

# NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW

■ Bellevue celebrates opening  
of new city hall with ribbon cutting,  
speeches, tour of facility

■ Norfolk City Attorney receives  
planning association award

■ Governor, First Lady thank Nebraskans  
for successful 150th celebration

MARCH 2018



## 2018 Midwinter Conference Highlights



# Contents

March 2018

No. 1,115  
ISSN 0028-1906

## About the Cover:

*Top left: Norfolk Sen. Jim Scheer, Speaker of the Legislature, introducing his colleagues at the Senator Appreciation Luncheon.*

*Top Middle: Gering Sen. John Stinner, Appropriations Committee Chair, delivers keynote address at luncheon Feb. 26.*

*League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member.*

*Middle from left: Jim Hawks, City Administrator, North Platte; Jerry Wilcox, Clerk/Treasurer, Crete, speak at special League meeting for LARM members.*

*Bottom left from left: Brenda Wheeler, Clerk, Blair; Jane Skinner, Clerk/Treasurer, Ogallala.*

*Bottom right from left: Richard Grauerholz, Mayor, Ashland; Janece Mollhoff, Council Member, Ashland*

*Photos by Lynn Marienau.*

4	<b>The Director's Message by L. Lynn Rex, LNM Executive Director</b> – LB 874: thanks to Sen. Justin Wayne for his tremendous leadership in negotiating and passing landmark TIF legislation!
6	<b>The Legal Corner</b> – DOL releases 17 opinions withdrawn by Obama
7	Lincoln ranked 4th among state capital cities to live in
8	Bellevue Mayor Sanders receives Nebraska National Guard's Distinguished Service Award for Civilians
10	2018 Midwinter Conference Highlights
17	NDEQ seeks source water protection proposals
18	Governor, First Lady thank Nebraskans for successful 150 celebration
19	Bellevue celebrates opening of new city hall with ribbon cutting, speeches, tour of facility
20	Thanks to these sponsors of the 2018 Midwinter Conference
21	Classifieds
22	Professional Directory

## Larger Cities Legislative Committee

**Ralph Yeager**, Mayor, Alliance  
**Stan Wirth**, Mayor, Beatrice  
**Tobias Tempelmeyer**, City Administrator/General Manager, Beatrice  
**Rita Sanders**, Mayor, Bellevue  
**Joe Mangiamelli**, City Administrator, Bellevue  
**Jim Realph**, Mayor, Blair  
**Rod Storm**, City Administrator, Blair  
**John Coates**, Mayor, Chadron  
**John F. Lohr**, Council Member, Columbus  
**Tara Vasecek**, City Administrator, Columbus  
**Tom Ourada**, City Administrator, Crete  
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**Scott Getzschman**, Mayor, Fremont  
**Brian Newton**, City Administrator/Utility General Manager, Fremont  
**Tony Kaufman**, Mayor, Gering  
**Lane Danielzuk**, City Administrator, Gering  
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**Joe Patterson**, City Administrator, Hastings  
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**Jim Hawks**, City Administrator, North Platte  
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**Carol Schuldt**, Council Member, South Sioux City  
**Lance Hedquist**, City Administrator, South Sioux City  
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**Chris Anderson**, City Administrator, Central City  
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**Jim Vossler**, Mayor, Friend  
**Deb VanMatre**, Mayor, Gibbon  
**Bruce Clymer**, City Administrator, Gothenburg

**Jeff Kooistra**, City Administrator, Gretna  
**Doug Hanson**, Mayor, Hickman  
**Silas Clarke**, City Administrator/Director of Economic Development, Hickman  
**Dan Dean**, City Administrator, Kimball  
**John Wyant**, Mayor, Newman Grove  
**Chris Dibbern**, NMPP Energy  
**Roger Goldfish**, Mayor, Ord  
**Denise Peterson**, Admin./Clerk/Treasurer, Ponca  
**Nancy Bryan**, Clerk/Treasurer, Stromsburg

**Sandra Foote**, Council Member, Superior  
**Larry Brittenham**, Utility Superintendent, Superior  
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**Joan Suhr**, Admin./Clerk/Treasurer, Valley  
**Melissa Harrell**, Admin./Clerk/Treasurer, Wahoo  
**Jim Litchfield**, City Administrator, Wakefield  
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**Al Vacanti**, City Administrator, Wisner

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<b>Tobias</b>	City Administrator/General
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## Affiliated Sections

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## League Staff

<b>L. Lynn Rex</b>	Executive Director
<b>Christy Abraham</b>	Legal Counsel
<b>Brett Benson</b>	Information Technology Manager
<b>Lash Chaffin</b>	Utilities Section Director
<b>Brenda Henning</b>	Membership Services Assistant
<b>Lynn Marienau</b>	Communications Director
<b>Rob Pierce</b>	Utilities Field Representative
<b>Shirley Riley</b>	Membership Services Director
<b>Julia Wessel</b>	Receptionist/Membership Services Assistant



## CALENDAR

Municipal Accounting and Finance Conference ..... June 20-22, 2018, Graduate, Lincoln  
Annual Conference..... Sept. 19-21, 2018, Holiday Inn, Kearney

## Municipal Legal Calendar

(All statute citations to Revised Statutes of Nebraska)

### MARCH 2017

#### CITIES OF THE FIRST CLASS

On or before March 1 ..... One and six year plans are due at the Nebraska Department of Roads,  
Board of Public Roads, City Classification and Standards, March 1, 2018.  
(39-2115 to 39-2119)

