

2009 Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference & Exhibit Workshop List

Wednesday Workshops | 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Citizen Engagement – The Basis of Effective Governance, A Tribute to Tim Shields

At the 2000 Iowa League of Cities conference, Tim Shields urged city officials to apply the concept of citizen engagement as a means of addressing the growing complexity of community issues and re-emphasizing the relationship of citizens to their local governments. In this session, Jeff Schott, Tim's successor at the Institute of Public Affairs, will discuss how city officials can apply the concept of citizen involvement to the difficult and complex issues faced by city governments today. This session will provide several strategies and examples that your governing body can use to reach workable solutions to difficult problems.

Presented by: Jeff Schott, Institute of Public Affairs University of Iowa and a panel of local government officials

Cleaning Up Your City: From Planning and Zoning to Nuisance Abatement

This course will provide an overview of planning and zoning laws, with a particular focus on how planning and zoning can shape appropriate development. The session will also address nuisance abatement. Weeds, junked cars, dangerous structures, unsightly or hazardous conditions - many cities have them. What can you do to control or abate them? Ordinances, strategies, and the law will be discussed.

Presented by: Gary Taylor, Extension Assistant Professor, Community and Regional Planning, Iowa State University; and Alan Kemp, League Executive Director

Municipal Economics (updated 8.6.2009)

During tough economic times, it's imperative for cities to thoroughly review expenditures and revenues and find ways to continue providing citizens the services they desire. This session will feature an interactive discussion of current revenue trends, including local taxes and fees, franchise fees, sales tax, alternative revenues and other topics of interest. A panel of city officials from a variety of cities will present ideas and share their experiences.

Presented by: Cindy Kendall, Marshalltown City Treasurer; Jody Smith, West Des Moines Director of Administrative Services; and Barb Barrick, Marengo Financial Manager

Thursday Workshops

Mobile Workshops

Tour of Davenport River Vision and Centennial Park Projects (updated 6.10.2009)

Tour the revitalized Davenport riverfront and learn about the different aspects of the various projects. Hear from city officials about the planning of the River Vision and Centennial Park projects and the work in securing funding and cooperating with other government entities. Tour from 9 -11:30 a.m. Attendees will be doing some walking during the tour.

Tour of Davenport Police Station (updated 6.10.2009)

The Davenport Police Station opened in 2007 and incorporated many green and LEED ideas, including a green roof, water use reduction measures and geo-thermal heating and cooling. City officials will provide details on the planning of the building, including efforts to secure various grants for the green aspects of the facility. Tour from 2 – 3 p.m.

9-10 a.m. workshop block

Grant Writing – How to Find, Apply and Complete – Small City (updated 6.10.2009)

With increasing competition for limited resources the process of grant writing has become more important for local government. What constitutes a good funding proposal? What should be included? What should be left out? These and other questions will be explored.

Presented by: Larry Nagle, Director of Government Relations, East Central Intergovernmental Association

It's Not Easy Being Green (updated 6.10.2009)

As Kermit the Frog so notably declared "it is not easy being green." While this still may be true in some cases, it is definitely getting easier to institute environmentally sustainable or "green" solutions to many municipal problems including the operation of municipal buildings. This session will highlight the wide range of energy and money saving solutions for buildings. From improved lighting to LEED certification, this session will cover improvements that will save your city money.

Presented by: Lynnae Hentzen, Executive Director, Center on Sustainable Communities

Streamlining City Hall in a Bad Economy – Roundtable (updated 6.10.2009)

This session will provide strategies to develop budgets in tough economic times. Short-term and long-term budget solutions will be addressed with attention placed on discovering creative solutions.

Presented by: Rob Peterson, Managing Director, Expense Reduction Analysts

FLSA Overview (updated 6.10.2009)

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) provides guidance regarding the eligibility and calculation of overtime, minimum wage and rules for youth employment. This session will provide an overview of the major provisions of this law as it relates to the municipal workplace.

Presented by: J.R. Schemmel, Federal Investigator, U.S. Department of Labor

Balancing the Public's Right to Know with the Government's Ability to Function (updated 6.10.2009)

This session will provide an overview of Iowa's open records laws. The discussion will cover strategies for municipal governments to achieve full compliance with the law.

Presented by: John McCormally, Assistant Attorney General, Iowa Department of Justice

What Emergency Management Means for Cities (updated 7.2.2009)

This session will feature an overview of emergency management with attention placed on the preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation cycle that emergency management officials follow. The session will also highlight the important role that cities play in the process.

