

Shaping the future of
our Cities and Villages
with leadership & vision



2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2023

CORNHUSKER MARRIOTT HOTEL, LINCOLN



Deb VanMatre
League President
Mayor, Gibbon





2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

Sept. 27-29, 2023



MUNICIPAL TREASURERS: The State Auditor's Office approved 14 hours of continuing education.

MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS: The Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission approved 11.83 hours of CLE credit.

Conference Program

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023

9-11 am DEF	Smaller and Larger Cities Legislative Committees Meeting
9 am-4 pm Arbor 1	Fire Chiefs Section Meeting
11 am BC	Annual Meeting of Members of the League Association of Risk Management (LARM)
11:30 am Atrium	Registration (for Preconference Seminar)
12:30-1:20 pm Renaissance	Delegate Luncheon
1:30-4:30 pm DEF	PRECONFERENCE SEMINAR – Workforce Housing/Affordable Housing: Learn about statewide efforts to provide more incentives for workforce housing and affordable housing; find out how North Platte, Sidney, and other municipalities are using incentives and their voter-approved LB 840 Plans to address their housing shortage; and learn how the City of Norfolk is establishing a regional landbank to create more housing stock. <i>Shannon Harner, Executive Director, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA)</i> <i>Gary Person, President and CEO, North Platte Area Chamber and Development Corporation</i> <i>David Scott, City Manager, Sidney</i> <i>Lane Kizzire, Finance Director, Sidney</i> <i>Danielle Myers-Noelle, City Attorney, Norfolk</i>
4:45 pm BC	Meeting of the LARM Board of Directors

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023

7:30 am Atrium	Registration Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level (Coffee and Rolls Available)
8-8:10 am DEF	Welcome League President <i>Deb VanMatre, Mayor, Gibbon</i>
8:10-9:45 am DEF	From Conflict to Conversation: Must disagreement be disagreeable? Amidst unprecedented disruption and uncertainty, there's never been a more necessary time for city and village officials to learn new ways to bring people together to tackle your municipality's most complex and sensitive issues. <i>Matt Lehrman, Co-Founder, Social Prosperity Partners; Nationally Recognized Speaker</i>
9:45-10 am 10-11:15 am DEF	Break – Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level Recognizing and Preventing Human Trafficking in Your City or Village <i>George Welch, Assistant Attorney General and Interim Coordinator of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force, Nebraska Attorney General's Office</i> <i>Brent Bockstadter, Lieutenant, Nebraska State Patrol</i> <i>Kevin Spencer, Chief of Police and City Manager, Scottsbluff</i> <i>Brandon Brueggemann, Investigator, Buffalo County Sheriff's Office</i>
11:15-11:30 am 11:30 am-12:30 pm DEF	Presentation of "League Distinguished Service Award" to Buffalo County Sheriff Neil Miller Break – Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level League Legislative Report <i>L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM</i>



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Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023 (con't.)

12:30-2 pm

Lancaster

Delegate Luncheon Honoring League Past Presidents

Remarks by **League President Deb VanMatre**, Mayor, Gibbon

Keynote Address by Nebraska Secretary of State Bob Evnen

Honoring **Rod Storm**, Former City Administrator, Blair

Break – Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level

Concurrent Sessions:

A. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA): Learn how your municipality can partner with CISA (at no cost) to defend against today's threats and collaborate to build a more secure and resilient infrastructure.

(Session repeated at 3:30 pm)

Nicholas Brand, Cybersecurity Advisor/Nebraska Cybersecurity Coordinator, CISA

Warren Hagelstien, CISSP, Cybersecurity Advisor – Region 7, CISA

Gregory C. Goodwater, Protective Security Advisor, CISA

ABC

B. LET'S TALK – From Conflict to Conversation: What opportunities and challenges are you facing? This will be a candid discussion that invites attendees to seek insight and advice from their colleagues. Come prepared to “wear your heart on your sleeve” about how to engage more people and gather agreement around whatever you hope to accomplish in your city or village.

