



MANS&C

The Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges

Lt. Governor is Annual Meeting Guest



Massachusetts Lt. Governor Karyn Polito will be the guest speaker at the MANS&C Annual Meeting on May 10 at the Fay School in Southborough.

MANS&C members and guests will have a chance to meet and exchange ideas with the Lt. Governor, who is expected to speak at 11 a.m.

Registration for the Annual Meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m., and a buffet luncheon and business meeting will follow her remarks.

Lt. Governor Polito chairs the Community Compact Cabinet, the Seaport Economic Council and the Governor's Council, where she works to promote two of her priorities – preventing sexual assault and domestic violence.

She also serves as co-chair of the STEM Advisory Council, working to ensure that all students have access to STEM courses with the goal of preparing them for careers and closing the skills gap.

A lifelong resident of Shrewsbury, Lt. Governor Polito began her public service career as a member of the Shrewsbury Board of Selectmen. She went on to serve five terms in the State House of Representatives before being elected Lieutenant Governor in 2014.

She has a B.S. from Boston College and a J.D. from the New England School of Law.

To register for the MANS&C Annual Meeting, go to www.mansac.org. Directions to the Fay School campus and information about parking can be found at <https://www.fayschool.org/page/about/visitor-information>.

MANS&C Stops Troublesome Bills at State House



A bill that would have restricted the right of Massachusetts nonprofit schools, colleges and universities to build or renovate campus structures is no longer in play on Beacon Hill, thanks to the efforts

of MANS&C Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane.

Senate Bill 92 would have shattered the state's Dover Amendment, which severely limits the power of local planning boards to derail building permit applications from nonprofit educational institutions. The bill would have expanded the boards' reach and also enabled communities to institute a site plan review for these projects.

The measure was one of several bills of concern that were sent to study and are effectively dead for the remainder of the current legislative session, Spillane reported.

A number of other bills would have extensively taxed nonprofit schools and colleges. Two took aim at the state's largest nonprofit colleges, universities and public charities. House Bill 3526 threatened to impose property taxes on institutions whose top five highest-compensated officers, directors, trustees, employees, independent contractors or others earn more than \$2.5 million a year.

House Bill 1617 would have placed a 1 percent excise tax on schools and colleges that have endowments of \$1 billion or more.

Although these bills targeted larger schools, MANS&C believes that if they had passed, smaller schools and colleges might be next.

Other bills that were turned back:

- ▶ Authorized local communities to impose property taxes on all nonprofit schools and colleges equal to 25 percent of what they would have paid if they were not tax exempt (House Bill 1565)
- ▶ Gave communities the right of first refusal as part of a lengthy process when a nonprofit wants to convert tax-exempt property to residential, commercial or industrial use (House Bill 2594)
- ▶ Enabled cities and towns to require Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs) from local nonprofit schools and colleges (House Bill 1639).

Working in collaboration with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts (AICUM), Spillane was able to have all of these bills sent to study.

Spillane will be closely watching the upcoming budget talks in case these bills reappear as last-minute amendments.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



MANS&C's achievements continue to grow. On May 10 we will welcome Lt. Governor Karyn Polito as the guest speaker at our Annual Meeting. And as you'll see in this Newsletter issue, MANS&C Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane has played a major role in turning back a long list of bills that would have been costly to our member institutions and chipped away at our historic independence.

One bill – aimed at the Dover Amendment – would have given local communities greater control over our building projects. Others would have imposed property taxes or PILOT programs on our institutions. Some opened the door to taxing endowments. Another would have given local communities the right of first approval when nonprofit schools and colleges want to convert property to certain other uses.

Imagine the financial burden our institutions would face if those bills had passed. Compare that with MANS&C dues structure and you'll see how cost-effective MANS&C membership is.

Keep in mind that John's expertise is only one of the many benefits of MANS&C membership. A major plus is the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with the commonwealth's highest-level officials – like Lt. Governor Polito.

As part of our commitment to continually improve member services, we've also updated our website, www.mansac.org, with an online membership database and directory, an automated membership renewal process and an events calendar with registration capabilities. In the coming weeks you'll also find a Member News column and more timely information on important legislative matters.

MANS&C also will continue to be an important resource in helping members create Community Impact Statements to showcase the many contributions we make to our cities and towns. This Newsletter highlights the community-wide benefits Lawrence Academy's CIS prompted, as well as tips in how to create a CIS of your own.

