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League of Nebraska Municipalities

# 2019 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

*There is no limit to what our municipalities can do  
if we don't mind who gets the credit*



**Feb. 25-26, 2019**  
**Cornhusker Marriott Hotel**  
**Lincoln, Nebraska**

**Dwight Livingston**  
**League President**  
**Mayor, North Platte**



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# 2019 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

February 25-26, 2019



## Tentative Conference Program (subject to change)

### Monday, February 25, 2019

- 7:15–7:45 am**      **Registration:** Visit Display Area (coffee and rolls available)  
**7:45–8 am**            **Welcome**  
*Welcome by League President Dwight Livingston, Mayor of North Platte*  
*Host City Welcome*
- 8–9 am**                **Innovation and Technology:** Learn about innovations such as the removal of nitrates from your municipal water supply and other technological advances that will forever change how municipalities address these critically important issues.
- 9–9:15 am**            **Break:** Visit Display Area  
**9:15–10:15 am**        **Limit Your Personal Liability:** Learn how to comply with Nebraska’s conflict of interest laws.  
*Frank Daley, Executive Director, Nebraska Accountability & Disclosure Commission*
- 10:15–10:30 am**      **Break:** Visit Display Area  
**10:30–11:45 am**      **League Legislative Update:** Learn more about significant legislation relating to the collection and remittance of online sales tax by remote sellers, bills to replace the “Nebraska Advantage Act” (which sunsets in 2020) and other proposals affecting your municipal operations and governance.  
*L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM*
- 11:45 am–12 pm**      **Break:** Visit Display Area  
**12-1:30 pm**            **Luncheon**  
*Special Keynote Address*
- 1:30–1:45 pm**        **Break:** Visit Display Area  
**1:45–2:45 pm**        **Concurrent Sessions:**
- A. Encouraging Citizen Engagement:** Be informed how other municipalities are engaging their citizens through surveys, townhall meetings, focus groups and other effective strategies to better address community concerns.  
*(Session repeated at 3 pm)*
  - B. (Newly Elected/Appointed Officials) LEGAL OVERVIEW**  
**Public Records Law and Transparency in Government:** Learn how to limit your liability.
  - C. Regulating Wireless Small Cell Providers and Other High-Tech Applicants While Protecting Your Taxpayers’ Investment in Your Municipality’s Right-of-Way, Poles and Other Infrastructure:** Update on rural broadband issues; review of the model ordinance drafted by the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC’s) Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC); update on small cell technology issues; and what it takes to be a “smart” city with small cell providers or other high-tech providers.  
*(Session repeated at 3 pm)*
  - D. Risk Management: Limit your liability with effective personnel management policies and practices.** This session will provide practical advice for conducting employee interviews, documenting disciplinary actions for employee files, preparing for an exit interview, etc.  
*(Session repeated at 3 pm)*
- 2:45–3 pm**            **Break:** Visit Display Area
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## Monday, February 25, 2019 (con't.)

3–4 pm

### Concurrent Sessions:

- A. Encouraging Citizen Engagement:** Be informed how other municipalities are engaging their citizens through surveys, townhall meetings, focus groups and other effective strategies to better address community concerns.  
*(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)*
- B. (Newly Elected/Appointed Officials) LEGAL OVERVIEW Budgeting:** Better understanding the law and the process.
- C. Regulating Wireless Small Cell Providers and Other High-Tech Applicants While Protecting Your Taxpayers' Investment in Your Municipality's Right-of-Way, Poles and Other Infrastructure:** Update on rural broadband issues; review of the model ordinance drafted by the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC); update on small cell technology issues; and what it takes to be a "smart" city with small cell providers or other high-tech providers.  
*(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)*
- D. Risk Management: Limit your liability with effective personnel management policies and practices.** This session will provide practical advice for conducting employee interviews, documenting disciplinary actions for employee files, preparing for an exit interview, etc.  
*(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)*
- E. Important Funding for Transportation Infrastructure Supported by Nebraska Expressways for Economic Development (NEED):** The State of Nebraska is facing another budget deficit and some Senators have said that all revenue sources are "on the table" as the Legislature tries to provide additional property tax relief, fund "medicaid expansion" passed by the voters in November 2018, as well as fund other important state programs. Be updated on the critically important role of NEED in the coalition's lobbying efforts to pass LB 960 in 2016 to expedite completion of Nebraska's expressway system; NEED also was instrumental in passing LB 84 in 2011 and LB 610 in 2015 to provide additional funds for transportation infrastructure.

4–4:15 pm

**Break:** Visit Display Area

4:15–5:30 pm

### Section Meetings:

City Managers/Administrators  
Clerks  
Larger Cities  
Mayors and Village Board Chairs  
Smaller Cities and Villages  
Utilities Section

## Tuesday, February 26, 2019

8 am

**Registration:** Visit Display Area (coffee and rolls available)

8:15–9:15 am

### Concurrent Sessions:

- A. Successful New "Branding" Strategies by Municipalities:** There is tremendous value in a "brand"! Learn how and why Beatrice, Crete and other municipalities have successfully developed and launched their new "brand" projecting community pride, identity and messaging to celebrate their heritage, rally citizens and attract new businesses.  
*(Session repeated at 9:30 am)*

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Tuesday, February 26, 2019 (con't.)