(Session repeated at 3:30 pm)

Matt Lehrman, Co-Founder, Social Prosperity Partners; Nationally Recognized Speaker

Yankee Hill 1&2

C. Empowering Rural Communities – UNL Rural Fellows Programs and Their Potential Impact: Discover how UNL Rural Fellows Programs can catalyze your community's growth and open new possibilities for its development.

(Session repeated at 3:30 pm)

Matt Smallcomb, City Administrator, Gibbon

Darrell King Jr., Community Engagement Coordinator, UNL

Shawn Keskie, Extension Educator, Rural Prosperity Nebraska

Arbor 1&2

D. Leveraging Social Media in Your Municipality's Communication Plans: Learn more about practices, strategies, and examples in utilizing social media to advance public communications. Social media is an essential element to any local government's communication strategy from delivering developed public information campaigns and timely communications to establishing open engagement.

(Session repeated at 3:30 pm)

Sara Wilson, Executive Vice President, Client Services and PR, Smith Kroeger

Ashley Wolfe, Marketing and Communications Director, LNM

Matt Lindberg, Public Communications Manager, Columbus

3:15-3:30 pm

3:30-4:30 pm

Hawthorne

Break – Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level

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Yankee Hill 1&2

Concurrent Sessions: (con't.)

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Ashley Wolfe, Marketing and Communications Director, LNM

Matt Lindberg, Public Communications Manager, Columbus

4:30-4:45 pm

4:45-5:45 pm

Olive Branch

Ivanhoe

Arbor 1&2

Yankee Hill 1&2

Hawthorne

Break – Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level

Section Meetings

Mayors/Village Board Chairs

City Managers/Administrators

Larger Cities

Smaller Cities

Utilities

Friday, Sept. 29, 2023

7:30 am

Atrium

8-9 am

Arbor 1&2

Registration

Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level (Coffee and Rolls Available)

Concurrent Sessions:

A. Bridging Our Cultural Divides:

Learn how servant leaders from North Omaha and Southwestern Nebraska forged relationships in a cultural exchange to serve as a model for bridging Nebraska's rural-urban divide. Learn how your community can participate and benefit from such an exchange.

(Session repeated at 9:15 am)

Jo Leyland, Former Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer, Imperial

Jeff Yost, President/CEO, Nebraska Community Foundation

Veta Jeffery, President/CEO, Jeffery Consultants

Hawthorne

B. Where's My FEMA Money?

How to get your cash from FEMA as soon as possible.

Erv Portis, Assistant Director, NEMA

Lexy Hindt, Recovery Section Manager, NEMA

Yankee Hill 1&2

C. What's Old and New Regarding Nebraska Workers' Compensation Claims:

Learn about the impact on your city or village. (This session is sponsored by LARM.)

(Session repeated at 9:15 am)

David Dudley, Attorney, Baylor Evnen Wolfe & Tannehill, LLP

ABC

D. League Insurance Government Health Team (LIGHT):

Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about LIGHT and the partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska and Mutual of Omaha.

Dennis Maggart, President, McInnes Maggart Consulting Group

Jason Rothermund, Strategic Account Specialist, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska

Sue Warner, Strategic Account Executive, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska



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A. Bridging Our Cultural Divides: Learn how servant leaders from North Omaha and Southwestern Nebraska forged relationships in a cultural exchange to serve as a model for bridging Nebraska's rural-urban divide. Learn how your community can participate and benefit from such an exchange.

