

MANS&C

QUARTERLY

Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges

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e-newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Now is the Time to Create a Community Impact Statement



At the State House and in town halls across the commonwealth, pressure is mounting on nonprofit schools, colleges and universities in the mistaken belief that we are not "paying our fair share."

The critics fail to acknowledge the vital economic and social contributions our privately funded institutions make to the state and our communities.

Consider, for example, the 12 members of the Worcester College Consortium, which includes 9 nonprofit colleges. Together, consortium members have an annual economic impact on the state of an estimated \$2.5 billion or more. The value of community services the students provide annually is valued at somewhere around \$11 million.

Beyond the dollars and cents, our institutions' social contributions touch countless lives through volunteer work and innovative programs. As you'll see in this issue of the newsletter, in its first year of operation The Farm at Stonehill College provided fresh fruits and vegetables for thousands of needy local families, while educating students about sustainable, organic agriculture.

Almost certainly, critics fail to acknowledge our contributions because they are unaware of them. We have found that the best way to educate state legislators and town officials about our institutions' community contributions is through community impact statements. The process is simple and well worth your time.

The MANS&C website, www.mansac.org, has step-by-step instructions on how to create Community Impact Statements, as well as examples of what some of our member schools, colleges and universities have assembled. We'd also be happy to act as resources for members who have questions.

Our Legislative Counsel, John J. Spillane, and Paul Belsito, executive assistant to the President of Assumption College for Government and Community Relations, discussed Community Impact Statements at the recent Fall AISNE Business Manager's conference in Devens.

Guidance in the creation of Community Impact Statements is only one of the benefits of MANS&C membership.

Through John, we also offer you a strong and respected voice at the State House, as well as the opportunity to meet and talk with state legislative leaders at MANS&C board meetings. Members also stay up to date on legislation that affects their institutions by reading the MANS&C Quarterly newsletter, joining our LinkedIn group and visiting our website.

The MANS&C membership drive is currently underway and we would love to welcome you as a new or returning member. Feel free to contact me or any board member for more information or go to www.mansac.org.

Best Regards,

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Legislative Report

Even though casino gambling, pension reform and redistricting have been dominating the discussions at the State House these days, public hearings also are being held on bills of special concern to MANS&C members.

MANS&C Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane has been monitoring the bills and has been busy providing written and oral

opposition at several key hearings on bills that would negatively affect our institutions.

At the public hearing of the Revenue Committee on Senate Bill 1555 and House Bills 2552 and 3012, he was joined by MANS&C board members Beth McWilliams, business manager for the Hillside School, and Judi Seldin, Concord Academy CFO. McWilliams and Seldin opposed the mandatory payments in lieu of taxes proposed in these bills and stressed their negative effects on their schools.

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On Oct. 20, MANS&C also opposed House Bill 2514 at a public hearing by the Revenue Committee

Spillane also opposed two bills at public hearings of the Joint Committee on Education. House Bill 917 would allow towns to use automated monitoring systems to capture speed-limit violations in school zones and violations in conjunction with school bus and van signals. House Bill 157 appoints a special commission to study the cost of mandatory school transportation to charter, private and regional schools, as well as special education transportation.

Spillane and the MANS&C board are currently following several measures that would require nonprofit schools and colleges to make financial payments to their communities:

- **SB 1555** – Appoints a special commission to study the implementation of uniform PILOT programs for Massachusetts nonprofits.
- **HB 2513** – Places a 2 ½ percent excise tax on private institutions of higher learning that have an endowment of more than \$1 billion.
- **HB 2514** – Requires private schools to make payments to their communities equal to what they would have paid in property taxes or to enter into an agreement that provides monetary or non-monetary benefits to their communities.
- **HB 2552** – Authorizes cities and towns to negotiate payments in lieu of taxes with local charitable organizations based on their assessed property tax value, with an exemption for the first \$15 million. The payments would equal the percentage of the municipal budget for police, fire and snow removal and are capped at 25 percent of assessed property value.
- **HB 3012** – Requires all private colleges and universities to pay taxes on all property dedicated to “non-academic uses.”
- **HB 3241** – Directs the Secretary of Human Services and the Massachusetts Municipal Association to develop a funding mechanism for the reimbursement of “lost taxes and municipal services to local municipalities by nonprofit entities.”

