

ASSOCIATION OF MAYORS OF THE BOROUGHES OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Last Call for Mayor of the Year, Bob Linn Memorial Scholarship Awards

Deadlines for the Association's Outstanding Mayor of the Year and Bob Linn Memorial Scholarships are February 29. Applications for both will be accepted if they are postmarked by that date.

Applications for both awards are now available from the Association's website www.paboroughmayors.org.

Qualifications for the award are 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 or e-mail copies will be accepted.

The 2011 award winner was Zelienople Mayor Thomas Oliverio.

Qualifications for the Bob Linn Memorial Scholarship are as follows:

1. The candidate must submit a high school transcript.
2. The candidate must list all school activities and offices held.
3. A letter of recommendation from a guidance counselor of the high school where the candidate is attending, and from a teacher of the student in the 12th grade must be provided.
4. A listing of examples of community service must be provided.
5. A copy of the letter of notification of admission from the college or university where the nominee will be attending is required.
6. An informal letter in the individual's handwriting for the purpose of enabling the Association's Scholarship Committee to become acquainted with the nominee and why the nominee wants to attend college, and what they expect of a college education, must be completed.
7. In relation to an Association member, the application of the nominee shall be from a high school senior who is a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, stepson, stepdaughter, step grandson or step granddaughter of a current Association member in good standing.
8. There is no restriction requiring the candidate to be a native of Pennsylvania, or whether the candidate plans to attend a Pennsylvania college or university.
9. The committee requests the right to use discretion if there are no candidates who are going into areas of public administration, which has been identified as the specific area of Association interest.

Please adhere to the aforementioned qualifications when sending scholarship information for award consideration. Two \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded at the Association's mid-year Executive Committee meeting. Contact Secretary/Treasurer Tim Palmieri for information.

No fax or e-mail copies will be accepted.

News from Around the Commonwealth

Crafton Borough Council insured the legacy of its late former Mayor Ed Stewart who died on Nov. 13, by establishing the Edward L Stewart Community Service Awards in the name of the mayor who served 16 years in office and four years on borough council, and by appointment to council in January 2010.

Former Mayor Susan O'Connell, who now serves on council, composed a special mention resolution that created the award, to be presented annually beginning this September.

The award will be presented to members of organizations sanctioned by the borough and registered nonprofits whose work benefits the borough.

A World War II Marine Corps veteran and special agent with the FBI for 25 years, Mayor Stewart was head of security for J&L Steel before forming his own private security consulting firm.

Derry Mayor David Bolen is following the footsteps of his father who served in the office more than a decade ago.

"Its home," he said. "Everyone's got to call somewhere home in life ... It's just one of those things where everything I've done in life has brought me here."

His father, Ron "R.T." Bolen, served on council and as mayor after spending 20 years as police chief.

Goal-oriented, Mayor Bolen said one of his first orders of business is working closely to acquaint himself with council.

"I'm sure we'll get to know each other pretty well," he said. "I just want to assure public safety for the town and find us some assistance."

Mayor Bolen is serving the two years remaining of his predecessor, Mayor Susan Bortz, who resigned in November because of health concerns.

Mayor Bortz is also taking a yearlong leave of absence from the Derry Area Revitalization Corp., which she helped found, and helping her successor in the transition to the office.

Mayor Bortz said Mayor Bolen's service as a 14-year member of the volunteer fire department and seven years as an employee with Mutual Aid Ambulance Service should guide him as mayor.

"He knows the Borough Code inside and out and knows the needs of the community," Mayor Bortz said. "He's a good guy; he's very bright and an intelligent young man. He's well-wrapped up in the community, well-liked and well-respected."

As mayor, the most important role is that of keeping the residents safe, Mayor Bolen said.

"Derry's Derry," he said. "The big thing for me is to keep the town going straight and sure with public safety and the police on track."

It's not often that someone gets a day in their honor but the late Lansdale Mayor and Association President Michael DiNunzio received exactly that on December 4 as more than 100 residents from Lansdale and the surrounding area paid their respect to Mike at a themed open house at the Jenkins Homestead, which featured dozens of collectibles the late Mayor gathered over 93 years.

Among his collectibles were antique clocks, old aprons he wore at his shoemaker business, paperweights, and model cars among some of the items.

Lansdale Historical Society President Dick Shearer noted with the volume of material Mike collected over the years that it would be impossible to bring everything.

"We had to pick what we thought represented him the best and what items of his meant the most," Mr. Shearer said.

In the upstairs of the Jenkins Homestead were plaques Mike received over the years from local organizations and companies including the Lansdale Police Department, the Fairmont Fire Company, the North Penn Chamber of Commerce, the Lansdale Jaycees, and the Association of Mayors of the Boroughs of Pennsylvania.

But the impression everyone had of Mike was the same, describing him as "the sweetest man they have ever me" and the friendly guy who welcomed you downtown and was always there to put a smile on your face.

For Mike's son, Mike, Jr. and his daughter-in-law, MaryBeth, the open house event was overwhelming.

"It is such an honor that the historical society did this," MaryBeth said. "They took a little bit of everything, just the right amount to show who he really was."

Young Mike thought an item that was necessary at the open house was the Blue Motorcycle Club vest his Dad received from the club, and that he wore at every Lansdale Bike Night event.

Mike added each year at Bike Night the club would give his father a new pin, commemorating that year, all of which were pinned to his jacket.

But for those who attended the open house, they got a look into the personal life of the mayor they called "Mayor Mike."

