

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

ANN M. CANNON  
NJAC President  
Mercer County Freeholder

JOHN G. DONNADIO  
Executive Director

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
*Friday – January 30, 2015*  
**State House Annex - Committee Room 4**  
**Trenton, New Jersey 08608**

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The meeting was called to order by 2014 NJAC President and Monmouth County Clerk M. Claire French at 10:11 a.m. After saluting the American flag, John G. Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director, called roll and a quorum was present.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

*Ann Cannon, Mercer County Freeholder*  
*John King, Hunterdon County Freeholder Director*  
*Heather Simmons, Gloucester County Freeholder*  
*Gary J. Rich, Sr., Monmouth County Freeholder Director*  
*M. Claire French, Monmouth County Clerk*  
*John G. Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director*  
*James Bertino, Atlantic County Freeholder*  
*Michelle Gentek, Camden County Freeholder*  
*Gerald M. Thornton, Cape May County Freeholder Director*  
*Ken Mecouch, Cumberland County Administrator*  
*Brendon Gill, Essex County Freeholder*  
*Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator*  
*Gary J. Rich, Sr., Monmouth County Freeholder Deputy Director*  
*Anthony DeNova, Passaic County Administrator*  
*Richard Vohden, Sussex County Freeholder*  
*Vernell Wright, Union County Freeholder*  
*Richard D. Gardner, Warren County Freeholder*  
*Brian M. Hughes, Mercer County Executive*  
*Frank Bruno, Somerset County Surrogate*  
*Shaun Golden, Monmouth County Sheriff*  
*James Blanda, Executive Director for Camden County Improvement Authority*  
*Paul Anzano, Esq., Partner of Pringle, Quinn & Anzano, PC and NJAC General Counsel*  
*Michael O'Connell, Esq., Member of Pringle, Quinn & Anzano, PC and NJAC General Counsel*  
*Joseph Hannon, Esq., Member of Genova Burns LLC and NJAC Labor Relations Counsel*  
*Richard Lane, Sr. Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*  
*Bob Werkmeister, Sr. Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*  
*Gregory Johnson, SVP/Branch Manager of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*  
*Allen Weston, NJAC Legislative Director*  
*Loren Wizman, NJAC Director of Business Development*  
*Kimberly Nolan, NJAC Office Manager*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Charlene Webster, *Burlington County Director of Strategic Planning & Marketing*  
Dominic Vesper, Jr., *Camden County Deputy Administrator*  
E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Freeholder*  
Michael Laffey, *Cape May County Director of Operations*  
Kimberly Wood, *Cumberland County Deputy Administrator*  
Rufus I. Johnson, *Essex County Freeholder*  
Wayne Richardson, *Essex County Freeholder*  
Eugene J. Caldwell II, *Gloucester County Warden, Department of Corrections*  
Michael Hickman, Jr., *Gloucester County Sargent, Department of Corrections*  
Cheryl Quinn, *Gloucester County Assistant to Warden Caldwell, Department of Corrections*  
Daniele Spence, *Gloucester County Confidential Aide to Freeholder Simmons*  
Hal Spence, *Gloucester County Director of Consumer Affairs*  
Matt Holt, *Hunterdon County Clerk*  
Mary Melfi, *Hunterdon County Clerk*  
Donna Giovanetti, *Mercer County Director of Consumer Affairs*  
Jo Ann Povia, *Mercer County Director of Research & Special Projects for the Freeholder Board*  
Eric Puliti, *Mercer County Confidential Aide to Freeholder Cannon*  
Paula Sollami-Covello, *Mercer County Clerk*  
Jennifer Gagnon, *Monmouth County Confidential Aid to Freeholder Director Rich*  
Matthew Jordan, *Passaic County Deputy Administrator*  
John Eskilson, *Sussex County Administrator*  
Arnold Alston, *Vice President of Government Banking for Wells Fargo Bank*  
Vince Altamari, *Property Manager for Meridian Property Services*  
Sylvanna Bartholomew, *Assistant for Meridian Property Services*  
Kathryn Forsyth, *Communications Director for NJ Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools*  
Barry Gleissner, *Survey/GIS Manager for AECOM, Inc.*  
Mark Kataryniak, *Senior Vice President for French & Parrello Associates, PC*  
Bina Kumar, *Managing Director – East Region for Nationwide*  
Emanuel Mahand, *Program Director for Nationwide*  
Jeff Mayer, *Director for Tradition Energy*  
Joe McIntyre, *Customer Relations Manager for Dominion Voting Systems*  
Geoffrey Perselay, *President for Perselay Associates, Inc.*  
Joyce Sagi, *Founder & CEO for DARA*  
Michael Schiller, *Financial Professional for AXA Equitable*  
Traci Stearns, *Representative for Nationwide*  
John Szeliga, *Director of External Affairs for Verizon*  
Christine Valeriano, *Regional Sales Manager for Dominion Voting Systems*  
David Weprin, *Managing Director of Stern Brothers & Co.*