Our website has more details about the Annual Meeting, which will be at the Fay School in Southborough. I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

Best Regards,
Gwen Pojasek
MANS&C President

CONTENTS

Lt. Governor is Annual Meeting Guest	1
MANS&C Stops Troublesome Bills at State House	1
President's Letter	2
Call MANS&C	2
Check Out Our New Website	2
Lawrence Academy CIS Has Widespread Benefits	3
What to Include in a CIS?	3
Executive Board members 2017-18	4

Call MANS&C

What did three schools do recently when their local community asked them to make payments in lieu of taxes?

They called an ally -- MANS&C!

The MANS&C Board and Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane are always ready to provide advice and counsel to members grappling with community issues. We can tell you what other schools and colleges have done and help you set up a plan of action.

**IF YOU NEED
MANS&C'S HELP,
CALL:**

**Gwen Pojasek
MANS&C President
781-314-0836**



Check Out Our New Website

MANS&C has launched its newly updated website, www.mansac.org, as part of our ongoing efforts to better serve our members.

The site's new features include a member directory and database, a fully automated membership renewal process and an events calendar with registration capabilities. You'll also find the latest news and email tools that allow us to provide you with more timely information on important legislative matters.

In the coming weeks, our Member News feature will focus on the important contributions MANS&C members make to their communities. We'll also be continuing our emphasis on Community Impact Statements by presenting helpful tips and examples from our members.

Bookmark the site and visit often!

www.mansac.org

Lawrence Academy CIS Has Widespread Benefits

Thanks to Lawrence Academy's Community Impact Statement, Groton officials better understand the Academy's positive impact on the community and a new spirit of communication has developed between the town and school.

Recently other nonprofits in town began taking notice. The Groton Nonprofit Council has been inspired to create its own Community Impact Statement, according to Lawrence Academy Associate Head of School Rob Moore.

Moore lead the Academy committee charged with creating the CIS two years ago. He said committee members were able to move pretty quickly in gathering the information and designing the four-page, full-color brochure.

"It's a really good piece," he added. "It highlights the many contributions that the school makes to the town and surrounding area – without being a brag sheet."

Lawrence Academy administrators understand that the town finds it challenging to find enough revenue sources to pay its bills, Moore said, adding, "But we, as a nonprofit, do not have a lot of extra funds available and what we do have we use to benefit our students."

The new spirit of communication prompted by the CIS has opened up some new, creative ways that the Academy can help the town.

When town officials mentioned that they needed to conduct a survey, for example, the Academy volunteered to have students take it on as a project—saving the town approximately \$4,000.

"And if there's a big event in town we're open to helping by sending some vans and drivers. It doesn't cost us much and it saves money for the town," Moore added. "The CIS has helped build a lot of

bridges between the board of selectmen, the town and the nonprofits in town."

Moore said the goal of the Academy's CIS was to raise consciousness. He has some advice for nonprofit schools and colleges that would like to create Community Impact Statements:

- ▶ Don't get too specific
- ▶ Don't make it a boasting sheet
- ▶ Don't try to outdo other nonprofits

To see a copy of the Lawrence Academy Community Impact Statement, go to the MANS&C website, www.mansac.org, and click on In the Community, Making a Statement.

What to Include in a CIS?

The shorter the better. Community Impact Statements don't need to be exhaustive lists of every dollar your school or college has spent locally and every cultural event that's open to the public.

The best versions clearly and concisely highlight the scope of the cultural offerings, service projects and financial benefits that our institutions provide. They give a sense of your institution's history and community spirit. Highlighting them with photos and quotes from the community heightens their appeal.

Most of us have the statistics and resources we need right at our fingertips. Here are some points to think about when you're assembling your Community Impact Statement:

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

How many faculty and staff members live in your community and surrounding towns and what is your payroll in salary and benefits for them?

How much do you spend annually with local vendors?

What amount does your faculty, staff, students and visitors spend annually in your community?

Do you make voluntary payments to the community? How much do you pay locally or to the state every year in taxes, utilities and fees?

Do you pay property taxes on any of your land or structures?

How many local students attend your institution and how much financial aid do you provide to them?

What are your annual capital expenditures?

Do your students or faculty make cash donations to local causes?

How many alumni live and work in the community?

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Describe your community service programs and how they benefit your city or town.

List the community organizations that use your facilities for free or at a reduced rate.

Do you have any environmental programs that benefit the community?

Did your institution donate any new or used equipment and supplies, or services of any kind to local organizations or town departments?

How many volunteer hours do faculty and staff provide to community causes?

Do you invite the public to hear speakers or attend musical performances on your campus?

List any recognition your institution, staff or students have received for community involvement.

Do you operate in partnership or collaborate with local organizations?

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