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IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League Web Calendar

- June 11 NJDARM Computer Training: Artemis Records Retention and Disposition Management System at Conference Center at Mercer
June 14 Flag Day
June 15 Ethics & Conflicts of Interest at Asbury
June 18 Maintaining a Safe Community within Current Budget Constraints: A Discussion on Budgeting, Shared Services, and Labor Negotiations
June 20 Fathers Day
June 25 Ethics and Conflicts of Interest at Burlington
June 30 State Budget Deadline
July 9 Conference on New Jersey's Economy: Stabilizing, But Fiscal Problems Intensify at Rutgers

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By James Anzaldi, Mayor, Clifton

The 95th Annual League Conference is just around the corner and your League staff has already been working diligently on issues such as transportation and parking, hotel accommodations, selling exhibit booth space, education sessions, and major luncheon events.

Local officials can begin the conference planning process with available details in the June issue of New Jersey Municipalities magazine and the League conference web site. The web site has some important information about the conference registration procedure and schedule of events. Note that the very valuable Consulting Period with some 100 topics staffed by experts will be held Tuesday November 16 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

NEW Lower Hotel Rates- Housing forms will be mailed to all Municipal Clerks on June 1 and will also be posted on the League web page. Please take a look at the new LOWER hotel rates – some as low as \$65 to \$69. The League wants to make it possible for your staff to attend get the most out of the annual conference. Please consider these significantly lower rates in planning your staff education.

As of August 1, municipal officials will be able to register for the conference online at our web site. Be sure to take advantage of this easy way to register early for the 95th Annual League Conference.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT(cont)

Full conference registration information will be sent to all Municipal Clerks during the first week of August.

Academy Bus chartered shuttle service will provide transportation to and from the Atlantic City Convention Center and the hotels.

The hugely popular Mayors Lunch and League Luncheon will feature key speakers from all levels of government. Get your tickets early; these events sell out quickly.

The conference is less than six months away. Start planning now and contact the League office if you need assistance. I look forward to meeting and working with you at the 95th Annual Conference November 16-19 in Atlantic City.

INVITATION TO ATTEND DEP ROUNDTABLE

-Contact Lynette Lurig 609-633-1314 or
lynette.lurig@dep.state.nj.us

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in partnership with the League has coordinated a Mayor's roundtable on **Tuesday, June 1, 2010 from 1:00 to 5:30** at 200 Riverview Plaza, in Trenton. The purpose of the meeting is to update you on the **Site Remediation Reform Act**, legislation that benefits us by amending existing laws to speed up the remediation process, thereby allowing properties to be placed back on local tax rolls much more quickly.

2010 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

-Contact Michael Darcy ext.116

The three top winners of the [2010 Scholarship Competition](#) are Dennis Wood, submitted by Mayor Letitia G. Colombi of Haddonfield Borough; Casey Green, submitted by Mayor Frank J. Druetzler of Morris Plains Borough; and Aparajit Sriram, submitted by Mayor Peter Cantu of Plainsboro Township.

These mayors will present each winner with a \$1,000 check from the League. The full text of the three winning essays, along with photos, will appear in the October issue of *New Jersey Municipalities*.

A special thank you to Scholarship Committee Chairman League 1st Vice President Mayor Chuck Chiarello of Buena Vista Township and scholarship judge League 2nd Vice President. Deputy Mayor Daniel N. Coranoto of Hampton Township.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR MAYORS HALL OF FAME

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

The League is accepting nominations for the [2010 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 17 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 extn 116.

Who Provides You With Great Products and Services? The League Wants to Know!

-Contact Kristen Lawrence ext 125 or
Klawrence@njslom.com

Your municipality does business with good vendors and we want others to know about them. Ask your vendors to exhibit at the Annual League Conference, or better yet, send us their name and we will show them how the Annual League Conference can help them, help municipalities.

