

Prosecutors Association Announces Scholarships

The County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey Foundation, a non-profit corporation for scholarships, is accepting applications, Attorney General Peter Verniero announced.

The Oscar W. Rittenhouse Memorial Scholarship is a one-year, \$2,500 grant that is paid directly to the recipient. It is open to any New Jersey resident who has been admitted to an accredited law school and has a special interest in law enforcement.

Those awarded the scholarship in the past may reapply for the award. It is awarded annually in memory of Oscar "Bill" Rittenhouse, Hunterdon County's first full-time prosecutor.

The Andrew K. Ruotolo, Jr., Memorial Scholarship is also a \$2,500 annual grant paid directly to the winner. It is open to state residents who are former recipients who have been admitted to an accredited law or graduate school.

Applicants must show an interest in working to enhance the rights and well-being of children through advocacy programs, according to Mr. Verniero's office.

The scholarship is in memory of former Union County Prosecutor Andrew "Drew" Ruotolo, Jr., who established the Union County Child

Advocacy Center.

In its first year, the Harris Y. Cotton Memorial Scholarship is also a one-year, \$2,500 award paid directly to the recipient. Winners may apply in succeeding years.

To be eligible for the Cotton scholarship, applicants must be state residents admitted to law school. They must exhibit an interest in law enforcement and prosecution of hate crimes and domestic violence.

Those interested must also demonstrate financial need for the scholarship, named after former Gloucester County Prosecutor Harris Cotton, who was an advocate for the protection of individual rights.

Applications for any of the 1998-1999 school year scholarships must be received no later than Monday, June 15. They may be obtained by calling (609) 984-0051 or by writing to:

Oscar W. Rittenhouse Memorial Scholarship, Andrew K. Ruotolo Memorial Scholarship, or Harris Y. Cotton Memorial Scholarship, in care of New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Prosecutors and Police Bureau, Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex, Post Office Box 085 Trenton, 08625.

Governor Whitman Signs Car Insurance Reform

Governor Christie Whitman signed into law last week the first real reform of New Jersey's automobile insurance system in 26 years.

The new measure guarantees a rate reduction of 15 percent for most drivers and provides consumers with more options, while reducing lawsuits, addressing insurance fraud and excessive medical testing and treatment.

The new law will achieve substantial savings by limiting lawsuits for pain and suffering.

Currently, persons can choose an option to sue for pain and suffering from temporary, non-serious injuries. The new limit requires that permanent injury must be to a body part or organ - not only tissue.

A new basic insurance policy, available to motorists under the new law, will allow people to meet the state's mandatory insurance requirement for a cost of \$350 to \$400. The basic policy is designed to reduce the number of uninsured drivers, Governor Whitman stated.

Additionally, consumers may carry less personal injury protection (PIP) coverage than the \$250,000 currently required. The standard policy offers PIP coverage as low as \$15,000. The

default amount chosen by the majority of drivers will remain at \$250,000 and coverage for catastrophic injuries will not exceed \$250,000 under the plan.

The bill also seeks to control premium costs with anti-fraud measures. Physicians will be required to certify the seriousness of the plaintiff's condition in every pain and suffering lawsuit brought under the plan.

A fraudulent certification will be punishable by revocation of the physician's professional license and imprisonment.

The bill preserves rate caps for senior citizens and drivers who select the basic policy. The new law permits multi-car households to cut their comprehensive and collision insurance costs by specifically naming those drivers that will be permitted to drive certain vehicles.

The legislation was sponsored by State Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco, a Republican from Scotch Plains, State Senator John Adler, of Camden, and Assemblyman Christopher "Kip" Bateman, a Republican from Somerville, and Louis D. Greenwald, a Democrat from Cherry Hill.



ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED...Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco, left, and Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine, right, present a Joint Legislative Resolution to William Crosby, President of the Fanwood Rescue Squad, to mark the 50th anniversary of the organization.

New ID Cards to be Issued By County Clerk's Office

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi announced that beginning on Monday, June 1, her office will provide new identification cards for county residents.

The program will provide a photo identification card to Union County applicants.

"There is a large demand for photographic IDs," said Ms. Rajoppi. "Airlines require this type of identification for security reasons on domestic flights; banks require them for check-cashing, and many businesses require them when there is a check transaction," she added.

"For residents holding a driver's license, a second identification is often needed," Ms. Rajoppi continued. "In addition, there is also a need for children 14 years or older who need identification."

In order to obtain one of the new identification cards, a resident must complete an application and present two forms of identification such as: an original birth certificate, United States passport or naturalization certificate, and proof of residency, which may include a driver's license, recent tax return form, voter registration card or telephone, electric or utility bill.

Two recent color passport-sized photographs of the applicant are also required.

The Clerk's Office in Elizabeth can provide photographs for a \$7 fee. The identification card fee is \$6, with the applicant providing photographs.