Other problematic bills include:

House Bills

HB 175 – Mandates asthma screening in public and private schools.

HB 462 – Amends the CORI definition to include information collected by agencies that investigate the abuse or neglect of people with disabilities.

HB 669 – Requires school buses to be equipped with lap shoulder belt systems.

HB 1051 – Requires the state to reimburse local school committees for 100 percent of mandated transportation for students “entitled to attend public schools.”

HB 1059 – Repeals the anti-bullying law passed in 2010 and sets standards that establish local control and new parameters for bullying.

HB 1084 – Eliminates the requirement that communities provide transportation for students attending private schools.

HB 1480 – Establishes a high-containment biological research laboratory health and safety program under the Dept. of Public Health.

HB 1740 – Allows public inspection of records, reports, materials and data used by special state police officers at colleges and universities.

HB 2387 – States that 16-passenger school buses manufactured after Jan. 1, 2013 must have seat belts.

HB 2633 – Requires three-point lap and shoulder seat belts in school buses.

HB 3003 – Establishes tax transparency and requires public charities to have reporting requirements for trustees and directors.

Senate Bills

SB 219 – Strengthens the anti-bullying law regarding notification of parents.

SB 668 – Imposes liability on parents for bullying injuries.

SB 1086 – Creates a Sports Injury Commission to report on sports injuries in elementary, middle and high school.

SB 1163 – Requires coaches of interscholastic sports to complete CPR and first aid training.

SB 1440 – Gives local communities the right of first refusal when tax-exempt property is sold or converted for residential, commercial or industrial use.

SB 1881 – Classifies all records, reports and documents made by special police officers at colleges, universities or hospitals as public records and subject to inspection.

SB 1847 – Gives local communities greater control over building or remodeling projects by nonprofit schools and colleges and adds a site plan review process.

InstaTrac Gives MANS&C the Edge

For even the most seasoned veterans, following the action on Beacon Hill can be a daunting task.

A new tool called InstaTrac, however, is helping MANS&C Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane monitor the bills that affect nonprofit schools, colleges and universities.

InstaTrac is a computer-based service that tracks bills in the Massachusetts legislature. It enables Spillane to conduct detailed searches for bills of concern to MANS&C members and sends him alerts when action is taken on the bills. The alerts can come online, or via email or Smartphone.

“InstaTrac is one of the most important tools I have,” Spillane said. “It puts the information I need at my fingertips and enables me to act quickly when something happens.”

Membership Drive is Under Way

MANS&C kicked off its annual membership drive in September. Members and prospective members have received renewal information in the mail and also can find it online at www.mansac.org.

With dues at the same low level as last year, MANS&C membership is the most cost-effective way to have your interests represented at the State House.

Members receive timely information about important issues and bills of concern to nonprofit schools and colleges in Massachusetts. Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane represents MANS&C members' interests at the State House.

MANS&C members also benefit from:

- › The opportunity to talk with influential legislators and elected officials at events that are free to members.
- › MANS&C Quarterly newsletters and the website, www.mansac.org, which deliver timely information on bills and issues, useful tips and articles on how member institutions are serving their communities.
- › The opportunity to share thoughts and the latest news through MANS&C's LinkedIn group.
- › E-mail alerts on troublesome bills that require immediate action.
- › Guidance on how to create a Community Impact Statement that details their institution's economic and social contributions to the community.

For more information about membership renewal or joining MANS&C, contact Julaine McInnis at 781-545-5544, x-115 or jmcinnis@nlnyschool.org



Introducing State Sen. Barry Finegold

State Senator Barry Finegold was elected in 2010 and is a member of the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting. This committee is currently overseeing the process of redrawing legislative district boundaries throughout the state.

Finegold is a Democrat representing the 2nd Essex and Middlesex district, which includes Andover, Lawrence, Dracut and Tewkesbury.

He was elected to the Andover Board of Selectmen at age 24 and the following year won election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives as the youngest member of his freshman class. He held this position for 11 years, representing the 17th Essex District.

