

NASW-NYS Political Post

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Anyone else need a biscuit? Teabag Parties brewed from coast to coast earlier this week as protesters gathered in public parks (paid for by tax dollars) to decry the President's stimulus package and government spending in general. TEA stands for "Taxed Enough Already." Here in Albany approximately 2,500 citizens gathered in protest of the State's recently enacted \$132 billion budget rife with additional taxes. The event was promoted by FreedomWorks, a national conservative organization founded by former congressional representative Dick Arme of Texas. Though heavily promoted by Republican conservatives, a common theme of the gatherings seemed to highlight citizens' anger at each of the parties. An Albany commentator/talk show host, Al Roney noted ... "The dissatisfaction from both parties is bubbling to the surface." He went on to say... "He's heard from listeners who are especially upset about the closed-door budget negotiations in New York. There's not any sign of improvement."

Follow-up from Last Week – In an effort to keep the pressure on Governor Paterson, PEF and CSEA just went public with plans to picket the Governor's New York State Democratic Rural Conference on Friday night slated to be held in Saratoga Springs. The PEF press advisory notes... "The rally will focus on avoiding the layoffs and saving the state workforce, in addition to sending a message to the governor there are better ways to reduce costs that won't damage the service New York citizens rely on."

Making Good on his promise last week, Governor Paterson held a press conference on Thursday morning to announce introduction of a same sex marriage bill. Political Blogger, Liz Benjamin noted the Governor "invoked iconic abolitionists Frederick Douglass and Harriet Beecher Stowe, saying the state is in a 'crisis of leadership' so he stepped up to fill the 'vacuum.' Paterson spoke quite passionately on the issue, noting ... "We have an honor and a duty to make sure that equality exists for everyone. We have all known the wrath of discrimination. We have all felt the pain and insult of discrimination. That is why we are standing here today. We stand to tell the world that we want equality for everyone. We stand to tell the world that we want marriage equality in New York State...It's time to take a stand." He also took naysayer legislators to task that have publicly suggested the Governor is rushing to introduce legislation that does not currently have enough votes in the Senate to pass by saying ... "I read today that I'm rushing things. I'm rushing things by re-releasing a bill that the former governor released in 2007? What is going on with the world right now? I'm hearing things I can't believe," Paterson went on to say ... "We have to wait until we talk to Republicans? Don't you think we've talked to them before? We've got to wait until we poll in the district? You don't think we've done that?" Stay tuned folks... this one might get a bit messy!