

**NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**  
*County Government with a Unified Voice*

RICHARD D. GARDNER  
NJAC President  
Warren County Freeholder

JOHN G. DONNADIO  
Executive Director

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
*Friday – April 27, 2012*  
**State House Annex - Committee Room 6**  
**Trenton, New Jersey 08608**

The meeting was called to order by NJAC President and Warren County Freeholder Richard D. Gardner at 10:09a.m.

After saluting the American flag, John G. Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director, called roll and a quorum was present.

**Members in Attendance:**

Richard Gardner, *Warren County Freeholder Deputy Director*  
Jeffrey Dublin, *Hudson County Freeholder*  
M. Claire French, *Monmouth County Clerk*  
Bette Jane Kowalski, *Union County Freeholder*  
John G. Donnadio, *NJAC Executive Director*  
Ed Trawinski, *Bergen County Administrator*  
Gerald M. Thornton, *Cape May County Freeholder Director*  
M. Susan Sheppard, *Cape May County Freeholder*  
Carol Y. Clark, *Essex County Freeholder*  
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*  
Ann Cannon, *Mercer County Freeholder*  
Lillian G. Burry, *Monmouth County Freeholder*  
Douglas R. Cabana, *Morris County Freeholder Deputy Director*  
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*  
Anthony DeNova, *Passaic County Administrator*  
Peter S. Palmer, *Somerset County Freeholder Deputy Director*  
Richard Zeoli, *Sussex County Freeholder Director*  
John Eskilson, *Sussex County Administrator*  
Steve Marvin, *Warren County Administrator*  
Brian M. Hughes, *Mercer County Executive*  
John Armeno, *Executive Director of the NJ Sheriff's Association*  
Joseph Hannon, Esq., *Associate of Genova, Burns & Giantomasi and NJAC Labor Counsel*  
Michael O'Connell, Esq., *Associate of Pringle, Quinn & Anzano, PC and NJAC General Counsel*  
Michael F. Barrett, Sr. *Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*  
Richard E. Lane, Sr. *Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*  
Allen A. Weston, *NJAC Legislative Director*  
Loren Wizman, *NJAC Director of Business Development*  
Kimberly Nolan, *NJAC Office Manager*

**Absent:**

Atlantic County  
Burlington County  
Camden County  
Cumberland County  
Gloucester County  
Middlesex County  
Ocean County  
Salem County  
County Surrogate

**Also in attendance:**

Jennifer Velez, *Commissioner of NJ Dept. of Human Services*  
Lowell Arye, *Deputy Commissioner of NJ Dept. of Human Services*  
Ken Mecouch, *Cumberland County Administrator*  
Kimberly Wood, *Cumberland County Deputy Administrator*  
Ronald Sworen, *Hunterdon County Freeholder*  
Mary Jo Buchanan, *Morris County Deputy Administrator*  
Colleen Burns, *Vice President of Premier Healthcare Resources*  
Erica Gitin, *Director of Client Services for Maxons Restorations*  
Wayne Kuss, *SVP of Governmental Banking for Capital One Bank*  
Mark Neisser, *Representative for T&M Associates*  
Geoffrey Perselay, *President of Perselay Associates, Inc.*

Freeholder Dublin asked members of the board and those in the audience to take a moment of silence for the passing of Hudson County's Register and longtime Jersey City Councilwoman Willie Flood. The Honorable Flood passed away on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the age of 72.

The minutes of the March 16, 2012 Board Meeting were unanimously approved on a Somerset/Morris County motion.

**Guest Speaker**

The Honorable Jennifer Velez, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, and The Honorable Lowell Ayre, Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, addressed members of the board providing an update on the responsibilities and activities of the Department. More importantly, Commissioner Velez addressed the concerns of county operated nursing homes.

**Official Reports:**

1. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report** - In the absence of NJAC Secretary-Treasurer and Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada, Mr. Donnadio read the financial reports of NJAC and NJAC Benefits to the board members. On a Mercer County motion, seconded by Sussex County, and carried by voice vote, the financial reports were unanimously approved.
2. **President's Report** - NJAC President Gardner reviewed with the board members some of the goals and objectives of NJAC. For instance, one of the short-term goals is to advocate for legislation on sharing county tax administrators. One of NJAC's long term goals is to restore funding from PARIS Grants. President Gardner requested board members to telephone him with their feedback.
3. **Executive Director's Report** - NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio introduced Allen A. Weston, the new NJAC Legislative Director, as of April 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Weston, a graduate of Pennsylvania State University, previously worked as the Associate Director of Government Affairs for the New Jersey Food Council. His level of experience will enhance NJAC's level of service and advocacy.