Presented by: Steve Cirinna, Lee County Emergency Management Coordinator

10:45-11:45 a.m. workshop block

When Technology Meets HR (updated 6.10.2009)

Technological advances can lead to dramatic increases in efficiencies but also have the potential for serious abuses without the appropriate policy and monitoring in place. This session will examine Internet and email policy considerations and technology access issues for city employees.

Presented by: Jim Hanks, Attorney, Ahlers Law Firm

IMWCA: Taking Care of Your Employees and Your Bottom Line (updated 6.10.2009)

In difficult financial times, it's important to keep your employees healthy and fit for duty. Join representatives from several cities as they share successful strategies they have used to control workers' compensation and other costs.

Presented by: Viivi Shirley, Mayor of Perry; Alan Olson, Ankeny Public Works Administrator; and Loras Herrig, Bellevue City Administrator

Implementing Franchise Fees in Light of Recent Legalizing Legislation (updated 6.10.2009)

An examination of recent legalizing legislation for cable, gas and electric franchise fees with a discussion of strategies to implement a franchise fee, or an increase in the franchise fee in your city. The differences in how fees are established and collected for cable, gas and electric franchises will also be discussed.

Presented by: Terry Timmins, League General Counsel

How to Improve Meeting Efficiency – Roundtable (updated 7.2.2009)

This presentation will provide your city with numerous strategies to create an environment that yields effective and efficient meetings. The roundtable format will also allow you to share the experiences of your city and discuss what works.

Presented by: Patrick Callahan, Anamosa City Administrator

Generational Diversity – IaCMA sponsored (updated 7.2.2009)

As the age of the workforce and voting population continues to change, cities will face challenges in meeting a variety of generational needs and expectations. However, with these challenges come great opportunities to create ways to engage citizens and employees of all ages. This session will discuss the different traits of generations and ways for cities to bring together members of the various age groups.

Presented by: Marketa Oliver, Windsor Heights City Administrator; Brent Hinson, Garner City Administrator; and Gerald Clausen, Carroll City Manager

Religion in City Hall (updated 7.2.2009)

It can often be difficult to determine when and if religious activities can occur on municipal property. From beginning meetings with prayers to a city sponsoring a holiday event, city officials must consider legal implications. This session will provide information regarding the various laws and court cases that impact religion in city hall.

Presented by: Greg Jager, Bettendorf City Attorney

2-3 p.m. workshop block

Human Resources for Small Cities – Small City (updated 6.10.2009)

Municipal officials make many decisions affecting city employees. Learn strategies and resources that can help make your personnel policies and guidelines better understood, more readily accepted, more consistent and fairly applied.

Presented by: Jim Hanks, Attorney, Ahlers Law Firm

IPERS Update and Outlook (updated 6.10.2009)

This session will provide an overview of the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS). The long-term funding outlook for the system and possible legislative proposals will be discussed.

Presented by: Donna Mueller, IPERS

E-Gov: The 24 Hour a Day City Hall– Roundtable (updated 7.7.2009)

Providing government services online is no longer just a cool thing to do, it is increasingly becoming a public expectation. This session will provide an overview of these types of initiatives as well as steps cities of any size can take to meet public demand for providing online services.

Presented by: Mark Tomb, League Director of Membership Services; and Heather Roberts, League Manager of Information Services

Water Quality Issues from an Infrastructure Point of View (updated 7.2.2009)

This session will highlight what cities can expect in the near future regarding federal and state regulatory requirements in the area of water quality. Costly infrastructure improvements are being constructed to address many of these concerns, learn about opportunities to work towards more cost effective solutions.

Presented by: John Hall, Founder and President, Hall & Associates

Collaborative Housing Approach (updated 7.9.2009)

This session will provide an overview of Iowa's housing issues and how these issues can be addressed at both the state and local level. Issues addressed will include: affordable housing, increasing homeownership opportunities, leveraging the construction of affordable rental housing, promoting energy efficiency and rebuilding structures following disasters.

Presented by: Lorie Bennett, Humboldt City Administrator and Mickey Carlson, Iowa Housing Policy Liaison, Iowa State University

Green Streets, Green Cities (updated 8.3.2009)

The Iowa Green Streets program promotes public health, energy efficiency, water conservation, lower operational costs and sustainable building practices. Learn how you can incorporate these green benefits into the development plans of your community.

Presented by: Jeff Geerts, Special Projects Coordinator, Iowa Department of Economic Development

3:30-4:30 p.m. workshop block

Parks & Recreation Planning, Programming and Options – Small City (updated 6.10.2009)

This session will explore emerging trends and issues in parks and recreation programs for smaller cities. The session will largely focus on the need for cities to form effective partnerships to meet changing goals.

