

April 2011



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IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

April 26- [Family Medical Leave Act and the NJ Family Leave Act -PNC, Holmdel](#)

April 27-Elections for Schools and Municipal Budgets

May 3- [Police and Fire Consolidation, PNC, Holmdel](#)

June 14- [Ethics and Conflicts of Interest, Bergen County, College, Paramus](#)

June 17- [E-mail Retention and Security, Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)

June 22- [Ethics and Conflicts of Interest, Burlington Township Municipal Center, Burlington Township](#)

June 24 -[E-mail Retention and Security, County College of Morris, Randolph](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By *Chuck Chiarello, Mayor, Buena Vista*

The League offers many programs for municipal officials including Professional Development Seminars. These seminars are developed to offer municipal officials a chance to learn, network, and maintain their licenses.

Topics for Seminars include:

- Newly-Elected Orientations
- Mayor's Legislative Day
- Executive Leadership Training for Mayor's and Council Presidents
- Ethics
- Budget and Audit Updates
- Police and Fire Consolidation
- E-mail Retention and Security
- Grants
- Labor Relations
- Interest Arbitration
- Women In Government

And many more!

In addition to our regular seminars the League also offers about 80+ educational sessions at our Annual Conference in Atlantic City November 15-18, 2011

For more Information on upcoming seminars or our 96th Annual Conference please visit the League website at www.njslom.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- ✓ The New Budget and Property Taxes
- ✓ Mayor's Conference Suggestions
- ✓ Value of League Membership(An Editorial)

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APRIL 27 ELECTIONS FOR SCHOOL AND MUNICIPAL BUDGETS

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

You may download the audio and video from a January 29 joint program produced by the League and the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) at <http://www.njsba.org/twopercent/> “Collaborating on Real Solutions to the 2% Cap”

The day-long program featured presentations and interaction on how municipalities and school districts can collaborate to produce efficiencies that will help both remain under the 2% cap. Our thanks to the NJSBA for their courtesy in making these downloads available.

The January 29 program was not designed to review the specifics of reviewing defeated school budgets. It was a proactive approach to producing cost savings so budgets would not get defeated.

Reviewing defeated school budgets is a process governed by a tight time table and specific actions. Resources on those specifics were assembled for the webinar in April 2010 and are posted at <http://njslom.org/letters/ml042210-recap-school-budgets.html>

2011 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

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

In December, the League mailed information to all mayors concerning the Annual Louis Bay II Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition. 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 1, so we can announce the three statewide winners by May7.

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATORS

-Contact Bill Dressel at ext. 122 or
bdressel@njslom.com

Legislators value the opinions and suggestions of their constituents. Through their professionally staffed district offices, legislators respond to requests for information about legislative matters, and provide assistance in dealing with State agencies.

To locate your legislator, use the League’s “[At Your Fingertips Legislative Roster](#)” available for purchase from the League or go to the NJ Legislature’s website, www.njleg.state.nj.us

RELATED LEAGUE ONLINE RESOURCES

Inside the Statehouse: Your Role in the Process
http://www.njslom.org/legislative_process_cover.html

League Legislative Bulletins
<http://www.njslom.org/bulletin.html>

Important Issue Alerts
<http://www.njslom.org/dearmay.html>

If you are interested in learning how to get more involved in the League's Legislative Advocacy Efforts, contact the League Executive Director, Bill Dressel at: bdressel@njslom.com

STATE BUDGET MAKERS NEED TO REMEMBER PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

(The following is the body of a letter, written by League Second Vice President and East Windsor Mayor Janice Mironov, and sent, last month, to the Editors of several New Jersey Newspapers. Mayor Mironov serves as the Chairperson of the League’s Statutory Funding Compliance Committee, which is seeking support for a plan to phase-out the State’s reliance on Energy Taxes, which are meant to be distributed for municipal property tax relief. We urge you to contact your State Senator and your two members of the General Assembly. Urge them to support us on these high priority issues.)

Giving municipal property taxpayers all the relief they deserve needs to be a part of "the new normal."

When the Governor advanced his budget proposal for the State’s next Fiscal Year, he announced that every municipality in New Jersey would be able to receive the same amount of general property tax relief funding this year, as they received in 2010. That’s good. While we are relieved, it is less than you are entitled to.

(State Budget Makers-Cont)

Last year, the State slashed over \$271 million from 2009's already diminished combination of Energy Tax and Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act property tax relief funding. And 1/3 of the total - \$3.35 million – was diverted from Open Space Payments In Lieu Of Taxes to the state's budget.

Every year, the State collects revenues that are supposed to come back to your municipality. These provide your local government with dollars that don't have to be raised through property taxes on you and your neighbors. Whenever the State decides NOT deliver this funding for property tax relief – and, instead, to use it for some other purpose – your local officials find it more and more difficult to keep your property taxes down.

During its budget deliberations, we should urge the Legislature to use the Governor's proposal as a baseline. If actual State revenue receipts exceed current anticipations, you should ask the Legislature to reduce its reliance on Energy taxes, which are supposed to be used for property tax relief; and to increase the distribution to your home town, as required by the statutes.

These are our priorities for this year's State Budget. But for the longer term, we need to end the State's reliance on local revenues to balance its budget. The Energy Tax revenues owed to local governments must begin to be restored. We want to see a State commitment this year and we will work with the Administration and the Legislature on a phased plan to wean the State off of its dependence on Energy Tax (and CMPTRA) funds, and to rededicate the dollars to municipal property tax relief.

SEEKING MAYORAL CONFERENCE SUGGESTIONS

-Contact Bill Dressel ext.122

bdressel@njslom.com or fax 609-695-0151

Your League staff has begun preparing the schedule of educational sessions for the 96th 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.

JUST HOW VALUABLE IS THE NEW JERSEY LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES?

By Mayor Jesse Tweedle Senior, Mayor of Pleasantville City

(In February, Pleasantville Mayor Jesse Tweedle attended the Executive Leadership Training for Mayor's and Council Presidents at the Conference at Mercer. He was so impressed with the program that he wrote this editorial for our magazine. The League is always working to support municipalities in any way we can. Here is one example of this)

I recently attended the "Executive Leadership Training Program for Mayors and Council Presidents" and I was able to gain informative and substantive knowledge from this program.

First of all I want to personally thank the New Jersey League of Municipalities President, Mayor Chuck Chiarello of Buena Vista Township for presiding over this orientation. The Executive Leadership Training Program is designed to provide mayors and council presidents with much needed training and direction to help manage their municipalities and constituents. The training strategically combined traditional classroom teaching, real world examples, and open forums to drive the point home. All attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions as well as network with other Mayors and Council Presidents. This environment was conducive to gaining their knowledge, experience and expertise. More importantly, the program gave me the opportunity to spend important valuable time with my Council President. I truly believe for the betterment of a municipality, it is extremely important that a Mayor and Council President work well together to understand and address the concerns of the municipality.

The New Jersey League of Municipalities coordinates several important relevant events each year. The value of attending these events are well worth considering. For example, they help to create ideas and solve municipal challenges. Attendees are given the opportunity to communicate with your peers and learn from their mistakes or expertise. The speakers provide relevant information on various topics which could pertain to your community. The New Jersey League of Municipalities events are designed to motivate and inspire you, meaning you will be productive in the days following the event. Overall, mixing with other government officials is encouraging and necessary. What you will learn is that we are not alone in governing during these difficult economic times. In this regard, The League of Municipalities is very valuable!