

Mayor's Newsline



April 2014

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

- Apr 22- Earth Day
- April 23- [Leaves of Absence in New Jersey: A Look at FMLA, FLA, and ADA-Robert Meyner Reception Center, Holmdel](#)
- April 29- [User Friendly Budget Webinar-Your Computer](#)
- May 9- [A Review of the Open Public Records Act, Galloping Hill Golf Course, Kenilworth](#)
- June 13- [NJLM Mini Conference, Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)
- June 20- [A Review of the Open Public Records Act, Deptford Recreational Building, Woodbury](#)

- ✓ 2013 Conference CEUS Deadline
- ✓ 99th Annual Conference Housing
- ✓ 2014 Municipal Directory
- ✓ Mayoral Conference Suggestions
- ✓ Louis Bay Scholarship Competition
- ✓ NJLM Grant Resource Center
- ✓ Mayors Wellness Campaign

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Suzanne Walters, President

On March 12, 175 Mayors and other local elected officials gathered in Trenton for the League of Municipalities' 22nd Annual Mayors' Legislative Day program. The program opened with presentations by Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Richard Constable, Board of Public Utilities President Dianne Solomon and Chief Advisor to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection Ray Cantor.

Of particular importance to local officials, Commissioner Constable promised level municipal property tax relief funding, lower municipal employees' pension bills and another year of property tax increases below 2 percent. The Commissioner again urged local officials to contact their state legislators on the need to make the 2 percent limitation on arbitration awards permanent. President Solomon spoke to Mayors on the need to educate consumers on the potential benefits and dangers of third-party energy supply contracts, the need to educate themselves on the potential benefits and dangers of municipal energy aggregation and on the new Energy Resiliency bank for local government building improvements.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONTINUED

Mr. Cantor detailed a number of DEP's Sandy recovery programs and on the Department's ongoing commitment to work with local government to streamline, expedite and lessen the costs involved in meeting permitting requirements. After these Executive Branch officers fielded a number of questions from the attendees, Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno gave a lively speech on Administrative efforts to promote economic development and asked Mayors to let her know what New Jersey can do to help specific local businesses – large and small – continue to prosper and expand employment opportunities.

Next, veteran NJ 101.5 State House News Correspondent Kevin McArdle moderated a panel discussion on major state policy matters. The panel included Assemblywoman Betty Lou DeCroce, Camden Mayor Dana Redd, East Windsor Mayor and Immediate Past President Janice Mironov, Princeton Mayor Liz Lempert, Senate President Steve Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, Senator Sam Thompson and Hope Mayor and League Past President Tim McDonough. In response to Mr. McArdle's first question, both Senate President Sweeney and Speaker Prieto assured the Mayors that they intended to act on an extension to the soon-to-be expiring 2 percent cap on the increased costs of police and fire contract arbitration awards. This was followed by a discussion of the uncertainty municipalities face as a result of State inaction on affordable housing rules and requirements. All of the panel participants recognized the need for clarity, and specific reforms were advanced and discussed. After a far-ranging discussion of municipal shared services and the prospects for consolidations, Mr. McArdle invited questions from attendees.

The program concluded with the League's 16th Annual Local Elected Officials Hall of Fame ceremony, recognizing the public service of individuals who have dedicated twenty or more years of their lives as mayors and/or local governing body members.

If you did not attend the Annual Mayors Legislative Day, please make a special effort to get there next year. It is an unparalleled opportunity for mayors to communicate with the leadership in Trenton.

DEADLINE TO CLAIM CEUS FROM 98TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS MAY 1

-Contact Danielle Holland-Httut ext. 118 or dholland@njslom.org

Please remind your licensed officials that the deadline to claim CEU credits from the 98th Annual Conference is May 1, 2014. To claim credits, licensed officials should click the following link www.njslom.org/confceu.html and follow the prompts.

99th ANNUAL CONFERENCE HOUSING FORMS COMING

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

Municipal housing forms for the 99th 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.

2014 MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

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

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.

SEEKING MAYORAL CONFERENCE SUGGESTIONS

-Contact Bill Dressel ext. 122, bdressel@njslom.org, 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.org

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.

MEMBER BENEFIT – RESOURCE FOR SEEKING GRANTS

-Contact Taran Samhammer at ext. 124 or tsamhammer@njslom.org

NJLM is pleased to offer our members an exciting member benefit. Through a partnership with GrantStation.com, an online grant-seeking resource, NJLM offers its membership a discounted rate to use GrantStation's 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.

This service is part of NJLM's *Grants Resource Center*, an online tool providing links to grant opportunities, resources and information. Each month the *Grant Resource Center* includes links to open funding opportunities and a new article highlighting grant issues and funding. League membership may also sign up to receive weekly emails and have funding opportunities delivered to their email inbox. Additionally, through a partnership with Triad Associates the League 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.

If you would like to take a tour of the GrantStation website and what a subscription offers, visit 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>.