If the applicant is a minor, a parent or guardian who can provide proof of residency must accompany the minor. Cards will be issued to children

14 years and older.

Presently, the Clerk's Office provides State Alcohol Beverage Control Cards primarily as proof of age for those residents 21 years or older.

The new county identification cards are available at the Union County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, 2 Broad Street, Room 114, in Elizabeth. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



PROSECUTOR TO SPEAK...Union County Prosecutor Thomas V. Manahan will be the guest speaker at a Thursday, June 4, luncheon at noon at The Westwood in Garwood, hosted by Crimestoppers of Union County. The Crimestopper program pays reward moneys for anonymous tips that help solve violent crimes. Anyone interested in making a tax deductible contribution or in purchasing tickets at \$60 each may call (908) 879-8329, or send the order to 1342 Hidden Circle, Mountainside, 07092.

Freeholders Host Symposium To Help Towns Cut Taxes

Continuing its effort to help municipalities cut costs and stabilize resident property taxes, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will host a second Shared Services Symposium today, Thursday, May 28, at the Kenilworth Inn in Kenilworth.

Daniel P. Sullivan, Chairman of the Freeholder board, claimed that Union County government has helped municipalities cut property taxes this year by passing a budget that reduces county taxes by more than \$1.5 million from a year ago.

"Municipalities are looking for ways to reduce costs and maintain the high levels of services," said Freeholder Linda d. Stender, who serves as Finance Committee Chairwoman of the Freeholder board.

"Sharing costs and services is the key to accomplishing this. Three years ago at our first meeting, we came up with ways to save taxpayer dollars by working together. We look to build upon the success we've had and generate new programs," she stated.

Key Symposium issues will include transportation, printing, cooperative purchasing, professional services, consultant costs and the impact of utilities deregulation.

"The Symposium is a way to share ideas and determine what municipalities and county government can do collectively to benefit every family living in Union County and every business that calls Union County home," said Freeholder Stender.

"By gathering and learning about the needs of each municipality, we can build on our success and formulate programs to achieve expanded objectives," she continued.

Union County Department of Economic Development officials will demonstrate the innovative county Geographical Information System, a computer that develops maps and charts using data from census, planning ordinances, tax rolls and other sources. The county shares this information with municipalities.

Marc Pfeiffer, an Assistant Director of the New Jersey Division of Local Services and Adjunct Professor of Public Administration at Kean University of New Jersey in Union, will speak on the state's efforts to encourage shared services. Mr. Pfeiffer also will explain GovConnect, an information-based program out of Trenton that dispenses information on budget items, legislative updates, personnel and purchasing information to the county and municipalities.

Directors of the county Operational Services, Engineering Public Works, Human Services, Telecommunications, Administrative Services and Parks and Recreation Departments will guide workshops on shared services with local officials.

"Local officials are facing a great deal of pressure and the Board of Chosen Freeholders has responded," said Chairman Sullivan. "The board wants to share informa-

tion about the numerous programs we have established to encourage shared services."

The Freeholder Board invited Union County's 21 mayors and department heads from every Union County municipality. Three years ago, representatives from every community attended.

Literacy Group Set To Hold Library Day To Recruit Tutors

The Union County Affiliate of Literacy Volunteers of America will hold a Literacy Library Day at the Mountainside Library, Constitution Plaza, on Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The program is geared for those interested, potential or current students and tutors in the program. Tutors will be able to find out what materials are available to use, or how to solve problems that they are having with their students.

Interested students can be assessed of the program by calling (908) 925-7755 to make an appointment for that day.

Giants Tickets Auction To Benefit CSH; Golf, Tennis Tourney June 8

Four tickets on the 50-yard line at Giants Stadium will be up for bid during Children's Specialized Hospital's (CSH) Golf and Tennis Classic on Monday, June 8, at the Montclair Golf Club in Montclair.

The auction will be held during the CSH Classic dinner reception. The minimum bid is \$2,500. Written and signed bids will be accepted prior to the live auction and attendance is not required. However, tickets are available for the dinner/auction at \$125 each. Seats are limited.

Proceeds from the CSH Golf and Tennis Classic will be used for the renovation of CSH's Fanwood site which houses CSH's Cognitive Rehabilitation, Preschool, Primary-level and Early Intervention Programs.

Classic tickets are still available. Single tickets are available for golf or tennis. Golfing will begin with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. and the tennis tournament in round robin format will begin at 1 p.m.

Further information may be obtained by calling Katherine Martucci at (908) 301-5462.

Prizes will be given for golfing closest to the pin and the longest drive, and rotating championship cups for tennis will be awarded.

Founded in 1891, the Children's Specialized provides a network of services including outpatient services, acute rehabilitation, and long-term care through its sites in Mountainside, Fanwood, Toms River, Newark and Union, as well as outreach programs in other communities.