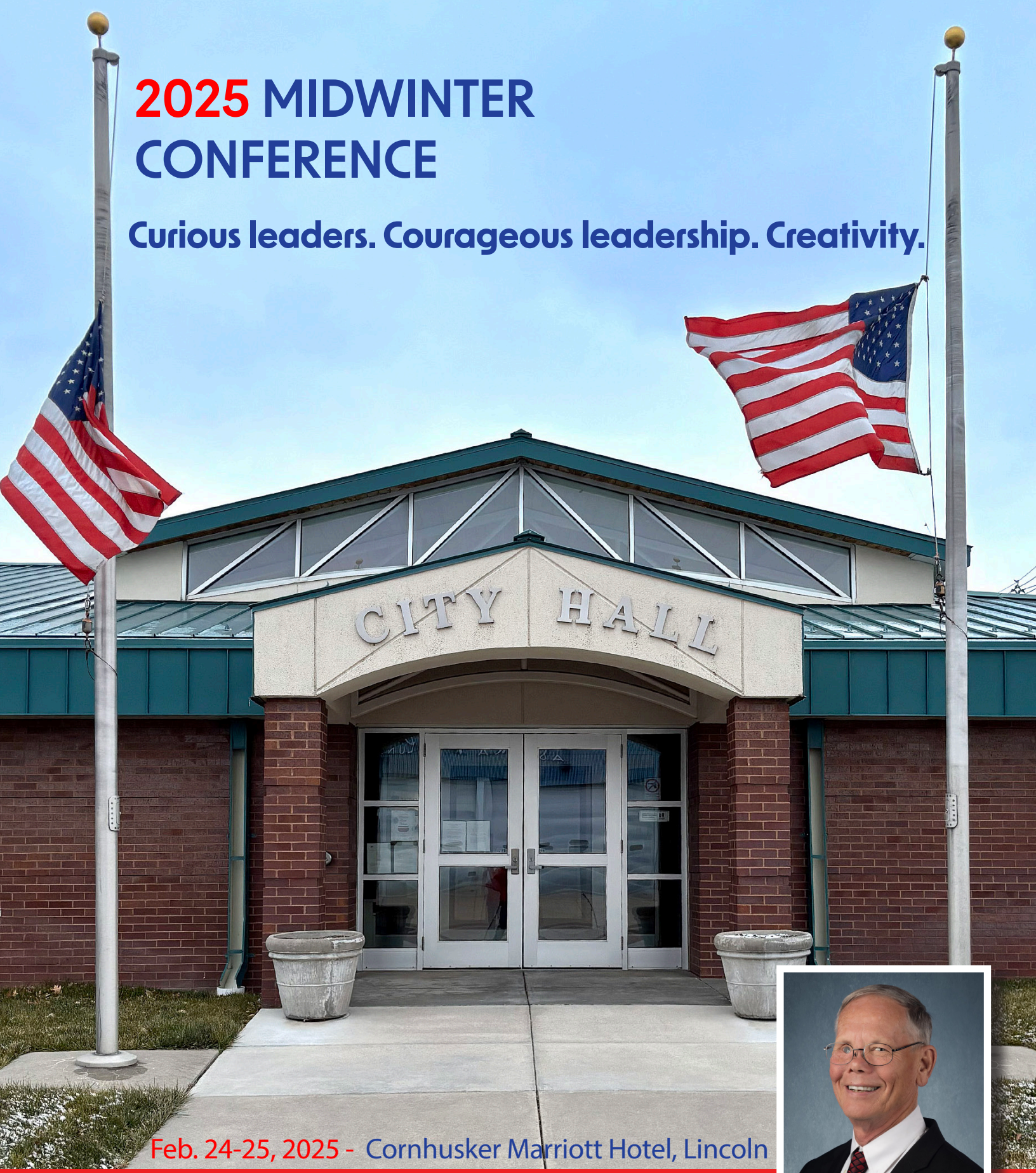


2025 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

Curious leaders. Courageous leadership. Creativity.



Feb. 24-25, 2025 - Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln



League President Marlin Seeman
Mayor of Aurora

2025 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

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MUNICIPAL TREASURERS: The State Auditor's Office approved 14 hours of continuing education.

MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS: The Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission approved 8.08 hours of CLE credit.

Tentative Conference Program (subject to change)

Monday, February 24, 2025

- 7:30–8 am** **Registration:** Visit Display Areas (coffee and rolls available)
- 8–8:10 am** **Welcome**
League President Marlin Seeman, Mayor, Aurora
- 8:10–9:15 am** **Panel of State Senators and Others Discussing Legislative Issues of Municipal Importance**
Sen. Terrell McKinney, Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee
Sen. Rita Sanders, Chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Sen. Brad von Gillern, Chair of the Revenue Committee
- 9:15–9:30 am** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 9:30–10:30 am** **Affordable Housing/Workforce Housing Updates; Strategic Housing Framework**
K.C. Belitz, Director, Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Shannon Harner, Executive Director, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
- 10:30–10:45 am** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 10:45–11:45 am** **League Legislative Update**
L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM
- 11:45 am–12 pm** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 12–1:30 pm** **Luncheon**
Special Keynote Address by Melissa Hinrichs, Coach/Facilitator at "EngagedLeadership"
Melissa applies a strengths-based lens to uncover, explore, and grow the potential of every individual and team.
- 1:30–1:45 pm** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 1:45–2:45 pm** **Concurrent Sessions:**
- A. Zoning:** Understanding the importance of zoning and how to protect yourself from what you don't know!
(Session repeated at 3 pm)
Dave Ptak, Former City Attorney; Former City Administrator; frequent lecturer on planning and zoning matters
 - B. (Newly Elected/Appointed Officials) LEGAL OVERVIEW**
Public Records Law and Transparency in Government: Learn how to limit your liability.
Christy Abraham, Legal Counsel, LNM
 - C. NEMA Panel:** "We have a plan...What could go wrong?" Don't miss this live tabletop example of local emergency operations planning for local officials.
(Session repeated at 3 pm)
Erv Portis, Assistant Director, NEMA
Jim Anderson, Mayor, Ashland
Jerry Johnson, Mayor, Wahoo
Jessica Quady, City Administrator, Ashland
Melissa Harrell, City Administrator/Treasurer, Wahoo
 - D. Upgrading the Good Life:** Using trends in inter-state migration to modernize Nebraska's workforce recruitment.
(Session repeated at 3 pm)
Ethan Kimbrough, Economist, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

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Monday, February 24, 2025 (con't.)

2:45–3 pm

Break: Visit Display Areas

3–4 pm

Concurrent Sessions:

A. Zoning: Understanding the importance of zoning and how to protect yourself from what you don't know!

(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)

Dave Ptak, Former City Attorney; Former City Administrator; frequent lecturer on planning and zoning matters

B. (Newly Elected/Appointed Officials) LEGAL OVERVIEW

Budgeting: Better understanding the law and the process.

Christy Abraham, Legal Counsel, LNM

C. NEMA Panel: "We have a plan...What could go wrong?" Don't miss this live tabletop example of local emergency operations planning for local officials.

(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)

Erv Portis, Assistant Director, NEMA

Jim Anderson, Mayor, Ashland

Jerry Johnson, Mayor, Wahoo

Jessica Quady, City Administrator, Ashland

Melissa Harrell, City Administrator/Treasurer, Wahoo

D. Upgrading the Good Life: Using trends in inter-state migration to modernize Nebraska's workforce recruitment.

(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)

Ethan Kimbrough, Economist, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

E. League Insurance Government Health Team (LIGHT): Learn more about the League's health insurance plan for municipal employees in partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield; Understand the challenges of "self-funded programs" like the Chamber plan.

(Session repeated Tuesday at 10:45 am)

Dennis Maggart, President, McInnes Maggart Consulting Group

Sue Warner, Strategic Account Executive, Blue Cross and 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

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

8 am

Registration: Visit Display Areas (coffee and rolls available)

8:15–9:15 am

Concurrent Sessions:

A. Local Option Sales Tax (Requiring Approval by Local Voters): Learn how 265 cities and villages in Nebraska use local option sales tax dollars to fund critically important projects and programs to reduce property taxes; and/or fund LB 840 plans (Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act); as well as finance infrastructure improvements for streets, roads, libraries, etc.; affordable and/or workforce housing projects; etc.