8:15–9:15 am

**Concurrent Sessions: (con't.)**

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

- 1) Tort Claims Liability
- 2) Recreational Liability
- 3) Bidding and Purchasing

**C. Municipal Land Banks Create More Affordable Housing:** Municipal land banks acquire vacant, abandoned or dilapidated properties to either renovate or demolish them for future use and growth, transforming neighborhoods and creating more affordable housing. LB 854 was amended into LB 873, which passed in 2018, but was vetoed by the Governor. Similar legislation will be introduced in the 2019 session to allow any municipality to participate in a regional land bank. Currently, only Omaha and cities in Sarpy County are authorized to create a land bank. Learn more about the need for land banks to help advocate for this effective tool.

*(Session repeated at 9:30 am)*

**D. Risk Management – Protect Your City or Village From Cyber Attacks:** Limit your municipal liability by protecting your database. Cyber attacks on local governments have already happened in Nebraska. *This session is back by popular demand!*

*(Session repeated at 10:45 am)*

**E. Risk Management – Safeguarding Municipal Assets:** Elected and appointed officials need to learn about the “best practices” for preventing personal use and/or theft of municipal assets. Make sure your city or village has the appropriate policies and procedures to limit your municipal liability. *Unfortunately, this session is back by necessity!*

*(Session repeated at 9:30 am)*

9:15–9:30 am

**Break:** Visit Display Area

9:30–10:30 am

**Concurrent Sessions:**

**A. Successful New “Branding” Strategies by Municipalities:** There is tremendous value in a “brand”! Learn how and why Beatrice, Crete and other municipalities have successfully developed and launched their new “brand” projecting community pride, identity and messaging to celebrate their heritage, rally citizens and attract new businesses.

*(Repeat of 8:15 am session)*

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

- 1) Public Works/Utilities
- 2) Environmental Requirements
- 3) Code Enforcement

**C. Municipal Land Banks Create More Affordable Housing:** Municipal land banks acquire vacant, abandoned or dilapidated properties to either renovate or demolish them for future use and growth, transforming neighborhoods and creating more affordable housing. LB 854 was amended into LB 873, which passed in 2018, but was vetoed by the Governor. Similar legislation will be introduced in the 2019 session to allow any municipality to participate in a regional land bank. Currently, only Omaha and cities in Sarpy County are authorized to create a land bank. Learn more about the need for land banks to help advocate for this effective tool.

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Tuesday, February 26, 2019 (con't.)

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

**D. Loans and Grants – Is Your Application Ready?** Learn about the availability of funding from the following: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) grants and loans; Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs); and Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) grants with the maximum grant amount just increased by 50 percent.  
*(Session repeated at 10:45 am)*

**E. Risk Management – Safeguarding Municipal Assets:** Elected and appointed officials need to learn about the “best practices” for preventing personal use and/or theft of municipal assets. Make sure your city or village has the appropriate policies and procedures to limit your municipal liability. *Unfortunately, this session is back by necessity!*  
*(Repeat of 8:15 am session)*

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

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

**A. Risk Management – Limit Your Municipal and Personal Liability with Gender Equity Training:** It is critically important for elected and appointed municipal officials and employees to become better informed about gender equity issues. Please make sure someone from your municipality attends this session!

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

**C. Risk Management – Protect Your City or Village From Cyber Attacks:** Limit your municipal liability by protecting your database. Cyber attacks on local governments have already happened in Nebraska. *This session is back by popular demand!*  
*(Repeat of 8:15 am session)*

**D. Loans and Grants – Is Your Application Ready?** Learn about the availability of funding from the following: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) grants and loans; Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs); and Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) grants with the maximum grant amount just increased by 50 percent.  
*(Repeat of 9:30 am session)*

**E. Current State of the Nebraska Electric Industry – Poised to Lead Nebraska Into the Next Decade:** Learn about the current issues, reliability and status of Nebraska’s electric power industry.

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

12 pm

**Designated Delegates with White Ribbons on Their Name Badges:** Prepare to 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. 5	After Feb. 5
<b>Conference:</b> (Includes handbook; meals are extra) Per city/village official, League member	_____ \$325	_____ \$355
<b>Partial conference attendance:</b> (Includes handbook; meals are extra)		
Monday sessions	_____ \$230	_____ \$260
Tuesday morning only	_____ \$140	_____ \$170
<b>Conference Total:</b>	\$ _____	

**Meals:** (not included in registration fee; indicate number needed by **Feb. 5**)

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

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

### Conference Information

- Preregistration deadline is **Feb. 5**. Registrations received after this date will incur higher registration costs and are not guaranteed handbooks.
- Advance registrations not cancelled by this date or "no shows" will be billed for any handbooks and reserved meal tickets.
- If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **Feb. 5**.
- Additional Conference Handbooks must be ordered by **Feb. 5: \$55 each**
- Additional Newly Elected and Appointed Officials Handbooks must be ordered by **Feb. 5: \$55 each**

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

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### Conference Information

Designed for elected or appointed officials, the focus of the **2019 Midwinter Conference** will be current and proposed legislation and how it affects local governments. A highlight of the two-day conference will be the State Senators Appreciation Luncheon, which offers municipal officials an opportunity to meet and visit with their State Senators.

**Feb. 5** is the preregistration deadline. Registrations received after this date will incur higher registration costs and will not be guaranteed printed conference materials. Advance registrations not cancelled by this date or “no shows” will be billed for handbooks and reserved meal tickets.

#### 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. 8**.
  - 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.
  - If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **Feb. 5**.
  - Additional Conference Handbooks:** \$55 each. **Additional Newly Elected and Appointed Officials Handbooks:** \$55 each. (If registration is not cancelled by **Feb. 5**, delegate may be charged for handbooks.)
  - To meet printing schedules for the conference materials, sponsor fund or display table information must be returned by **Feb. 5**.
  - 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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