Within 10 working days following  
meeting or before next

meeting (whichever is sooner)..... Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)

Within 15 days of Passage ..... Clerk publishes ordinances passed. (16-405)

Within 30 days following

Council meeting ..... Clerk publishes official proceedings of meetings, including claims. (19-1102)

Within 20 days after end

of month..... Treasurer files monthly financial report. (16-318)

Each Quarter ..... Report from Depository banks due. (16-714)

\* \* ..... Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council meeting. (84-1411)

#### CITIES OF THE SECOND CLASS AND VILLAGES

On or before March 1 ..... One and six year plans are due at the Nebraska Department of Roads,  
Board of Public Roads, Classification and Standards, March 1, 2018.  
(39-2115 to 39-2119)

Within 10 working days following  
meeting or before next

meeting (whichever is sooner) ... Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)

Within 15 days of Passage..... Clerk publishes or posts ordinances passed. (17-613)

Within 30 days following

Council meeting ..... Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting including claims. (19-1102)

Within 20 days after end

of month..... Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)

\* \* ..... Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council meeting. (84-1411)

#### VILLAGES

On or before March 1 ..... One and six year plans are due at the Nebraska Department of Roads,  
Board of Public Roads, Classification and Standards, March 1, 2018.  
(39-2115 to 39-2119)

Within 10 working days following  
meeting or before next

meeting (whichever is sooner) ... Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)

Within 15 days of Passage..... Clerk publishes or posts ordinances passed. (17-613)

Within 30 days following

Board meeting..... Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting, including claims. (19-1102)

Within 20 days after end

of month..... Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)

\* \* ..... Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Board meeting. (84-1411)

**Nebraska Municipal Review Editor and Advertising Sales: Lynn Marienau, 402-476-2829 or [lynnm@lonm.org](mailto:lynnm@lonm.org)**

The **NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW** is the official publication of the League of Nebraska Municipalities, an association of the cities and villages of Nebraska, published at 1335 L St., Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 — Telephone 402-476-2829; FAX 402-476-7052; Website: [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org). Periodicals postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska. Views of contributors, solicited or unsolicited, are their own and not to be construed as having the endorsement of the League unless specifically and explicitly stated by the publisher.

The **NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW** is a nonprofit publication administered and supervised by the League of Nebraska Municipalities. All revenue derived from the publication is used by the association to defray publication costs. The **NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW** is published monthly. Subscription rates are \$5 per single copy — \$50 plus tax for 12 issues.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW**, 1335 L Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.



## LB 874: Thanks to Sen. Justin Wayne for his tremendous leadership in negotiating and passing landmark TIF legislation!

BY L. LYNN REX, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LNM

*Note by L. Lynn Rex, League Executive Director: The Urban Affairs Committee introduced and prioritized LB 874 to amend provisions in the "Community Development Law" relating to tax-increment financing (TIF). The Governor signed LB 874 on March 21, 2018. Upcoming issues of the Review will focus on the numerous TIF amendments negotiated with the League and others in this 57-page bill, including changes in TIF laws relating to: record keeping; annual reporting of TIF projects to the Department of Revenue; cost reimbursements; substandard and blighted designations; cost-benefit analyses; auditing of TIF projects; and public notices and public hearings for TIF projects. Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne, Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee, did an outstanding job of explaining the negotiated agreement, which resulted in passage of this landmark legislation on March 15, 2018, on a vote of 47-0-2! Excerpts, some of which have been edited, from his opening statement on General File are included for your review.*

**LB 874** is a product of the **Urban Affairs Committee** LR60 Interim Study that examined the issues related to tax-increment financing (TIF) that were raised during the report issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts,

Charlie Janssen. That report was issued following the Auditor's review of 22 projects in which Nebraska municipalities used TIF.... After the release of the Auditor's report in December 2016, multiple members of the Legislature introduced bills, one by one, trying to address issues relating to TIF. Rather than handle these bills piecemeal, the Urban Affairs Committee decided to travel throughout the state and look at a comprehensive list. We traveled to North Platte where North Platte Sen. Mike Groene joined us; we had a great conversation around TIF and how North Platte and the surrounding areas as far as Scottsbluff use TIF. We also went to Grand Island in September. We then came back to Lincoln in October and had a hearing on TIF. After the hearings, Committee Counsel **Trevor Fitzgerald** and I worked through October and November with interested parties to draft language that specifically addressed the report; our first draft was done Dec. 1. After Dec. 1, we had more feedback and then our official bill was introduced this year.

The primary issue identified in the Auditor's report was the lack of recordkeeping. Most of the projects – 16 out of 22 – did not have adequate



Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne

records related to the TIF project. What the committee found when we looked at relevant statutes is that the Records Management Act, which governs most records dealing with TIF (not just TIF but general records of municipalities) did not specifically require TIF-related documents to be maintained for the length of the TIF project, nor did it have certain retention requirements. This bill requires the documents to be retained for the length of the TIF project. We made sure that those documents met the legal burden of actually having documents in the possession of municipalities versus

*Continued on page 5*



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Continued from page 4

all documents that sometimes a contractor may have. In addition, LB 874 requires that developers also retain TIF-supporting documents as needed to comply with the municipality's retention requirements.

***Upcoming Reviews will include comments from Sen. Wayne's opening remarks regarding other changes in LB 874 governing TIF.***

This was a long process in which many people came to the table – people who were against and for this type of bill. We brought them all together and with AM1823, everybody is now on board. We have no opposition and this is the first time in a long time we've been able to clean up redevelopment laws and give the tools to our municipalities that are necessary to make sure they can develop and do it in a way that is responsible so that the Legislature will not have to address any more TIF-related issues for a while.

