

July 2015

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

July 4- Independence Day

July 27- National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

July 26- Parents Day

November 17-19-
[100th Annual NJLM Conference-Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City](#)

- ✓ New Leadership for NJLM
- ✓ DCA Electronic Review System
- ✓ NJLM Exhibits
- ✓ 13th Annual Michael A.Pane Award
- ✓ Mayors Hall of Fame

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mayor Brian Wahler, President

As the League has previously reported, one of the recommendations of the Governor's "Roadmap to Resolution" report is to have local boards of education assume the cost of local education retiree health benefits, which is currently a state obligation, as well as the new retirement plan for local(K-12) education employees. In response to that recommendation, the League of Municipalities partnered with New Jersey School Boards Association to assess the impact such a cost transfer would have on both municipal and school district taxpayers. This assessment can help you understand the potential cost to your municipality for assuming part or all current and/or previously unfunded or underfunded employer contributions of the Teachers Annuity Pension Fund (TPAF). A copy of the report is available at <http://www.njslom.org/letters/LOM-SBA-PENSION-STUDY.pdf>

The League and the School Boards Association contracted Raphael J. Caprio, Ph.D., Director of Bloustein Center for Local Government Research, Rutgers University to provide a policy neutral analysis that seeks an informed answer to the potential (and estimated) impact on each municipality for each one percent "employer" contribution that would need to be raised on the local level should local boards of education be asked to fund part, or all, of the employer TPAF contribution.

Continued Under Presidents Message

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MICHAEL CERRA, Asst. Executive Director

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONTINUED

Using information from the NJ Transparency website Dr. Caprio has provided a report that is broken down by municipality. For each regional or consolidated district, the equalized value for each member municipality in the district was utilized to approximate the proportional responsibility of salaries (and potential pension contributions) for each regional or consolidated district municipality. For each "regional" or "consolidated" district, the actual reported TPAF salary for 2014 was then distributed amongst member communities. These calculations involve the overwhelming percentage of total potential school board estimates to municipal conversion.

In sending-receiving districts, however, the number of students will vary considerably depending upon the local arrangement. Further future tuition adjustments associated with any local liability are unknown as the receiving board will be required to assess its own increased cost. So we caution that municipal estimates for sending districts are probably low, while concurrently our estimates for receiving districts are probably high.

Since the potential employer "pension match" is still a hypothetical, the 1% liability is used so you can easily calculate various scenarios or policy proposals. For example, a potential employer liability might be proposed at 13% of the total salaries; knowing the cost of each 1% of total salaries enables a fairly easy calculation of the average impact on each residential property owner by simply multiplying the 1% calculation by 13. Accordingly, a 1% estimate which might be, as an example, \$12.50, would be easily determined to be an estimated annual property tax increase of \$162.50 per property taxpayer. It is important to note that this report analyzes the impact of property tax payer assumption of the school district employer's share of only teacher pension costs. It does not address other recent proposals, such as shifting the employer cost of teachers' (and other board of education employees') post-retirement medical benefits from the state to local school districts, nor the hypothetical impact from health benefit proposals that may or may not be available or dedicated to offset some of the estimated cost increases. Reliable numbers for such hypotheticals are not currently available from the Roadmap Commission. The League strongly believes this report will be able to assist you in determining the impact of elements of the "Roadmap to Resolution" report on your municipality.

If you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact Lori Buckelew, at lbuckelew@njslom.org or 609-695-3481 ext. 11

LEAGUE WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities would like to welcome Michael J. Darcy, CAE, and Michael Cerra into their new roles as Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director of the League of Municipalities.

Michael Darcy is the former assistant executive director and has been with the League of Municipalities for 25 years. As our new executive director he will help guide us as we work through such issues as the state government pension and benefit reforms, transportation funding, state diversion of local energy revenues, and the centennial celebration of the founding of the League. As part of the position, Michael Darcy will also assume the duties of executive director for the NJLM Educational Foundation, and the 222 West State Corporation which owns the League headquarters building.

The League Executive Board has great confidence in Michael Darcy and his ability to guide our organization through this challenging time. His long tenure and depth of knowledge about the League and local government point to the League's strength and mean our organizational focus will not waiver from the needs of New Jersey local officials.

He has been a key component of our successful team and will assure continued success without interruption. Similarly, the Executive Board has great confidence in Michael Cerra as assistant executive director. Michael Cerra has been with the League 18 years and, as our director of government affairs, assured that all branches of government are informed on our municipal perspective. He will continue that vital work as assistant executive director.

