

# ASSOCIATION OF MAYORS OF THE BOROUGHES OF PENNSYLVANIA

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## A Letter from the President



Dear Association Members:

It is our goal to make our Association strong and viable, while always serving the needs of our members.

To our members who are new to their office, this is a great opportunity to learn more about the duties and responsibilities of your office.

To our longtime members, the office of mayor is a never-ending learning process, and as your incoming president it is my belief the Association is moving forward, thanks to the efforts of those that share with us the enthusiasm of an increasingly dynamic organization.

If you have any concerns or questions, contact me or anyone on the Executive Committee. Our Lobbyist, Montoursville Mayor John Dorin, will also share our concerns with the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a white rectangular background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Gerald C. Yob".

Gerald C. Yob, President  
Association of Mayors  
Of the Boroughs of Pennsylvania

## Mayors Gallucci, Oliverio Honored at Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting



***Freemansburg Mayor and Association President Gerald Yob offers congratulatory wishes to West Leechburg Mayor James Gallucci (right) and Zelienople Mayor Thomas Oliverio. Mayor Gallucci was honored for his service as Association president from 2009-2011. He now becomes immediate past president. Mayor Oliverio was named the Association's Outstanding Mayor for 2011.***

West Leechburg Mayor James Gallucci and Zelienople Mayor Thomas Oliverio were honored at the Association's mid-year Executive Committee in July at Seven Springs Mountain Resort.

Mayor Gallucci was presented a gavel plaque for serving as Association president from 2009-2011. He now becomes immediate past president.

Mayor Oliverio was named the Association's Outstanding Mayor for 2011.

Linda L. Kovacik, secretary of the Butler County Boroughs Association, nominated Mayor Oliverio, who has been involved in local government for over 33 years.

"Tom has been a very important member of the Butler County Boroughs Association for over 20 years," Ms. Kovacik said. "During his tenure as President of the Butler County Boroughs Association, he was instrumental in increasing the attendance at our

meetings by visiting each borough in Butler County and talking to council members and mayors.”

Qualifications for the award were as follows:

1. The nominee must be an Association member and completed one full term of four years in office.
2. The nominee must be recommended by a county mayors association or by an elected official of the mayor’s borough.
3. Nominations must be submitted on borough letterhead and forwarded to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association.
4. All activities (membership, honors, etc.) must have occurred while in office and include length of service (from-to), community organizations served, showing dates and positions held; and a description of involvement in other community projects and the extent of participation.
5. No fax copies were accepted.

The 2010 award winner was Long Branch Mayor Dr. Joseph De Blassio.



***With Mayor Oliverio and Association President Gerald Yob is Lewis Run Mayor Albert Montecalvo, chairman of the Mayor of the Year Committee.***

## News from Around the Commonwealth



***A somber Montoursville Mayor John Dorin remembered the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TWA Flight 800 and the loss of loved ones from his community. Mayor Dorin revisited the anniversary by reviewing the vast amount of cards, letters, tapes and compact discs received from across the United States and the world, especially letters from the President of the United States and President of France. To mark the anniversary a 5K race was held July 16 in Indian Park. On July 10, the General John Burrows Historical Society of Montoursville dedicated a room in memory of Flight 800.***

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Swoyersville Mayor Vincent Dennis and borough council honored Police Chief Thomas DiMaria with a citation of recognition for recently being elected the 89<sup>th</sup> president of Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association.

“It is an honor to service both fellow officers and the community in this capacity,” said Chief DiMaria, indicating that he would be acting as spokesman for the association during his tenure as president.

The association oversees 700 police departments and 1,200 members in Pennsylvania.

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California University of Pennsylvania has long been known as a teacher's college but now it is becoming known for something else. It's a factory for young mayors as two undergraduates were sworn in as mayors earlier this year from nearby boroughs.

Ryan Belski, 21, a junior sports management major, is the new mayor of Rices Landing, a borough of about 400 residents in Greene County.

Courtney Geller, 22, is a senior criminal justice major and the youngest person elected to public office in Deemston, a borough of about 800 in Washington County.

Both mayors are following the paths of two other mayors, who coincidentally graduated from Cal U.

Casey Durdines, a 2007 graduate who is beginning his second term as the mayor of California Borough, and the university's current director of veteran's affairs, Robert Prah, Jr., 27, who graduated in 2006 and served as mayor of Smithton Borough in Westmoreland County from 2006 to 2009, preceded them as mayors in their communities.

"It's great to see youth, and especially Cal U. students, taking an active role in their local government," said Mayor Durdines, who has offered to meet with his younger colleagues and provide advice.

Both new mayors are focused on improving their communities and admit they have a lot to accomplish.

Good luck and congratulations to both new members of the Association.

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Heidelberg Mayor Kenneth LaSota isn't your run-of-the-mill mayor but more like an all-purpose one.

Whether it's officiating at weddings, serving as a borough delegate or a ribbon cutting ceremony, Mayor LaSota takes it all in stride.

He enjoys officiating at weddings, a power conferred upon him by the Borough Code.

"A lot of mayors won't do them because of the commitment in time," Mayor LaSota said. "But I like to do them because I get to do some talking and meet a lot of new people."

And he takes his role as a marrying mayor seriously. He has even gone so far as to take dancing lessons at Community College of Allegheny County with his wife so he could improve his dance skills for weddings.

