

**NASW-NYS Political Post**  
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**Swan Lake** – Many are hoping the sentencing this week of former Senate Majority Leader, Joe Bruno, will finally break the spell of “dysfunction” that looms large over the states capitol, however, pundits are skeptical given the seemingly upturn in legislative scandals over the last two years. Bruno was sentenced to two years in prison yesterday on federal corruption charges, though he left the courthouse a free man (for the time being) maintaining his innocence. His case is currently under review by the Supreme Court and as such, he was not ordered into custody. Reaction from Senate colleagues was varied...Senator Betty Little from Queensbury remarked “He's done a lot of good, and it's a sad ending” while Senator Eric Schneiderman noted “Tragically, the image of a public official in New York State facing criminal charges for abuse of office has become all too common.” Schneiderman has recently introduced a bill to mirror that of the federal statute (with a few minor revisions) Bruno was convicted under. For full coverage of the Bruno sentencing log onto the Albany Times Union at <http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=928638>

**Sleeping Beauty** – The budget impasse continued this week, making it officially one month late as of the 1<sup>st</sup> (though it feels as if they've been at it for a hundred years). It's anyone's guess who will have the so called magical kiss, but one thing's for certain, we have a long way to go. It seems that the legislature will allow state workforce furloughs in the next extender bill proffered by the Governor, though litigation is expected to follow from the unions. In the meantime, the social work licensure exemption for the so called “O” agencies is about to expire in three weeks and as such, NASW policy staff have been working with stakeholders, the impacted state agencies and members of the legislature to secure an additional four years via budget extender language or, if need be, a separate stand alone bill. Both avenues are currently being vigorously pursued.

**The Nutcracker** – Meanwhile, our most difficult nut to crack remains that of the corporate practice issue and as such, has remained a top policy team priority. Earlier this week, we were one of only a few invited to participate in a meeting with the Assemblyman Gary Pretlow, State Education Department (SED) staff, O agency representatives, and a small number of other stakeholders to discuss bill language constructed to ameliorate the corporate practice issues. We are currently working closely with SED to tweak the language and assuage concerns of opponents. We will keep you closely updated as we progress through the final weeks of the regular 2010 legislative session.