



## **2023 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE**

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**Shaping the Future of our Cities  
and Villages with Leadership and Vision**



**Feb. 27-28, 2023**

**Cornhusker Marriott Hotel**

**Lincoln, Nebraska**

**Deb VanMatre**

**League President**

**Mayor, Gibbon**



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# 2023 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

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**MUNICIPAL TREASURERS:** The State Auditor's Office approved 16 hours of continuing education (8 hours can be completed if you attend in person).

**MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS:** The Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission approved 8 hours of CLE credit.

## Tentative Conference Program (subject to change)

### Monday, February 27, 2023

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| <b>7:30–8 am</b>      | <b>Registration:</b> Visit Display Areas (coffee and rolls available)  |
| <b>8–8:10 am</b>      | <b>Welcome</b><br><i>League President Deb VanMatre, Mayor of Gibbon</i>  |
| <b>8:10–9:15 am</b>   | <b>Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Laws:</b> Protect yourself by being informed about conflict of interest laws when doing business with your municipality.<br><i>Frank Daley, Executive Director, Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission</i>  |
| <b>9 am–4 pm</b>      | <b>Fire Chiefs Section Meeting</b>   |
| <b>9:15–9:30 am</b>   | <b>Break:</b> Visit Display Areas  |
| <b>9:30–10:30 am</b>  | <b>Limit Your Liability by Better Understanding Your Fiduciary Duties and the Preventative Internal Controls Necessary to Safeguard Municipal Assets</b><br><i>Craig Kubicek, CPA, CFE, Deputy Auditor, Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts</i>  |
| <b>10:30–10:45 am</b> | <b>Break:</b> Visit Display Areas  |
| <b>10:45–11:45 am</b> | <b>League Legislative Update</b><br><i>L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM</i>  |
| <b>11:45 am–12 pm</b> | <b>Break:</b> Visit Display Areas  |
| <b>12–1:30 pm</b>     | <b>Luncheon</b><br><b><i>Special Keynote Address by Gov. Jim Pillen</i></b><br><b>Presentation of “League Distinguished Service Award” to Kevin Spencer, Chief of Police and City Manager, Scottsbluff</b>   |
| <b>1:30–1:45 pm</b>   | <b>Break:</b> Visit Display Areas  |
| <b>1:45–2:45 pm</b>   | <b>Concurrent Sessions:</b><br><b>A. Broadband Update on Key Issues</b><br><i>Patrick Redmond, Interim Broadband Director, Nebraska Dept. of Transportation</i><br><br><b>B. (Newly Elected/Appointed Officials) LEGAL OVERVIEW</b><br><b>Public Records Law and Transparency in Government:</b> Learn how to limit your liability.<br><i>Christy Abraham, Legal Counsel, LNM</i><br><br><b>C. Legal Update on Human Resources and Employee Benefits Issues</b><br>(Session repeated at 3 pm)<br><i>Tara Stingley, Partner, Cline Williams; LNM Labor and Employment Law Counsel</i><br><i>Michelle Sitorius, Partner, Cline Williams; LIGHT’s Legal Counsel</i> |
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### Monday, February 27, 2023 (con't.)

1:45–2:45 pm

#### Concurrent Sessions: (con't)

**D. League Insurance Government Health Team (LIGHT):** Update on proposed enhancements to this important health insurance plan for municipal employees. 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.

*(Session repeated at 3 pm)*

**Dennis Maggart**, President, McInnes Maggart Consulting Group

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

2:45–3 pm

**Break:** Visit Display Areas

3–4 pm

#### Concurrent Sessions:

**A. Fostering Civility by Setting the Ground Rules for Engagement at Public Meetings**

**Paul Lambert**, Mayor, Plattsmouth; Immediate Past League President and Chair of the LIGHT Board of Directors

**Lanette Doane**, Clerk/Treasurer, Ansley; Chair of the LARM Board of Directors

**Kevin Spencer**, Chief of Police and City Manager, Scottsbluff

**B. (Newly Elected/Appointed Officials) LEGAL OVERVIEW**

**Budgeting:** Better understanding the law and the process.

**Christy Abraham**, Legal Counsel, LNM

**C. Legal Update on Human Resources and Employee Benefits Issues**

*(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)*

**Tara Stingley**, Partner, Cline Williams; LNM Labor and Employment Law Counsel

**Michelle Sitorius**, Partner, Cline Williams; LIGHT's Legal Counsel

**D. League Insurance Government Health Team (LIGHT):** Update on proposed enhancements to this important health insurance plan for municipal employees. 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.