Paul Anzano, Esq. of Pringle, Quinn & Anzano, PC and NJAC General Legal Counsel, performed the swearing in of NJAC's 2015 Board of Directors. 2014 NJAC President and Monmouth County Clerk, M. Claire French, thanked the members for the opportunity to serve as President and complimented NJAC for the accomplishments the organization made on matters such the Transportation Trust Fund, Pension and Health Benefits, and Interest Arbitration during 2014. Clerk French remarked, "Trenton listens when NJAC speaks." She wished Mercer County Freeholder Ann M. Cannon much success and congratulated her on becoming the President of NJAC for 2015. The meeting was then turned over to President Cannon. NJAC President Cannon thanked Clerk French for her exceptional leadership.

OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. **NJAC Nominating Committee Report** - 2015 NJAC President Cannon presented the 2015 slate of executive officers to the board members. The board unanimously approved the slate of officers on a Cape May/Cumberland County motion.

NJAC President, Ann Cannon, Mercer County Freeholder  
NJAC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, John King, Hunterdon County Freeholder Director  
NJAC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Heather Simmons, Gloucester County Freeholder  
NJAC Secretary-Treasurer, Gary J. Rich, Sr., Monmouth County Freeholder Director  
NJAC Immediate Past President, M. Claire French, Monmouth County Clerk

2. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report** - NJAC Secretary-Treasurer and Monmouth County Freeholder Director Gary J. Rich, Sr. presented the following reports:
  - a. Meeting Minutes - The board unanimously approved the December 12, 2014 NJAC Board of Directors meeting minutes on a Warren/Passaic County motion.
  - b. NJAC Financials - The board unanimously approved the NJAC financials, ending date of December 31, 2014, on a Cape May/Gloucester County motion.
  - c. Resolution - 2015 Budget - The board unanimously approved the 2015 annual budget on a County Clerk/Warren County motion.
3. **President's Report** - NJAC President Cannon reviewed the following resolutions, which were passed as general consent matters on a County Sheriff/Hudson County vote:
  - a. Resolution - NJAC 2015 Annual County Dues
  - b. Resolution - NJAC 2015 Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule
  - c. Resolution - NJAC General Legal Counsel
  - d. Resolution - NJAC Labor Relations Counsel
  - e. Resolution - NJAC Accountant/Auditor
4. **Executive Director's Report** - NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio thanked Clerk French for her leadership, support and dedication to NJAC as President.

Mr. Donnadio reviewed and presented a proclamation to NJAC President Cannon on behalf of Bergen County Executive James Tedesco III. He also recognized and thanked Sgt. Hickman of Gloucester County Department of Corrections for volunteering his time to photograph the day's events.

Mr. Donnadio also discussed the NACo-Nationwide Scholarship, which awards up to \$2,000 per student and is designed to encourage high school seniors to consider retirement planning early on in their careers. The application deadline is March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nationwide plans to announce scholarship recipients sometime in the spring. This is the eighth consecutive year that NACo and Nationwide have partnered on this important and timely initiative. Board members were encouraged to visit Nationwide's website at [www.nrsforu.com/scholarship](http://www.nrsforu.com/scholarship) for additional details.

