

# Mayor's Newsline



March 2014

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Suzanne Walters, President*

The first quarter of 2014 has been quite eventful. We have seen historic snow storms, the implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act, multi-million dollar cuts in government budgets; calls for forced municipal consolidation; and more.

With all that is happening, I urge you to continue to lead your communities through these challenges to a better future. I urge you to find creative ways to respond to the needs of your citizens, especially those most at risk.

One of the ways to help your municipalities is to attend our 22<sup>nd</sup> Mayors Legislative Day that has been rescheduled from its February date of March 12 at the Statehouse Annex. This event will feature speakers from the Governors Cabinet as well as a Legislative panel with members of the Legislature. To find out more about this event visit the link: <http://www.njslom.org/letters/2014-0204-leg-day.html>

Please join us for this important event and take the opportunity to network with your peers and discover new solutions to the problems your Municipality faces.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

- Mar 4- [Budget, Ethics, and Procurement Updates- Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)
- Mar 7- [Municipal Websites, Social Media, and Internet Security for Municipalities Webinar- Your Computer](#)
- Mar 12- [22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mayors Legislative Day, Statehouse Annex, Trenton](#)
- Mar 18- [Implications of Social Media-Robert Meyner Reception Center, Holmdel](#)
- Mar 19- [Women in Government Day-Princeton Marriott, Plainsboro](#)

- ✓ Mayors Legislative Day
- ✓ 2014 Municipal Directory
- ✓ Women in Municipal Government Day
- ✓ Mayoral Conference Suggestions
- ✓ Louis Bay Scholarship Competition
- ✓ New Jersey Turns 350
- ✓ Difference between SSDI and SSI
- ✓ NJM "Don't Text and Drive" Campaign

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**ATTEND THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
MAYORS LEGISLATIVE DAY**

*-Contact Danielle Holland-Htut ext. 118 or [dholland@njslom.com](mailto:dholland@njslom.com)*

Be sure to register for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mayors Legislative Day to be held March 12, 2014 at the State House Annex in Trenton. This is a great way to kick off your administration by hearing about the State's legislative agenda from the Governor, Administration officials, and key members of the Senate and Assembly. For more information please click on the following link: <http://www.njslom.org/letters/2014-0204-leg-day.html>

**2014 MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY**

*-Contact Dee Kotch ext. 115 or [dkotch@njslom.com](mailto: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 and PDF copies are \$49. Use it to keep in touch with your colleagues around the state.

**SAVE THE DATE!!-  
WOMEN IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT "WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT DAY"  
- MARCH 19, 2014**

*-Contact Lori Buckelew ext. 112 or [lbuckelew@njslom.com](mailto:lbuckelew@njslom.com)*

The Annual Women in Government Celebration Day honors the contributions of women in public service. This year we are honoring women who demonstrate a commitment to advancing women's active participation in government. During this program we will also present the "Outstanding Woman in Government Award" to Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette, Former Department of Community of Affairs Commissioner and Majority Whip of the New Jersey General Assembly and current Administrator, City of East Orange

The Women in Government Day event will take place at the Princeton Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. For more information and registration cost please visit: <http://www.njslom.org/WIMG-2014.html>

**SEEKING MAYORAL CONFERENCE SUGGESTIONS**

*-Contact Bill Dressel ext. 122*

*[bdressel@njslom.com](mailto:bdressel@njslom.com) or fax 609-695-0151*

Your League staff will shortly begin preparing the schedule of educational sessions for the 99th 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.

**2014 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

*-Contact Michael Darcy ext. 116 or [mdarcy@njslom.com](mailto: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 and 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 2, so we can announce the three statewide winners by May 7.

## NEW JERSEY TURNS 350

- Visit [www.officialnj350.com](http://www.officialnj350.com) for more information

2014 Marks New Jersey's 350<sup>th</sup> Birthday. To celebrate this historic event, the New Jersey Historical Commission has set up the website [www.officialnj350.com](http://www.officialnj350.com). Use this site to learn historical facts about New Jersey, see what other communities are doing to celebrate, and find information about how to create your own celebration.

### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY AND SSI DISABILITY

-For More Information visit: [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

Many have asked what is the difference between Social Security disability and SSI disability? David Vinokurov, District Manager – Trenton, NJ, Social Security Administration has provided the following information, with detailed links, to help you and your constituents/clients further understand these two programs.

The **Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program** is financed with Social Security taxes paid by workers, employers, and self-employed persons.

- The worker will get [Medicare](#) coverage automatically after receiving disability benefits for two years.
- To be eligible for a Social Security benefit, the worker must earn sufficient credits based on taxable work to be "[insured](#)" for Social Security purposes.
- Disability benefits are payable to:
  - blind or disabled workers
  - [their children](#)
  - [widow\(er\)s](#)
  - [adults disabled since childhood](#)
- The amount of the monthly disability benefit is based on the [Social Security earnings record](#) of the insured worker.

See [Understanding the Benefits](#) for a complete explanation SSDI.

The **Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program** is financed through general revenues from taxes, meaning benefits are not based on your prior work history.

- In most states, beneficiaries will automatically be eligible for [Medicaid](#).
- **SSI** benefits are payable to:
  - individuals age 65 or older
  - adults who are disabled or blind
  - [children who are disabled or blind](#)
- Eligibility requirements:
  - have limited [income](#) and [resources](#) meet the living arrangement requirements
  - a U.S. citizen or national, or in one of certain categories of aliens.
- The monthly payment varies up to the maximum [federal benefit rate](#), which may be [supplemented by the state](#).

See [Understanding Supplemental Security Income](#) for a complete explanation of **SSI**

A wealth of information, dealing with topics like applying for disability, retirement, Medicare or spouses benefits, to obtaining a proof of income letter, changing an address or phone number, getting a replacement Medicare card or a Social Security Benefit Statement, is available at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**NEW JERSEY MANUFACTURERS (NJM) OBTAINS 50,000 “DON’T TEXT AND DRIVE” PLEDGES- WILL DONATE \$50,000 TO BENEFIT NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

*-For More Information, contact Eric Stenson, 609-883-1300 ext 7281*

NJM Insurance Company has announced that it reached its goal of securing 50,000 pledges from people throughout the Garden State who have promised not to text while driving.

The Company has encouraged and promoted a culture of safety among its policyholders since its founding in 1913. In line with this vision, and in honor of its 100th anniversary in 2013, the Company launched its Don't Text and Drive initiative, and promised to donate \$1, up to \$50,000, for each pledge taken to be shared equally among five New Jersey-based non-profit organizations: Autism New Jersey; the Community Food Bank of New Jersey; Make-A-Wish New Jersey; National Multiple Sclerosis Society - New Jersey Metro Chapter; and Special Olympics New Jersey.

A check presentation to the charities occurred in February.

"We remain fully committed to supporting and improving safety awareness in our state," said NJM Vice President of Public Affairs, Mike Van Wagner. "Our Don't Text and Drive campaign had the dual benefit of promoting safe driving habits while helping to support five very worthwhile organizations."

In addition to its Don't Text and Drive campaign, NJM launched a Teen Driver Safety Program in 2013. Fully funded by NJM, school districts throughout New Jersey can partner with NJM's School Safety Officer, a retired New Jersey State Trooper, for presentations to students about safe teen driving habits. In June 2013, NJM also donated state-of-the-art driving simulators to all 55 New Jersey high schools that participated in the "U Got Brains" Champion Schools Program. Under this program, schools develop projects intended to promote safe driving habits and increase awareness about the dangers of distracted driving.

"The importance of teaching and reinforcing careful driving habits cannot be overstated" said Van Wagner. "We hope that these important efforts will go a long way in making New Jersey a safer place to drive."

NJM was founded in 1913 as a workers' compensation provider available to companies that were members of the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA). NJM's culture of safety began then, when factory owners who operated safe facilities realized savings in their workers' compensation costs. Today, NJM is one of the largest providers of workers' compensation and personal auto insurance in the state, and a major carrier of homeowners and commercial auto insurance. The Company has paid \$5.4 billion in collective dividends to policyholders, not stockholders, since 1918.