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New Jersey Municipalities Magazine

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Focus:

Water Management



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We look forward
to working with
you all in 2024
to create a better
New Jersey.
Happy New Year!



New Start, New Opportunities, New Challenges

Moving into 2024, we look forward to an exciting year for New Jersey's residents as officials who are new to local government or starting a new year in a long history of service swear in, promising to serve those who have selected them to represent their hopes, needs, and dreams. We thank you for your service and share your goals and commitments to keep local governments working for their communities.

We could feel that commitment in the halls of the Atlantic City Convention Center last month. We thank you for attending and applaud your efforts to learn and grow as leaders. Next month, we'll have a detailed conversation with our new League President, Mayor William Chegwidden of Wharton and introduce our new board members. This month, you can see a full listing of the League's Officers and Executive Board members in the NJ Now section (page 10).

You can also view my Executive Director's Report for 2023 in this issue. I'm proud of the work the League has accomplished on your behalf and plan for 2024 to continue the century-plus legacy of partnership between the League and New Jersey's municipalities (see page 45).

This issue also looks at the issue of water for New Jersey's municipalities. From clean drinking water to efficient sewer systems, this issue is often literally underground. By the time residents learn there is a problem, there is an emergency, it being taps offering no water or non-drinkable water or streets flooded with water.

As Dr. Dan Van Abs notes in his article this month (pg 24), "A sound, equitable society requires that we all receive high quality, healthful drinking water, that our resulting wastewater is managed to protect human health and the environment, and that stormwater management protects property, safety, health, and water resources."

There are programs and services out there for municipalities to help take some of the burdens of costly water-management efforts off municipal budgets. We hope to share that information and will continue to provide information in these pages, through webinars and seminars, as well as ongoing legislative advocacy and working closely with State agencies and other stakeholders.

We look forward to working with you all in 2024 to create a better New Jersey. Happy New Year! 🍷

Michael Cerra

Note: If you haven't signed up for our Newly Elected and Reelected seminars in North and South Jersey, now's a good time to plan a knowledge-building day and teambuilding day. Visit www.njlm.org/Seminars for more information.

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Municipal Microcosm

Millstone Borough is a small town with a large history and hopes for the future

Raymond Heck, Mayor, Millstone Borough,
Immediate Past President, NJLM



Of the 564 municipalities in New Jersey, approximately 33% are populations of 5,000 or less. This distinctive blend of municipalities adds to the uniqueness and beauty of our Garden State. Millstone Borough is nestled in the lower part of Somerset County and is rich in history. Approximately 35% of Millstone's structures and land in the borough hold the distinction of falling into the category of National Historic district. Even the municipal complex is based out of a school-house that was built in 1860, that has been completely restored to its original design.



The borough is known for having one of the oldest operating forges in the nation, which was significant during the Revolutionary war era. We like to refer to Millstone Borough as a living museum—the layout and substance of these areas makes it truly a pleasure to visit.

A microcosm of larger towns

Like other small communities, Millstone Borough is a microcosm of its larger neighbors. Knowing this, the need to provide services to its residents is substantially similar, just on a smaller scale. This poses challenges at times, as there needs to be a balance between cost and quality.

Like other small communities, Millstone Borough is a microcosm of its larger neighbors.

Remembering that your fellow residents are like your extended family, you want to ensure that the municipality's money spent is invested wisely. Sound inter-local agreements and shared services are key components in making this happen. Everything from our beautiful parks to our traffic enforcement is based on these agreements. Utilizing this business modeling ensures that both the sending and receiving agencies are maximizing the usage of the resources. As we embark on new projects, such

as possibly installing sanitary sewers for the borough, the reliance on partnerships will increase.

Public safety

Public safety is paramount in any community as everyone needs to feel safe. When storms and other related weather events hit the area, timing and efficiency in response can make



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Municipal Microcosm

the difference between life and death. Having a good portion of the town in a flood district makes this a challenge.

The community is fortunate to have some highly recognized professionals in this field on the team. Taking lessons from catastrophic storms like Hurricanes Ida and Irene, the OEM team works tirelessly to minimize the impact and to date without a serious injury or fatality. The same holds true for our Police, Fire, and EMS. Partnership agreements allow us to have a full complement of services. This is supplemented with related security concepts that provide the deterrence of nefarious activity.

**Regardless of size,
we're all in this
together with the main
goal of strengthening
our communities.**



Given its historic significance, the Borough is in the process of elevating historic structures in the flood zone. We are working with our federal and state partners to secure funding to ease the burden our taxpayers and preserving our nation's history as we approach the 250th anniversary of our great nation.