What the Urban Affairs Committee has heard in the past few years, particularly the last two, was a constant drumbeat of what is considered anti-TIF proposals, creating a chilling effect on community development efforts. Many officials have told the committee repeatedly during our conversations that even though the bills are not passed, the fact that they are being introduced hinders the city's ability to have a stable environment to move forward. In this context, I want to cite a statement made to the Urban Affairs Committee by former Lincoln **Sen. Dave Landis**, who we now call "Professor Landis," who often testifies before this committee: he said this bill today is truly a "peace treaty." It's a "peace treaty" in the sense

*We brought everybody together and we believe this bill is the opportunity for this committee, this Legislature to speak loudly, to speak clearly that we have a framework for TIF and let the municipalities and local governing bodies move forward since this is one of the few tools that they have in their toolbox.*

— Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne, Urban Affairs  
Committee Chair

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that we want to provide stability over the next three to four years to allow our municipalities to develop. It is my hope and the hope of many who have interest in this issue, that LB 874 can stand the test of time as such a "peace treaty." This bill went through multiple reviews and one of the most outspoken critics, Sen. Groene, was at the table; we made sure to include his thoughts and many other thoughts such as those of Albion Sen. Tom

Briese who had concerns about TIF. We brought everybody together and we believe this bill is the opportunity for this committee, this Legislature to speak loudly, to speak clearly that we have a framework for TIF and let the municipalities and local governing bodies move forward since this is one of the few tools that they have in their toolbox. I would ask for a green vote on AM1823 and LB 874. Thank you, Mr. President. ■



## DOL releases 17 opinions withdrawn by Obama administration

BY JERRY L. PIGSLEY, WOODS & AITKEN LLP,  
LONM LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW COUNSEL

In January 2009, shortly before President Bush left office, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Wage and Hour Administrator published 17 Wage and Hour Opinion Letters. After taking office, President Obama's administration on March 2, 2009, withdrew many of the opinion letters for "further consideration" and stated that it would "provide a further response in the near future." No response was forthcoming. In March 2010, DOL stated it would no longer issue the opinion letters.

Fast forward to today – President Trump's new Secretary of Labor announced on June 27, 2017, he would reinstate the practice of issuing opinion letters and provide information on how to request an opinion letter. On Jan. 5, 2018, DOL reissued the 17 previously withdrawn 2009 opinion letters. The Wage and Hour Division (WHD) Acting Administrator signed the reissued opinion letters since the WHD Administrator nominee still has not been approved by the Senate. Those reissued opinion letters concerning the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and its regulations applying to municipalities are as follows:

**FLSA 2018-1: Whether "on call" hours of ambulance personnel**

*Municipalities with questions on the FLSA may review the DOL's new webpage to see if existing agency guidance address your questions or submit a request for an opinion letter to DOL.*

**constitute hours worked.** The DOL found the requirements imposed by the public employer was not so restrictive as to convert the on-call hours into hours worked under the FLSA. Specifically, the five-minute response time was found not a "significant hindrance in this particular situation because travel within city limits took only a few minutes . . . " DOL found significant that the public employer did not "discipline employees who failed to respond within five minutes." The ambulance personnel could presumably use their time to travel anywhere within the city and still be able to timely report to the ambulance garage. DOL found relevant the number of callbacks as being relatively infrequent – averaging three per week – that the employee can effectively use the on-call time for personal purposes.

**FLSA 2018-5: Whether a formula in a collective bargaining agreement**

**between the municipality and fire-fighters to calculate the hourly rate complied with the FLSA.** The DOL found the "negotiated compromise" did not produce a true regular rate of pay for overtime for the firefighters. DOL required the city to compute the regular rate by dividing the salary and any payments for working beyond 159 hours in a 21-day pay period and any other additional pay not excluded under Section 7(e) of the Act by the actual hours worked during the work period. "The fact that, as part of a 'negotiated compromise' the CBA states that the regular rate is computed by dividing the 168 scheduled hours has no effect on the regular rate required by the FLSA."

**FLSA 2018-6: Whether certain salary deductions are permissible for employers exempt under FLSA and the appropriate ways to calculate salary deductions for exempt**

*Continued on page 7*

Continued from page 6

**employees.** The DOL stated “[d]eductions may be made . . . when the employee is absent from work for one or more full days for personal reasons other than sickness or disability.” “[I]f an exempt employee is absent for one and one half days for personal reasons . . . the employer may deduct only for the one full day absence.” Deductions from salary also may be made for absences of one or more full days because of sickness

or disability (including work-related accidents), if the deductions are made “in accordance with a bona fide plan, policy or practice of providing compensation for loss of salary occasioned by such sickness or disability.” As for an employee who was absent for one or more full days, but does not have enough time in his or her leave bank to cover the entire absence, DOL stated the “employer may make a deduction from the employee’s pay for any portion of the full-day absences that is not accounted for by the leave bank.”

