

Mayor's Newsline



IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

- Aug 11 [Understanding the New Pensions and Health Benefits Law, Robert Meyner Reception Center, Holmdel](#)
- Aug 16 [Understanding the New Pensions and Health Benefits Law, Crowne Plaza Monroe, Jamesburg](#)
- Sept 13 [Emergency Management: Utilities and Shore Communities, Egg Harbor](#)
- Sept 28 [Governing with Less Yet Doing More- Robert Meyner Reception Center, Holmdel](#)

- Annual League Business Meeting
- 2011 Mayor's Hall of Fame Nominations
- 96th Annual Conference Highlights
- 9th Annual Michael Pane Award
- Senior Olympics
- Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards
- NLC City Showcase Applications
- Budget and Reform Editorial

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Chuck Chiarello, Mayor, Buena Vista

We feel that it is vitally important for all elected and appointed officials to be aware of the ethics landscape especially given national, state and local developments. The Annual League Conference offers you an excellent value in keeping your staff well informed. This year the conference offers hundreds of hours of CEU's for your certified staff and education for all municipal officials in the area of ethics. There are at least four educational sessions involving ethics on Wednesday and Thursday of the conference week and our Affiliated Associations are providing additional training specific to their professional needs. For more, visit the [Ethics Resource Center](#).

When you consider all the valuable certification credits and information available for just \$50.00(pre-registration rate), it is clear that this is the best most cost effective method for you to keep your staff trained. And please take a moment to review the lower hotel rates. The combination of low registration fee and low housing rates make the decision to send your staff easy!

And please remember to register you staff early in August to take advantage of the reduced \$50 rate for members and \$100 for non-members. The rate goes up to \$60.00 on-site for members and \$120.00 for non-members, so be sure to get everyone registered as early as possible.

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- JANICE S. MIRONOV** 2nd Vice President
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MICHAEL J. DARCY, CAE, Asst. Executive Director

**LEAGUE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
MOVED TO EARLIER TIME**

In an effort make municipal officials' time at the Annual League Conference as cost effective as possible, the Annual Business meeting has been scheduled a day earlier than normal and will be held Thursday November 17, 2011 3:30pm– 5:30pm the location remains the same at the Sheraton Hotel second level, Pearl Ballroom. The meeting agenda will follow the traditional format including adoption of resolutions and Executive Board elections. Refreshments will include soft drinks, coffee, tea, cookies and pretzels. While only mayors or their registered designees may vote on business matters, all municipal officials are invited to participate in the discussion.

Please notify your governing bodies and municipal professionals who attend the Annual League Conference.

**2011 MAYOR'S HALL OF FAME
NOMINATIONS**

-Contact Michael Darcy 609-695-3481 ext. 116 or mdarcy@njslom.com

The League is accepting nominations for the 2011 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 16 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.

96th ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Click on www.njslom.org and go to the link for 96th Annual Conference to get housing forms and a preliminary schedule of topics that will be covered in League sessions. You can also view an early list of exhibitors. Prepare a "must visit" list of vendors.

When scheduling your time at the Annual Conference, don't forget to attend the Consulting Period on Tuesday November 15 from 2:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m. where you can speak one-on-one with hundreds of consultants and State agency representatives. Also, be sure to schedule the League Business Meeting at its new time Thursday November 17, at 3:30 p.m. in the Sheraton Hotel.

**NOMINATIONS FOR 9TH ANNUAL MICHAEL
A. PANE AWARD**

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

The ceremony will be held during the League's annual conference in Atlantic City, during the 96th Annual Conference of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities held on November 15-17, 2011.

Nominations for this award should include a short biography and a letter explaining your reasons. Deadline for nominations is **September 30, 2011**.

Please mail or fax nominations to:

Gayle A. Krygier
N.J. State League of Municipalities
222 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
Fax: (609)-695-5156

**WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP WILL AGAIN
HOST THE 2011 NEW JERSEY SENIOR
OLYMPIC GAMES**

On September 9, 10, and 11 2011 Woodbridge, will be hosting the 2011 New Jersey Senior Olympic Games. The Senior Olympic Games feature 16 sporting events geared to senior competition including:

- Archery
- Basketball
- Billiards
- Bocce
- Bowling
- Cycling
- Darts
- Golf
- And many more!

For more information about the 2011 New Jersey Senior Olympics or to find out about a special early registration discount please, go to:

www.njseniolympics.com or www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us; call the New Jersey Senior Olympic Headquarters at 973-618-1111; or contact Woodbridge Township Senior Olympic Chairpersons Pat Trombetta at 732-636-3910 or Frank St. Marie at 732- 636-9439

**FRIEND OF THE GOVERNOR'S
ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS
PROGRAM**

-Contact Dean Anderson at (609) 777-1949

We are pleased to announce that applications for the 2011 New Jersey Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards are now available. In year's past, many of you have helped to spread the word about the NJ Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards and we are hoping that you can assist us again this year. Please share this announcement with others you think may have interest in the awards.

