



MANS&C

The Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges

MANS&C: Strength in Numbers



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This is a critical time for our institutions. New bills that threaten our independence have been filed at the State House and more and more communities are looking at us as revenue sources.

That's why I am urging you to renew your MANS&C membership today, if you haven't done so already.

MANS&C members are fortunate to have the services of Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane, who is at the State House every day representing our interests. John has the respect of legislators and has had a hand in turning back countless bills that would have been harmful to our members. He also works closely with other organizations on issues of mutual concern, further expanding our influence.

In addition to benefiting from John's services, MANS&C members have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with legislative leaders at our Annual Meetings. Legislative Alerts convey information about important bills, and news of interest is available on our website, www.mansac.org, and in our MANS&C Quarterly e-newsletter.

MANS&C members also can get guidance in creating Community Impact Statements, which detail our institutions' community contributions. These are invaluable tools when local officials question whether nonprofit schools, colleges and universities are paying their fair share.

We work hard to protect your interests, and your support is crucial to that effort. The larger our membership base, the more resources we can provide to members and the more influential MANS&C will be on Beacon Hill.

As Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Best regards,
Julaine McInnis
MANS&C President

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Renew Your Membership Today!

You need MANS&C at your side at a time like this.

MANS&C members enjoy many benefits, including representation on Beacon Hill by our experienced Legislative Counsel, John J. Spillane. John has an impressive record of helping to turn back bills that would be costly and erode our independence.

Members also have the opportunity to meet key legislative leaders at our Annual Meeting and receive Legislative Alerts when bills of concern are moving and action needs to be taken.

Renewing your membership is easy. Go to www.mansac.org and click on Membership Benefits. You'll find an online form and an address for mailing your check.

If you have questions, please contact MANS&C President Julaine McInnis at jmcinnis@UrsulineAcademy.net or 781-493-7707.

Influential Committee Chairman to Speak at Annual Meeting



State Rep. Theodore C. Speliotis will be the guest speaker on May 21 at the MANS&C Annual Meeting, to be held at the Hampshire House in Boston from noon to 2 p.m.

Rep. Speliotis is chairman of one of the most influential House Committees – Bills in the Third Reading – which reviews every bill before it is considered by the House membership. He has served in the House of Representatives for 25 years and is now its third most-senior member.

His seniority, experience and key leadership positions in the legislature have made Rep. Speliotis one of the most effective, approachable and informed legislators on Beacon Hill.

A Democrat, he represents Danvers, Middleton and Peabody. He has a B.S. in Political Science and teaching certification from Northeastern University, where he later worked as Director of State Relations.

To register, contact Julaine McInnis at jmcinnis@UrsulineAcademy.net or 781-493-7707.

PILOT Issue is Back in the News in Boston and Worcester

Northeastern University recently made an \$886,000 voluntary payment to Boston to cover municipal services in the last fiscal year, but is being criticized for falling short of the \$2.5 million the city had requested.

Northeastern believes that paying any more would have been unfair, according to a Boston Globe article.

Nonprofits are exempt from local property taxes in every state. In 2011, however, Boston expanded its existing voluntary payment program, and asked all of the city's nonprofits with more than \$15 million in tax-exempt property to participate. The program offers some credits for community services.

Northeastern noted that it voluntarily pays more than \$2 million in taxes annually on property that had been taxable before being acquired by the university. Those payments do not count under the city's voluntary PILOT program.

Northeastern also provides \$16 million through a wide range of community services and \$12 million in scholarships to Boston students. It also has its own police force, and its own snow removal and trash removal programs.

In Worcester recently, a citizens' group called AWARE (Accurate Worcester Assessments on Real Estate) and several city councilors have renewed their call for nonprofits to make voluntary payments

to the city for the municipal services they receive, according to a Worcester Telegram article.

AWARE acknowledged in a statement that some nonprofits currently have PILOT agreements with the city, but added that nonprofits that are not making voluntary payments should begin to do so.

Currently, PILOT payments from MCPHS University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Clark University help fund the Worcester Public Library and maintain certain parks.