*(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)*

**Dennis Maggart**, President, McInnes Maggart Consulting Group

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

4–4:15 pm

**Break:** Visit Display Areas

4:15–5:30 pm

#### Section Meetings:

Mayors and Village Board Chairs

Smaller Cities and Villages

Larger Cities

Clerks

City Managers/Administrators

Utilities Section

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**Tuesday, February 28, 2023**

**8 am**                      **Registration:** Visit Display Areas (coffee and rolls available)

**8:15–9:15 am**           **Concurrent Sessions:**

**A. Learn More About Grants and Funds Available to Transform Your Municipality:** Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) Grants; and other important programs and available funds from the Nebraska Arts Council. (Session repeated at 9:30 am)

*Rachel Morgan, Program Specialist, Nebraska Arts Council*

*Panel of Representatives from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development*

**B. (Newly Elected/Appointed Officials) LEGAL OVERVIEW**

**1) Tort Claims Liability**

**2) Recreational Liability**

**3) Bidding and Purchasing**

*Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM*

**C. Cybersecurity:** Best practices to thwart cyber threats and recommendations for employer policies, password management, safe web browsing, secure file sharing, options for implementation of multi-factor authentication (MFA) and ongoing training for employees. (Session repeated at 10:45 am)

*Jarod Dendinger, Relationship Manager, Applied Connective Technologies*

*Kenley Silhacek, Senior IT Network Engineer, Applied Connective Technologies*

**D. League Insurance Government Health Team (LIGHT) Board of Directors Meeting:** Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. 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. (This meeting may last more than one hour.)

**9:15–9:30 am**           **Break:** Visit Display Areas

**9:30–10:30 am**           **Concurrent Sessions:**

**A. Learn More About Grants and Funds Available to Transform Your Municipality:** Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) Grants; and other important programs and available funds from the Nebraska Arts Council. (Repeat of 8:15 am session)

*Rachel Morgan, Program Specialist, Nebraska Arts Council*

*Panel of Representatives from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development*

**B. (Newly Elected/Appointed Officials) LEGAL OVERVIEW**

**1) Public Works/Utilities**

**2) Environmental Requirements**

**3) Code Enforcement**

*Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM*

**C. Public Involvement Strategies for Successful Projects**

(Session repeated at 10:45 am)

*Chaired by Doug Hanson, Former Mayor of Hickman and Past League President*

*Joey Spellerberg, Mayor, Fremont*

*Annette Brower, City Administrator, Kimball*

*Dr. Sue Crawford, City Administrator, York*

*Stacey Roach, Public Engagement Senior Coordinator, Olsson*

*Andrea Gebhart, Community Engagement Manager, JEO Consulting Group, Inc.*

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## Tuesday, February 28, 2023 (con't.)

9:30–10:30 am **Concurrent Sessions: (con't.)**

**D. Limit Municipal Liability:** Better understand your role to reduce workers' comp and liability claims with effective loss control measures.

*This session is sponsored by the League Association of Risk Management (LARM).*

*(Session repeated at 10:45 am)*

**Fred Wiebelhaus**, Loss Control/Claims Manager, LARM

10:30–10:45 am **Break:** Visit Display Areas

10:45–11:45 am **Concurrent Sessions:**

**A. Cybersecurity:** Best practices to thwart cyber threats and recommendations for employer policies, password management, safe web browsing, secure file sharing, options for implementation of multi-factor authentication (MFA) and ongoing training for employees.

