

December 2020

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Please consult the League [Web Calendar](#)

December 8

[Challenges of the 2021 Budget Webinar-Your Computer](#)

January 9

[Orientation for Newly Elected, Reelected, and Experienced Municipal Officials-Your Computer](#)

January 23

[Orientation for Newly Elected, Reelected, and Experienced Municipal Officials-Your Computer](#)

March 6

[Budgeting for Elected Officials-Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor](#)

April 16

[29th Annual Mayors Legislative Day, Statehouse Annex, Trenton](#)

- ✓ Thank You Conference Volunteers
- ✓ View Sessions On Demand Now
- ✓ Webinar for Newly Elected Officials
- ✓ Local Government Leadership Program
- ✓ Elected Officials Hall of Fame
- ✓ Show Off Your City

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mayor Janice Kovach, Mayor Clinton Town

The following is President Kovach's acceptance remarks made at the NJLM Business Meeting during the 105th Annual League Conference.

Thanks Jim and thank you Congressman Malinowski, I appreciate the fact that he was able to be here with us and for his commitment to our communities here in New Jersey. It's so important, with the work that needs to be done, we have to all work together.

I'm not the best at writing out my speeches, I just have a couple of points I want to make.

Who would have thought? When starting this year, we thought our biggest challenge was replacing Mike Darcy as executive director

And then 2020 happened.

It has been a wild ride for so many of us. It's been an opportunity and a challenge and each and every one of us has had to step up in ways that we never anticipated. We have become not just local elected officials but we have been individuals for our residents to come to when they've needed something. We have learned all about unemployment, we have learned all about our utilities. Anything and everything that has impacted our communities, we have had to step up and we've been on that front line for them.

While I want to say that I'm planning that 2021 is not going to be that way, I think going into the year we're still going to be facing a lot of these challenges. And with that, this is a project for all of us to work together on. We are a community of elected and appointed officials.

Continued on next page under "President's Message"

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Executive Staff

MICHAEL CERRA, Executive Director

LORI BUCKELEW, Asst. Executive Director

Presidents Message Continued

And Jim—I think Chegwidde and I are going “Phew!” Thank God it wasn’t us that had to take on the presidency this year. We looked at that one as you got stuck and we dodged that bullet but you really have stepped up, you’ve done an amazing job. Mike did want me to let you know that normally, if we were all together, we’d be giving you a plaque. Your plaque is in the mail.

While not being in Atlantic City has felt different and seeing all of the sessions online has been a new experience for many of us, I have to say everyone coming together to step up and help has been tremendous. I’ve gotten nothing but praise from individuals who have attended the sessions. So, to the staff of the League—Mike and Lori—not only did you have to step into roles, but you’ve stepped into a new reality. You’ve done an amazing job, you and the staff. For that I do say thank you on behalf of all us. To the other individuals who have helped me get to this place, obviously my family: I wouldn’t be here providing the support to this community if I didn’t have the support of my family here. I also have the support of my Council as well as the staff members of the Town of Clinton. We all work together on everything that needs to be done for our community. I can’t do this job without all of their support. Finally, the residents of the Town of Clinton who continue to believe in me and let me serve as their mayor. It has truly been an honor and a privilege and I hope that I continue to do you proud serving as president of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

To Mayors Chegwidde, Heck, and Pikolycky, we definitely have our work cut out for us. We’ve got a lot of things that need to get done and we’ve got a lot of plans we’re going to start working on.

With that, I want to say thank you to everyone who continues to believe in me, who has been there and has been a support. I will be reaching out to each and every one of you and please reach out to other elected officials in your local communities who may not be part of the everyday work of the League. We’re not going to do what needs to be done unless we all take a seat at that table.

Remember, if we’re not at the table, we’re on the menu. With that, I’m going to say thank you.

Thank You Conference Volunteers!

Many conference delegates wonder how the League is able to conduct the country’s largest municipal conference with a full-time staff of just 18. The answer is you!

In the back of the conference session program, you will see a listing of mayors who serve on various committees. Although the list is extensive, it cannot possibly include all the mayors who work to make our conference successful every year. Mayors play an integral role by helping to produce sessions, moderating, working on committees, and auditing important sessions. Your dedicated service enables attendees to come together for one week of invaluable learning and networking each year.

Thank you for making the NJLM Virtual Conference a great success!

2020 NJLM Virtual Conference: View sessions on-demand now!

If you missed Conference week but would like view to sessions on-demand, [registration remains open](#). While CEU credits are not available, these sessions offer tools to take your throughout the pandemic and beyond. Access to the on-demand content and exhibit hall is available through November 1, 2021.

Webinar for Newly Elected Officials

Contact Danielle Holland-Htut, Ext. 118, or dholland@njlm.org

Every year the League offers this important program in two locations around the state to help serve the needs of municipal officials who are new to their positions or who want a timely issue update. Due to Covid-19, we have had to change these webinars into an online format. While the program location will be

different, we hope that attendees will still enjoy the valuable presentations by mayors, as well as State and other local officials.

