

THE ACCORD

April 2010

Another Late Budget...

The fiscal year came to a close on Wednesday March 31st without an official deal between the Legislature and Governor Paterson, once again marking a late State Budget.

At this time, the New York State Assembly has passed their State Budget proposal on the heels of the Senate's approval of their spending plan. This action makes the negotiating position of both houses of the legislature known as they attempt to work out a deal with Governor Paterson for a final Fiscal Year 2010-11 State Budget. Governor Paterson has prepared two week budget extenders to keep State government operating and is prepared to continue doing so until a final budget is passed.

State lawmakers have only passed an on-time budget six times since 1975, according to the state comptroller's office. On several other occasions, the Legislature has passed what some Albany insiders like to call a "timely budget" — that is, a budget passed within a few days of the March 31 deadline. The last on-time budget was in 2006.

Starting April 1st, no legislator will be paid their salaries until a budget is approved, in compliance with a 1998 law. The governor and other top elected officials will continue to receive their paychecks.

In terms of negotiation, the Senate agrees with the Governor's plan to cut school aid by \$1 billion as well as cuts to health care providers. The Assembly proposes only a \$400 million cut to schools and includes a version of Lt Governor Ravitch's plan for borrowing to get through the State fiscal crisis. Both proposals reject the Governor's proposal for a

new tax on sugared sodas and allowing wine to be sold in grocery stores.

At this time, the proposed funding levels for our YMCA State priorities are:

- o Advantage After School - Executive Budget: \$17.2 million – Senate: \$26 million – Assembly: \$24 million
- o Extended Day After School – Executive Budget: \$24.3 million – Same Level in both houses
- o Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) – Executive Budget: \$400 million – Same Level in both houses
- o Youth Bureau Funding (YDDP & SDPP) – Executive Budget: \$28.2 million – Senate: \$31.8 million – Assembly: \$28.5 million
- o Summer Youth Employment – Executive Budget: No Funding – Senate: \$35 million – Assembly: \$21 million
- o SRO Supportive Housing – Executive Budget: \$17.6 million – Senate: \$19.5 million – Assembly: \$18 million
- o Homeless Housing Assistance – Executive Budget: \$30 million - Same Level in both houses

We will continue to advocate for these priorities until a final budget is reached.



A Note from the Director



Kyle Stewart

As New York State government continues on without an approved State Budget, YMCAs continue on by serving the community. While we certainly are happy to see significant strides toward our goals in both the Senate's and Assembly's budget

proposals, we have a long way to go. Meanwhile, YMCAs will hold one of my favorite days of the year soon: Healthy Kids Day! This is an example of YMCAs' great work and dedication to kids and families despite the struggle over the State Budget.



Helping The YMCA
Help Others

DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION

Each March, young adults from across New York State gather in Albany to take control of the State Capitol, debate controversial issues and develop a sense of civic participation.

It is a tradition that dates back to 1936 and this March was no different. From March 12-14, 2010 over 600 teens gathered for the 74th annual New York State

YMCA Youth and Government (YAG) Conference. After months of preparation and anticipation by the youth participants, it was finally time for youth legislators and youth lobbyists to debate and lobby proposed legislation, judicial participants to argue and deliberate cases, and for the press corps to report on all aspects of the program.



An example of the thought provoking and well researched work of the Youth and Government students is highlighted in an excerpt from an article written by Press Corps member Natalie Bugnacka of District 5 (NYC). The article was originally printed in the newspaper that is published by the students at the conference, *The Dialectic*. The text of the article reads:

A Second Choice For Inmates

"Fifty lives are saved when one person donated their organs. Currently nine thousand three hundred people in the United States are on the waiting list for an organ due to the limited amount of donors. In prison, there are currently one hundred



Youth attorneys argue their case before a panel of justices

and thirty two thousand inmates sentenced to life imprisonment without parole, meaning that if at least half of these inmates gave up their organs, it would be more than enough to satisfy the quota of those in need of an organ. With that in mind, Bill Number 04 01 05, by Jesse Basson, David Getman and Eoro Talo allows for another alternative to donating organs. This bill gives prisoners who have life sentences without parole the choice to undergo a voluntary brain death and have their organs donated. The bill clearly states that the injection would be voluntary and



even beforehand, the inmates would have to be evaluated by a psychologist, who would

then deem them mentally fit for the injection. The bill sponsors stated that 'the cost of life imprisonment without parole immensely exceeds the cost of the injection by a whopping \$47,000, which is the yearly expense rate of an inmate.'

The majority ruled for the passing of bill 01.04.05, after a lively debate."

YMCAs interested in beginning a program this fall should begin seeking volunteers and develop recruiting



plans in anticipation of busy fall schedules. For more information, or a copy of this year's Passed Legislative Book, contact Mark Rutkowski at the YMCA of Greater Rochester at 585-341-3235 or visit the Youth and Government web site: <http://www.nystateymcayag.org>

74th Annual New York State YMCA Youth and Government Conference



It's NEW at the YMCA:

Canandaigua YMCA

In 2008 the Canandaigua YMCA began an \$8 million renovation, which was recently completed. The renovations incorporated a new wellness center, locker rooms, parking lot, entryway, and the biggest improvement of all: a new



aquatic center. The YMCA now has a 6,800 square foot aquatic center and a 175% increase in parking spaces.

In 2010 the Canandaigua YMCA's Capital Campaign continues with \$500,000 left to go. Their senior population and families continue to grow and enjoy the "new" YMCA. The renovations have enabled the Y to offer more programs for the entire community. The Canandaigua Family

YMCA is committed to supporting the needs of the Canandaigua community, as well as surrounding communities.

"It has been well received by the community. The project had some challenges with the economic climate, but we know that it was well worth all of the efforts by our staff, volunteers, donors and project engineers. We were one of the final IDA projects to be approved before the January 30, 2008 deadline," stated Laurie O'Shaughnessy, CEO of the Canandaigua YMCA.



New Main Entry and Brick Donor Garden

Capital District YMCA

A \$3.5 million YMCA that opened March 23, 2010 is another step toward bringing businesses back to downtown Schenectady. The new 28,500-square-foot facility inside Center City in the heart of downtown Schenectady replaces the cramped, aging Y on lower State Street .

The bottom floor of the new YMCA has more than 50 cardiovascular machines, free weights, aerobics room, spinning room, sauna and steam rooms, locker rooms and an NCAA regulation-sized basketball court. The Schenectady County Community College basketball teams will play in the gym.

Assemblyman James Tedisco, a former standout high school and college basketball player, said he looked forward to taking shots from the corners of the court at the

grand opening. At the old Y, a small running track suspended above the court obstructed shots from the corners, forcing players to take more of a line drive



(l-r) State Assemblyman James Tedisco (R,I,C-Schenectady-Saratoga), Schenectady Mayor Brian Stratton and Susan Savage, Chair of the Schenectady County Legislature

shot than an arc. Tedisco said he hoped the new Y will encourage people to exercise and fight the obesity epidemic among children.

The new Schenectady YMCA has about 1,500 members. The goal is to double the number in a year, said David Brown, president and CEO of the Capital District YMCA.



Follow the YMCAs of New York State on Facebook! Keep up on policy news from Albany, see what other Ys in New York State are doing and share your news!

facebook