*(Repeat of 8:15 am session)*

**Jarod Dendinger**, Relationship Manager, Applied Connective Technologies

**Kenley Silhacek**, Senior IT Network Engineer, Applied Connective Technologies

**B. (Newly Elected/Appointed Officials) LEGAL OVERVIEW**

**Open Meetings Act**

**L. Lynn Rex**, Executive Director, LNM

**C. Public Involvement Strategies for Successful Projects**

*(Repeat of 9:30 am session)*

**Chaired by Doug Hanson**, Former Mayor of Hickman and Past League President

**Joey Spellerberg**, Mayor, Fremont

**Annette Brower**, City Administrator, Kimball

**Dr. Sue Crawford**, City Administrator, York

**Stacey Roach**, Public Engagement Senior Coordinator, Olsson

**Andrea Gebhart**, Community Engagement Manager, JEO Consulting Group, Inc.

**D. Limit Municipal Liability:** Better understand your role to reduce workers' comp and liability claims with effective loss control measures.

*This session is sponsored by the League Association of Risk Management (LARM).*

*(Repeat of 9:30 am session)*

**Fred Wiebelhaus**, Loss Control/Claims Manager, LARM

11:45 am–12 pm **Break:** Visit Display Areas

12 pm **Designated Delegates with White Ribbons on Their Name Badges:** Greet your State Senator.

12–1:10 pm **Senator Appreciation Luncheon**

1:10 pm **Adjournment – Thank you for coming! Please drive safely!**

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### Delegate Registration

Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as you want it to appear on name tag): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (if attending): \_\_\_\_\_

First League Conference? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Advanced payment encouraged)

Billing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

	Through Feb. 10	After Feb. 10
<b>Conference:</b> (Includes electronic handbook; meals are extra)		
Per city/village official, League member	_____ \$395	_____ \$425

	Through Feb. 10	After Feb. 10
<b>Partial conference attendance:</b> (Includes electronic handbook; meals are extra)		
Monday sessions	_____ \$300	_____ \$330
Tuesday morning only	_____ \$150	_____ \$170

Conference Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Meals:** (not included in registration fee; indicate number needed by Feb. 10)

Monday Luncheon	_____ \$26
Tuesday Senator Appreciation Luncheon	_____ \$26

Meals Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Conference Information

- ☐ Preregistration deadline is **Feb. 10**. Registrations received after this date will incur higher registration costs.
- ☐ Advance registrations not cancelled by this date or "no shows" will be billed since the sessions will be recorded and sent to registered delegates.
- ☐ If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **Feb. 10**.

**Mail registration and payment to:** League of Nebraska Municipalities, 1335 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, or fax 402-476-7052

[Click here](#) to register online with a credit card. \*\*\*PLEASE NOTE -- There is a credit card processing fee included for each item.\*\*\*



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### Conference Information

Designed for elected or appointed officials, the focus of the **2023 Midwinter Conference** will be current and proposed legislation and how it affects local governments. A highlight of the two-day conference will be the Senator Appreciation Luncheon, which offers municipal officials an opportunity to meet and visit with their State Senators.

#### Hotel Reservations

- ☐ All conference sessions will be held at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, 333 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.
  - ☐ To make room reservations at the Cornhusker, call 1-866-706-7706 or 402-474-7474 or [book online](#). When calling to reserve a room, please state that you are attending the League's conference to obtain the special room rate. The deadline for reserving a room is **Feb. 5**.
  - ☐ The room rate is \$110 for a single or double room with Government ID card. If you need an ID card, contact the League office. Individual guest accounts are payable at check out by cash or credit card.
  - ☐ Check in time is approximately 4 p.m.; check out time is 11 a.m.
  - ☐ The preregistration deadline is **Feb. 10**. Registrations received after this date will incur higher registration costs. Advance registrations not cancelled by this date or "no shows" will be billed since the sessions will be recorded and sent to registered delegates.
  - ☐ If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **Feb. 10**.
  - ☐ To meet printing schedules for the conference materials, sponsor fund or display table information must be returned by **Feb. 10**.
  - ☐ For your comfort, we recommend that you wear layered clothing or bring a jacket because heating and cooling conditions may vary.
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