

## **Section F**

### **Sponsorship Donations**

*Union County Performing Arts Center: Who paid what to whom?*

On July 7, 2011 county manager George Devanney submitted a memo of refusal to the deputy county manager and Debra Scanlon, Chairwoman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. It stated in part, "In order to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest in matters pertaining to the following companies and/or projects: Union County Performing Art Center I am delegating the responsibility and authority in the handling of any such matters to you. Please ensure that I am screened from any such information or communication on any such matters...."

Devanney retired effective August 1, 2011. Freeholder Chairwoman Scanlon was asked at three subsequent public meetings to date why Devanney refused himself, she did not give a reply.

Curiously, the Prosecutor's report does not mention Devanney's involvement with the UCPAC nor does it give a breakdown of Musicfest 2010 sponsorship donations or what vendors were paid from them despite recommending that this information be made available to the public going forward:

*"Sponsorship donations for the benefit of MusicFest are solicited by the County. These donations however are deposited directly into the account of UCPAC. They are then used by the UCPAC for the procurement of entertainment. Consequently, the County has no control over the distribution of these funds, which are collected using the County name and on the County's behalf. The office recommends that: All donations be deposited in County accounts and distributed to the various vendors from those accounts; and all sponsors' names and donations in cash or check should be made available to the public. The names of County officials soliciting the aforementioned gifts or contributions should be made available to the public"*

## Section F

### Sponsorship Donations (continued)

The Prosecutor's report lists the UCPAC's expenses for Musicfest. Included in that list is a \$1,500 donation to the LHSF a non-profit 501(c)3. The report does not take issue with this donation.

Article 8, Section III, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the NJ Constitution states:

- 2. No county, city, borough, town, township or village shall hereafter give any money or property, or loan its money or credit, to or in aid of any individual, association or corporation, or become security for, or be directly or indirectly the owner of, any stock or bonds of any association or corporation.*
- 3. No donation of land or appropriation of money shall be made by the State or any county or municipal corporation to or for the use of any society, association or corporation whatever.*

#### Exhibits Attached:

- F3 George Devanney recusal memo from UCPAC
- F4 CDD Promotions, LLC contact page
- F5 CDD Promotions, LLC promoted an act at UCPAC
- F6-F7 Some background on the treks
- F8 Excerpt from Prosecutor's Report
- F9 Sponsor list obtained through OPRA totaling \$232,500



# COUNTY OF UNION

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER  
George W. Devanney, County Manager

**BOARD OF  
CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

DEBORAH P. SCANLON  
*Chairman*

ALEXANDER MIRABELLA  
*Vice Chairman*

LINDA CARTER

ANGEL G. ESTRADA

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MOHAMED S. JALLOH

BETTE JANE KOWALSKI

DANIEL P. SULLIVAN

NANCY WARD

GEORGE W. DEVANNEY  
*County Manager*

M. ELIZABETH GENIEVICH,  
C.M.C., M.P.A.  
*Deputy County Manager/  
Director of Administrative  
Services*

ROBERT E. BARRY, ESQ.  
*County Counsel*

NICOLE L. DIRADO,  
C.M.C., M.P.A.  
*Clerk of the Board*

TO: M. Elizabeth Genievich  
Deputy County Manager

FROM: George W. Devanney  
County Manager

DATE: July 7, 2011

RE: Recusal

Cc: Deborah P. Scanlon, Chairman  
Union County Board of Chosen Freeholder  
Robert E. Barry, Esq., County Counsel  
Sharda Badri, Office Manager  
Vikki Durban-Drake, Director  
Open Space

In order to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest in matters pertaining to the following companies and/or projects:

### Union County Performing Art Center

I am delegating the responsibility and authority in the handling of any such matters to you. Please ensure that I am screened from any such information or communication on any such matters. By copy of this memorandum I am instructing Sharda Badri to ensure that I do not receive any communication of any matters affecting the aforementioned company or project. Further, if she has any questions, she should contact you.