Notable points of Finegold's career as a legislator include:

- › Winning the Kennedy School Fenn Award for Political Leadership in 1999
- › Selection as one of the top 100 young Democrats to Watch by the Democratic Leadership Council
- › Work on the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Road Map, a package of policy ideas designed to invigorate our economy and protect the environment

One of Finegold's major goals is to attract high technology businesses to his district, as both a means to stimulate job growth as well as to protect the environment. He is currently the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

Professionally, Finegold is a partner with the law firm of Dalton & Finegold in Andover, which specializes in real estate, estate planning and corporate law. He is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania and received a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University. He is also a graduate of the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover.

Senator Finegold lives in Andover with his wife and two children.

Former Board Member Launches New Business

Former MANS&C board member Ed King has started a new business venture – Edward M. King and Associates.

Based at 19 Beacon Street in Boston, King specializes in community and government affairs, lobbying, public policy, permitting and business development. He works with clients statewide, including both nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

King retired June 30 after 23 years with Boston University, most recently as vice president of government



and community affairs. Previously, he worked for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and for various Boston city agencies.

In his new position, King is available to assist nonprofit schools, colleges and universities in interactions with their local communities, when problems arise or when project approval is needed.

At this spring's Annual Meeting, MANS&C Treasurer and former President Bruce T. Amsbary presented the veteran board member with the MANS&C Distinguished Service Award.

He noted that, thanks to King, BU today has a strong relationship with the State House, the mayor and the community and called King "one of the mainstays of the MANS&C board."

Good Neighbors

Community Spirit is Alive and Growing at Stonehill College

Stonehill College is putting its commitment to community service in action with a unique new program – a sustainable, organic farm.

Located on two rolling acres across from the campus in Easton, The Farm grows and distributes produce to local organizations to feed families in need.

This past summer fresh fruits and vegetables were provided to 2,000 people through three organizations – Saint Paul's Table at Father Bill's and MainSpring, the family centers at Old Colony YMCA and My Brother's Keeper.

The Farm also benefits the college by increasing the Stonehill community's awareness of food justice issues and by serving as the focal point for a Learning Community this academic year. Stonehill staff, students, alumni and faculty are encouraged to work the land together for the common good.

"It's rewarding. We're raising spirits of people, raising a pride, not only a school pride, but an area pride, a town pride," said Paul DaPonte, vice president of mission.

The Farm is DaPonte's brainchild. The idea came to him while he was volunteering in Brockton last year.

"I discovered there are areas in Brockton and neighboring communities which qualify for a status of a food desert," he said.

A food desert is a region where people have easy access to convenience stores and fast food but lack access to affordable, healthy food such as fruits, vegetables and grains.

"One thing we have on this 384-acre campus is land," DaPonte noted. "I thought we could reserve an acre or so to plant wholesome, locally grown, organic foods for our neighbors in need. At the same time, we could increase a sense of wellness in Stonehill students and employees."

"We try and stay aware of the clientele," DaPonte said. "The Old Colony YMCA, for instance, feeds some 35 families. So we try



Student Michelle Kozminski

to grow veggies high in vitamin B, which is essential for pregnant women and young children."

Recipes accompany the vegetables. This past summer when The Farm staff dropped off boxes of kale, for instance, they tucked recipes for kale soup or pasta salad into the box. A box of bell peppers might include a recipe for stuffed peppers.

Farm manager Bridget Meigs is passionate about The Farm and sustainable, organic farming in general.

"Growing food is beautiful in and of itself," Meigs said. "It's amazing to have a sustainable, organic farm like this at a college because of the connections that students start to make with food justice issues, sustainability."

Each week from May to October, The Farm delivered enough fresh produce to the three local partners to provide at least one portion of produce to the individuals or families they serve.

The Farm staff consists of Meigs and two paid student interns, environmental science and math major Michelle Kozminski and philosophy major Brian Switzer, who each worked 20 hours per week.

"The Farm is an example of what a great idea, a lot of hard work and lots of support can lead to: making a successful difference in the community," Kozminski said.

"It inspires people to become involved and make a change, and it really seems to follow our school motto: To create a more just and compassionate world," she added.

Switzer became involved through a Learning Community called "Change the World," which required students to work five hours a week in a nature-based community service.

"The Farm is a great place to learn how to farm, to be outside or to do community work," Switzer said. "Plus, it's right off campus. So kids without cars can just come here and volunteer."

The fields are currently being prepared for winter and in March, The Farm's second year will get underway. For more information, visit www.stonehillblogs.org/farm or call 508-565-1551.



