

*April 1, 2005*

*Diane Allen, Senator  
11 West Broad Street, Suite B  
Burlington, NJ 08016*

*Dear Senator Allen,*

*It was a pleasure to have been honored by you at our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary September 16, 2003 and to have you present us with a diploma of recognition offered by you on behalf of the New Jersey State legislators.*

*Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pictures of which you are a part, open to all who surf the internet, are on our website "Burlington County Musical Society".*

*The coolest thing that happened is that we hired your nephew to play violin at the 100<sup>th</sup> without knowing he was related. Since then, he has teamed up with Ricky Lombardo doing jobs in Trenton. Musicians like to network.*

*I am writing to you now on behalf of Local 336, AFM. As President, I have been requested to contact you to let you know of our feelings about our union being neglected. The County is hiring bands from all over. Some are name bands and some aren't. We are not asking to control anyone or to be the lone providers of music in the County. We are asking for a fair shake. I met with Vince Farius and Joyce Goldsmith. Joyce does the bookings. Vince agreed to throw us a bone, if I may use that slang. The 2005 Summer Concerts were already booked so Vince thought that we could be worked into the County library with smaller groups and to give our newly formed concert band under the baton of John Pastin of Rowan University a turn on an off night. We will unveil the band with a mini concert at Cinnaminson High School this month.*

*I know that we must work together without animosity and pressures but we haven't heard from Vince or Joyce since my meeting with them four months ago. I understand that Joyce had a part in booking bands in Mt. Holly for its forthcoming festivities. If that is the case, we were slighted once again.*

*In our union we have college professors, public school music educators, and those who have been published. This is serious for us and as President I am finding it hard to give my members a reason why this is happening. Why are we degreed professional musicians of this County not good enough?*

*To the best of my knowledge, in the State of New Jersey, you won't find a Republican who runs a union. They are all Democrats. I have been a former Republican Councilman in the City of Burlington. I know how the money game is played but I can't understand how the music game is played. This is where you come in. We need your help. Please lend us a hand Senator. Now over a 100 Years Old!*

*Robert J. Bell, President*