

2026 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE



Utica Board President
Sharon Powell



Nebraska City Mayor
Bryan Bequette



Scottsbluff Mayor
Betsy Vidlak



League President Marlin Seeman
Mayor of Aurora

About the photo:

Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) invited Mayors and Village Board Chairs and Presidents to sign a copy of the Declaration of Independence during the League Annual Conference on Sept. 25, 2025, commemorating our Nation's 250th Anniversary.

Join us!

Feb. 23-24 | Cornhusker Marriott Hotel - Lincoln

League of Nebraska Municipalities 2026 Midwinter Conference Sponsor information and registration

Display Tables

If your organization wishes to participate in the conference as an exhibitor, the League offers a *limited number of display tables, which are assigned on a first reserved basis*. Associate members will receive priority of the registrations received by Feb. 6, 2026.

Displays will be set up in the Atrium and lower level near the coffee and soft drink break areas to ensure the best exposure to municipal delegates. Display tables are 8 feet long. *You may set up your display any time between 12-8 p.m. on Feb. 22 or the morning of Feb. 23.* The League and hotel are not responsible for any items or equipment.



Sponsor Fund

If you don't want a display table, you are welcome to contribute to this fund and help sponsor the conference, including coffee, rolls, and soft drink breaks.

What are the perks?

- organization name will appear in the conference handbook, the conference program, and in the *Nebraska Municipal Review* magazine following the conference
- special recognition during the conference
- conference sessions on Monday and Tuesday
- a conference list of registered delegates will be emailed to you before the conference
- organization logo featured in a sponsor video shown before General Sessions on Monday

The registration fee covers up to three representatives from your company with a \$55 charge for each additional representative. The meals are not included in the conference registration fee but may be purchased separately.

For more information about registration fees and meal tickets, please see the registration form. "No shows" or cancellations made after Feb. 6, 2026, will be billed for reserved display table and meals. **PREPAYMENT IS REQUIRED FOR NON-ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.**



**TO MEET PRINTING SCHEDULES, SPONSOR
INFORMATION MUST BE RETURNED BY FEB. 6, 2026.**

Thank you for your support! We look forward to seeing you at the 2026 Midwinter Conference! If you have questions, contact the League office.

2026 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

February 23-24, 2026



Sponsor Registration

Firm name (as you want it to appear on program): _____

Representatives attending (sponsorship includes registration for up to 3 representatives):

Name: _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Additional Representatives (\$55 per person):

Name: _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Type of product or service your company provides: _____

Firm Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Display tables will be available for setup between 12-8 pm Feb. 22 or the morning of Feb. 23.

Display Backdrop (please check one): Free Standing Display Board _____ Tabletop Display Board _____
Table for Literature Only _____

Associate Members: (includes registration for up to 3 representatives, meals are extra)

	Through Feb. 6	After Feb. 6
_____ Contributing to Conference Sponsor Fund, but no display table	\$315	\$340
_____ Contributing to Conference Sponsor Fund, reserve a display table	\$730	\$810
Sponsorship includes registration for up to 3 representatives; each additional representative x \$55		\$ _____
_____ Number of 110 Volt Outlets needed at \$65 each		\$ _____
Contact the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel for information about phone lines/fees	Conference Total:	\$ _____

Non-Associate Members: (PREPAYMENT REQUIRED; includes registration for up to 3 representatives, meals are extra)

	Through Feb. 6	After Feb. 6
_____ Contributing to Conference Sponsor Fund, but no display table	\$445	\$450
_____ Contributing to Conference Sponsor Fund, reserve a display table	\$1,015	\$1,095
Sponsorship includes registration for up to 3 representatives; each additional representative x \$55		\$ _____
_____ Number of 110 Volt Outlets needed at \$65 each		\$ _____
Contact the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel for information about phone lines/fees	Conference Total:	\$ _____

Promotional Material for Packets (Submit sample and form by Feb. 6): _____ \$315

Meals: (indicate the number of tickets needed and who will use them by Feb. 6)

Please note any special dietary restrictions/food allergies: _____

Name(s):	Number:	Meals:	Meal Total:
_____	_____	Monday Luncheon – \$33	\$ _____
_____	_____	Tuesday Senator Appreciation Luncheon – \$33	\$ _____

- To meet production schedules for conference materials, sponsor fund or display table information must be returned by Feb. 6.
- Preregistration deadline is Feb. 6. Registrations received after this date will incur higher registration costs.
- No shows or cancellations made after Feb. 6 will be billed for reserved display table and meals.

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.

ATTENTION CONFERENCE SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS!

The League of Nebraska Municipalities will insert your promotional material in all conference packets to be handed out at our 2026 League Midwinter Conference.

