

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

- Mar 5- [Economic Development Tools- A Program with Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno-East Windsor Senior Center, East Windsor Township](#)
- Mar 6- [Budget and Audit Updates- Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)
- Mar 13- [Pensions and Benefits Update-PNC, Holmdel](#)
- Mar 15- [Women in Government-Princeton Marriott, Plainsboro](#)
- Mar 20- [Disciplinary Actions in the Public Sector, PNC Holmdel](#)
- Mar 22- [Crisis Communications –Techniques Communicating With Constituents, the Media, and Service Providers, West Windsor](#)

- ✓ Economic Development Tools Program
- ✓ 2012 Conference Refunds
- ✓ Budget Update
- ✓ 2013 Municipal Directory
- ✓ Women In Government Day
- ✓ Weather Hotline
- ✓ 2013 Scholarship Competition
- ✓ Mayoral Conference Suggestions
- ✓ Grant Resource Center

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Janice S. Mironov, President

“Read Across America”

For the thirteenth consecutive year, the New Jersey Education Association and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities are working in partnership to promote reading and family literacy through **Read Across America-NJ**. A sample Proclamation and press release are available on the League website.

Read Across America is an annual celebration of reading that culminates this year on March 1, 2013 the day before what would have been the 109th birthday of the late **Theodore Seuss Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss**. Most of us and children throughout our communities know the many fun and valuable books of Dr. Seuss, from *Cat in the Hat* to *Green Eggs and Ham* to *The Places We Go* (a frequent school graduation gift). My personal favorite which I often read to elementary school children is the *Sneetches*, which is fun and a great lesson teacher.

In schools, libraries, and other venues across New Jersey, students, parents, and community members will participate in various events organized by local school employees, and we encourage you to join in the celebration of reading. The simplest way to get involved in **Read Across America** is to volunteer as a guest reader in a local school on March 1.

“Continued Under “Presidents Message”

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PRESIDENT MESSAGE CONTINUED

Other projects to help celebrate **Read Across America** include: Encourage your local governing body to adopt a proclamation designating March 1 as **Read Across America Day** in your community, and invite representatives of the local education association to be present when the resolution is adopted. Or conduct a book drive or donate books on behalf of the local governing body to schools and/or public libraries. Or plan to host a day or evening of family reading in the council chambers. Work with local school staff to organize the event and invite parents.

No matter how you choose to participate, **Read Across America-NJ** is a terrific way as mayor to support learning and family literacy in your community. And help the tremendous celebrated works of Dr. Seuss to live on with all of our future generations.

LT. GOVERNOR GUADAGNO OFFERS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

-To register please contact Becky Wright at bwright@njslom.org or 110

Do you want to learn about state resources and financial tools and incentives available to support and attract business to your municipality?

At the request of League President Janice S. Mironov, Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno has agreed to kick-off a business event followed by a panel which she has assembled of representatives from the New Jersey Business Action Center, the Economic Development Authority, the Department of Community Affairs, the Treasurer's Office, the State Library, the Board of Public Utilities and the Small Business Development Center. **THESE STATE REPRESENTATIVES WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND FUNDING AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT AND GROW BUSINESS IN OUR MUNICIPALITIES.** After their presentation, these experts also will be available for one-on-one discussions at this meeting.

This program will take place in East Windsor Township, just off Exit 8 of the New Jersey Turnpike at:

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Tuesday, March 5, 2013
East Windsor Senior Center
40 Lanning Boulevard
East Windsor Township

REGISTRATION IS FREE, BUT IT IS REQUIRED. Contact Becky Wright at bwright@njslom.com or 609-695-3481, ext. 110, to confirm your participation.

RESOLUTION TO DELEGATE REGISTRATION FEES, AND MEAL TICKET FEES FOR THE CANCELLED 2012 ANNUAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE

Thank you for your patience, support and understanding as we managed the cancellation of the 2012 Annual League Conference.

A resolution has been reached with our insurance provider. The League Officers and Executive Board have authorized full refunds on delegate registration fees and meal function fees. Applying refunds as a credit is not authorized. The League will communicate details and refunds directly to the municipal finance department issuing the check, or in the case of personal checks, directly to the person issuing the check. Exhibit space is being managed through a separate process. Refunds will be mailed from the League office. Due to the volume, we expect to complete the process by April 15, 2013.

We value our partnership and your commitment to New Jersey local government and the Annual League Conference. We look forward to rebuilding New Jersey in 2013 and an excellent 98th Annual League Conference November 19-21, 2013.

We are starting preparations for this year's conference and going forward you will receive normal conference communications on delegate registrations, meal ticket events, and hotel accommodations as you have in the past.

If you have any questions about the refunds, please call the League office at 609-695-3481 and speak with Marie Johnson at extension 113 or Gayle Krygier at extension 119.

BUDGET UPDATE

-Contact Jon Moran at jmoran@njslom.org or ext 121

As the Division of Local Government Services (the Division) indicated in its February 27 Local Finance notice (LFN 2013-11), almost all municipalities should anticipate level aid, when CMPTRA, the Energy Tax and Watershed Aid are added together. In order to avoid the Energy Tax "poison pill," the State will classify more CMPTRA dollars as Energy Tax dollars. This practice (authorized by wording in the budget document that permits the shift "notwithstanding" the requirements of P.L. 1999, Chap. 168) has been used in eight of the past 11 State Fiscal Years.