Municipalities with questions on the FLSA may review the DOL’s new web page to see if existing agency guidance addresses your questions or submit a request for an opinion letter to DOL. The opinion letters may be raised as an affirmative defense under the FLSA in litigation when the municipality acts “in conformity with” the DOL

opinion letter and in “good faith.” In requesting an opinion letter, there is always going to be a risk that DOL may not approve your practice requiring changes to be made. However, it is best to have that information provided to you in this manner and not as a result of a DOL audit and subsequent litigation. ■

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*Editor’s Note: This article is not intended to provide legal advice to our readers. Rather, this article is intended to alert our readers to new and developing issues and to provide some common sense answers to complex legal questions. Readers are urged to consult their own legal counsel or the author of this article if the reader wishes to obtain a specific legal opinion regarding how these legal standards may apply to their particular circumstances. The author of this article, Jerry L. Pigsley, can be contacted at (402) 437-8500, [jpigsley@woodsaitken.com](mailto:jpigsley@woodsaitken.com), or at Woods & Aitken LLP, 301 S. 13th Street, Suite 500, Lincoln, NE 68508-2578.*

## Lincoln ranked 4th among state capital cities to live in

*WalletHub* listed Lincoln as the fourth best state capital city. In order to determine which state capitals make the best homes, *WalletHub* compared all 50 across 51 key indicators of affordability, economic strength, quality of education and health and overall living standards. The data range from cost of living to k-12 school system quality to the number of attractions. Lincoln was ranked highly for affordability, quality of education and health and economic wellbeing.

Austin, Texas, Madison, Wis. and Boise, Idaho were ranked ahead of Lincoln. ■



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# Bellevue Mayor Sanders receives Nebraska National Guard's Distinguished Service Award for Civilians

BY PHIL DAVIDSON  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
BELLEVUE

Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders was recently presented the Nebraska National Guard's Distinguished Service Award – Civilian. This award may be awarded to a corporate or non-member of the Nebraska National Guard who shall have been distinguished by outstanding service to the Nebraska National Guard. The performance must be such as to merit recognition for service, which is clearly outstanding. Such service must be in support of and/or promotion of the general welfare of the Nebraska National Guard.

## Annual Awards Dinner

The Nebraska National Guard recognized Mayor Sanders at its Annual Awards Dinner in February and remarked, "As Mayor of Bellevue since 2010, Mayor Rita Sanders has been a strong advocate for Offutt AFB as well as Total Force Integration between Active Duty and the Nebraska National Guard. As Bellevue Mayor, she continues to fight for the best quality of life for all military members, both active

and reserve. She remains engaged on issues impacting Soldiers and Airmen on both the federal and state level. She is a key board member on the Offutt Advisory Council, which helps our current members based at Offutt AFB receive the best opportunity to train, fight and win. Additionally, she was hand-selected by Gov. Pete Ricketts

to the Nebraska Military Commission. This commission helps the state to recruit and retain missions at its military installations. She has proven to be a key partner in our efforts to create the best life for our Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen."

## Accepted on behalf of city

Mayor Sanders was honored to receive this prestigious award and accepted it on behalf of the Bellevue community. Mayor Sanders said, "I am honored to represent a community that is so supportive of the military and the National Guard and their way of life." Bellevue is a patriotic community that is very proud to be the home of Offutt AFB and we will continue to support the brave men and women who protect our nation." ■



*From left: Major General Daryl L. Bohac, Adjutant General for the Nebraska National Guard in Lincoln, Neb., presents award to Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders. Photo by Phil Davidson, Community Relations, City of Bellevue.*

## Charitable gaming activity up for October-December

The Nebraska Department of Revenue, Lottery and Charitable Gaming Division reported Feb. 27 that total dollars wagered on charitable gaming activities for October through December 2017 were \$71.9 million, which is 7.5 percent more than the previous quarter, when \$66.9 million was wagered.

Keno	\$63.9 million
Pickle Cards	\$4.4 million
Bingo	\$1.3 million
Lottery/Raffle	\$2.3 million

For additional information, visit the Charitable Gaming Division website at [revenue.nebraska.gov/gaming](http://revenue.nebraska.gov/gaming). ■

*Source – Nebraska Department of Revenue*



## Nebraska Diplomats recognize city officials, communities during 5-region celebration tour

The Nebraska Diplomats ended a five-region celebration tour in February recognizing individuals and communities that contributed to economic development achievements. The Nebraska Diplomats is a nonprofit organization comprised of more than 275 Nebraska business executives and community leaders.

In Norfolk, for the state's northeast region, Gov. Pete Ricketts presented the Diplomat of the Year award to **John Lohr**, Columbus City Council Member, and the Community of the Year award to the City of **Wayne**.

In Kearney, for the state's central region, the Diplomat of the Year award was given to **Stan Clouse**, Mayor of Kearney, and the Community of the Year award was presented to the City of **Broken Bow**.

In Gering, for the western region, diplomats from the cities of **Scottsbluff**, **Alliance**, **Gering**, **Sidney** and **Kimball** were recognized for their achievements.

In Seward, for the southeast region, the City of **Beatrice** received the Community of the Year award.

In Omaha, for the final regional

celebration, the City of **Fremont** received the Community of the Year award. ■

Source – Nebraska Department of Economic Development

## Norfolk City Attorney receives planning association award

Norfolk City Attorney Clint Schukei in March received the 2018 Charleston-Ptak Planning Advocate Award from the Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Schukei, who has served as city attorney for more than 25 years, was selected for the honor because he is known as an ethical fair-minded individual who has knowledge to research for information required for problem solving, association representatives said, according to the *Norfolk Daily News*.

The newspaper also reported that in past years, the city has been in court on several zoning issues where interpretations of regulations were at issue and he stood by the planning staff and gave them the confidence they needed, association representatives said.

