-4600 or HHSORD2@hhs.gov

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) the uninsured rate nationwide has dropped by 25% in just over a year. This is due in large part to local leadership, especially mayors working to educate their communities on the healthcare coverage made possible by the ACA.

With Open Enrollment Period closing on **February 15th**, mayors and local leaders across New Jersey's 565 municipalities have a limited time left to ensure their residents have access to affordable, quality care.

There are a number of ways that local officials can use existing city and county resources to help enroll residents, including:

- Featuring enrollment information in the Mayor's office and municipality's website
- Using auto-dial calls, text messaging and social media to spread the word about the deadline.
- Generating media coverage via press conferences, Op-Eds, etc
- Hosting community enrollment events

With more options available and an easier enrollment process, residents can join the more than 210,000 New Jerseyans who have already enrolled in coverage. New Jersey [consumers](#) can choose from an average of 45 health plans – up from 26 last year. For most residents the cost is less than \$100 a month. Anyone in your community looking for coverage can find more details through one of three easy steps:

1. **Enroll online at HealthCare.gov**
2. **Call the 24/7 call center: 1-800-318-2596 (TTY 1-855-889-4325)** there are 14,000 call center representatives ready to answer questions and help people get the coverage they need. Translation services are available and the call is free.
3. Find in-person assistance in your own community by visiting localhelp.healthcare.gov

For more resources for mayors please visit <https://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/best-practices-local-officials.pdf> or contact us at 212-264-4600 or HHSORD2@hhs.gov and let us know how we can assist you in your community – our office is here to work with you. We look forward to hearing from you.

AN ADVOCATE'S FIVE STEP PLAN TO CONNECT WITH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

Here are five ways that you can make yourself a better advocate for your community's people and businesses, as you work with your State and Federal Legislators on important public policies.

1. **Make the time to meet in-person.** Members of the State Senate and General Assembly and Members of Congress and their senior staff consistently say that the most effective advocacy happens in a face-to-face meeting. Contact their offices to schedule time for an introductory meeting. Let them know that you want to cooperate with them to improve the lives of your mutual constituents. Tell them about your municipality. Let them know the problems you face and discuss your priorities.
2. **Do your homework.** During the campaign, and in prior public office, those who represent you and your municipality in the State House and in Congress have shared their opinions on a wide variety of issues. In addition to learning about your legislators' personal, educational, and professional background, use public statements, campaign promises, and previous actions to understand his or her likely positions on your municipality's priorities.
3. **Be an asset, not a problem.** As you well know, all elected officials are busy. Offer yourself to your colleagues in State and Federal office as a resource and information channel for your community. Make your advocacy requests clear and easy to understand. Your legislator and his or her staff will be more likely to call upon you for your input – and to take your requests and concerns seriously – if you establish yourself as reliable, trustworthy, and easy to work with. Even if your legislator is from the opposing party, make an effort to build a strong working relationship from the start.
4. **Don't neglect staff.** Each state legislator in New Jersey represents a district that includes approximately 225,000 people. Each of our Congressmen represents over 700,000. And our two U.S. Senators represent all of our State's 8.9 million people. That's a lot of constituents to hear from and to serve. Obviously, they can't do it alone. They rely heavily on trusted and loyal aides to help them better serve. As you get to know each of your representatives, be sure to get to know his or her chief of staff, legislative director, and district chief of staff. These staff members' opinions and perceptions carry a lot of weight with their bosses.
5. **Follow up.** Advocacy is a marathon, not a sprint. After you have made your initial outreach, follow up by keeping in regular touch, inviting your legislators to visit important sites in the community, thanking them when they meet with you or provide assistance, sending them and their staff regular updates on the progress of your town's State and Federal priorities, and connecting on social media.