



JULY 2009 *Local Government Council*

The Olympic Dream: Restoring Upstate New York

Guest speaker David Catalfamo, Executive Director of the Lake Placid Regional Winter Sports Committee, shared with the LGC exciting plans to bring the Olympics back to Upstate New York. The Committee was incorporated to support and promote the development of sport in New York State by promoting Lake Placid and the surrounding regions as a host of national and international amateur sporting events. The Committee's mission is to benefit New York State both culturally and economically by furthering the legacy of Lake Placid and promoting sports-related tourism throughout the region.

With Lake Placid's unique history as the only North American site to host the Olympic Winter Games twice (1932 and 1980) and a regional infrastructure that would allow for the creation of an Olympic Corridor from Lake Placid to Albany, the region may be in for another Miracle on Ice with the Committee's plans to submit a bid for the 2018 Winter Olympics. Current and planned infrastructure will provide the stage for continuing the region's Olympic tradition. For example, the Saratoga Racetrack would provide the site for the opening ceremony. Hockey and figure skating venues would be spread throughout the region, and Gore Mountain has

excellent terrain for snowboarding. Lake Placid boasts the most competitive luge track in the world, and Saratoga's historic association with speed skating makes it a natural fit for the event, with the skating oval later used as an indoor equestrian center. With the greatest vertical drop in the East of 3,430 feet, Whiteface Mountain would again host the alpine skiing events. Lake Placid's ski jumping and aerial freestyle complex are still in use, and with the push to include women in ski jumping competitions, the region could again make Olympic history by hosting the first female ski jumping event in the Olympics. Cross country skiing and biathlon would be held in both Lake

Getting Lean in Government

At the June Local Government Council meeting, Louise Aitcheson and Don Wiesenforth from CEG's Technical Services Group delivered a brief overview of the rapidly expanding Lean Government initiatives happening throughout the country. Impressive results are being realized in all levels of government by providing better service, faster and at less cost. With internal Lean expertise, CEG is looking to engage a government entity with a pilot project this fall. If you would like more information please contact Don Wiesenforth at 465-8975 ext. 231 or attend one of our upcoming public High Performance Office classes August 12, September 9, or October 7.

Anyone who has suffered the experience of building a house knows it easily can take over one year – so how do those guys on Extreme Makeover: Home Edition manage to tear down and build an entire house in just seven days? They use "lean" practices. With its origins in manufacturing, lean philosophy means creating value for the customer while using the fewest resources possible. It is a collection of principles, methods and tools that improve the speed and efficiency of any process by eliminating waste. For most processes, only 5% of activities add value for the customer, which means that 95% of the activities are either necessary non-value adding activities or waste. In government, such waste

The Local Government Council (LGC) was founded in 1997 to give local government leaders a forum to identify issues of importance to municipalities, to discuss opportunities for regional cooperation and to foster working relationships among local leaders.



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“OLYMPIC DREAM” CONT'D

Placid and Saratoga. The Utica Curling Club, one of the oldest in the world, is a match for the curling events. The UAlbany’s football stadium construction is still on track and would offer the location for the closing ceremony. The proposed Albany Convention Center is an ideal location for the media center and the International Olympic Committee’s Headquarters, and Rensselaer and Lake Placid, the proposed Olympic residence villages, showcase the character of Upstate New York.

The high speed rail initiative between New York City and Saratoga, and improvements to the technology and infrastructure at the Canadian border to enhance border crossings, will not only allow for ease of transportation, but will offer long-term economic and environ-



mental benefits for the region. The economic impact is tremendous: the estimated impact of hosting the 2010 Vancouver Olympics includes \$3.3 billion in total GDP, generation of an average of more than 10,000 direct and indirect jobs over the course of eight years, and two million Olympic-induced international tourists.

With the October 2009 application

deadline looming, the Committee is working to enhance local government buy-in and include local officials in the Regional Advisory Council. As Mr. Catalfamo explained, this bid, regardless of the outcome, will have tremendous marketing value for the region and may provide the impetus for much-needed infrastructure improvements throughout the Albany-Lake Placid corridor.

“GETTING LEAN” CONT'D

can include waiting, underutilization of employees, batching, document errors and transport, multiple review and approval loops, and backlogs. Once waste has been identified, processes can be redesigned to allow service, information or products to flow through the new process without interruption, much in the same way the electrician, plumber, and cabinet installer work simultaneously on Extreme Makeover to build a house in seven days.