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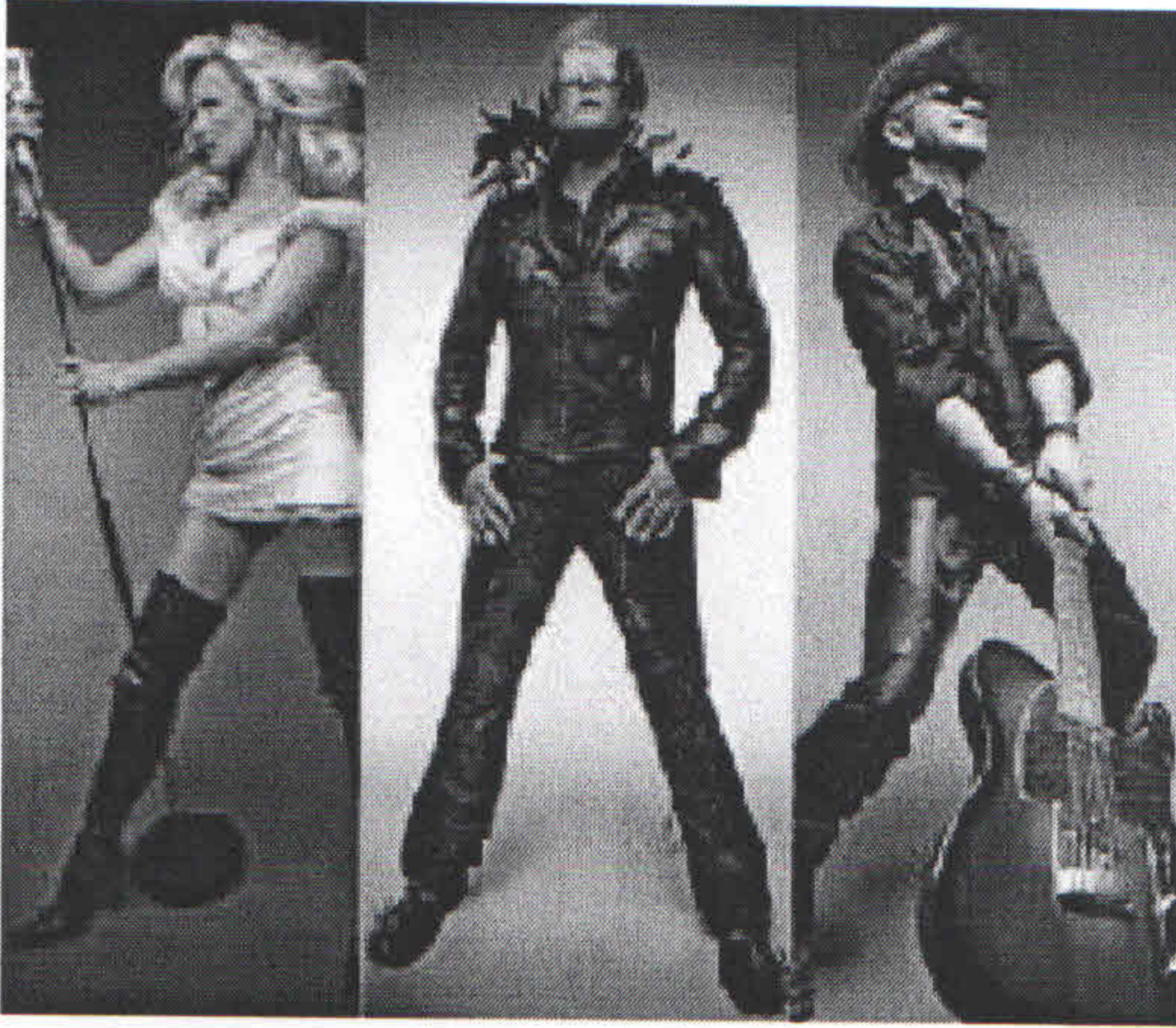
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**To contact us, give us any comments, suggestions, or feedback please:**

Email us at [cdnorth@comcast.net](mailto:cdnorth@comcast.net)

or

Call Chris Devanney at (908) 418 3717



CDD Promotions, LLC & Christopher Entertainment present

## ICH TROJE

Sunday • November 8, 2009 • 6:00 PM

[BUY TICKETS](#)

