

NASW-NYS Political Post
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Home Stretch...Maybe – Earlier in the week, it looked as though the budget process might finally be wrapping up as the two houses stood in (Democratic) solidarity and passed a \$135+ billion dollar appropriation bill rife with add “ons” the Governor clearly opposed. As a result, Governor Paterson has spent much of the week vetoing 6,900 items from such appropriation bills and the legislature has spent the last several days attempting to come to agreement on the revenue bills, however, there have been a number of issues, ranging from SUNY tuition and whether or not to include a contingency plan for a suspected lack of federal Medicaid dollars that have impeded their progress. Resolution certainly won’t come until next week at the earliest as the Senate just convened for the holiday weekend with a few parting words from their Leader, John Sampson... “We have done our job. We have done the budget” Sampson said. “There’s an outstanding revenue piece and there’s a possibility that there may be a \$1 billion shortfall. We do not want to do another deficit reduction plan like we did last year and earlier on. We’re working on a contingency plan and we understand that there’s a strong possibility that we will receive the money. The Mayor of the city of New York has booked that money, but if you look at the death of Senator Byrd and also what the governor informed me yesterday, they’re continuing the fighting for it, but at the same time we have to provide some sort of security or work to provide that.” Sampson then repeated that “I feel the budget is passed. Government will continue to operate.” On that note folks, I feel I have done my job in reporting this to you and I am adjourning for the weekend...just kidding...I’ll finish the Post, at least.

Stride – In a somewhat surprising move, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver told a Capitol Confidential Reporter earlier today that he’s sending his house home for the summer. “We have finished the business of the session,” he said. “I’m always available to talk. The governor has indicated he’s finished talking. I’m not concerned. We negotiated long and hard with the governor and the Senate on a revenue bill,” Silver said. The Senate revenue bill is identical to ours. It is an agreed bill. So, the negotiation on that is over. We’ve done a number of chapter amendments to satisfy some requests from the Senate, and there’s nothing to negotiate in that bill. What are we going to be blamed for? We’re putting together a balanced budget, we’re passing that budget and I don’t know what there is to blame,” Silver said. When asked “When do you expect to be back?” “I don’t,” he replied.