Based on the system Toyota used for producing high-quality, low-cost vehicles, the lean philosophy has been applied successfully in a number of government departments across the nation. For example, the Iowa Depart-

ment of Natural Resources reduced the average time to issue standard air quality construction permits from 62 days to 6 days, a 90% reduction. The Department eliminated 70% of the process steps, from 23 to 7, and within six months eliminated a backlog of nearly 600 permits. This same philosophy has been applied in the areas of Corrections, Public Safety, Veterans Administration, Unemployment Insurance, Health and Fire Inspections, Child Abuse, and Foster Care. Other examples and more information can be found at www.lean.iowa.gov, www.lean.state.mn.us, www.ci-ft-wayne.in.us, and portal.countyofventura.org.

LGC Action Platform

CEG continues to work with a coalition to prepare the regional impact statement that will accompany the applications for the Upstate high speed rail projects. The applications will be submitted to the Federal Railroad Authority for track one funding in September 2009.

The following legislation passed both houses: A.250 (Magnarelli)/S.1608 (Valesky) Requires enterprises receiving university-related grants to first consider using NY-based suppliers; A.251 (Magnarelli)/S.2289-A (Stachowski) creates a regional technology commercialization fund in

Mission to Save Taxpayers

Governor Paterson announced on June 15, 2009, the creation of the Office on Taxpayer Accountability. The Office will have a full-time mission to save taxpayers money by lowering costs, sharing services, eliminating duplication, improving service delivery, limiting unnecessary and unfunded mandates, and attacking waste, fraud and abuse. It will also have an ongoing focus on local government reform and implementing recommendations made by the Local Government Commission on Efficiency and Competitiveness and the Property Tax Commission. The Office will ensure compliance with the Governor's Execu-

tive Order Number 17, which requires full evaluation of the costs of mandates on local governments. The Office will also encourage local government reform and cost savings by facilitating communication between local governments, state agencies, and associations through a secure bulletin board that would allow stakeholders to share best practices and learn from each other.

Small Business Growth

Governor Paterson also announced the creation of the New York Small Business Task Force, which will focus existing state resources and develop new strate-

gies to promote the growth and development of small business enterprises in New York. The Governor appointed 50 business, government and economic development leaders from across the state to serve on the Task Force, including CEG President and CEO Mike Tucker. The Task Force will be holding committee meetings over the next several months and will deliver a final report to Governor Paterson in November. The Report will include solutions and recommendations on issues such as reducing government regulatory burdens, increasing access to financial capital, developing technical assistance programs, and workforce development.

"ACTION PLATFORM" CONT'D

NYSTAR; A2201-A (Morelle)/S.3076 (Valesky) creates a one-stop economic development and regulatory assistance centers at regional ESD offices; A.2849 (Schimminger)/S.4435 (Stachowski) creates within ESD a Strategic Training Alliance Program fund; A.2854 (Schimminger)/S.4437 (Stachowski) creates a private industry review council at ESD to assess effectiveness of existing economic development programs. Both houses of the legislature also passed bills to allow the Dormitory Authority to issue bonds to finance projects undertaken by the Alliance of

Long Island Agencies and Interagency Council of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

S.5575 (Stachowski), which would create an Economic Development Task Force to, among other things, develop recommendations for a successor program to the Empire Zones program, passed the Senate. S.5598-B (Stachowski), which would enact certain technical amendments to the Empire Zones program, and eliminate retroactive enforcement provisions has not passed the Assembly.

Upcoming CEG Events

Center for Economic Growth and Stakeholder's Future Forward Series presented by GE: Richard Florida, Author of *Who's Your City? How the Creative Economy is Making the Place Where You Live the Most Important Decision of Your Life*

Palace Theatre | September 24, 2009 | 5:30pm

To register for the event, go to:
www.yourcitycapregion.com

CEG News: CEG Board Chair, Dr. R. Mark Sullivan, President of the College of St. Rose, and CEG president F. Michael Tucker accompanied Mayor Jennings to Tampa this month where Albany was one of the ten winners of the "All-America City" award. The award recognizes the "best, brightest, and most innovative"

communities around the country. Albany is truly a great place to live, work and raise a family, and it is incredible to see that all of our hard work is paying off and Albany is getting the recognition it deserves. Congratulations Albany.