These webinars are designed to specifically update and answer questions from newly elected officials. Attend these programs and get the information and answers you need about your new responsibilities. For more information, see the calendar on page one of this newsletter or visit the [Seminar Calendar](#).

Don't Miss "Budgeting for the Elected Official: Everything You Need to Know to Create, Balance, and Approve Your Municipality's Budget" Webinar

Contact Danielle Holland-Htut, Ext. 118, or dholland@njlm.org

Creating and approving a feasible budget is one of the most important tasks of an Elected Official. It is also one of the most complex and time-consuming tasks. To aid in this endeavor, the League has created a special half-day program geared toward Elected Officials to help them in the municipal budgeting process.

The program will take place on Saturday, March 6, 2020, at the Conference Center at Mercer. Additional program details and registration fees are available on the [Budgeting for Elected Officials Calendar Announcement](#). Please Note: Due to Covid-19 this program may be altered to an online version. Keep checking the League website for more updates.

Become a Municipal Pioneer! Be a Part of the Local Government Leadership Program

The League is proud to offer a voluntary recognition program that recognizes Elected Governing Body Members who complete additional training and advocacy. The program has three tiers: Municipal Leader, Municipal Innovator, and Municipal Pioneer. Each tier has an assigned number of points. Once an Elected Governing Body Member has earned the required points, they are awarded one of these tiers. The award is a certificate of completion mailed to them and recognition at the Orientation Session at the Annual Conference in Atlantic City.

Elected Governing Body Members can achieve each level by attending trainings, seminars, writing articles for the magazine, and advocating for municipal interests. When an Elected Governing Body Member has completed an eligible activity, they will receive confirmation indicating the points earned. Once an Elected Governing Body Member has acquired the necessary amount of points, they complete an online application form and receive a Local Government Leader certificate in the mail.

At the Orientation session on Tuesday at the Annual League Conference in November, they will be recognized (Officials who submit application forms after September 1 will be recognized at the next year's Conference). Join our first two honorees, Mayor Judy Davies-Dunhour of Stone Harbor and Mayor Mary Jane Canose of Berardsville in pursuing further excellence in local governance.

More information on this program is available on the [Local Government Leadership Program webpage](#).

Elected Officials Hall of Fame Nominations

Contact Michael Cerra, Ext. 120, or mcerra@njlm.org

In recognition of the many municipal governing body members who have selflessly served for 20 or more years, the League of Municipalities is pleased to once again accept nominations for the Elected Officials Hall of Fame.

This special honor is reserved for those governing body members, active and retired, who have served 20 years in elected municipal office. As you know, these special elected officials have governed their municipalities for lengthy tenures, guiding their communities through the good times and troubled times, with little recognition.

The Elected Officials Hall of Fame will shine a light on these pillars in our communities and hold them up as an example of civic pride for all citizens to emulate.

In a special ceremony during the Mayors' Legislative Day at the State House in April 2021, there will be a presentation to these special elected municipal officials. They will be inducted into the Elected Officials Hall of Fame and their picture will appear in the League magazine, *New Jersey Municipalities*.

If you know of any elected municipal officials not currently in the Elected Officials Hall of Fame who have served at least 20 years in elected municipal office, please visit the [League's Award program](#) page to access the nomination form.

The form may be copied if you want to make several nominations. Please mail the form(s) back to League office by January 1, 2021, so they may be included in the ceremony. Confirmations will be mailed to the nominees in February, 2021.

You may view a full list of all Hall of Fame inductees at the [League's Award programs webpage](#). To order, visit the League's website and [complete the order form](#).

Show Off Your City Contest Deadline Feb. 3
Contact Amy Spiezio, Ext. 123, or aspiezio@njlm.org

This year like no other, the picture of municipal life has been profoundly different. We'd like to record the many special municipal moments in New Jersey through the 2021 NJLM Annual Show Off Your City photo contest. You are invited to send us photos of how local residents and officials worked and played and thrived in these pandemic days.

Entries will be posted on the League's Facebook page, website and some will be featured in the April issue of *NJ Municipalities magazine*, and possibly other issues.

A winner will be selected and receives a free League publication of their choice.

We ask that photos be high resolution JPEG—at least 1 MB in size. Please provide photo credit if necessary. Unfortunately, stock photos and images that are too low resolution will not be considered. By submitting a photo, you are agreeing that you own the rights to the photo and that NJLM has permission to use the photo in *NJ Municipalities*, on NJLM's social media and website, and in other printed materials. Please include your Facebook profile name and we will tag your photo on Facebook.

Photos can be submitted via email to aspiezio@njlm.org, or mailed on CD or flash drive to 222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608.

Submission deadline is February 3, 2021. For more [information visit our website](#).