The proposal would not provide Open Space PILOT funding (\$6.5 million in the State's current budget) to any municipalities during the State's next Fiscal Year. As noted by the Division, funding was distributed last October for use in calendar year 2013 and municipalities can apply it in their 2013 budgets. Going forward, language in the Treasurer's Budget Summary (Section V, page 80) states that municipalities "can anticipate an identical amount (the same as was distributed in October, 2012) in their calendar year 2014 budgets." The League will work with the Administration and the Legislature to ensure continuing funding for those who rely on this revenue.

Recognizing the contributions made by our volunteer first responders and the sacrifices they make to serve their fellow citizens, the League thanks the Governor for proposing a 35% increase in funding for volunteer first aid training. The Emergency Medical Technician Training Fund (EMTTF) was established in 1992 to reimburse EMS volunteer ambulance, first aid and rescue personnel for costs associated with training and testing for those who are seeking certification and recertification as emergency medical technicians. The funding for the program comes from a diversion of 50 cents from municipal court costs resulting from a violation of motor vehicle laws.

Due to the initial delay in establishing the statutorily required EMTTF Advisory Council and associated regulations, and collection of funds without spending, the EMTTF had carried a surplus since inception. For years, this carry-forward surplus accommodated expenses that exceeded collections. In SFY 2009, the EMTTF retained a \$4M surplus. In December, 2009, the State Treasurer transferred that \$4 million from the EMTTF to the State's General Fund, in order to help offset the State's budget shortfall. Since then, funding has been limited and reimbursements only available for initial training, not for recertification.

The League thanks the Governor for this proposal, which will increase the training reimbursement for new volunteers from \$550 to \$750. And the League joins the Governor in thanking our emergency first responders for all they do – not only in terms of urgent care, but also for the property tax relief they provide by their selfless service.

The League is concerned with a proposed diversion of \$21 million from the State Recycling Fund to the General Fund. Beginning on April 1, 2008, a \$3.00 per ton tax is levied on the owner or operator of every solid waste facility as well as on solid waste collectors that transport solid waste for out-of-state disposal. Monies in the fund are used for: direct recycling grants to counties and municipalities; aid to counties for preparing, revising, and implementing solid waste management plans; State recycling program planning and program funding; aid to counties for public information and education programs concerning recycling programs; and for State grants to institutions of higher education to conduct research in recycling. The statute specifies that no less than 60% of the proceeds must be returned as tonnage grants to municipalities and counties. Respectfully, the League asks the Legislature to review that proposed diversion to make certain that our recycling programs get all the support they deserve.

Finally, the League commends the Governor for proposing the establishment of a \$40 million "Sandy contingency fund," to cover recovery costs not funded by the Federal government. As more details become available, the League will provide further analysis.

2013 MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

-Contact Dee Kotch ext.115or dkotch@njslom.com

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 \$25 each for members and PDF copies are \$49 for members. Use it to keep in touch with your colleagues around the state.

SAVE THE DATE!!- WOMEN IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT "WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT DAY" - MARCH 15, 2013

-Contact Lori Buckelew ext 112 or lbuckelew@njslom.com

The Women in Municipal Government Committee will be holding their 5th annual "Women in Government Day" on Friday, March 15, 2013 at the Princeton Marriott. For more Information on this program please click the following link <http://www.njslom.org/WIMG-Day-031513.html>

WEATHER HOTLINE FOR SEMINAR CANCELLATIONS

The League will announce emergency seminar cancellations via recorded announcement on our Weather Hotline: **609-695-3481 ext. 200** and post announcements on our website www.njslom.org after 6:00am on the morning of the meeting.

2013 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

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

In January, the League mailed information to all mayors concerning the Annual Louis Bay II Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition. League Past President 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 2, so we can announce the three statewide winners by May 3.

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 98th 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.

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT – RESOURCE FOR SEEKING GRANTS

-For More Information please visit <http://www.njslom.org/grants/grants-subscription-form.html>.

NJLM is pleased to offer our members an exciting new member benefit. We have partnered with GrantStation.com, an online grant-seeking resource for nonprofits, local and state governments and educational institutions, to offer our members a discounted rate to use their online database of funders and information on grants and grant writing. League members may purchase a full annual membership to GrantStation.com for only \$95. This is over 85% off of their regular rate of \$699. A subscription to GrantStation.com provides the user with access to their premiere suite of online grant research resources. You can search through thousands of private and governmental funding opportunities at the local, state and federal level. You can also use their articles and tutorials to enhance your grant writing and grant strategies.

For more information on this program or to subscribe visit <http://www.njslom.org/grants/grants-subscription-form.html>.

This new member service is part of our *Grants Resource Center*, the League's online tool providing a listing of links to grant opportunities, resources and information to assist our membership in researching and finding funding opportunities. Additionally, each month our site includes links to open funding opportunities and an article highlighting grant issues and the ways in which municipalities can utilize funding. Also through our partnership with GrantStation.com, members may sign up for a weekly email service to have opportunities delivered to their email inbox (separate from the paid service mentioned above, emails are a free NJLM benefit). Through a partnership with Triad Associates, we also offer a free Grant Consultation Service to provide general grant guidance, available to our membership only. Visit our *Grant Resource Center* at www.njslom.org/grants.html.