The *Norfolk Daily News* reported that the 2018 awards jury members said Schukei “has had a long career



From left: Bruce Fountain, President of the Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning Association, and Clint Schukei, Norfolk City Attorney. Photo provided by City of Norfolk.

and impacted several projects and provided clear and supportive legal advice to planners.” ■

Source – City of Norfolk

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# 2018 Midwinter Conference Highlights

Municipal officials from across Nebraska attended the 2018 Midwinter Conference Feb. 26-27 in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, where they heard speakers conduct a variety of sessions on subjects ranging from retail trends and employment policies to health care for employees and Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

Gering Sen. John Stinner, Appropriations Committee Chair, delivered the keynote address at the luncheon Feb. 26, describing how the budget process works.

Municipal officials also enjoyed the Senators Appreciation Luncheon, an annual highlight of this conference. Norfolk Sen. Jim Scheer, Speaker of the Legislature, introduced lawmakers attending the luncheon. ■



*Norfolk Sen. Jim Scheer, Speaker of the Legislature*



*Gering Sen. John Stinner, Appropriations Committee Chair*



*League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member*



*Tara Stingley, Partner/Chair of Labor and Employment Law Section, Cline Williams Law Firm*



*From left: Molly Miller, Bellevue City Attorney; Rita Sanders, Bellevue Mayor*



*Top left from left: Marlene Johnson, West Point Mayor; Rod Storm, City Administrator, Blair  
Middle left from left: Erv Portis, City Administrator, Plattsmouth; Paul Lambert, Plattsmouth Mayor  
Middle right: Leslie J. Seymore, Assistant Director, Fair Housing Center of Nebraska and Iowa*



*Bottom from left: Jan Rise, Administrative Services Director, Fremont; Andre Barry, League's Outside Legal Counsel on LARM-related issues, Cline Williams Law Firm.*





# 2018 Midwinter Conference Highlights



*Top left: Dennis Maggart, President, McInnes Group, Inc.*

*Top right from left: Phil Green, Assistant City Administrator, Blair; Wes Blecke, City Administrator, Wayne*

*Middle left from left: Jim Hawks, City Administrator, North Platte; Jerry Wilcox, Clerk/Treasurer, Crete*

*Middle right. Mike Paulick, Council Member, Grand Island*

*Bottom: Robert Naumann, Center for Municipal Solutions*

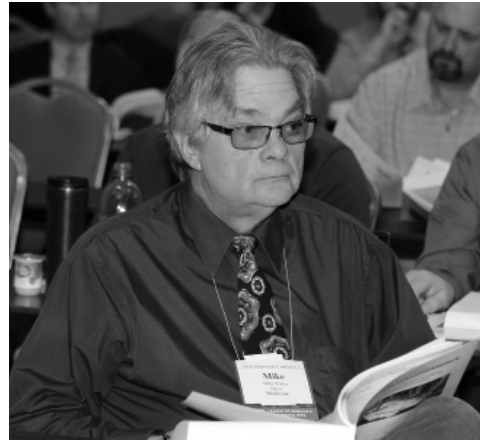




*Top left: Taylor Wiese, Nebraska Water Resources Assistant Engineer, Olsson Associates*  
*Top right: Greg Rickers, Council President, Waverly*  
*Middle left from left: Raquel Felzien, Clerk/Treasurer, Franklin; Christy Osburn, Deputy Clerk, Cairo*  
*Middle right: Rich Severson, Finance Director, Bellevue*  
*Bottom left from left: Roger Goldfish, Mayor, Ord; David Kusek, Council Member, Ord*



# 2018 Midwinter Conference Highlights



*Top left from left: Becky Erdkamp, Clerk/Treasurer, Exeter; Roxanne Meyer, Clerk/Treasurer, Hooper  
Top right: Aaron Farmer, Senior Vice President, "The Retail Coach"  
Middle left: Dwight Livingston, Mayor, North Platte  
Middle right: Mike Yoder, Mayor, Henderson  
Bottom from left: Darryl Weddington, Council Member, Ogallala; Deb Schilz, Council Vice President, Ogallala*





*Top left from left: Randy Dunster, Clerk/Treasurer, Nebraska City; Bryan Bequette, Mayor, Nebraska City; Gloria Glover, Finance Commissioner, Nebraska City*

*Top right: Randy Meininger, Mayor, Scottsbluff*

*Middle left: Doug Hanson, Mayor, Hickman*

*Middle right: Jo Leyland, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer, Imperial*

*Bottom from left: Richard Grauerholz, Mayor, Ashland; Janece Mollhoff, Council Member, Ashland*





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## NDEQ seeks source water protection proposals

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) is inviting proposals for source water protection projects. Funding is authorized through section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act as administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the NDEQ and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

These funds are a potential source of support for drinking water protection projects in Nebraska. Program overview, grant process, general program information, funding priority, project requirements and format are outlined in the attached guidance.