Presented by: Steve Jordison, Executive Director, Iowa Parks & Recreation Association

Economic Development Toolkit (updated 6.10.2009)

This session will provide an overview of tools created or strengthened in recent years to encourage economic development at the local level. Tools such as Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Self-Supported Municipal Improvement Districts (SSMID) and incentives will be discussed.

Presented by: John Danos, Bond Counsel, Dorsey & Whitney

Pre-employment Screenings (updated 6.10.2009)

The session will provide the legal, medical and practical issues related to pre-employment testing. The session will cover issues relating to drug testing, background checks and address common pitfall.

Presented by: Alan Kinsey, Vice President, Inquirehire

Fraud Issues – Roundtable (updated 7.2.2009)

Just like businesses, cities are faced with issues involving fraud and abuse. Both elected and appointed city officials can play a significant role in maintaining systems and procedures to help prevent and contain fraud. This session will detail how you can increase organizational awareness and allow the city to safeguard resources.

Presented by: State Auditor David Vaudt and Deputy Auditor of State Andy Nielsen

The Power of Cities – Home Rule Applications (updated 7.2.2009)

What is Home Rule? This session will explore the premise behind this important power and the ways in which your city can use Home Rule authority to craft policies which reflect the needs of your community. Recent Iowa Supreme Court cases will be discussed to outline the opportunities and challenges of crafting policy at the local level.

Presented by: William F. Sueppel, Attorney, Meardon, Sueppel & Downer

Lobbying at the Local Level (updated 7.2.2009)

Learn the best ways to communicate with your legislator, how to stay informed about municipal issues, and what strategies the League uses to coordinate the lobbying effort on behalf of cities. In addition, take this opportunity to hear from the League legislative team on what took place last session along with a preview on the issues likely to show up during the 2010 legislative session.

Presented by: Megan Osweiler, League Governmental Affairs Associate and Jessica Harder, League Governmental Affairs Counsel

Go Green With Your Police Department (updated 8.3.2009)

Police departments around the country are implementing green concepts into their daily activities. Learn how your city's police force can use energy efficiency methods including fuel reduction, using alternative fuels, selecting efficient vehicles and consolidating tasks. This session is conducted by the Iowa Police Chiefs Association.

Presented by: Chuck Cychosz, Ames Police Chief

Friday Workshops | 8-9 a.m.

New ADA Requirements (updated 6.10.2009)

This session will provide an overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act as it relates to municipal government, including recent changes and the continued responsibility of cities in regard to public facilities and hiring.

Presented by: Jack Lipovac, HR OneSource and Matt Brick, Attorney, Brick Gentry, P.C.

How to Play Nice in the Sandbox – Staff/Council Relationships (updated 6.10.2009)

Various roles played by city staff and governing body members will be reviewed in terms of the overall policy development process. The session will discuss how to improve these relationships and how to use partnerships in the formation of policy.

Presented by: Dan Schneider, Cultural Architect, EDGE/Schneider Consulting Group, LLC

Iowa DOT Update (updated 6.10.2009)

This session will highlight the policies and programs of the Iowa Department of Transportation of particular importance to cities. Topics that will be addressed include the Road Use Tax Fund, recent federal stimulus activities and funding challenges impacting future transportation programs.

Presented by: Charlie Purcell, Director, Office of Local Systems

Property Tax 101 (updated 6.10.2009)

Did you know your citizens are only paying property taxes on around half of their homes' value? This session will explain the residential rollback, property and valuation, tax rates, taxable value growth, tax rate growth and everything else you ever wanted to know about property taxes.

Presented by: Jeff Robinson, Sr., Legislative Analyst, Legislative Services Agency

Citizen Academies (updated 7.9.2009)

The session will highlight the efforts of several cities that provide their citizens with an in-depth look at municipal government over a series of interactive and informational sessions. Participants learn about city government, how it works and how it impacts their neighborhood. Now you can learn from their experiences.

Presented by: Susan Gwiasda, Ames Public Relations Officer; Mike Funke, Coralville Human Resources/Risk Manager; and Jim Sanders, Johnston City Administrator

Small City Economic Development – Small City (updated 8.6.2009)

Three very different cities, with three very different philosophies and approaches to Economic Development will present their unique solutions in this panel discussion.

Presented by Dan Gifford, West Burlington City Administrator; Doug Boldt, Tipton City Administrator; Randy Lansing, Cascade City Administrator; Greg Staner, Cascade Mayor; and Mickey Shields, League Assistant Director of Membership Services