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IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

- March 4 & 11 “Budget Updates” at Holmdel and Cherry Hill
- March 9 “Health Benefits Negotiations Primer” at Cherry Hill
- March 11 [“Women in Municipal Government Day” at Princeton](#)
- March 16 “Family Medical Leave Act and Family Leave Act” at Jamesburg.
- March 30 [“Social Media for Public Officials” at Newark](#)
- March 31 [“Budget Update” at Paramus](#)

Also see the [Web Calendar](#) for more upcoming programs.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By James Anzaldi, Mayor, Clifton

More than 190 of our municipal colleagues from around the state attended the February 24 *Mayors Legislative Day* at the State House Annex.

Governor Christie supported our efforts to rein in pension costs, reduce expensive mandates, and seek better funding sources than the property tax to support a host of local needs.

Perhaps just as importantly legislators in attendance heard from the many mayors lined up at the microphone just how important it is for the state to provide near term relief from costs and mandates to effectively control property taxes.

There was an impromptu update By Mayor Tarantolo on important work being done by the League School Funding Reform Committee, and a call to action by Mayor Flannery on the detailed work of the League COAH Committee.

Later in day, NJN State House correspondent Zach Fink led a panel discussion on pension reforms, COAH, and municipal property tax relief. The panelist included Assembly Speaker Shelia Oliver, Assemblyman Louis Greenwald, Assemblyman Alex DeCroce, Senator Kevin O’Toole, Senator Paul Sarlo, Senator Thomas Kean, Jr., Eatontown Mayor Gerald Tarantolo, Bridgewater Mayor Patricia Flannery and Somerdale Mayor Gary Passanante.

If you did not attend the Annual Mayors Legislative Day, please make a special effort to get there next year. It is an unparalleled opportunity for mayors to communicate with the leadership in Trenton.

OFFICERS:

- JAMES ANZALDI**, President;
Mayor, Clifton
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Mayor, Buena Vista Township
- DANIEL CORONOTO**, 2nd Vice President
Deputy Mayor, Hampton Twp.
- JANICE S. MIRONOV**, 3rd Vice President
Mayor, East Windsor Township

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- JOSEPH TEMPESTA, JR.**
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- JANET W. TUCCI**
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- WILLIAM G. DRESSEL JR.**, Executive Director
- MICHAEL J. DARCY**, CAE, Asst. Executive Director

STATE LIBRARY HELPS YOUR RESIDENTS

The New Jersey State Library has created a web site that assists New Jersey residents and businesses to help them through tough economic times.

The site has a wide range of useful links that may be of assistance to local officials that are trying to assist their residents with their concerns.

Local officials should keep the site handy and if appropriate, promote its use in their publications.

The site: <http://gethelp.njlibraries.org/> has links and references in the following areas:

- New Jersey Work Tools
 - New Jersey Financial Tools
 - New Jersey Housing Tools
 - New Jersey Health Tools
 - New Jersey Parental Tools
 - Tools for Seniors
- The Mayor's Combat Kit: Materials and sources of information on buying a home, mortgage assistance and foreclosure, designed especially for Mayors: <http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/mayorkit.html>

MARCH IS BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

- visit <http://www.bianj.org/>

The Brain Injury Association of New Jersey asks all mayors to consider introducing and passing a proclamation declaring March as Brain Injury Awareness Month. A draft proclamation is attached here as a template.

There is a bipartisan Congressional Brain Injury Task Force that is co-chaired by New Jersey Congressman, Bill Pascrell, and enjoys membership of most of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation. Further, in 2006, Assembly Joint Resolution No. 85 was signed which designates the month of March of each year as Brain Injury Awareness Month in the State of New Jersey

FUTURE MUNICIPAL LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

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

All mayors received information on the scholarship competition. For copies of the package see http://www.njslom.org/ml012510_louis_bay.html

At this time, you should have your judging panel in place and some entries from constituent high school students. By March 15, you should have all your entries ready to be judged. And by April 2, you should be submitting your local winner to the League office along with a complete list of your local entries. Thank you for making this important opportunity possible for your high school juniors and seniors.

MAYORS TO ADVISE ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

-Contact Jon Moran JMoran@njslom.org

We want to assemble a League Advisory Committee to provide the Assembly Budget Committee with a broader perspective on local budget matters.