Vice President Paul DaPonte

About Stonehill College

Stonehill College is a welcoming, academically challenging community of 2,500 students on a beautiful campus in Easton. The college offers more than 80 majors and minors in the liberal arts, sciences and business. At Stonehill, students learn to think, act and lead with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

In addition to The Farm, Stonehill offers a wide range of community service programs, including service-learning projects for students and research that benefits local organizations.

In addition, the college's Center for Nonprofit Management brings together nonprofit and community leaders for learning, skill-building, networking and research.

How Does a Bill Become Law in Massachusetts?

For outsiders looking in, the legislative process in Massachusetts can seem like a maze. To better understand what happens on Beacon Hill, let's follow a bill as it makes its way through the legislature.

Lawmaking begins in the House or Senate clerk's office, where our bill, accompanied by a petition, is filed and recorded in a docket book. The clerks give the bill a number and assign it to an appropriate joint committee.

The legislature's committees include both House and Senate members and focus on specific areas, including education, higher education, healthcare, transportation and so on.

Our bill's committee schedules a public hearing on it and the other bills it has been assigned, which gives the public an opportunity to speak out on them. MANS&C's legislative counsel, John Spillane, regularly testifies before committees on bills that would affect our schools and colleges.

Once the committee has heard all the testimony and reviewed our bill's merits, it issues a report on our bill. The report recommends how the full House or Senate should vote on it – "ought to pass," "ought not to pass" or "as changed." The report goes to the clerk's office.

Bills with favorable reports appear in the Journal of the House or Senate clerk, depending on which branch it has been reported to. This is said to be the "first reading" of our bill.

Next, favorably reported bills either go to another committee or are referred without debate to the Senate Committee on Ethics and Rules or the House Committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling. Bills that relate to a city or town are automatically placed in the calendar, called the Orders of the Day, for a second reading.

After its second reading, our bill is open to debate, amendment and motions in the branch to which it has been sent. If it receives a favorable vote, it goes to the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

The committee on Bills in the Third Reading in either branch examines the technical points in the bill, its legality and constitutionality and whether it duplicates existing law. The committee issues a report and sends the measure back to floor of the House or Senate, as the case may be, for additional debate and, possibly, amendments. This is said to be the bill's third reading.

There, senators or representatives vote on "passing the bill to be engrossed." If approved, our bill is then sent to the other branch of the legislature, where the process is essentially repeated.

If the second branch amends our bill, it goes back to the original branch where action was first taken to see if members there approve of the changes that were made. If not, a conference committee hammers out a compromise and sends it back to both branches for approval on a yes or no vote with no debate.

If our bill is enacted it is sent to the governor, who may sign it into law, veto it or return it to the legislature with recommended changes. Both branches may act on the governor's change or take no action. If no action is taken, the bill dies.

The governor also may allow the bill to become law without his or her signature by holding it without taking action for 10 days while the legislature is in session. If the legislature is not in session, the bill dies if no action is taken within that time frame. This is called a pocket veto.

If our bill is signed by the governor or the legislature overrides his or her veto with a two-thirds recorded roll call vote, our bill becomes a law – usually in 90 days. If the House and the Senate vote an emergency preamble, the bill becomes law immediately.

Upcoming MANS&C Meetings

The MANS&C board has scheduled the following meetings for the coming school year:

December 8, 2011 – Lawrence Academy, Groton

February 7, 2012 – Cushing Academy, Ashburnham

April 30, 2012 (Annual Meeting) – location to be announced

Teleconferences will be held in January and March.

Additional information will be sent via email shortly before each meeting. MANS&C members are welcome to attend.

The mission of MANS&C is to monitor and respond to legislative and regulatory activity by the Commonwealth that has a direct impact on the welfare of our membership.

Creating a Community Impact Statement

Why does your school, college or university need a Community Impact Statement?

You'll find the answers and helpful tips on how to create one in a presentation by MANS&C Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane and Paul A. Belsito, executive assistant to the president of Assumption College for government and community relations.

The presentation was delivered at the Nov. 7 AISNE fall meeting. It covers everything from the public's perception of nonprofit schools and today's municipal climate to how to tell your story to an independent audience.

Community Impact Statements detail the social and economic contributions our institutions make to their communities.

The presentation is available on the MANS&C website.



Stonehill student Brian Switzer

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