[Tickets: \\$40 & \\$35](#)

Ich Troje , a Warsaw-based trio whose records regularly top the Polish charts is on a brief U.S. tour that is coming to Union County . *"Ich Troje brings sounds of homeland to expatriates in The United States"* - Newark Star-Ledger

Ich Troje was founded in 1996 by songwriter Michal Wisniewski and composer Jacek Lagwa. The name of the group can be translated as "Three of Them". They have sold over 2.5 million CDs in Europe over the last few years and have given over 300 concerts with several platinum records. Their songs talk about love, betrayal, break-ups which have people dancing in their seats. **A must see event!**

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# The County Watchers



The citizen watchdogs of government in Union County, NJ

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## Who pays for these trips

By Tina Renna | November 20, 2009



Union County Freeholder Chester Holmes (C) presents resolutions to Ryan Garner of Union and Angie Devanney of Berkeley Heights commending them on completing the trek to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in East Africa as part of "Kilimanjaro Rocks," The Love Hope Strength Foundation's latest musical journey in the fight against cancer.

I had the displeasure of having to sit through the above ceremony, involving the county manager's wife, at a recent freeholder meeting. The entire spectacle which included speeches and pictures, took longer than the peoples business discussed at a prior agenda meeting which took all of 14 minutes to appropriate approximately 8 million property tax dollars.

In 2008 the Union County Watchdog Association filed a complaint with the state's Government Records Council in response to the county's refusal to turn over documents responsive to the UCWA's request seeking records that would show what individuals donated to a county sponsored fund-raiser in 2007 which the county manager was personally involved in and profited from and politicians used as a campaign whistle stop free from Election Law Enforcement reporting guidelines.

The GRC ruled:

Because the Complainant's requests are not requests for identifiable government records and because the Custodian is not required to conduct research in response to a request, the requests are invalid and the Custodian has not unlawfully denied access to the requested records

An example of this is because I did not know the specific email to and from what employees on what day to ask for.... The county got away with keeping this information from the public.

If they didn't have anything to hide, they could have easily responded to the request. They chose not to. My suspicion is that the trips are funded by county vendors which is another form of pay to play and county employees which is another form of pay to work. The fact that the county used public resources, employees and the county website to facilitate this event is another form of theft of services in my very strong opinion.

The county sponsored Walkathon's held in conjunction with the Music fest resulted in the following trips: In 2007 George Devanney went to Mt. Everest in Nepal, in 2008 he went Machu Picchu in Peru, in 2009 his wife, Angie Devanney, went to Mount Kilimanjaro in East Africa.