Mr. Donnadio thanked those who attended and supported the December 12, 2014 Summit on the Transportation Trust Fund. Nearly 200 county and business leaders from across the State attended the event. This was a successful one day event in which NJ DOT Commissioner Jamie Fox served as the keynote speaker.

NJAC's Conference Committee met on January 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss this year's 65<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of county government scheduled to take place from May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup> at Caesar's in Atlantic City. This year's event includes the 4<sup>th</sup> annual county vocational-technical school cook-off challenge, a reporters' roundtable discussion, two-dozen accredited workshops, and the opportunity to network with county business leaders from across the State. *Notes from the January 16, 2015 Conference Committee Meeting, Registration/Hotel Reservation forms, and Schedule of Events for the 2015 NJAC Annual Conference were enclosed in each members' board packet.*

Kathy Forsyth, Communications Director for the NJ Council of County Vocational - Technical Schools, discussed the rules and selection process of the 2015 cook-off challenge. Automatic entries for 2015 included Hudson County as the 2014 People's Choice Gold Award and Mercer County as the County of the 2015 NJAC President. Schools from Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Morris, and Passaic Counties are also automatic entries since they did not participate last year and met the required application deadline. The Camden County Technical School and Cumberland County Technical Education Center were selected from a drawing to compete for the two remaining slots. Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, and Warren counties participated in last year's competition and also applied to compete this year.

5. **Legislative Committee Report** - NJAC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Hunterdon County Freeholder Director John King informed all board members that a copy of *State House News*, dated January 23, 2015, was enclosed in their provided board packets prior to asking Mr. Donnadio to update the members on legislation in which NJAC is active.

Mr. Donnadio reported that he expects the New Jersey Pension and Health Benefits Commission to issue its final report shortly and that NJAC would object to any recommendation that would affect, alter, or integrate the local pension systems as counties and municipalities have met their obligations as employers and the local pension systems are fiscally sound as a result. Mr. Donnadio also discussed NJAC's efforts to advocate for a stable, dependable, and sufficient source of constitutionally dedicated funding for the State's nearly insolvent Transportation Trust Fund; and, to increase Local Aid allocations to \$400.0 million as a means to mitigate the reliance on the collection of local property taxes, promote job growth and economic development, and ensure a safe and reliable transportation network. Finally, Mr. Donnadio reported that Governor Christie will likely sign into law legislation that would authorize a county board of chosen freeholders to establish a mosquito reserve fund. NJAC's Board of Directors adopted this initiative as one of its top legislative priorities.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes noted that in December he participated in a NACo co-sponsored peer exchange with the Harvard Kennedy School for 20 elected county executives from across the nation. Executive Hughes thanked Mr. Donnadio for his recommendation to attend and participate in the event, which focused on how to embed a culture of innovation in county government.

*The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Committee Room 4 of the NJ State House Annex.*

ADIJOURNMENT

The board adjourned on a Gloucester/County Clerk motion at 10:49 a.m.

Board members and guests reassembled at 11:00 a.m. in the Senate Chambers for the swearing-in of NJAC President Cannon and the slate of Executive Officers. Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes led the flag salute. Pastor Darrell Armstrong of Trenton's Shiloh Baptist Church performed the invocation. Senator Linda Greenstein administered the oath of office. NJAC President Cannon reminded members of the audience of the legislative accomplishments NJAC has achieved and legislation it continues to work on. President Cannon recognized and thanked everyone for their support, and looks forward to leading NJAC in 2015. Guests were invited to the West Gallery of the NJ State Museum, located at 205 West State Street in Trenton, for a reception catered by the culinary students of the Mercer County Technical School.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donnadio", written in dark ink.

John G. Donnadio, Esq.  
NJAC Executive Director