Any questions you may have regarding this invitation must be submitted in writing, or by email to the Source Water Coordinator no later than April 13, 2018. All questions and their answers will be posted on the NDEQ website by April 20, 2018. Proposals

must be submitted to the NDEQ office in Lincoln by 4 p.m., April 30, 2018. Please direct all questions and requests and proposals to:

Source Water Coordinator  
Nebraska Department of Environ-

mental Quality

Phone: (402) 471-2186

Website: <http://deq.ne.gov>


[ndeq.moreinfo@nebraska.gov](mailto:ndeq.moreinfo@nebraska.gov) ■

Source – Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

## League magazine available on website

The League of Nebraska Municipalities is pleased to announce that the *Nebraska Municipal Review* is available on the League's website at <http://www.lonm.org/> under the "Publications" tab. As always, we encourage you to share the news from your city or village with fellow municipal officials across the state by sending information for the *Nebraska Municipal Review* to the League of Nebraska Municipalities, Attn: Lynn Marienau at 1335 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-476-2829 by phone or [lynnm@lonm.org](mailto:lynnm@lonm.org) by e-mail. ■

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# Governor, First Lady thank Nebraskans for successful 150 celebration

*Cities, villages participated in 150 celebration with parades, festivals and special events*

Gov. Pete Ricketts and First Lady Susanne Shore in March thanked Nebraskans for a successful year of sesquicentennial programs and events. Nebraska's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood was celebrated throughout 2017.

"Thank you to the numerous individuals who stepped up and helped make Nebraska's sesquicentennial celebration successful over the past year," Gov. Ricketts said.

"The Nebraska150 Celebration set out to accomplish three goals: bridge communities across the state, connect Nebraskans with one another, and enhance state pride," First Lady Shore said. "I want to thank our donors, sponsors and partners for their generous support of our efforts."

## 13 programs, events

The Nebraska150 Celebration implemented 13 programs and events in 2017, including: the *NE150 Challenge*, *Truckin' Through Nebraska: A Mobile Children's Museum*, *Now You Know Nebraska*, *Nebraska Impact*, *Salute to the Good Life*, *I Am Nebraska*, *The Nebraska Atlas Project*, *One State One Book*, *The Nebraska Experience*, *The Tree Planting Initiative*, *Painting the Legacy of Nebraska*, the *Statehood Day Celebration* and the *Nebraska150 Express Whistle Stop Tour*.

Details and statistics for four of the programs and one event are listed below. *Now You Know Nebraska* is a series of 180 engaging video shorts that chronicle some of the Cornhusker State's most compelling and entertaining little-known historical facts and

stories. As of Dec. 31, 2017, the *Now You Know Nebraska* videos had been viewed nearly 120,000 times, though the actual number of views is far greater as classrooms, nursing homes and assisted living facilities watch the videos as groups.

The *NE150 Challenge* is a web-based fitness program that challenged Nebraskans to engage in 150 miles or more of physical activity in 2017. The program allows registrants to log miles, track progress and earn digital badges for achieving specific milestones and participating in events. As of Dec. 31, 2017, a total of 5,143 Nebraskans had registered as participants and logged more than 918,000 miles.

## Volunteerism

*Nebraska Impact* presented a way to highlight the state's history of volunteerism, which consistently ranks in the top 10 nationally. The program challenged Nebraskans to volunteer 150 hours or more either as an individual or as part of a group. More than 98,000 volunteer hours were recorded by 356 groups and individuals through Dec. 31, 2017. The estimated economic impact of their efforts is \$2,182,871.

*Truckin' Through Nebraska: A Mobile Children's Museum* was a state-of-the-art, hands-on children's museum created to provide a unique, entertaining learning experience to youth living in areas of the state without their own children's museum. The museum traveled to 42 communities in 185 days, logging a total of 5,890 miles. Nearly 38,000 people visited the museum,



including 157 field trips with 4,900 students. More than 2,100 community volunteers assisted in its operation.

*Salute to the Good Life* was an outdoor gala that honored the state's heritage, active duty military personnel and veterans.

## Lent support

In addition to the above events, the Nebraska150 Celebration lent its support to 364 events, programs and projects planned by communities, organizations, schools, businesses and government entities across the state following an application and approval process.

Annually occurring events and programs themed for the NE150, such as parades, festivals and fairs, were given "official" status and given access to the celebration's official logo and listed on its website. One-time special events or projects planned specifically to commemorate the sesquicentennial were given "signature" status. Events and projects that met signature criteria and left a something lasting for the state were given "legacy" status. A total of 319 events and program were given official status, 28 signature status and 17 legacy status. ■

*Source – Governor's office*



## Bellevue celebrates opening of new city hall with ribbon cutting, speeches, tour of facility

**B**ellevue Public Works Director Jeff Roberts cut the ribbon March 12 before a large crowd to formally open the new Bellevue City Hall. Mayor Rita Sanders, U.S. Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, City Council President Jim Moudry, Public Works Director Jeff Roberts and Bellevue Chamber of Commerce CEO Jim Ristow shared their thoughts about the opening of the facility after the invocation was delivered by Lee Mayhan.

City officials hosted a tour of the new facility after the ribbon-cutting ceremony. ■

*From left: Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders watches U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry deliver remarks at ribbon-cutting ceremony. Photo provided by Phil Davidson, City of Bellevue.*

*Source – Phil Davidson, City of Bellevue.*



*Bellevue Public Works Director Jeff Roberts cut the ribbon March 12 to formally open the new Bellevue City Hall before a large crowd. Photo provided by Phil Davidson, City of Bellevue.*

# Thanks to these sponsors of the 2018 Midwinter Conference

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## Positions

**Water/Wastewater Worker.** Performs semi-skilled maintenance, repairs and installation activities outdoors on the wastewater collection system, treatment plant and associated equipment. Plumbing experience helpful. Operates equipment and basic hand, power and specialized tools. After hours and weekend ON-CALL responsibilities. Ability to get CDL required. Starting wage dependent on qualifications, increased after 6-month probation period and NDEQ Wastewater Operator Certifications, plus benefits. Smoke Free Environment. All offers of employment are conditional upon successful completion of a physical exam, drug screening and background check, including driving record. Application and job description available at Wahoo Utilities Office.