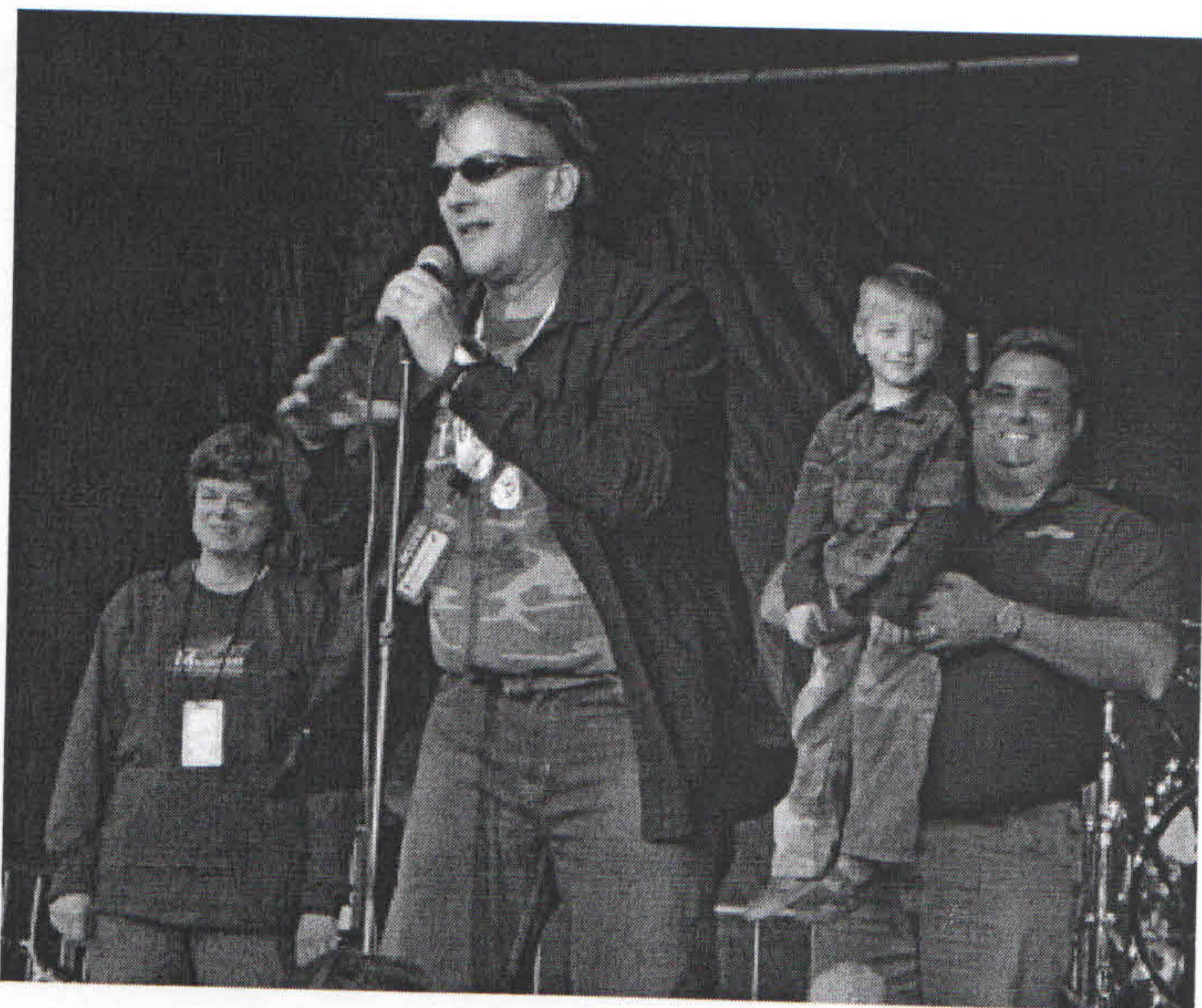
As submitted to the GRC in 2008:

- The Co-Chairs of the event were Assemblyman Neil Cohen, Assemblywoman Linda Stender and Freeholder Chairwoman Bette Jean Kowalski.
- The county manager's wife listed on her website that she was the treasurer of the Love, Hope Strength Organization.
- County resources, including the website and employees, were used to organize, facilitate and raise the money for the event.
- For raising in excess of \$25,000 the county manager got to go on the organizations free trip to Mt. Everest in Nepal.
- For donating certain amounts of money contributors, including county employee's and county vendors, got to rub elbows with elected officials while attending a private party at the county manager's home in which county vendors performed.
- Politicians connected to the Union County Democrat machine got to use the fund raiser as a campaign whistle stop free from Election Law Enforcement Commission rules on campaign spending and contribution reporting.

Mike Peters of the Love Hope Strength Foundation has written, "Words cannot adequately describe the pride I have in the Union County Freeholder Board ..... Not only were they supportive in my trip to Mount Everest, but they had the vision to make Musicfest more than just a concert in the park by involving the LHSF .....

There is no denying that Union County Government is behind the money that is raised at these events. Until they conduct the peoples business in complete transparency then they aren't heroes raising money for cancer. They are leaches feeding off of a worthy cause.

"It's all about getting elected baby!" Senator Raymond Lesniak's nephew, appointed Union County Manager, George Devanney – 2007 MusicFest



George Devanney performing on stage at a Music Fest along with Freeholders Kowalski & Mirabella.