This awards program was established in 2000 by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to recognize outstanding environmental performance, programs and projects in the state. Interest and support for this program has grown each year. Since the award's inception, over 100 businesses, individuals, municipalities, groups and institutions have received recognition for their environmental efforts.

The deadline for submitting an application is September 13, 2011. Winners of the 2011 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards will be invited to an awards ceremony and press event in late fall.

In order to download an awards application or to learn more about the awards program including past winners and project descriptions, please visit the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards website at: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/eeawards/>.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology (NJCAT) and the New Jersey League of Municipalities co-sponsor this program.

For more information, or to discuss any projects that you believe are worthy of recognition, please contact Dean Anderson, NJDEP Office of the Commissioner, at (609) 777-1949.

**NLC ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS,
PARTICIPANTS TO BE HIGHLIGHTED AT
CONGRESS OF CITIES**

-Contact Lara Malakoff at malakoff@nlc.org

The National League of Cities (NLC) is currently accepting applications for the 2011 City Showcase, NLC's premier program celebrating city achievements. Successful, creative programs from cities and towns across the country are encouraged to submit an application to participate.

The City Showcase celebrates cities for their achievements and provides city leaders and staff with the resources and networking opportunities they need to learn and grow.

Selected city programs will also be showcased on NLC's website and highlighted in Nation's Cities Weekly and other venues.

Programs that address a variety of topics relevant to cities will be considered, but emphasis will be placed on programs that are aligned with one or more of the conference's 2011 concurrent conference topics:

- Green Cities
- Economic Development
- Infrastructure
- Your City's Families

At the Congress of Cities and Exposition, participating programs are highlighted as models and educators. Program representatives will display and discuss their successes with conference attendees, providing them with innovative ideas for planning and problem solving in their own communities.

Representatives from participating programs will also have the opportunity to talk with one another about their successes, challenges and solutions and form ongoing connections with their peers from across the country.

Programs selected to participate will be provided with two free registrations to NLC's Congress of Cities and Exposition in Phoenix. Southwest Airlines, the official airline of the City Showcase, will make it possible for some participating cities to fly to Phoenix to share their successes with conference attendees. The cost of the exhibit space is covered by NLC. Additional scholarships may be awarded to participating programs for display and other travel expenses.

Applications are available now. The application deadline is August 15. Applicants will be notified during the month of August if they are selected.

“MOVING AHEAD ON THE BUDGET AND REFORM”

-Contact Robert M. Czech, Chair/CEO, NJ Civil Service Commission, (609)-292-4145

Now that the fiscal year 2012 state budget is in place, the impact on local budgets and state taxpayers is being assessed. And, at a time of national economic distress, there are positive developments in New Jersey. Governor Christie's efforts have resulted in bipartisan legislative approval to start controlling pension and health benefit costs. Both Senator Sweeney and Speaker Oliver showed great leadership in moving this legislation through the Senate and Assembly. These future savings will benefit taxpayers and employees by reducing tax impact and insuring that benefit funding is more solvent and sustainable. New Jersey's final budget also includes more property tax relief. By restoring \$850 million in aid to schools (\$450 million of which is targeted to Abbott school districts) after the adoption of local school budgets, the Administration is making it possible for municipalities to mitigate the effects of property tax increases. This is especially welcome in the non-Abbott towns that received little or nothing in previous years, but will now get some relief.

While acknowledging the importance of transitional aid to municipalities, we must weigh this against the above-mentioned school-aid increase, since many of the Abbott districts also benefited from the annual infusion of transitional funds.

However, as the Governor pointed out, we cannot ignore that transitional funding was originally designed as a temporary infusion to help cash-strapped municipalities meet exigent crises. It was not intended to be a permanent panacea factored into annual budget calculations far into the future. State taxpayers also insist that the transitional aid be used in a responsible manner.

The Governor's initial conditional veto of the aid will, ideally, start town governments and administrators thinking about ways to effectively manage their budgets without these special infusions. Though the funding was eventually restored, the message is clear.

Even with additional aid local governments must save. At the risk of sounding like a broken record (or, in today's technology, an iPod stuck on Lady Gaga), there are reforms, still languishing in the Legislature, that will not cost taxpayers a dime, but will give town governments and administrators the tools they need to realize significant savings without sacrificing services. To refresh, these tools include:

- ***Authorizing individual temporary layoffs.*** Commonly known as furloughs, these lessen the need to implement permanent personnel reductions, thereby retaining essential public safety levels.
- ***Seniority exceptions in a layoff for essential personnel*** deemed necessary by the appointing authority for operational and business continuity.
- ***Modifying the shared services law*** to allow more flexibility and discretion by participating jurisdictions in how the service is set up and operated without being subject to onerous over regulation in the management of their union contracts.

The bottom line is that challenging economic times remind us that ongoing aid without real reform is unsustainable. We can reduce costs and local tax impact without hurting taxpayers by automatically increasing appropriations. We encourage the Legislature to continue their efforts to help local government by adopting these additional tool kit measures.