For additional information about the late Mayor DiNunzio, please refer to the Nov./Dec. 2011 Association newsletter on our website of www.paboroughmayors.org.

As a mayor a special privilege granted to them is marrying couples with the place and time agreeable to the couple and mayor.

Mechanicsburg Mayor Jack Ritter performed a unique union when a couple solemnized their vows in the mayor's hardware store. There was no tape to record the ceremony and only a few witnesses watched the brief ceremony.

When Brandi (Harrelson) Zerbe learned that a mayor can conduct weddings, she contacted Mayor Ritter on Nov. 28 and asked if they could get married that day at the store, the mayor agreed and married them in the tool aisle.

The groom joked that if the mayor was going to marry them in a hardware store that they should get married between the nuts and the screws. However, their vows were exchanged between the hammers and vice grips.

The ceremony was short and sweet and when it ended, the impromptu wedding guests broke into applause.

There was no reception or honeymoon because the couple had to go back to work at their respective jobs.

The groom, Merrill Zerbe, is a helicopter mechanic with the Pennsylvania National Guard at Fort Indiantown Gap. Brandi works in security at a mall in the Harrisburg area. The couple said they plan on having a more traditional ceremony in a few years.

Mayor Ritter estimates he's performed as many as 150 weddings while he's served as mayor, but said this one really was different.

He conducts the majority of his ceremonies in Union Church in Mechanicsburg, the state Capitol, in backyards and occasionally along the Appalachian Trail.

Jim Thorpe Mayor Michael Sofranko and Police Chief Joseph Schatz were pleased with the results of a police management study which reviewed the department's structure and operational procedures by utilizing statistical data, surveys, and interviews.

The study was conducted by the Governors Center for Local Government Services, and funded by a state grant given by the CCLGS.

It reviewed the police department in terms of organization, staffing, administrative services, investigations, patrols, field operations, personnel, policies, leadership, and budget policies. The study began in July and the report was issued in October.

The report also discussed the dynamics between the mayor and police department.

Mayor Sofranko stated the department follows an administrative style with the chief running the department and the mayor providing support for the work of the chief and officers.

Among some recommended changes were the holding cell in the police department and some changes that should be made to it; keeping up with different kinds of training, including human resource training; updating the department website and providing a 3-5 year plan to present to borough council about the direction the department is going.

“It was a worthwhile study. It showed us some pros and cons and put everything on the table,” Mayor Sofranko concluded.

Two retired mayors with deep roots in their respective communities recently passed away.

Former Turtle Creek Mayor James DeMuzzio, known throughout the Turtle Creek Valley as “The Mayor” for his decades of community service as not only a mayor but as councilman for more than 40 years, died Oct. 5, at the age of 95

Always active in the borough, he was a charter member of the Turtle Creek Little League, a member and later president of the Turtle Creek Optimist Club, a lifetime member and past commander of the Turtle Creek VFW and a member of the American Legion and the Turtle Creek Rotary, among other groups.

He was also active behind the scenes, as well.

“He had his own turkey fund and had merchants who supported him over the years who donated anonymously to help provide groceries for people in need. We were just overwhelmed hearing all the stories at the funeral home. I’m really proud of him. I don’t know that I really understood who he was,” said his son, James.

Former Mt. Pleasant Mayor William “Bill” Potoka, who served as mayor for 16 years, died Dec. 26.

Well-known and respected in the community, Mayor Potoka served on numerous councils, groups and boards.

Mt. Pleasant Mayor Jerry Lucia called Mayor Potoka a wonderful friend.

“Bill really taught me a lot,” Mayor Lucia said. “He was a big encouragement to me when I was running for mayor, and he helped me along the way.”

Mayor Lucia added the late mayor was proud of the town and its accomplishments. Among them were the arrival of Volkswagen in the 1970s, the town’s bicentennial, the East End Civic Association, the return of hostage Jerry Miele from Iran and the many veterans’ programs that Mayor Potoka attended and helped organize.

Our condolences go to the families of Mayors DeMuzzio and Potoka.

2012 Dues Are Due

Annual dues statements for 2012 were mailed to borough managers or secretaries several months ago. If you haven't received an invoice statement, contact Tim Palmieri.

Please fill out all dues statements completely, with a correct address, so that information can be kept current for mailing purposes. This includes incumbent mayors.

In a number of returned renewals, a returned dues statement was not included with the payment or the statement was left blank.

Benefits include our quarterly newsletter, which has current information for borough mayors, the MAYORS' REGISTER, which carries a listing of all our members, and anytime access to our Internet website.

Please note: To ensure uninterrupted delivery of all correspondence and publications, as well as accurate listings in the MAYORS' REGISTER, it is imperative that each member promptly inform the secretary/treasurer of any changes in the mayor's office. This would include a change in the name of the incumbent and/or mailing address.

Mayor's ID Badge, Baseball Cap Available to Membership

Want to show your loyalty to the Association? Then purchase an identification badge or custom-made baseball cap.

The hats come in lightweight and heavyweight versions and are available for \$20 each, which includes shipping and handling. The identification badge sells for \$15.

To order the baseball cap, or identification badge or both items, please download a form from the Association website and send it to Association Secretary/Treasurer Tim Palmieri, 602 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001. Requests will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please allow reasonable time for shipping and delivery.

Payment by check or money order can be made to the Association of Mayors of the Boroughs of Pennsylvania.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

President	Gerald C. Yob	600 Monroe Street, Freemansburg, PA 18017
1 st Vice President	Thomas R. Lloyd	1444 Hillsdale Ave., Suite 10, Dormont, PA 15216
2 nd 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

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