Send names of your suppliers and service providers to Michael Darcy or Kristin Lawrence (609) 695-3481 extn 116 or 125

NEW WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH NJLM

Follow the League on Twitter as "NJLofM" or subscribe to the RSS feed for the League web site. (Click to learn [What's an RSS feed?](#))

LEAGUE PUBLICATIONS
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
Go to <http://www.njslom.org/Publications.html>

2009-10 Elected Officials Handbook *UPDATED*
2010 Federal Directory
2008 Laws of Interest to Municipalities

LOOSING LEVERAGE, LOOSING REVENUE
-Contact Alfred Lincks 856-794-6185 or alincks@vinelandcity.org

NJ ambulance services are about to lose. They are going to lose 3.8 million in State dollars according to the proposed Fiscal Year 2011 budget of the Department of Human Services. The story gets worse. Those dollars are smart money. That 3.8 million leverages more than its own weight. You see, there is a Federal match for those dollars. Historically it has been 1:1.

Commissioner Velez of the State Department of Human Services recently explained to Assembly Committee members hearing the proposed budget, that language in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and New Jersey's unemployment rate makes it even more. As a consequence of removing 3.8 Million dollars from the State budget, New Jersey's medical transportation system may annually lose 10 million dollars in revenue beginning July 1, 2010. This is an annual impact. Local governments that bill for ambulance service will see revenue drop.

The cut comes from what is commonly called the Medicare/Medicaid crossover payment system. This is in the Medicaid portion of Human Services 4.8 billion dollar budget. Medicare patients are normally those over 65 years old. Medicaid patients usually represent the poorest among us. The crossover payment kicks in when a patient is covered by both Medicare and Medicaid. Medicare has an approved rate. It pays 80% of the approved amount. The remaining amount is billed to the patient or a secondary insurance. When Medicaid is that secondary insurance, it pays the remaining 20% of the bill. Medicaid would also pay for a deductible amount if it has not already been reached. Cutting this crossover payment from the State's budget leaves that remaining 20% of the ambulance bill unrecoverable. This is millions of dollars lost from NJ's economy every year. The local property tax payer is left to pick up the unrecovered cost of the municipality.

NJ ambulances have long been very lowly paid for service. The Medicare/Medicaid crossover payment system does not exist for other healthcare providers sectors. This is a program specific to medical transportation, where NJ local government and healthcare is most likely to cross. There are many other programs in the Human Services Budget that are losing funding. This one pushes a greater financial burden on the local tax payer. In 1994 the base payment for a Medicaid transport was raised to \$58. Today that is still the rate that New Jersey Medicaid pays for an ambulance transport when it is the only payer for service. It cost far more than that to provide the service. In comparison the Federal Medicare rate allows \$365.03 in the South and more in the North.

NJ municipalities from all over the state provide ambulance service. Those that bill to recover costs are about to see reduced income. The millions that New Jersey local governments will lose vary from area to area. A review of more than 50 of these municipalities shows an average impact around 5% of the total revenue they recover, will be lost. That's an average. It's 10% for some areas. The difference is in the mix of insurance coverage's that exist in any particular town. Many areas will see six figure loses.

The direct impact to local governments that bill to recover costs for ambulance service is a loss of revenue. Communities that rely on private companies may see their rates for service increase. Areas that use a non-profit Rescue Squad, that bills to recover its cost, may be asked for money or see instability in the organization. Emergency ambulance calls don't stop coming. Licensed NJ ambulance providers have an obligation to transport patients in an emergency without regard to their ability to pay. This is certainly the right behavior. The appropriate follow up action to this, is the responsible party paying the cost.

An analysis conducted by the Medical Transportation Association of NJ indicates that loss of the crossover funding will cause ambulances to come off of the road. Non-emergency ambulance transports that do not happen timely have a way of becoming emergencies. This can shift the need of 9-1-1 responders to answer more calls for service.

There are an unprecedented number of hard choices this year for the Governor and his Cabinet Members. Our State Senate and Assembly needs to make many critical choices. The consequence of saving 3.8 million dollars is losing 10 million dollars. The ability of the State to leverage dollars that will be lost forever should not be missed this year. Removing 10 million dollars from our State's economy does not help bring us to fiscal stability.

Since 2006, the wise decision of the State Administration and Legislature to maintain the crossover payment plan gave New Jersey more than double our commitment in return. At this time in our history we need wise fiscal decisions. We need to grasp and not miss the chance to leverage more money into our economy without further burdening local property tax payer.