(Repeat of 8 am session)

Jo Leyland, Former Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer, Imperial

Jeff Yost, President/CEO, Nebraska Community Foundation

Veta Jeffery, President/CEO, Jeffery Consultants

Hawthorne

B. Update on Protecting Your Municipal Assets: What elected officials need to know.

(Session repeated at 11 am)

Craig Kubicek, CPA, CFE, Deputy Auditor, Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts' Office

Yankee Hill 1&2

C. What's Old and New Regarding Nebraska Workers' Compensation Claims: Learn about the impact on your city or village. *(This session is sponsored by LARM.)*

(Repeat of 8 am session)

David Dudley, Attorney, Baylor Evnen Wolfe & Tannehill, LLP

ABC

D. Annual Members' Meeting of the League Insurance Government Health Team (LIGHT): All conference delegates are welcome to attend LIGHT's Annual Members' Meeting.

10:15-10:30 am

10:30-10:45 am

Arbor 1&2

Break – Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level

Annual Business Meeting

10:45-11 am

11 am-12 pm

Arbor 1&2

Break – Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level

Concurrent Sessions:

A. Broadband Update: Be informed about the latest developments and how the State of Nebraska is maximizing efforts to provide broadband throughout the state.

Patrick Haggerty, Broadband Director, Nebraska Broadband Office

Hawthorne

B. Update on Protecting Your Municipal Assets: What elected officials need to know.

(Repeat of 9:15 am session)

Craig Kubicek, CPA, CFE, Deputy Auditor, Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts' Office

Yankee Hill 1&2

C. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Update: Review the basics and learn about recent changes to laws governing TIF.

Mike Rogers, Attorney, Gilmore & Bell, P.C.

Colleen Duncan, Attorney, Gilmore & Bell, P.C.

Christy Abraham, Legal Counsel, LNM

ABC

D. Creative Districts: Learn how other cities and villages are establishing Creative Districts to become eligible for state grants and funds.

Rachel Morgan, Program Specialist, Nebraska Arts Council

Caleb Fjone, Executive Director, Ashland Area Economic Development Corporation

Angie Olson, Grant Coordinator, Fremont

12 pm

12:15 pm

Garra

Adjournment. Have a safe trip home! Please remember to buckle up!

Meeting of the LIGHT Board of Directors



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Conference Sponsors

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- ☐ Midwest Electric Transformer Services, Inc.
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- ☐ Nebraska CLASS
- ☐ Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union
- ☐ Nebraska Public Power District
- ☐ Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network
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- ☐ Olsson
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- ☐ Prochaska & Associates
- ☐ Project Control
- ☐ Rose Equipment
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- ☐ Schemmer
- ☐ Snyder & Associates, Inc.
- ☐ Sparq Data Solutions
- ☐ The Olson Group
- ☐ Tyler Technologies
- ☐ Union Bank & Trust (UBT)
- ☐ USDA Rural Development Community
- ☐ Vacanti Municipal Consulting Services LLC
- ☐ Viking Industrial Painting
- ☐ Wilson & Company

League Executive Board



1335 L Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-476-2829
www.lnm.org

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Jeff Hofaker
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Sutton

Clerks Representative
Janine K. Schmidt
CMC/Treasurer
Morrill

Utility Representative
Layne Groseth
City Administrator/
Utilities Manager
North Platte

League Staff

L. Lynn Rex	Executive Director
Christy Abraham	Legal Counsel
Lash Chaffin	Utilities Section Director
Cherie DeFreece	Administrative Assistant/Membership Services Assistant
Brenda Henning	Membership Services Assistant
Ethan Nguyen	League/LARM Information Technology Manager
Rob Pierce	Utilities Field Representative/Training Coordinator
Shirley Riley	Membership Services Director
Ashley Wolfe	Marketing & Communications Director

Upcoming Conferences

2023

NLC City Summit..... Nov. 15-18..... Atlanta, Georgia

2024

Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference Jan. 10-12 Embassy Suites, Lincoln
Midwinter Conference..... Feb. 26-27 Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln
NLC Congressional City Conference March 9-13 Washington, D.C.
Nebraska Municipal Clerks Institute & Academy March 17-22 TBD
Municipal Accounting & Finance Conference..... June 12-14 Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln
Annual Conference Oct. 2-4 Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln
NLC City Summit..... Nov. 13-16 Tampa, Florida