By way of background; Michael Darcy earned a M.A. in Political Science from Rutgers University. He joined the League in 1990, working in every program and service area over the years. He has held the position of assistant executive director since 1995. In 1999 he achieved the designation Certified Association Executive, conferred by the American Society of Association Executives. He has served as president of the New Jersey Society of Association Executives and is a 2010 Fellow of Leadership New Jersey. The strength and success the League currently enjoys is testament to the diligent work of our team, and depth of skill and experience we have to draw from. We are indeed fortunate to have such a foundation during this transition.

Biographies for Darcy and Cerra, and many of the League staff are available at the League web site www.njslom.org <<http://www.njslom.org/>> under "Contact Us".

NJ DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES USE OF NEW ELECTRONIC PLAN REVIEW SYSTEM

-Contact Dave Uhaze, Bureau of Construction Project Review, State Buildings Unit at 609-984-7865 or via email at david.uhaze@dca.nj.gov

In an effort to implement a system to streamline and modernize the State's plan review process, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has launched **ePlans**, a web-based electronic plan and document workflow solution that automates the plan submission, review and approval process through the use of digital files. ePlans allows all stages of the review process to be transmitted electronically via the internet, thus eliminating paper-based building and code review processes and reducing the amount of time between plan submission and final approval. The Department will require mandatory usage of the ePlans system by December 31, 2015.

ePlans provides a number of benefits and cost-saving measures for both the community and the Department including:

- 24-hour access to the system from any computer
- Elimination of the need for paper plans to be manually printed and delivered
- Reduced printing costs
- Transparency and auditability
- Reduced turn-around time for plan review

ePlans will be extended to all building projects that require plans from a licensed architect or engineer. When a citizen (architect, engineer, contractor, owner) submits an application for a construction or land use permit requiring drawing plans and other documents, the Bureau of Construction Project Review will use ePlans to complete the initial review. Required changes are noted on the files and then communicated to the applicant, who can re-submit corrected plans electronically, 24/7, from the convenience of any computer. The review cycle continues until all the regulatory requirements are satisfied and the DCA grants approval for the plans.

NOTE: This is a DCA initiative. Municipalities are not being mandated to use ePlans for local plan review.

For more information about accessing DCA's ePlans system, visit:

www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/codes/offices/ePlans.html

Questions can be directed to Dave Uhaze, Bureau of Construction Project Review, State Buildings Unit at 609-984-7865 or via email at david.uhaze@dca.nj.gov.

**WHO PROVIDES YOU WITH
GREAT PRODUCTS AND SERVICES?
THE LEAGUE WANTS TO KNOW!**

-Contact Kristin Lawrence ext 125 or Klawrence@njslom.org

Your municipality does business with good vendors and we want others to know about them. Ask your vendors to exhibit at the Annual League Conference, or better yet, send us their name and we will show them how the Annual League Conference can help them, help municipalities.

Send names of your suppliers and service providers to Kristin Lawrence (609) 695-3481 ext. 125.

**13TH ANNUAL MICHAEL A. PANE AWARD NOMINATIONS
ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED**

-Contact Gayle Krygier at (609) 695-3481 x119 or gkrygier@njslom.org

In honor of the memory of Michael A. Pane, the thirteenth annual award will be presented to a professional (attorney, engineer or planner) who personifies outstanding ability, integrity, and a high standard of ethics in his or her dealings with local government. This award includes a \$500 honorarium.

Mr. Pane significantly inspired the image of enhancing integrity in local government, and it is the purpose of this award to recognize that person who has through the same likeness, exemplified, and perhaps is the role model for the local government community.

The award ceremony will be held during the League's annual conference in Atlantic City, on Thursday, November 19th, during a session of the New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys. Nominations for this award will be accepted through September 30, 2015. Please fax, mail or email your nomination to:

Gayle A. Krygier
N.J. State League of Municipalities
222 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
Fax#: 609-695-5156
gkrygier@njslom.org

"The League thanks the NJLM Educational Foundation for making this possible and is honored to participate in the promotion of the Michael A. Pane Award." said League Executive Director Michael J. Darcy. A list of past award winners may be seen at <http://www.njslom.org/hallfame.html>

**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT
FOR MAYORS HALL OF FAME**

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

The League is accepting nominations for the [2015 Mayors Hall of Fame](#). To qualify, a mayor must be serving in at least their tenth cumulative year for the silver level or twentieth year for the gold 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 18 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.