Previously posted: [Union County Getting Bamboozled Again](#), by Patricia Quattrocchi

The expenses incurred by UCPAC totaled \$439,675.86 as reflected in the following:

Provider/Description	Amount
Fees Paid for Musical Agencies	\$ 384,069.40
TIIP	
Video wall	\$ 8,500.00
Catering	\$ 18,169.00
Stage Works (for Summer Arts Festival)	\$ 17,100.00
Donation to LHS	\$ 1,500.00
Crown Plaza Hotel (lodging)	\$ 9,245.50
Other	\$ 1,091.96
<b>UCPAC's Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 439,675.86</b>
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	<b>\$ 115,452.14</b>

The \$115,452.14 balance was retained in the UCPAC account for expenses to be incurred by the 2011 MusicFest. UCPAC maintained an interest bearing account strictly for deposits and expenses relating to MusicFest. Our investigation revealed that invoices were paid from that account for other events. In particular, a \$17,100.00 check was issued to *This is It! Stage Works*, a sister company of TIIP, for the production of the Summer Arts Festival held on June 30, 2010, in Echo Lake Park and Oak Ridge Park. When questioned about this expenditure, employees at the UCPAC could not adequately explain the reason for paying this invoice from the MusicFest account.

This Office recommends that:

- (1) The UCPAC establish separate accounts for MusicFest and sub-accounts for other events and that invoices be paid only from the specific account created;
- (2) In any County sponsored events, UCPAC should be required to enter into written agreements with all vendors and artists; and
- (3) A designated responsible County official review all invoices to ensure that no redundant services are being billed, and that the services conform to the budget agreement before the invoice is approved for payment.



Type	Date	Num	Memo	Amount
Deposit	03/05/2010		Brown & Brown Metro - 2010 Sponsor	8,500.00
Deposit	04/02/2010		Masur Consulting - 2010 Sponsor	8,500.00
Deposit	04/15/2010		Overlook Hospital - 2010 Sponsor	25,000.00
Deposit	04/15/2010		Neglia Engineering - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	04/15/2010		Pennoni Associates - 2010 Sponsor	8,500.00
Deposit	04/19/2010		Union County College - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	04/19/2010		Medco Health - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	05/05/2010		Wal-Mart - 2010 Sponsor	25,000.00
Deposit	05/20/2010		Jingoli & Son - 2010 Sponsor	10,000.00
Deposit	05/20/2010		Kean University - 2010 Sponsor	15,000.00
Deposit	05/25/2010		Honeywell - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	05/27/2010		Marturano Recreation - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	06/01/2010		ConocoPhillips - 2010 Sponsor	3,000.00
Deposit	06/04/2010		Honeywell - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	06/10/2010		Atlantic Health - 2010 Sponsor	5,000.00
Deposit	06/14/2010		Kemper Sports Mgmt - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	06/18/2010		Cigna Sports Mgmt - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	07/21/2010		AGL Resources (Elizabethtown Gas) - 2010 Sponsor	10,000.00
Deposit	07/23/2010		Delta Dental - 2010 Sponsor	1,000.00
Deposit	08/05/2010		GSV / AstroTurf - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	08/10/2010		Access Systems - 2010 Sponsor	2,500.00
Deposit	08/10/2010		TD Bank - 2010 Sponsor	15,000.00
Deposit	08/10/2010		Kemper Sports Mgmt - 2010 Sponsor	3,000.00
Credit Card***	08/18/2010		Patch - 2010 Sponsor on credit card	1,000.00
Deposit	08/19/2010		Papetti Holding Co,- 2010 Sponsor	5,000.00
Deposit	08/27/2010		Applied Landscape Technologies - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	09/01/2010		Dewberry - 2010 Sponsor	1,500.00
Deposit	09/01/2010		Correctional Health Services - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	09/09/2010		Verizon - 2010 Sponsor	7,500.00
Deposit	09/15/2010		Covanta Union - 2010 Sponsor	5,500.00
Deposit	09/23/2010		Liberty Mutual - 2010 Sponsor	2,000.00
Deposit	10/07/2010		Hartford Insurance - 2010 Sponsor	4,500.00
Deposit	11/08/2010		PSE&G - 2010 Sponsor	5,000.00