Mr. Donnadio recognized Loren Wizman, Kim Nolan and Allen Weston for their hard work and dedication toward the 62<sup>nd</sup> NJAC Annual Conference.

Updates on the conference were provided to board members.

- Kevin McArdle of NJ's radio 101.5FM and State House Correspondent will moderate the Legislative Forum. Thus far, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver and Senator Joseph M. Kyrillos have agreed to be panel members of the Legislative Forum.
- There are six county vocational-technical schools participating in the Cook-off Challenge during the conference. The staff and students are from Atlantic, Gloucester, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean and Warren Counties. The event takes place during the afternoon on Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, just prior to the County Executive Forum.
- The County Executive Forum will be moderated by Mike Aron, Sr. Political Correspondent of NJTV. Four out of five county executives have agreed to participate in the panel discussion.
- Twenty-five workshops were submitted for continuing education credits.
- NACo President Lenny Eliason will speak at the 8 a.m. June 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting. This year the board meeting will be held in the Exhibit Area so that the business associates can take part in the meeting. The associates will be permitted to go before the board and ask questions with a time limit of 30 seconds.

The Rutgers University and NJAC partnership is expected to launch in October 2012. Ethics and Labor Relations will be the first course offered in New Brunswick. It is open to anyone wishing to elevate their career and obtaining continuing education credits.

4. **Legislative Committee Report** - Hudson County Freeholder Jeffrey Dublin informed all Board members that a copy of the Legislative Update was enclosed in the provided packets and turned this portion of the meeting over to Mr. Donnadio.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Morris County Deputy Administrator Mary Jo Buchanan and Mr. Donnadio met with Senator Sarlo to discuss county operated nursing homes. Senator Sarlo is also the chair for the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. He plans to use our "County Impact Statement" in preparing the budget bill which he plans to introduce shortly. Senator Sarlo plans to work in a bi-partisan effort to increase funding for county operated nursing homes. He also encouraged NJAC to reach out to the members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mr. Donnadio and Monmouth County Administrator Terry O'Connor are scheduled to meet with Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon to advocate for the several initiatives that may help counties continue to provide a high standard of care to a vulnerable population.

Throughout the month of May, Mr. Donnadio has scheduled to meet with Senator Jefferson Van Drew, Assemblyman Troy Singleton, Majority Leader Louis Greenwald, Majority Whip Sandra Cunningham, and Assembly Deputy Speaker Gary Schaer on the concerns of county operated nursing homes. Board members were encouraged to attend the meetings.

Freeholder Zeoli informed members of the board that Sussex County is moving forward with the sale of their nursing home. Current employees of the nursing home will have an opportunity to interview for a job at the nursing home once it privatizes.

Mr. Donnadio also apprised board members on its support of Assembly No. 720, which authorizes local government employers to pay its employees by direct deposit at the governing body's discretion, and Assembly No. 2758, which would allow counties to share their county tax administrators.

Currently, NJAC is in the process of reaching out to legislators concerning its support for legislation that will strengthen the Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC) and accelerate the State's solar Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements.

Awaiting consideration in the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee is Senate No. 1565, which would authorize internet wagering at Atlantic City casinos to allow New Jersey residents to place wagers on casino games through the internet. The Assembly version, Assembly No. 2578, is in the Assembly Regulatory Oversight and Gaming Committee. Mr. Donnadio recommended that NJAC board members support this legislation as a means to provide much needed funding for county programs and initiatives that serve our State's most vulnerable populations. Counties should provide NJAC with specific examples where cuts have been made to Meals on Wheels or Para-transit services as a result of the decrease in casino generated revenue and monies available from the Casino Revenue Fund.

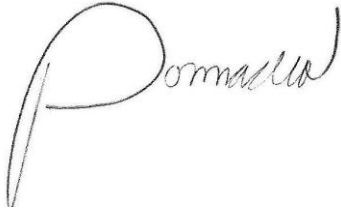
Assembly No. 208 is awaiting consideration in the Assembly House and Local Government Committee. This bill would permit local governments to contract with private entities to lease advertising space on the governing body's official website. Mr. Weston reported that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs will set legal guidelines and disclaimers. NJAC recommends supporting this permissive legislation as a way for local units to realize additional streams of revenue from their websites if they so choose.

#### **Other Business:**

Freeholder Deputy Director Palmer apprised board members that the counties are allotted more monies for repairs on bridges and roads through the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). Mr. Barrett and Mr. Lane were commended for their assistance in this area. Mr. Donnadio also thanked them for their dedication and updates on the TTF. NJAC anticipates working more closely with the county engineers within the next couple of weeks.

On a Morris County motion, seconded by Hudson County and carried by voice vote the meeting ended at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donnadio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial letter.

John G. Donnadio  
NJAC Executive Director