

NASW-NYS Political Post

May 29, 2009

Karin Moran, MSW

Jeremy Darman, MSW, MA

Musical Chairs – Governor Paterson’s Office had some major staff shake-ups this week starting with the announcement that Insurance Superintendent Eric Dinallo, was resigning his post to take a teaching position at New York University’s Stern School of Business. The move fueled speculation that Dinallo is gearing up for a 2010 run for the states Attorney General because he’d have to leave his current position in order to raise funds for such a race. This, of course, also fans the flames of innuendo and rumor that current Attorney General, Andrew Cuomo will indeed challenge Governor Paterson. The Governor’s press secretary, Errol Cockfield is also slated to leave his position, however, he is said to be staying within the administration, moving to a position in the administration’s intergovernmental affairs unit. Kristin Proud, Deputy Director of State Operations is also leaving her post to take on the position of Senate Finance Secretary. Also announced is the appointment of Robert Megna as the Director of budget, a position recently vacated by Laura Anglin, who moved on to become the President of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities.

Ring Around the Rosie – Conservative Christian group, the National Organization for Marriage, began its fire and brimstone ad campaign opposing same sex marriage earlier this week. The ads speculate that same sex marriage somehow erodes the sanctity of heterosexual marriages...huh? It goes on to suggest that children will be taught about homosexuality in schools if enacted...um, and that’s a problem because? The ad closes with a plea for constituents to call their Senate representatives and weigh in...good idea! So folks, CALL YOUR SENATOR and weigh in ;-)

Itsy Bitsy Spider – In a recent poll released earlier in the week, former Governor Spitzer beats current Governor Paterson by ten points, a jump of ten points in just the last month...could the sun be shining on Spitzer again? As reported by the Times Union, the Siena poll showed that when asked who they would like to see as governor right now (considering past governors), “voters give a slight edge to Mario Cuomo with 31 percent support (down from 39 percent last month) followed by George Pataki at 30 percent (down from 33 percent last month). Eliot Spitzer at 21 percent (up from 11 percent), with Paterson ranked fourth at 11 percent (up from eight percent).”

Zip A Dee Doo Dah – Notable New York Democrats have been very vocal this week in their support and excitement over President Barack Obama’s Supreme Court nomination, Sonia Sotomayor. As reported in the New York Times “City Controller and mayoral hopeful William Thompson, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and several City Council members urged that Sotomayor’s nomination not get bogged down in partisan bickering.”