

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

May 15

[Municipal Preservation: Past and Future, Continuing the Success of Municipal Preservation-Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)

May 27

Memorial Day

June 6

[How Restore Civility in Public Discourse-Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)

June 14

[One Day Mini Conference-Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)

June 18

[A Review of the Open Public Records Act, Crowne Plaza Monroe, Monroe Twp](#)

- ✓ Peace Officers Day
- ✓ One Day Mini Conference
- ✓ New Navy Vessel
- ✓ CEU Tracking System
- ✓ Conference Housing Forms
- ✓ Grant Resource Center
- ✓ 2013 Scholarship Competition
- ✓ Hurricane Sandy Fraud

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Janice S. Mironov, President

Public Utilities Improvements Needed

Public utilities need to demonstrate better planning and preparation for and much better response to large scale power outages. Even before Super Storm Sandy, Mayors expressed concerns with the performance of electric and gas power utilities before, during and after severe weather events. These concerns led to meetings by the League with utility company executives and BPU officials, as well as public hearings, organized and facilitated by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). A BPU study and order has been released, and a number of bills introduced regarding utility operations. The high importance to Mayors led the League to establish a special committee to review proposals and develop positions.

Needed improvement and enhancements to infrastructure, systems and communications must be front and center, as the Administration and NJ Legislature consider bills and the NJ Board of Public Utilities reviews requests for rate increases and needed actions to better ensure uninterrupted dependable power to homes and businesses and priority and emergency facilities within our communities.

The League supports **Senate Bill S-26 and Assembly Bill A-3671**, known as "The Reliability, Preparedness, and Storm Response Act," which would require the BPU to develop and enforce electric utility performance benchmarks.

"Continued Under "Presidents Message"

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PRESIDENT MESSAGE CONTINUED

In addition, it would require electric public utilities to provide periodic reliability performance reporting, at least annual. Importantly, the plan must include the designation of public utility staff to communicate with local officials and relevant regulatory agencies.

The violation of any law, rule, regulation, or BPU order would subject an offending utility to a civil administrative penalty not to exceed \$25,000 for each violation. Each day during which the violation continues would constitute an additional violation, up to a \$2,000,000 maximum for any related series of events.

The fine proceeds would be deposited in a special revenue fund, the "Board of Public Utilities Civil Penalty Fund". The fund monies must be used for the improvement of public utility, service quality and reliability. Any fines imposed by this act cannot be recoverable from ratepayers. We will ask for assurances that this funding will not be diverted to other uses.

Aside from that concern, we support Senate Bill S-26, which has been referred to the Senate Economic Growth Committee, and A-3671, which awaits action in the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee.

The League also supports **Assembly Bill A-2760**, which mirrors several of the provisions of S-26/A-3671. A-2760 requires the BPU to establish uniform State-wide reliability standards for electric and gas public utilities. Notable differences between the two initiatives relate to the specificity of plan requirements. Also, while Senate Bill S-26/Assembly Bill A-3671 would apply to both investor-owned public utilities and municipal utilities authorities, the standards proposed in A-2760 would apply to an investor-owned public utility, under the jurisdiction of BPU that is investor-owned and transmits and distributes either electricity or natural gas to end users within the State.

The increased penalty provisions are the same in both initiatives. So, again, we will ask for assurances that this funding will not be diverted to other uses. Aside from that concern, we support A-2760, which was reported out of Committee on October 18, 2012, and awaits action on the Assembly Floor.

There are other measures and legislation supported by the League and we will keep you posted. Please follow our alerts and add your voice to the need for action. As Mayors, we need to see improvements to the operations of our vital power utilities.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY MAY 15

Since 1962, Peace Officers Memorial Day is held annually in the United States on May 15 in honor of federal, state and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. It is observed in conjunction with Police Week. While it is not a public holiday, many communities hold memorial services and fly the flag at half staff. A national memorial service is held in Washington DC May 15.

NJLM MINI CONFERENCE OFFERS LICENSED OFFICIALS A CHANCE TO EARN UP TO 8 CEU CREDITS IN ONE DAY!

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

On June 14, 2013 at the Conference Center at Mercer in West Windsor, the League will offer its first Mini One Day Conference. This event will feature about 10 educational sessions on a wide range of topics including Shared Services, Ethics, Elections, Licensing, Estimated Tax Billing, and Emergency Purchasing to name a few. Most Attendees will be able to earn 8 CEU credits in one day. To learn more about this program and the credits that are offered please visit the following link: <http://www.njslom.org/seminar-documents/2013-june-14-mini-conf.html>

US NAVY TO NAME NEW VESSEL AFTER STATE CAPITAL

By winter of 2014, the US Navy is set to complete one of its newest Joint High Speed Vessels (JHSV). The new vessel will be named United States Naval Ship (USNS) Trenton after New Jersey's Capitol City. Ray Mabus Secretary of the Navy explained that, "Trenton displays American values of community, perseverance and resourcefulness at their very best. I chose to name the joint high speed vessel after Trenton to honor those values and the men and women of the city as well as the state of New Jersey."