Emily Bausch, City Administrator, Plattsmouth

Jeff Hofaker, City Administrator, Sutton

Nate Schneider, City Manager, McCook

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Tuesday, February 25, 2025 (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

Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM

C. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Update and NDOT Infrastructure Grant Portal:

Learn about important resources for local governments applying for grants and how to more easily access potential funding.

(Session repeated at 9:30 am)

Wayne Fedora, Nebraska Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration

Jenna Habegger, PMP, Highway Planning Manager – Nebraska Infrastructure Hub, Local Assistance Division – NDOT

Dina Harris, Highway Programs Specialist – Nebraska Infrastructure Hub, Local Assistance Division – NDOT

D. Flood Risk Awareness Project: Learn about this project and findings by UNL in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development on public risk awareness, hazard mitigation and recovery; Find out how CDBG Grants can help financial mitigation needs.

(Session repeated at 9:30 am)

Jenny Mason, Director – Community Development Disaster Recovery Division, NDED

Zhenghong Tang, Program Director, UNL Community and Regional Planning Program

9 am–4 pm

Fire Chiefs Section Meeting

9:15–9:30 am

Break: Visit Display Areas

9:30–10:30 am

Concurrent Sessions:

A. Emotional Support Animals (ESAs): Learn what can and cannot be required by municipalities.

(Session repeated at 10:45 am)

Madison Wurtele, Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Nebraska

B. (Newly Elected/Appointed Officials) LEGAL OVERVIEW

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

Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM

C. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Update and NDOT Infrastructure Grant Portal:

Learn about important resources for local governments applying for grants and how to more easily access potential funding.

(Repeat of 8:15 am session)

Wayne Fedora, Nebraska Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration

Jenna Habegger, PMP, Highway Planning Manager – Nebraska Infrastructure Hub, Local Assistance Division – NDOT

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Tuesday, February 25, 2025 (con't.)

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

10:45–11:45 am Concurrent Sessions:

A. Emotional Support Animals (ESAs): Learn what can and cannot be required by municipalities.
(Repeat of 9:30 am session)

Madison Wurtele, Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Nebraska

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

L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM

C. League Insurance Government Health Team (LIGHT): Learn more about the League's health insurance plan for municipal employees in partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield; Understand the challenges of "self-funded programs" like the Chamber plan.
(Repeat of session at 3 pm on Monday)

Dennis Maggart, President, McInnes Maggart Consulting Group

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

D. AmeriCorps NCCC/ServeNebraska: Learn how to access personnel assisting your community, free of charge!

Audra Piotti, Assistant Program Director, AmeriCorps NCCC

Russell Koos, AmeriCorps Program Officer, ServeNebraska

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: _____

Conference:	Through Feb. 7	After Feb. 7	Recordings Only (prepayment required)
(Includes electronic handbook; meals are extra) Per city/village official, League member	_____ \$395	_____ \$425	_____ \$395
Partial conference attendance: (Includes electronic handbook; meals are extra)			
Monday sessions	_____ \$300	_____ \$330	_____ \$300
Tuesday morning only	_____ \$150	_____ \$170	_____ \$150
Conference Total: \$ _____			

Meals: (not included in registration fee; indicate number needed by **Feb. 7**)

Monday Luncheon _____ \$33

Tuesday Senator Appreciation Luncheon _____ \$33

Meals Total: \$ _____

Conference Information

- Preregistration deadline is **Feb. 7**. 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 for viewing through May 31, 2025.
- If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **Feb. 7**.

Mail registration to League of Nebraska Municipalities, 206 S 13th Street, Suite 800, Lincoln, NE 68508, or fax to 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 **2025 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 13th 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. 4**.
- ❑ The room rate is \$112 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. 7**. 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 for viewing through May 31, 2025.
- ❑ If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **Feb. 7**.
- ❑ To meet printing schedules for the conference materials, sponsor fund or display table information must be returned by **Feb. 7**.
- ❑ For your comfort, we recommend that you wear layered clothing or bring a jacket because heating and cooling conditions may vary.