While it does not have a PILOT agreement with the city, the College of the Holy Cross provides Worcester with extensive financial and social benefits, primarily in infrastructure development and education.

The social and financial benefits Holy Cross provides to the city are detailed on its website:

http://offices.holycross.edu/sites/all/modules/tinytinymce/tinymce/jscripts/tiny_mce/plugins/filemanager/files/about/community/IntheCommunity2013web.pdf

For the complete Worcester Telegram article, go to: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20150117/COLUMN27/301179705/0/SEARCH>.

Maine Governor Pushes Property Taxes for Nonprofits

A tax-reform package in Maine Gov. Paul LePage's proposed budget would make that state the first in the union to require nonprofit institutions to pay property taxes.

If the Maine legislature approves the measure, nonprofits would be required to pay 50 percent of the assessed value on property valued at more than \$500,000. Only churches, government-owned entities and nonprofits with less-valuable property would be exempt.

LePage's budget package also would eliminate state funding to cities and towns, which would force communities to make budget cuts, share services with other towns and find new sources of revenue. Critics say taxing nonprofit property would not make up the shortfall that local communities would face with the withdrawal of state funds.

The Maine Independent Colleges Association believes the measure would drive up tuition and force the cutback of community programs. Smaller nonprofit organizations, including food banks, land trusts and the Girl Scouts, also are speaking against the proposal.

Nationwide, more than 200 communities have negotiated payments in lieu of taxes from nonprofits, according to the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Between 75 and 80 percent of the agreements are in the Northeast, with the largest share in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. The northeast relies more heavily on property taxes to support local government than other parts of the country.

Key Committee Assignments are Announced

House and Senate leaders have appointed members to two committees – Education and Higher Education – that will deal with bills of importance to MANS&C members in the new session. Both have people in leadership positions, Rep. Peisch and Sen. Moore, who have spoken to MANS&C members.

All are Democrats, unless otherwise noted.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Chairs: Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, Boston, and Rep. Alice Hanlon Peisch, Wellesley
- Vice Chairs: Sen. Patricia D. Jehlen, Somerville, and Rep. Danielle W. Gregoire, Marlborough
- Members: Senators Linda Dorcena Ferry, Dorchester; Barbara L'Italien, Andover; Jason M. Lewis, Winchester; Donald F. Humason Jr. R-Westfield
- Representatives Robert Koczera, New Bedford; Marcos A. Devers, Lawrence; Michael Day, Stoneham; Paul Tucker, Salem; John H. Rogers, Norwood; Diana DiZoglio, Methuen; Rady Mom, Lowell

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Chairs: Sen. Michael O. Moore, Millbury, and Rep. Tom Sannicandro, Ashland
- Vice Chairs: Sen. Eileen M. Donoghue, Lowell, and Rep. Sean Garbally, Arlington
- Members: Senators Benjamin B. Downing, Pittsfield; Kathleen O'Connor Ives, Newburyport; Barbara L'Italien, Andover; Richard J. Ross, R-Wrentham.
- Representatives William Smitty Pignatelli, Lenox; Thomas J. Calter, Kingston; James Arciero, Westford; Carmine Gentile, Sudbury; Denise Provost, Somerville; Stephen L. DiNatale, Fitchburg; Jonathan D. Zlotnick, Gardner

Meet State Sen. Barbara L'Italien



Newly elected Sen. Barbara L'Italien was elected to the State Senate in 2014 and was recently appointed to the Joint Committees on both Education and Higher Education. She also was named chair of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Sen. L'Italien is well known for her advocacy on behalf of the disability community, specifically in the area of Autism, and chairs the state-wide Autism Commission.

She was a member of the state House of Representatives from 2003-11 and went on to serve as Director of Government Affairs for State Treasurer Steve Grossman. Before her election to the House, she was a social worker specializing in elder care.

A Democrat, Sen. L'Italien grew up in the Merrimack Valley and now represents Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury. She and her husband have four children and live in Andover.

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