As conference attendees go through their packets, your material will be in their hands. Promote your service or product. Create interest and invite delegates to visit you at your exhibit booth.

➔ This service is provided only for conference sponsors and exhibitors.

➔ Insert material is limited to an 8½x11 one-page brochure or flyer (front and back printed sheet). If you have more than a one-page brochure, please call our office to see if it is possible for us to include and for the additional cost.

➔ A sample of your material, this form, and payment must be submitted to our office for approval by Feb. 6. Copies will be made in our office.

➔ Cost: \$315

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2026 League Midwinter Conference Promotional Material for Packets

Firm: _____ Contact: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

Email: _____

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MUNICIPAL TREASURERS: The State Auditor's Office approved 13 hours of continuing education.

MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS: The Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission approved 8.33 hours of CLE credit.

Tentative Conference Program (subject to change)

Monday, February 23, 2026

- 7:30–8 am** **Registration:** Visit Display Areas (coffee and rolls available)
- 8–8:10 am** **Welcome**
League President Marlin Seeman, Mayor of Aurora
- 8:10–9:30 am** **Changing Demographics and “Brain Drain” Challenges:** What it means for your city or village!
Josie Schafer, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Public Affairs, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- 9:30–9:45 am** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 9:45–10:45 am** **Affordable/Workforce Housing:** Be informed on how your city or village can access and partner with NIFA's housing initiatives.
Shannon Harner, Executive Director, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA)
- 10:45–11 am** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 11 am–12 pm** **League Legislative Update**
L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM
- 12–12:15 pm** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 12:15–1:30 pm** **Luncheon**
Keynote: *Daryl Bohac, Director, Nebraska State Historical Society; Chair of the Nebraska Semiquincentennial Commission*, which coordinates and develops plans, programs, and events celebrating the 250th founding of the United States, marked by the Declaration of Independence in 1776.
- 1:30–1:45 pm** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 1:45–2:45 pm** **Concurrent Sessions:**
- A. Cybersecurity Resources for Municipalities:** Be informed about how the Nebraska Office of the CIO can assist cities and villages with cybersecurity.
(Session repeated at 3 pm)
Bryce Bailey, State Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, Nebraska Office of the CIO
 - B. Creative Districts:** Learn how creative districts are transforming cities and villages while providing a tremendous return on investment.
(Session repeated Tuesday at 10:45 am)
Rachel Morgan, Program Specialist, Nebraska Arts Council
 - C. Nebraska's Natural Water Contaminates:** Gain a better understanding of where contaminants originate and how to effectively treat them.
(Session repeated at 3 pm)
Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM
Jackson Sash, Utilities Field Representative/Training Coordinator, LNM
 - D. Importance of Staying in Your Lane:** Knowing your role in municipal government will enhance your effectiveness, minimize conflict, and limit your liability.
(Session repeated at 3 pm)
David Black, Mayor, Papillion
Tom Mumgaard, Council Member, Papillion
Amber Powers, City Administrator, Papillion
Gary Greer, City Administrator, Gothenburg
L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM
- 2:45–3 pm** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
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Monday, February 23, 2026 (con't.)

3–4 pm

Concurrent Sessions:

- A. Cybersecurity Resources for Municipalities:** Be informed about how the Nebraska Office of the CIO can assist cities and villages with cybersecurity.
(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)
Bryce Bailey, State Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, Nebraska Office of the CIO
- B. Healthcare Trends:** Learn what municipal employers need to consider for their employees in FY 2026 and beyond.
(Session repeated Tuesday at 8:15 am)
Dennis Maggart, President of McInnes Maggart Consulting Group
Sue Warner, Account Executive II – Specialty Groups, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska
- C. Nebraska's Natural Water Contaminates:** Gain a better understanding of where contaminants originate and how to effectively treat them.
(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)
Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM
Jackson Sash, Utilities Field Representative/Training Coordinator, LNM
- D. Importance of Staying in Your Lane:** Knowing your role in municipal government will enhance your effectiveness, minimize conflict, and limit your liability.
(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)
David Black, Mayor, Papillion
Tom Mumgaard, Council Member, Papillion
Amber Powers, City Administrator, Papillion
Gary Greer, City Administrator, Gothenburg
L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM

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 24, 2026

8 am

Registration: Visit Display Areas (coffee and rolls available)

8:15–9:15 am

Concurrent Sessions:

- A. USDA Grants:** \$10 million available to help qualifying cities and villages remove dead, damaged, or dying trees; plant new trees; protect watersheds; and train new arborists.
(Session repeated at 10:45 am)
Hanna Pinneo, Executive Director, PlantNebraska (formerly Nebraska Statewide Arboretum)
- B. State of the Insurance Market:** Trends impacting Nebraska municipalities.
This session is sponsored by the League Association of Risk Management (LARM).
(Session repeated at 9:30 am)
Justin Swarbrick, Senior Vice President, Alliant Insurance Services
- C. Healthcare Trends:** Learn what municipal employers need to consider for their employees in FY 2026 and beyond.
(Repeat of Monday 3 pm session)
Dennis Maggart, President of McInnes Maggart Consulting Group
Sue Warner, Account Executive II – Specialty Groups, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska
- D. Understanding Legislative Lexicon:** A 21st century explanation of sometimes archaic terms and phrases.
(Back by popular demand!)
(Session repeated at 9:30 am)
Christy Abraham, Legal Counsel, LNM
Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM
- E. Leveraging USDA and SBA Disaster Programs:** Are we leaving money on the table? Leveraging USDA and SBA Disaster Programs before, during, and after disasters; a discussion on programs offered by USDA and SBA, what they are, how to access, and how to take advantage.
(Session repeated at 9:30 am)
Erv Portis, Assistant Director, NEMA (facilitator)
Tim Mittan, District Director, Nebraska District Office, U.S. Small Business Administration
Donny Christensen, Recovery Section Administrator, NEMA
Neil Moseman, Director, USDA Rural Development
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Tuesday, February 24, 2026 (con't.)

- 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. Limit Your Personal Liability by Avoiding Conflicts of Interest:** Gain a better understanding of the process and laws governing municipal officials which are enforced by the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.
(Session repeated at 10:45 am)
Scott Danigole, Executive Director, Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission
 - B. State of the Insurance Market:** Trends impacting Nebraska municipalities.
This session is sponsored by the League Association of Risk Management (LARM).
(Repeat of 8:15 am session)
Justin Swarbrick, Senior Vice President, Alliant Insurance Services
 - C. DED Update:** Learn the latest information regarding the status of the federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCF).
(Session repeated at 10:45 am)
Jenny Mason, Director of Community Development and Disaster Recovery, Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development
 - D. Understanding Legislative Lexicon:** A 21st century explanation of sometimes archaic terms and phrases.
(Back by popular demand!)
(Repeat of 8:15 am session)
Christy Abraham, Legal Counsel, LNM
Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM
 - E. Leveraging USDA and SBA Disaster Programs:** Are we leaving money on the table? Leveraging USDA and SBA Disaster Programs before, during, and after disasters; a discussion on programs offered by USDA and SBA, what they are, how to access, and how to take advantage.
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Erv Portis, Assistant Director, NEMA (facilitator)
Tim Mittan, District Director, Nebraska District Office, U.S. Small Business Administration
Donny Christensen, Recovery Section Administrator, NEMA
Neil Moseman, Director, USDA Rural Development
- 10:30–10:45 am** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 10:45–11:45 am** **Concurrent Sessions:**
- A. Limit Your Personal Liability by Avoiding Conflicts of Interest:** Gain a better understanding of the process and laws governing municipal officials which are enforced by the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.
(Repeat of 9:30 am session)
Scott Danigole, Executive Director, Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission
 - B. Creative Districts:** Learn how creative districts are transforming cities and villages while providing a tremendous return on investment.
(Repeat of Monday 1:45 pm session)
Rachel Morgan, Program Specialist, Nebraska Arts Council
 - C. DED Update:** Learn the latest information regarding the status of the federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCF).
(Repeat of 9:30 am session)
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 - D. USDA Grants:** \$10 million available to help qualifying cities and villages remove dead, damaged, or dying trees; plant new trees; protect watersheds; and train new arborists.
(Repeat of 8:15 am session)
Hanna Pinneo, Executive Director, PlantNebraska (formerly Nebraska Statewide Arboretum)
- 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!**
- 1:30 pm** **LARM Board of Directors Meeting**
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LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

February 23-24, 2026



Conference Information

Designed for elected or appointed officials, the focus of the **2026 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.

- ❑ Conference sessions will be held at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.
 - ❑ [Click here](#) for hotel reservation instructions. The deadline for reserving a room is **Feb. 1** or until the room block is full.
 - ❑ The room rate is \$116 per night with a Government ID card. If you need an ID card, contact the League office.
 - ❑ Check in time is approximately 4 pm; check out time is 11 am.
 - ❑ The preregistration deadline is **Feb. 6**. 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.
 - ❑ The sessions will be recorded, unless prohibited by the speaker, and emailed to registered delegates for viewing through Dec. 31.
 - ❑ If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **Feb. 6**.
 - ❑ To meet printing schedules for the conference materials, sponsor fund or display table information must be returned by **Feb. 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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