If you are interested in being a member of our advisory committee, or if you would like to suggest possible reforms, please e-mail League Legislative Analyst Jon Moran at jmoran@njslom.com Also, please ask other municipal officials in your County for their suggestions on possible reforms and share their responses with us.

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 95th 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.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

-Visit <http://www.njlmef.org/>

Social media has created opportunities and pitfalls as more public agencies grapple with this new communication phenomenon. Social media uses internet and web-based technologies to transform traditional broadcast media (one to many) into social media interactions (many to many). This includes such familiar applications as Linked-In, Facebook and Twitter.

Presenters will cover successfully launching a web-based advocacy campaign and protecting one's on-line reputation. Breakout panels include:

- Getting Started on Social Media, Best Practices,
- Case Studies on Successful Advocacy Campaigns
- Social Media's Longer Term Impact on Communications and Policy.

Upcoming Event:

Land Assemblage in a Hostile Environment - March 18, 2010

http://www.njslom.org/NJ_Alliance031810.pdf

Learn how to assemble/create land for redevelopment without condemnation. This program is co-sponsored with ICSC, NJEDA, NJLM and others.

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION – In Recognition of March as Brain Injury Awareness Month

-visit <http://www.bianj.org/>

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), of the 1.4 million individuals who sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year in the United States 50,000 die; 235,000 are hospitalized and 1.1 million are treated and released from an emergency department; and

Whereas, among children ages 0 to 14 years, TBI results in an estimated 2,685 deaths, 37,000 hospitalizations and 435,000 emergency visits annually; and

Whereas, the leading causes of TBI are falls (28%); motor vehicle-traffic crashes (20%); struck by/against events (19%); and assaults (11%); and

Whereas, the CDC estimates at least 3.17 million Americans currently have a long-term or lifelong need for help to perform activities of daily living as a result of a TBI and the annual estimated cost to society for medical care and lost wages exceeds \$60 billion; and

Whereas, each year in New Jersey there are nearly 9,000 traumatic brain injuries, resulting in hospitalization or death and this does not include the brain injuries that are treated in emergency departments and outpatient settings or those that go untreated; and,

Whereas, approximately 10% of these TBIs are fatal; and,

Whereas, individuals with severe brain injury suffer from serious physical impairments and a variety of perceptual, cognitive, psychiatric, emotional and behavioral complications, including impaired interpersonal and problem-solving skills, memory loss, decreased thought-processing abilities, speech and seizure disorders, and physical deficits; and

Whereas, the mission of the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey is to support and advocate for individuals affected by brain injury and raise public awareness through education and prevention; and

Whereas, the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey is part of an elite nationwide network of Chartered State Affiliates, through the Brain Injury Association of America, that provides on-going programs, services, education and advocacy to individuals with brain injury, their family members and friends and the professionals who serve them; and

Whereas, the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey provides the residents of New Jersey with a toll-free telephone number, (800) 669-4323, that directly connects callers, regardless of where the call originates within the state, to the Association; and

Whereas, the State Legislature and Governor, in 2006, passed Assembly Joint Resolution No. 85 designating the month of March of each year as Brain Injury Awareness Month which requests the Governor to issue proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.

Now, therefore, [**Governing Body**], do hereby proclaim that March 2010 as Brain Injury Awareness Month and encourage all residents to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs; become educated about brain injury; understand its causes, affects, and outcomes; and, to learn how to prevent brain injury in themselves, their significant others, and the community-at-large.

Statue Creates New Incentive for Municipalities to Have a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA)

-Contact Joyce Miller, Governmental Purchasing Association www.gpanj.org/

P.L. 2009, c. 166 amends the Local Public Contracts Law and redefines the requirement for Qualified Purchasing Agents (QPA).

Some of the major points of the bill:

- The requirement to have a Purchasing Agent is optional. However, if a Purchasing Agent is named, that individual must be a QPA.
- Municipalities without a QPA would have their bid threshold reduced and held at \$17,500. Currently, the threshold without a QPA is \$21,000.
- Municipalities with a QPA would have the option to raise their bid threshold to the one established by the Governor every five years. Currently, the threshold with a QPA is \$29,000. This threshold will be changed July 1, 2010 in accordance with the price index.
- The QPA must complete a series of training courses and pass a state-administered examination.
- Individuals who have been performing the duties of purchasing agent for at least three continuous years will have six months from the effective date to take the examination without taking the courses.
- The law takes effect in 13 months.