The JHSV can transport 600 tons and travel about 1200 Nautical Miles at the speed of 35 knots. This vessel is also able to dock at shallow locations and has a flight deck for helicopters and an off load ramp that allows vehicles to drive on and off the deck easily. This vessel is important for small relief operations where docks or ports are damaged.

USNS Trenton joins other three other ships that bear the cities' name including the first USS Trenton which was a wood hulled screw steamer wrecked in 1889, a second USS Trenton which was an Omaha Class Cruiser decommissioned in 1945, and a third vessel, the Austin Class Amphibious Transport Dock decommissioned in 2007.

For More Information on the USNS Trenton and other Navy ships that bear the names of New Jersey towns, click on the links below:

Facts about the ship:

http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=1400&ct=4-

Picture of the Ship:

http://www.navy.mil/view_image.asp?id=142230-

Ships with Names of towns in New Jersey:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:United_States_Navy_New_Jersey-related_ships

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR CEU'S AT THE 2013 LEAGUE CONFERENCE

-Contact Danielle Holland-Htut or dholland@njslom.org

Check for more updates on twitter @NJLeague

In order to provide more opportunities for Attendees to earn their Continuing Education Units (CEU's) and increase the educational value of the Annual Conference, the League will now have badge scanning in every classroom at the Atlantic City Convention Center. Because of this, the procedures for the Conference Tracking System have changed.

For Sessions with CEU's

- There will be no CEU Volunteers present at the doors. Instead attendees will self scan-in and out. Desktop Scanners will be present at the entrance of each room.
- Following the conference, the attendees will log on to the Tracking System website and download their CEU's the same way they have done in previous years.

All ATTENDEES scanning for credit MUST self scan in and out. This is a requirement of all accrediting bodies to receive CEU's.

NEW THIS YEAR!
VOLUNTARILY VERIFY YOUR ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE SESSIONS

-Contact Danielle Holland-Htut or dholland@njslom.org
Check for more updates on twitter @NJLeague

- For those attendees who aren't receiving CEU's but wish to track their attendance, they have the option to self scan in and out of every session utilizing the badge scanners in each classroom.
- Following the Conference, attendees can access their attendance verification by logging-on to the League Tracking System from a link on the League website, and utilizing their badge number, print out their attendance verification

98th ANNUAL CONFERENCE HOUSING FORMS COMING

-Contact Dee Kotch ext. 115 or dkotch@njslom.com
Check for more updates on twitter @NJLeague

Municipal housing forms for the 98th Annual Conference will be mailed to all Municipal Clerks in early June. Non-municipal forms will be available in the June issue of *New Jersey Municipalities* magazine. Be sure to get your housing requests in early to help ensure your requirements get first consideration.

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT – RESOURCE FOR SEEKING GRANTS

-For More Information please visit www.njslom.org/grants.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. If you would like to take a tour of the GrantStation website and what a subscription offers, you may access a past tour at www.grantstation.com/public/tour.asp.

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.

**PARTICIPATING MAYORS FOR THE LOUIS BAY 2ND
FUTURE MUNICIPAL LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP
COMPETITION**

Our thanks to these mayors who submitted local students' entries for the scholarship competition. The 3 mayors submitting winning entries will be sent \$1000 checks from the League to present to the students. The 3 winning essays will appear in the October issue of *New Jersey Municipalities Magazine*. All participating mayors will receive certificates which they can present to every local student that **submitted an entry to the mayor's office.**

**PARTICIPATING MAYORS FOR THE LOUIS BAY 2ND
FUTURE MUNICIPAL LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP
COMPETITION CONT.**

<i>Mayor's Name</i>	<i>Mayor's Municipality</i>
Honorable Vince Barra	Allendale Borough
Honorable Carolyn Gaziano	Bernards Township
Honorable Sue A. Barber	Buena Vista Township
Honorable Brian J. Carlin	Burlington Township
Honorable John J. Cosgrove	Fair Lawn Borough
Honorable Carl F. Lazzaro	Fredon Township
Honorable J. Nolan Higgins	Freehold Borough
Honorable Daniel C. Conkling	Green Township
Honorable Michael R. Melfi	Hackensack City
Honorable Philip Yetter	Hampton Township
Honorable Rose Heck	Hasbrouck Heights Borough
Honorable Richard S. Goldberg	Hawthorne Borough
Honorable Timothy C. McDonough	Hope Township
Honorable Robert W. Collins	Kinnelon Borough
Honorable Richard Hughes	Lafayette Township
Honorable Robert C. Neff, Jr.	Little Silver Borough
Honorable Susan Cohen	Manalapan Township
Honorable Michael Fressola	Manchester Township
Honorable Gerard P. Scharfenberger	Middletown Township
Honorable Robert Greenbaum	Mount Olive Township
Honorable Jim Brown	Mullica Township
Honorable Nicholas Sacco	North Bergen Township
Honorable Owen Henry	Old Bridge Township
Honorable Karen Scheffler	Palmyra Borough
Honorable Russell C. Johnson III	Pitman Borough
Honorable Peter A. Cantu	Plainsboro Township
Honorable George D. Fosdick	Ridgefield Park Village
Honorable David Fried	Robbinsville Township
Honorable Jonathan Rose	Sussex Borough
Honorable Victor J. Marotta	Vernon Township
Honorable Kenneth Short	Washington Township (Morris)
Honorable Stephen Pote	Watchung Borough
Honorable Shing-Fu Hsueh	West Windsor Township
Honorable Jeff Herb	White Township
Honorable Rudolf E. Boonstra	Wyckoff Township