Send resume to: Wahoo Municipal Utility, 605 North Broadway, Wahoo, NE 68066, (402)-443-3222 FAX (402)-443-5483, email to [barry@wahoo.ne.us](mailto:barry@wahoo.ne.us) EOE Open until filled.

**Assistant City Administrator.** City of South Sioux City will accept applications for position until filled. Position will be pivotal member of city's management team. Responsible to assist Mayor and City Administrator with overall day-to-day administration of city government in accordance with policies, laws and direction the Mayor and City Council through the performance of administrative and supervisory functions.

Applicant should possess a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in Public Administration, Business Administration or related field. Master's Degree in Public or Business Administration is preferred. Applicant must have five (5) years of experience in a municipal environment with an emphasis in public administration or business, with at least five (5) years of responsible supervisory experience or management position, or an equivalent combination of training and experience. Applicants should possess excellent written and oral communication skills. An application form, job description, salary and benefit information can be obtained at the City Clerk's Office, website [www.southsiouxcity.org](http://www.southsiouxcity.org) or by calling 402-494-7504. Submit cover letter, resume and City application form to: Human Resources, South Sioux City Hall, 1615 1st Avenue, South Sioux City, NE 68776. Successful candidate must meet residency requirements. City of South Sioux City is an EOE.

**Fire Chief.** City of Hastings, pop. 25,000, is seeking visionary leader to be Fire Chief. Current chief is retiring after 38 years of service. Fire Chief oversees and manages activities of Fire and Rescue Department including fire emergencies, advanced life support emergencies, hazardous material incidents, building inspections, various rescues, and public education. Position directs the department's 29 career positions, 32 part-time positions, and one civilian position located at two stations and manages a budget of \$3.3 million.

Position responsible for coordinating department activities with other departments and outside agencies

## Positions

and organizations; providing staff assistance to the City Administrator, Mayor and City Council; preparing and presenting reports and other necessary correspondence. Fire Chief responsible for overseeing the appointment and dismissal of all departmental personnel, developing subordinate personnel, handling grievances, and maintaining conduct and general behavior of department personnel. Salary range for position is \$72,733 – \$101,868 in addition to an excellent benefit package.

Requirements include: A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Fire Science, Public Administration, or closely related field is required.

- Seven years of experience in paid fire department with emergency medical services, four years of which must have been equivalent to lieutenant or higher is required.
- Valid Driver's License.
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation certifications.
- Graduation from National Fire Academy Executive Officer Development Program preferred, but not required.

Applicants who demonstrate they meet min. requirements may be subject to extensive selection process including, but not limited to, written test, video test, evaluation of training and experience, psychological evaluation, background investigation, controlled substance screen, physical capacity evaluation.

City of Hastings Application, available at [www.cityofhastings.org/firechief](http://www.cityofhastings.org/firechief), must be completed in full AND have the following attachments to be considered: Resume and Letter of Interest, including salary expectations. Resume may not substitute for work history information required in the application.

Contact Kim Woolery, Human Resources Technician, at 402-461-2313 or [kwoolery@cityofhastings.org](mailto:kwoolery@cityofhastings.org) with questions. Position open until filled. EOE/M/F/D/Veteran Preference Law Applies Proof of veterans eligibility must be provided at time of application. Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Verify Participant.

**Utilities Assistant.** Village of Elwood accepting applications for full-time Utilities Assistant. Duties include assisting with maintenance of streets, operation of sewer and water systems, park and swimming pool. Drug testing and valid Nebraska driver's license are required. Salary negotiable. Benefit package offered with position. Applications may be picked up at 304 Calvert Avenue, Elwood, NE 68937 or call 308-785-2480 for more information. E-mail requests for applications to [villlewood@atcjet.net](mailto:villlewood@atcjet.net). Please include a resume with your application. Applications accepted until position is filled. Village of Elwood is an EOE.

**Utility Worker I.** City of Aurora is accepting applications for position of Utility Worker I. Applicant must be able to perform a variety of general maintenance work and operate equipment in construction, op-

## Positions

eration, repair and maintenance of city's water, sewer, wastewater, parks, cemetery, sanitation and street facilities. Must have valid Nebraska Driver's License, and be able to obtain a CDL. Salary is DOQ, with an excellent benefit package. Applications can be obtained at the Aurora City Offices, 905 13th Street, Aurora, Nebraska, 68818 or by calling (402) 694-6992 or via email at [utlysupt@cityofaurora.org](mailto:utlysupt@cityofaurora.org). Position open until filled. City of Aurora is an EOE.

**Police Chief.** Due to impending retirement of current Chief of Police, the City of Wisner, located 25 miles east of Norfolk in Northeast Nebraska, is accepting applications from experienced law enforcement individuals, for its Chief of Police position.

Minimum requirements: Must be a U.S. Citizen, 21 years of age or older, current State of Nebraska law enforcement certification, prior law enforcement experience, a valid Driver's License, and must be of good moral character with no felonies, domestic assault, or serious misdemeanor convictions, and an ability to work cooperatively with other agencies and city personnel. Prior administrative, management, or supervisory experience is preferred. Competitive salary and benefits depending on experience.

