

FPA Legislative Day

James W. Lee

Lee Investment Management LLC

The FPA of NENY played host to FPA leaders from around New York State on May 16th and 17th for the first annual Legislative Day in Albany. The purpose of the gathering was to advance the financial planning profession in meetings with key legislators at the state capital.

The Presidents of five of the eight FPA chapters in New York and seven additional members attended the event. FPA National was represented by a current board member and a member of its Government Relations Group.

Attending from FPA NENY were Mary Beth Hofmeister, President of the chapter; James Lee, Chair of the Government Relations committee; Neal Solomon, Past Chair of FPA National Government Relations; and Chuck Moran, current Chairman of the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc.

The event was kicked-off with a productive working dinner on May 16th at the Ft. Orange Club. Members discussed strategy for the meetings to be held the following day. Importantly, the dinner also provided planners an opportunity to learn about the activities of other chapters around the state. Increasing membership, pro bono efforts, and federal initiatives were among the topics discussed.

On May 17th, the members broke into two teams and headed to the Capital for meetings with lawmakers. The first team met with the Chairs and staff representatives of the Senate Banking Consumer Protection and Insurance Committees, as well as representatives of Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos. The second team met with the Chairs and staff of the Assembly Banks, Insurance, and Trusts and Estates Committees. This team also met with staff of Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

In each of the meetings, the primary goals were to introduce and explain the financial planning profession, and to offer to be a resource on issues of importance to FPA members in the future. The legislators were extremely receptive to the message of “putting clients first” and were impressed with the pro bono efforts that members perform for their constituents.

While this was the first time FPA members from New York gathered in Albany to advocate for their profession, it was widely agreed that the efforts were very productive and created opportunities to advance the financial planning profession in the state.