For all his duties and that little bit extra, he received PSAB's Community Service Award for 2011 this spring in Hershey.

"My picture has appeared in a lot of wedding albums," Mayor LaSota said.

His borough also benefits from any honorarium for performing the ceremony since he donates the money to the recreation fund for movies in the park or treating children at the annual Heidelberg Halloween party.

As a borough representative, he attends six to seven meetings each to represent Heidelberg before various boards and government agencies outside the borough.

He is the delegate to the South Hills Area Council of Governments, for which he is currently vice president; Southern Basin Communities Group; Three Rivers Wet Weather Initiative; Route 50 Corridor Commission; and Chartiers Valley Long Term Recovery Team, which helped residents with housing, financial support, and rebuilding after the Hurricane Ivan flooding in 2004, Southwest Communities Chamber of Commerce, Association of Borough Mayors of Allegheny County and PSAB.

Mayor LaSota noted a number of borough residents have put additions on their homes and improved their property.

“Even a small borough can get things accomplished if you plug away,” he said.

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Congratulations to newly-appointed Wilmerding Mayor Jack Mason, who was named to fill the vacant seat of Dominick Pomposelli, who resigned July 12.

“I will work with you people the best I can,” Mayor Mason said to borough council shortly after being sworn in. “My door will be open.”

Former Mayor Pomposelli had 2-1/2 years left in his term. Mayor Mason will serve as mayor for the rest of the year, and the borough’s Democratic and Republican committees will appoint someone to run in the November election for a two-year term.

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When Hillcrest School in Hollidaysburg closed in 1975, a special plaque was forgotten until recently.

The plaque honors seven young men who attended the school and lost their lives serving their country during World War II.

Hollidaysburg Assistant Police Chief Dave Gehret found the plaque several years ago while organizing the borough’s police records.

He left the plaque in the records room but soon realized it deserved to be seen by the community.

“I couldn’t forget about it. I felt bad that someone paid money to honor these seven boys. It was haunting me that these men lost their lives and it was just sitting there,” Gehret said.

After informing Mayor Joseph Dodson about the plaque, the mayor reacted quickly.

“The plaque deserved a place of honor in our community. Hillcrest was such a small school and to have seen seven men all from there make the ultimate sacrifice deserves to be honored,” Mayor Dodson said.

The plaque was eventually placed in Patriot Park.

“With the support of many people in the community, I was able to place the plaque in about a 300-pound granite rock and place it in Patriot Park,” Mayor Dodson said.

“(Now) people can go and walk through the park ... Each time they can pay their respect to these men who gave their life for their country,” Mayor Dodson added.

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### **Solicitor’s Report**

Association Solicitor Jerry Weigle received several inquiries from Association members ranging from police matters to duties of the mayor.

In one, Springdale Mayor Eileen Miller questioned the hiring of police officers and that she was concerned about feedback from borough council.

Mr. Weigle responded that no one can do anything to Mayor Miller about a letter questioning council about hiring officers. He added that borough council hires and fires police personnel and creates the officer ranks within a borough police department. The mayor of a borough is the chief administrative officer within the borough who oversees what the borough creates with respect to its police force.

Mr. Weigle suggested Mayor Miller consult with the borough solicitor with respect to these matters as he/she represents both the mayor and borough council unless there is a conflict.

Ringtown Mayor Albert Breznik questioned Mr. Weigle on why he was not paid for missing two borough council meetings. He noted the president of council produced an ordinance dated several years ago stating that council members and the mayor are required to attend monthly meetings in order to receive their compensation.

Mr. Weigle replied the Borough Code provides no penalties to a mayor who does not attend council meetings, nor does it provide a mandated compensation for a mayor.

He added the borough ordinance, however, sets forth both a compensation schedule for the mayor and borough council and salary penalty system for missed meetings, noting the ordinance would control the amount of compensation to which one is entitled should a meeting be missed by the mayor or members of borough council.

Questions of a legal nature should be directed to Association Solicitor Jerry Weigle at 126 East King Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257, by phoning (717) 532-7388, or e-mail at [jweigle@weigleassociates.com](mailto:jweigle@weigleassociates.com).

## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### OFFICERS

President	Gerald C. Yob	600 Monroe Street, Freemansburg, PA 18017
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Thomas R. Lloyd	1444 Hillsdale Ave., Suite 10, Dormont, PA 15216
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Thomas D. Reenock	1401 Laubach Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067
Secretary-Treasurer	Tim Palmieri	602 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001
Solicitor	Jerry A. Weigle	126 East King Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

James Daugherty	<i>Mayor of Wellsboro</i>
Joan Derco	<i>Mayor of Youngwood</i>
John Dorin	<i>Mayor of Montoursville</i>
James J. Gallucci	<i>Mayor of West Leechburg Immediate Past President</i>
Bruce Hockersmith	<i>Mayor of Shippensburg</i>
Albert N. Montecalvo	<i>Mayor of Lewis Run</i>

Thomas M. Oliverio	<i>Mayor of Zelienople</i>
David S. Perruso	<i>Mayor of Wilson</i>
Ross E. Porter	<i>Mayor of Smethport</i>
Randy Riddle	<i>Mayor of Grove City</i>
Richard A. Starliper	<i>Mayor of Waynesboro</i>

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