Please submit cover letter, resume, a minimum of 3 witnesses, and City of Wisner application to: City of Wisner, P. O. Box 367, 1111 Avenue E, Wisner, NE. 68791.

Applications may be requested from City of Wisner, 1111 Avenue E, Wisner, NE 68791, by calling 402-529-6616, or by email at [citywisner@cableone.net](mailto:citywisner@cableone.net).

Position will remain open until filled. First review of applications to occur after April 23, 2018. City of Wisner is an EOE. Contact Person: Dave Brown - Mayor

**Water/wastewater apprentice/operator.** City of Broken Bow Water/Wastewater Department is accepting applications for full-time employment. Position involves but not limited to construction of new water and sewer mains, tapping services, clean-up of job sites, shoveling, raking, and assisting other departments as needed. Multiple skill levels needed. Department of Health and Human Services certification helpful, but not required. CDL not required, but must be able to obtain CDL within 6 months. Willing to train right person. Wage dependent on qualifications and a better than average benefit package. Applications and job description are available at the City Clerk's located on the main floor at 314 South 10th Avenue or [www.cityofbrokenbow.org](http://www.cityofbrokenbow.org). Submit application and related information to City of Broken Bow, ATTN: City Clerk, 314 South 10th Avenue, P.O. Box 504, Broken Bow, NE 68822, or via email at [clerk@cityofbrokenbow.org](mailto:clerk@cityofbrokenbow.org). Applications will be taken until position is filled. Broken Bow is an EOE.

For more information please contact Water/Wastewater Superintendent Darren Marten at (308) 870-3421.



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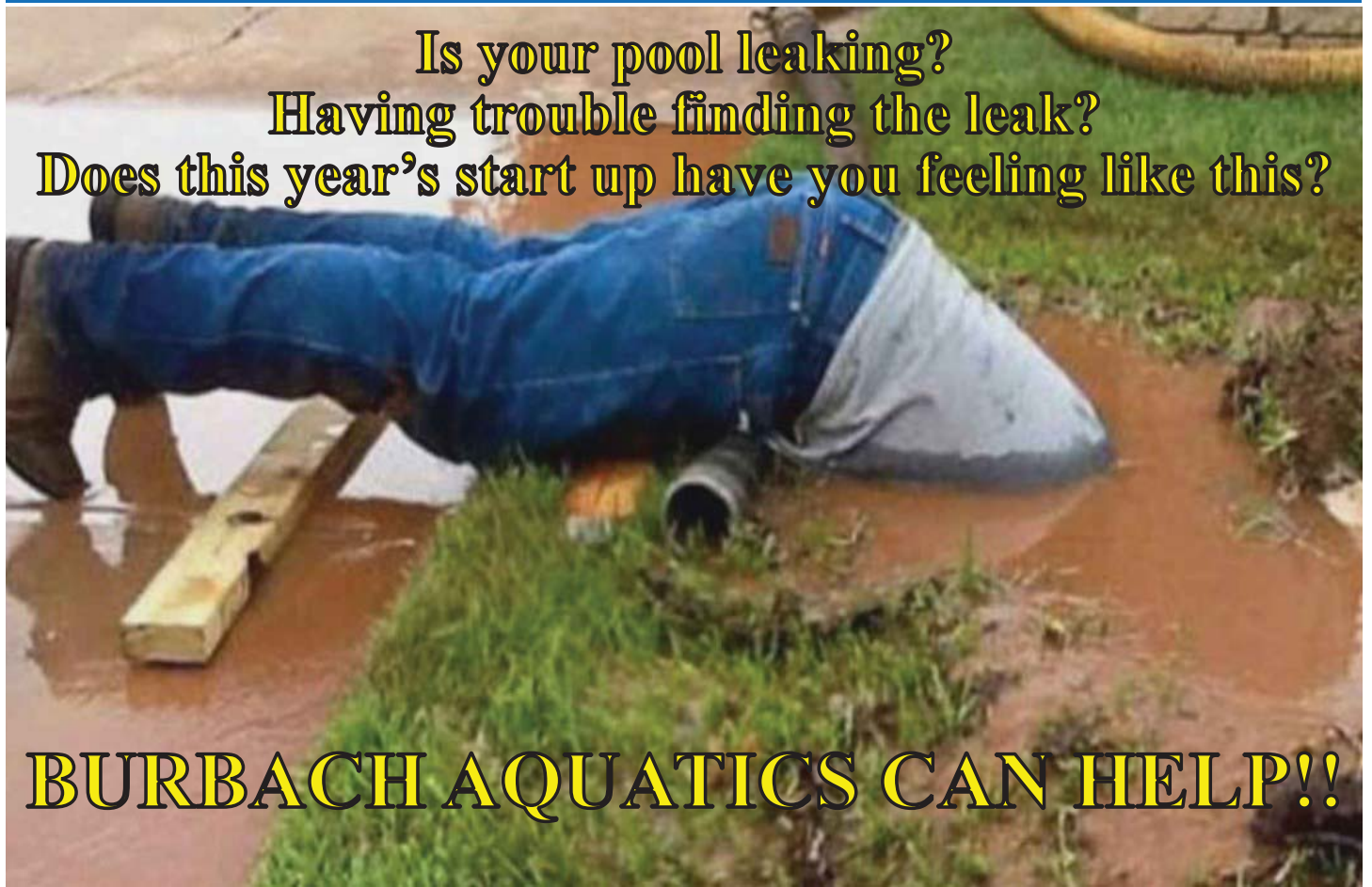
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