

January 2019

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

Jan 12

[Orientation for Newly Elected, Re-elected, and Experienced Municipal Officials-Hilton Hotel, East Rutherford](#)

Jan 26

[Orientation for Newly Elected, Re-elected, and Experienced Municipal Officials-Westin Hotel, Mount Laurel](#)

Feb 28

[Everything Elected Officials Need to Know About Immigration Law-DoubleTree Hotel, Tinton Falls](#)

March 2

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

March 6

[A Quick Review of Budget and Audit Update Webinar-Your Computer](#)

March 19

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

- ✓ Cannabis Resource Page
- ✓ 2019 Municipal Directory
- ✓ NJLM Helps Mayors Access the Leaders
- ✓ Seminar for Newly Elected Officials
- ✓ Budgeting for Elected Officials
- ✓ Become a Municipal Pioneer

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mayor Colleen Mahr, Borough of Fanwood

Below is a listing of taxpayer concerns that the League will prioritize in 2019. Please add your energy and your insights to those of Mayor Mahr by communicating your concerns on these issues to State-level officials.

Affordable Housing Reform

The Executive and Legislative branches have abdicated their responsibilities on this issue and municipalities are confronted with a dysfunctional, costly, and inefficient court process. Many towns have or will settle with litigants, but there needs to be bipartisan legislation that will provide, at the very least, an administrative alternative to the courts, needed tools, and financial resources to facilitate municipal compliance and a recognition of already existing housing that is affordable.

Economic Development: Liquor License Reform

The State's current regulatory structure governing alcoholic beverages remains relatively unchanged for generations and creates impediments for economic growth and development. Reform is needed to modernize these laws and municipalities should be able to permit neighborhood restaurants to provide patrons with alcoholic beverages on a limited basis.

Continued on Next page

OFFICERS:

COLLEEN MAHR

President
Mayor, Fanwood Borough

JAMES PERRY

1st Vice President
Committeeman, Township of Hardwick

JANICE KOVACH

2nd Vice President
Mayor, Clinton Town

WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN

3rd Vice President
Mayor, Wharton Borough

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

RAS J. BARAKA

Mayor, Newark City

GAYLE BRILL MITTLER

Mayor, Highland Park Borough

THOMAS BIANCO

Mayor, Clayton Borough

JAMES L. CASSELLA

Mayor, East Rutherford Borough;
Immediate Past President

JONATHAN DUNLEAVY

Mayor, Bloomingdale Borough

SEAN ELWELL

Mayor, Elsinboro

ANTHONY R. FANUCCI

Mayor, Vineland City

DANIEL FLYNN

Deputy Mayor, Newton

STEVE FULOP

Mayor, Jersey City

RAYMOND HECK

Mayor, Millstone

SUE HOWARD

Mayor, Monmouth Beach Borough

THOMAS KELAHER

Mayor, Toms River Township

LIZ LEMPert

Mayor, Princeton

GARY PASSANANTE

Mayor, Somerdale Borough

WILLIAM PIKOLYCKY

Mayor, Woodbine

GUY PISERCHIA

Mayor, Long Hill Township

PAUL TOMASKO

Mayor, Alpine Borough

JANET W. TUCCI

Mayor, West Long Branch Borough

JESSE TWEEDELE, SR.

Mayor, Pleasantville City

MICHAEL VENEZIA

Mayor, Bloomfield

CRAIG H. WILKIE

Mayor, Florence Township

Executive Staff

MICHAEL J. DARCY, CAE, Executive Director

MICHAEL CERRA, Assistant Executive Director

President's Message Continued

Economic Development: Pilots:

Policies that give municipalities the ability to promote redevelopment are essential. We must guard against State laws, which would inhibit municipalities from encouraging economic development by entering into Payment In Lieu of Taxes agreements with willing business partners.

Legalization of Cannabis:

Municipal governments must be given the power, the personnel, and the revenues that will be needed to address concerns that will be created by this new industry. We are reasonably confident that State-level policy makers will ensure that the new law and regulations will address State level issues. We will, however, need to focus their attention on local needs, such as adequate funding for local purposes, social justice and expungement, and municipal involvement in the regulatory structure.

