



*Editor & Membership  
Services Director:*  
Thomas E. McClure

*Assistant Editor &  
Designer:*  
David L. Powell

## NAMTAC

*National Association of  
Management & Technical  
Assistance Centers  
UOC 109-J  
Western Carolina University  
Cullowhee, NC 28723  
Tel: 828-227-7059  
Fax: 828-227-7422  
dpowell@wcu.edu  
www.namtac.org*

## Congress Watch

Partisan political battles were waged on the hill this week instead of progress. The Senate was in session this week despite the House recessing in observance of Veteran's Day. Even though the Senate remained in session, important legislation remained bogged down as

Senators fought over Bush's judicial nominees. Conferees have also failed to reach agreement on energy, medicare and appropriations bills.

Ways and Means Chairman Thomas's American Jobs Creation Act of 2003 will probably not make it to the floor this year. Thomas's bill would have repealed the exporter tax break and replaced it with manufacturing tax breaks.

The bill is being put off because the Medicare conference has garnered legislators' attention. In addition, many pro-manufacturing Republicans are still not sold on the bill.

Senators were close to finishing work on the FY04 VA-HUD appropriations bill, but it was put on hold because of the showdown over Bush's judicial nominees. The Senate plans to work on the bill again today.

Since the FY04 Agriculture spending bill has passed the Senate, legislators are being urged to keep loans to fund rural high-speed Internet in conference. Supporters say the loans not only connect rural areas but also help create jobs.

The FY04 Agriculture spending bill will likely be the vehicle used for the omnibus. Remaining spending bills that will be rolled into the omnibus instead of considered individually include Commerce-Justice-State, District of Columbia, Labor-HHS and possibly VA-HUD if it is not finished today.

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## Mid-Town Manhattan Wins POY

The Mid-town Manhattan Small Business Development Center (SBDC) was selected to receive a 2003 Outstanding Project of the Year (POY) award for the project, "Disaster Relief for Educational Outreach Media Company," in the Business Assistance category.

The project was selected following criteria set forth in NAMTAC Guidelines, and was judged on the basis of results, economic impact and the use of innovative strategies in solving problems.

Bill Lichtenstein, President of Lichtenstein Creative Media (LCM) in New York City, is a Peabody Award-winning independent broadcast journalist who focuses his creative and organizational energies on issues related to diagnosable mental illness and to strategies that will improve public understanding, acceptance, and long-term treatment.

The terrorist attacks on the twin towers on Lower Manhattan on September 11, 2001, destroyed lives and careers, changed the course of world events, and came close to putting LCM out of business. In April 2002, Bill Lichtenstein requested assistance from Mid-town Manhattan Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The SBDC selected a team of five professional business specialists who worked together throughout the project.

The major benefit of the work performed by the team of specialists is the continuation of Lichtenstein Creative Media. Lichtenstein shared that he is more confident in his abilities to better handle fiscal issues. Following the infusion of \$350,000 in new capital, LCM has been able to rehire employees, add three new full-time employees and three new part-time employees.

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## Members Asked to Vote on By-Laws

NAMTAC's organizational members were asked this week to vote on proposed changes to the organization's By-Laws.

The By-Laws Committee recommended the changes to the board of directors and the board approved presenting the proposed changes to the membership.

The changes were suggested to correct minor discrepancies and to bring the By-Laws in accordance with recent changes in the organization. The By-Laws were last revised in October of 1998.

NAMTAC's By-Laws allow for amendments to be made during a special meeting or by mail. Thus, the revised By-Laws along with a ballot were sent to all organizational members on Wednesday, November 12. Organizational members are asked to return their ballot by Monday, December 15, 2003 at the latest.

The By-Laws Committee is chaired by Robert Velasquez and includes Carol Ann Dykes, Sid Johnson, Bob Joseph and Tom McClure.

## Congress Watch *(continued from page 1)*

The FY04 Energy-Water spending bill is out of conference and awaiting both chambers to vote on it. The Military Construction conference report is still awaiting approval in the Senate. The Interior conference report has passed both chambers but is still awaiting Bush's signature.

The \$88.9 billion FY04 Transportation-Treasury spending bill came out of conference late Wednesday and will now go to the House and Senate for a final vote. Transportation-Treasury conferees removed an amendment that would have stopped enforcement of the travel ban on Cuba because of a veto threat from the White House.

Congress will attempt to block Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules

Members are encouraged to take an active role in their organization by voting. A ballot and copy of the By-Laws are attached to the email containing this week's newsletter.

Members can direct questions to Membership Services. ■

## POY *(continued from page 1)*

The business and the community have both benefited tremendously through the excellent assistance provided by the SBDC and its partners.



Lichtenstein remarked that, "LCM would not be here without the timely and ongoing support of the Baruch Center, the SBDC, and the SBA."

NAMTAC congratulates the Mid-town Manhattan SBDC on its achievement. Additional POY winners will be announced in subsequent newsletters. ■

changes in the omnibus because Bush would be less likely to veto an omnibus. Changes to overtime rules may not be blocked by Congress because of Bush's veto threat.

The Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee approved the \$255 billion reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) on Wednesday.

Despite previous hopes that Vice-President Cheney had helped broker a deal on the energy bill, conferees are still negotiating. The adjournment date of November 21 is rapidly approaching, so the bill will cut it close or Congress will be forced to move the adjournment back. ■