NEW JERSEY'S STATEWIDE SANDY FRAUD WORKING GROUP AIMS TO PROTECT CONSUMERS DURING HEIGHT OF POST-SUPERSTORM SANDY RECOVERY SEASON

By Jeffrey S. Chiesa
Attorney General

While most New Jerseyans responded to Superstorm Sandy with resilience and generosity, our state also has seen some unscrupulous individuals seeking to profit illegally from the misfortune of others – including fly-by-night, unregistered home repair contractors, and questionable solicitations from purported charities.

My Office is committed to protecting those who lost their homes and property to Superstorm Sandy, to ensure they will not be victimized again.

To that end, we created New Jersey's Statewide Sandy Fraud Working Group to serve as the State's clearinghouse for investigations and prosecution of criminal and civil fraud related to Sandy and the post-disaster recovery process.

The working group consists of representatives from the Divisions of Criminal Justice and Consumer Affairs, State Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor, New Jersey State Police, and the Atlantic, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean County Prosecutor's Offices; and is overseen by the State Directors of Criminal Justice and Consumer Affairs. It coordinates all investigative and enforcement efforts at the State, county, and local levels to ensure all cases are referred and prosecuted as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Any individual who is a victim or witness of fraud committed in the aftermath of Sandy, including but not limited to home repair fraud, insurance fraud, and fraudulent charitable solicitations, should contact New Jersey's Statewide Sandy Fraud Working Group at 855-SANDY39 (855-726-3939) or www.StopSandyFraud.org.

We will need to apply heightened vigilance throughout our state, especially as New Jersey moves toward the next phase of disaster recovery. The Division received a total of 1,528 complaints about home improvement issues during the entire 12 months of last year – and we expect home improvement complaints to increase as New Jerseyans repair the wreckage caused by this unprecedented storm. Indeed, we have seen an influx of new contractors coming into New Jersey since the storm.

While many of these contractors properly registered with the state, our investigators have identified and contacted hundreds more who have not.

The Attorney General's Office prepared for a surge of fraud-related complaints in the days before Sandy made landfall. We mobilized criminal and Consumer Affairs investigators immediately after the storm struck the Jersey Shore, and took strong enforcement action against businesses and others seeking to illegally take advantage of those displaced by the storm.

All told, we received more than 2,100 price gouging complaints. We filed lawsuits against a total of 24 hotel and gas stations accused of violating New Jersey's price gouging law by increasing their prices to prohibited, excessive levels during the state of emergency.

More recently, we assigned a team of investigators to scour the hardest-hit areas of Atlantic, Monmouth, and Ocean counties, and speak directly with home improvement contractors working to rebuild homes in those areas. The team directly contacted a total of 1,303 contractors. They instructed those who were not registered, to register with the Division of Consumer Affairs as well as to comply with New Jersey's Consumer Fraud Act and all other applicable laws and regulations. Since Sandy, the Division has received registration applications from more than 4,000 home improvement contractors – a 119 percent increase over the same period last year. Any contractors who fail to register will face notices of violation and civil penalties.

The Office of the Attorney General has also been diligent in enforcing the State's charitable solicitation laws. In February, we filed suit against an allegedly deceptive Superstorm Sandy charity for numerous violations. The Division of Consumer Affairs also issued warnings to more than two dozen newly created groups that appeared to be soliciting donations in the name of Sandy victims, and is closely monitoring their activities to ensure compliance with New Jersey's Charities Registration Act and the Consumer Fraud Act.

We have also taken action in other areas. We filed a lawsuit successfully blocking an allegedly fraudulent "Superstorm Sandy Reconstruction Summit," alleging that the organizer falsely implied he and his forum were affiliated with or endorsed by federal, state, or local government agencies. As noted in the lawsuit, the organizer's background includes a personal bankruptcy filing that was opposed by the U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee due to alleged fraud, and approximately 20 outstanding judgments, many stemming from post-disaster "summits" he held in other states.

The Division of Consumer Affairs partnered with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to create an easily searchable database, at www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/floodedcars, that now includes approximately 30,000 vehicles that have been processed by the MVC as either flood-titled or salvage-titled since Sandy made landfall.

Consumers and enforcement officials are urged to contact New Jersey's Statewide Sandy Fraud Working Group with tips and complaints. The working group will provide all information to the appropriate agency, share across jurisdictional lines, and will not hesitate to bring criminal charges where appropriate.

There is no excuse, legally or morally, for any business or individual to attempt to illegally victimize and profit from those who suffered losses due to a natural disaster. The Attorney General's Office continues to fight hard against alleged scammers in Sandy's wake, and we are sending a clear message to any out-of-state or homegrown con artists, of all stripes and varieties: Either stay out of New Jersey, or comply fully with our criminal and consumer protection laws.