Opioid Epidemic:

No municipality is immune from the opioid epidemic. A real solution needs to involve Federal, State, and County governments listening to and working with local officials on strategies and programs designed to prevent the spread of the epidemic, effectively treat current victims, and address the burdens that inflict our families and other caregivers.

Path to Progress:

Senate President Sweeney's NJ Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup has issued a report that will begin the discussions on how we can address some of our State's chronic budgetary problems. Further public employee pension and benefit programs reforms must be pursued. Civil Service laws and regulations, which often hamstringing local shared services efforts, need to be reformed. And consolidation of some school district administrative functions should be considered.

Restoration of Municipal Property Tax Relief:

In 2007, the State distributed \$1.631 million to New Jersey municipalities. Last year, municipalities shared in only \$1.428 million. If the 2007 total had been adjusted for inflation (as required by statute), then municipalities statewide could have provided residents with \$1.957 million of relief. New Jersey's two main formula-driven general municipal property tax relief programs are the Energy Tax Receipts

For more information regarding Mayor Mahr's Legislative priorities please see the the January Issue of *NJ Municipalities* magazine. View the magazine's digital edition sample or subscribers' complete version at the [NJ Municipalities webpage](#).

Cannabis Resource Page

Contact Michael Cerra at ext. 120 or mcerra@njslom.org

Governor Murphy has identified the legalization of the adult recreational use of marijuana as a top priority for his Administration. Senate President Sweeney also supports this and has publicly indicated that there is sufficient support in the Senate to advance enabling legislation, and Speaker Coughlin recently stated that he supports legalization.

While the League does not have a position on the topic of legalized recreational marijuana, we have created the [Cannabis Resource Page](#) as a tool for our members. This website features information regarding upcoming legislation, Labor Law Issues, Enforcement, and much more.

2019 Municipal Directory

Contact Dee Kotch at ext.115 or 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.

NJLM Helps Mayors Access State Leaders

Contact Michael Cerra at ext. 120 or mcerra@njslom.org

If you need help accessing state leaders and agencies contact the League. Your staff in Trenton interacts daily with all State leaders and agencies and regularly facilitates mayors' communication in our Capital.

Seminar for Newly Elected Officials

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

Every year the League offers this important program in two locations across the state to help serve the needs of municipal officials who are new to their positions or want a timely update on issues. Each seminar includes a networking luncheon and an open forum discussion, designed to specifically update and answer questions from newly elected officials. Attend these programs and get the information and answers you need about your new responsibilities. For more information, see the calendar on the top of the newsline or visit the [Seminar Calendar](#).

Don't Miss 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 at 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 toward Elected Officials to help them in the Municipal Budgeting Process. The program will take place on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at the Conference Center at Mercer. Additional program details and registration fees are available on the [Budgeting for Elected Officials Calendar Announcement](#).

Become a Municipal Pioneer! Be a Part of the Local Government Leadership Program

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

The League is proud to offer a voluntary recognition program that recognizes Elected Governing Body Members who complete additional training and advocacy. The program has three tiers: Municipal Leader, Municipal Innovator, and Municipal Pioneer. Each tier has an assigned number of points. Once an Elected Governing Body Member has earned the required points, they are awarded recognition at one of these tiers. The award will be a certificate of completion mailed to them as well as recognition at the Orientation Session at the Annual League Conference in Atlantic City.

Elected Governing Body Members can achieve each level by attending trainings, seminars, writing articles for the League's magazine, and advocating for municipal interests. When an Elected Governing Body Member has completed an eligible activity they will receive confirmation indicating the points earned. Once an Elected Governing Body Member has acquired the necessary amount of points, they complete an online application form and will receive a Local Government Leader certificate in the mail. Then at the Orientation session on Tuesday at the Annual League Conference held in November, they will be recognized (Officials who submit application forms after September 1 will be recognized at the next year's Conference).

More information on this program is available on the [Local Government Leadership Program webpage](#)