**CHERRY HILL AND TENAFLY NAMED NEW JERSEY HEALTHY TOWNS
BOTH MUNICIPALITIES HONORED FOR PARTICIPATION
IN MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN**

-For more information contact Divya Padgaonkar 609-303-0373

Pennington, New Jersey – Cherry Hill and Tenafly and their mayors, Chuck Cahn and Peter Rustin respectively, were named today by the Mayors Wellness Campaign as the sixteenth and seventeenth communities in the state to receive designation as a “New Jersey Healthy Town.” Both towns received the designation for their strong and active participation in the Mayors Wellness Campaign and will be presented with a “New Jersey Healthy Town” sign to be placed in their town. “We are delighted to recognize the efforts of Mayors Chuck Cahn and Peter Rustin in implementing active living and healthy lifestyle initiatives through the Mayors Wellness Campaign,” said Divya Padgaonkar, Wellness Coordinator of the Mayors Wellness Campaign. “Our statewide effort now involves well over half of all New Jersey towns.”

“Our goal has been to improve the health and wellness of all our residents by creating an atmosphere to encourage active living and a healthy lifestyle,” said Mayor Cahn. “By providing nutritional and recreational opportunities within the community, we have helped our residents and employees get in shape and become healthier. This recognition as a New Jersey Healthy Town speaks volumes about our community's commitment to better health.”

“Our Mayors Wellness Campaign supporters and our director, Carl Trop, have done a wonderful job of organizing programs that benefit our community,” said Mayor Rustin. “Tenafly is very pleased to be recognized as a New Jersey Healthy Town and to be part of the statewide Mayors Wellness campaign to enhance and encourage a healthy lifestyle for our citizens.”

Municipalities are eligible to receive the “Healthy Town” designation by meeting the following requirements:

- Participation in the Mayors Wellness Campaign for one year or more;
- Establishment of sustainable programs in each of the Mayors Wellness Campaign categories:
- Youth in Motion, Seniors in Motion, Employers in Motion and Community in Motion;
- Willingness to share their program information with other communities throughout the state.

Cherry Hill created a MWC website and Facebook page and has instituted numerous wellness programs into its local Mayors Wellness Campaign including:

Youth in Motion:

- Children’s Dance, Shake It Up Teen Dance
- Roller Hockey
- Tween Fitness
- Karate Fit Tots and Kids
- Boys and Girls Lacrosse
- Girls on the Run
- Soccer, Tennis, Yoga, TaiChi, Swimming, Golf

Seniors in Motion:

- Low-impact aerobics, Gentle yoga, EZ Cardio
- Senior line dancing
- Keeping your heart healthy
- Ask the pharmacist
- Diabetes awareness & glucose screening
- Laughter therapy
- Silver Spinners

Community in Motion:

- Wellness Table / Take the Wellness Pledge
- Music Under the Stars
- Walk with the Mayor
- Healthy Cooking Classes @ Wegmans & ShopRite
- Mayor's Wellness Day at Springdale Farms
- Jeremy Kane 5K Run
- Earth Fest Community Bike Ride

Employers in Motion:

- Employee Health Fair
- Health Risk Assessment
- Biometric Screening
- Healthy Cook Book

Tenafly has instituted wellness programs into its local Mayors Wellness Campaign including:

Youth in Motion:

- Walk to School Day
- Thrill the World Dance Event
- Numerous youth programs offered by Tenafly's recreation department & schools

Seniors in Motion:

- Nurses Day of Wellness
- Sponsored a team of seniors to walk in the Tenafly 5K
- Programs offered through Tenafly's Senior Center

Community in Motion:

- Tenafly 5K
- Night of Fun & Fitness – Breaking the Chains of Obesity
- Walking Club
- Cook Well Tenafly
- Healthy Choice Partners – partnering with area restaurants to offer healthy choices on their menus

Employers in Motion:

- Participated in Bergen Battle of the Bulge
- Annual Walk at Work Day
- Mayor's Wellness Corporate Challenge

Towns that have received the MWC "Healthy Town" designation since 2007 are: Bay Head (2011), Belmar (2011), Bridgewater (2009), Cherry Hill (2013), Clifton (2008), Fair Lawn (2010), Hamilton Township (Mercer County, 2007), Hillsborough (2010), Lincoln Park (2011), Madison (2007), Nutley (2010), Paramus (2012), Parsippany (2009), River Vale (2012), Tenafly (2013), Upper Saddle River (2010), and Woodbridge (2008.)

The Mayors Wellness Campaign (www.mayorswellnesscampaign.org) is a program of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute (www.NJHCQI.org) in partnership with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities (www.njslom.org). The mission of the Mayors Wellness Campaign is to equip mayors and other key leaders with the tools to develop and implement active-living initiatives in their communities with the ultimate goal of improving health and reducing the skyrocketing health care costs that come with the obesity problem in New Jersey. Currently, more than half of the New Jersey's 565 municipalities are participating in the campaign and are working aggressively to decrease obesity rates and increase the overall health of their communities. The Valley Hospital is the Bergen County sponsor of the Mayors Wellness Campaign. Major funding for the Mayors Wellness Campaign is provided by The Walmart Foundation.