As we look into the future, areas like the upcoming COAH round and MS4 tier permitting will pose some new challenges. All municipalities, big and small, have to address these and other issues. This is why educational platforms such as those within the League are valuable tool to help us all navigate to success.

Further, networking among our fellow local leaders develops a relationship of peer support. Regardless of size, were all in this together with the main goal of strengthening our communities.

Next time you find yourself in the area of Millstone Borough, stop by and say hello. 🍷

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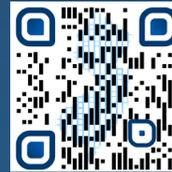
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League Officers for 2023-2024 Elected

On Thursday, November 16, 2023, New Jersey's mayors elected their new slate of officers and executive board members at the League's Annual Business Meeting at the 108th Annual League Conference held in Atlantic City. These public servants will help represent the interests and needs of New Jersey's local elected officials from the state's 564 municipal governments to county, state, and federal governments.

Nominating Committee Chair William Pikolycky, Mayor of Woodbine and then-NJLM Immediate Past President, presented its nominations for the offices of President, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice President and 21 positions on the Executive Board, thereby fulfilling its Constitutional responsibility. The board must include members from municipalities located in each of New Jersey's 21 counties. Another consideration is that, because of the diversity of population,

growth patterns, and other general factors, the nominating committee must ensure the essential balance of municipalities—urban, suburban, and rural.

Another topic in the development of the recommendations list is balance—even though the League is non-partisan in nature—the committee strives to ensure the maintenance of a balance between the major political parties represented on the Executive Board. Finally, the nominations factor in whether an individual in consideration for nomination has demonstrated an interest in League affairs through active participation on League committees by support of the League policies and programs.

Taking all of those matters into their determination, the committee presented their selections, and the following officers and Executive Board members were elected for service in 2023-2024. 

2023-2024 LEAGUE OFFICERS



WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN
President; Mayor, Wharton



PAUL TOMASKO
1st Vice President, Mayor, Apline



SEAN ELWELL
2nd Vice President; Mayor, Elsinboro



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2023-2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ras Baraka Mayor, Newark

Tom Bianco Mayor, Clayton

Deborah Buzby-Cope Mayor, Bass River

Brad Cohen Mayor, East Brunswick

Sheena Collum Village President, South Orange

Ruby Cotton Councilwoman, Paterson

William Curtis Mayor, Bay Head

David DeGiralamo, Mayor, Union Township (Hunterdon)

Anthony Fanucci Mayor, Vineland

Steven Fulop Mayor, Jersey City

John C. Glidden Jr. Mayor, Closter

Raymond Heck Mayor, Millstone Borough; Immediate Past President, NJLM

Barbrara Juzaitis Councilwoman, Avalon

Nick Kappatos Mayor, Runnemeade

Jeffery Martin Mayor, Hamilton (Mercer)

John Pallone Mayor, Long Branch

Guy Piserchia Deputy Mayor, Long Hill

Christine Quinn Councilwoman, Sparta

Marty Small Sr. Mayor, Atlantic City

Rosemary Tuohy Mayor, Allamuchy

Janet W. Tucci Mayor, West Long Branch

Wharton Mayor William Chegwidden Elected League President



On Thursday, Nov. 16, Mayor William Chegwidden of Wharton was elected to serve as the new President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. Mayor Chegwidden, who previously served as the League's 1st Vice President, was elected at the League of Municipalities' Annual Business Meeting in Atlantic City.

As President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, Mayor Chegwidden will help lead the Association of New Jersey's 564 municipal governments. He will represent the interests and needs of New Jersey's local elected officials to county, state, and federal governments.

As Mayor of Wharton since 2001, he has dealt with every aspect of Municipal government, including the Office of Emergency Management, Local Emergency Planning Committee, and Public Safety Director. Prior to that, Mayor Chegwidden was a Councilman for the Borough from 1995 to 2000, during which time he was Council President in 1997 and 1998. He also served as a Morris County Freeholder from 2007 to 2013.

In his work with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, Mayor Chegwidden has participated as a seminar panelist and moderator as well as an author for *NJ Municipalities* magazine. He is also a member of the Conference of Mayors and the Morris County League of Municipalities.

A retired educator, he earned an MA and BA from East Stroudsburg University in East Stroudsburg, PA, and an AA degree from the County College of Morris. ↗

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