

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.

## Tentative Conference Program (Subject to Change)

### Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023

- 9-11 am** Smaller and Larger Cities Legislative Committees Meeting
- 9 am-4 pm** Fire Chiefs Section Meeting
- 11:15 am** Annual Meeting of Members of the League Association of Risk Management (LARM)
- 11:30 am** Registration (for Preconference Seminar)
- 12:30-1:20 pm** Delegate Luncheon
- 1:30-4:30 pm** **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.  
*Shannon Harner, Executive Director, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA)*  
*Gary Person, President and CEO, North Platte Area Chamber and Development Corporation*  
*David Scott, City Manager, Sidney*  
*Lane Kizzire, Finance Director, Sidney*  
*Danielle Myers-Noelle, City Attorney, Norfolk*
- 4:45 pm** Meeting of the LARM Board of Directors

### Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023

- 7:30 am** Registration  
Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level (Coffee and Rolls Available)
- 8-8:10 am** Welcome  
*League President Deb VanMatre, Mayor, Gibbon*
- 8:10-9:45 am** **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.  
*Matt Lehrman, Co-Founder, Social Prosperity Partners; Nationally Recognized Speaker*
- 9:45-10 am** Break – Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level
- 10-11:15 am** Recognizing and Preventing Human Trafficking in Your City or Village  
*George Welch, Assistant Attorney General and Interim Coordinator of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force, Nebraska Attorney General's Office*  
*Brent Bockstadter, Lieutenant, Nebraska State Patrol*  
*Kevin Spencer, Chief of Police and City Manager, Scottsbluff*  
*Brandon Brueggemann, Investigator, Buffalo County Sheriff's Office*  
*Presentation of "League Distinguished Service Award" to Buffalo County Sheriff Neil Miller*
- 11:15-11:30 am** Break – Visit Display Areas in the Atrium and the Lower Level
- 11:30 am-12:30 pm** League Legislative Report  
*L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM*



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

12:30-2 pm

### 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

2-2:15 pm

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

2:15-3:15 pm

#### 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

**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

**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

**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

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

3:30-4:30 pm

#### 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.

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

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*(Repeat of 2:15 pm session)*

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

**Ashley Wolfe**, Marketing and Communications Director, LNM

**Matt Lindberg**, Public Communications Manager, Columbus

4:30-4:45 pm

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

4:45-5:45 pm

### Section Meetings

Mayors/Village Board Chairs

City Managers/Administrators

Larger Cities

Smaller Cities

Utilities

## Friday, Sept. 29, 2023

7:30 am

### Registration

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

8-9 am

### 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

#### B. Where's My FEMA Money?

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

**Erv Portis**, Assistant Director, NEMA

#### 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

#### 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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## Friday, Sept. 29, 2023 (con't.)

8-9 am

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

9-9:15 am

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

9:15-10:15 am

**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.

*(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

**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

**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

**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

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

10:30-10:45 am

**Annual Business Meeting**

10:45-11 am

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

11 am-12 pm

**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

**Patrick Redmond**, Deputy Broadband Director, Nebraska Broadband Office

**Lash Chaffin**, Utilities Section Director, LNM

**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

**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

**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

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

12:15 pm

**Meeting of the LIGHT Board of Directors**



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### Conference Information

- 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 1-402-474-7474 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 **Sept. 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 pm; check out time is 11 am.
- Preregistration deadline for delegates is **Sept. 6**. Registrations received after this date will incur higher registration costs.
- Advance registrations not cancelled by **Sept. 6** or "no shows" will be billed for the conference, reserved display table, and meals.
- The sessions will be recorded, unless prohibited by the speaker, and emailed to registered delegates for viewing through Nov. 30.
- If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **Sept. 6**.
- To meet production schedules for the conference materials, sponsor fund, or display table, information must be returned by **Sept. 6**.
- 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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## 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:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Required for you to receive electronic handbook.)

	Through Sept. 6	After Sept. 6	Recordings Only (prepayment required)
<b>Wednesday Preconference Seminar:</b> (Includes Preconference electronic handbook)	_____ \$110	_____ \$135	_____ \$110
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday Conference:</b> (Includes electronic handbook) Per city/village official	_____ \$395	_____ \$425	_____ \$395
<b>Partial Conference:</b> (Includes electronic handbook)			
Thursday morning only	_____ \$150	_____ \$170	_____ \$150
Thursday afternoon only	_____ \$150	_____ \$170	_____ \$150
Friday morning only	_____ \$150	_____ \$170	_____ \$150

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

**Meals:** (not included in registration fee)

Wednesday Luncheon \_\_\_\_\_ \$30

Thursday Luncheon \_\_\_\_\_ \$30

**Meal Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- The sessions will be recorded, unless prohibited by the speaker, and emailed to registered delegates for viewing through Nov. 30.

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

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