

2026 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE



Utica Board President
Sharon Powell



Nebraska City Mayor
Bryan Bequette



Scottsbluff Mayor
Betsy Vidlak



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
REVOLUTION
Nebraska Society
Established April 26, 1890

★ Patriotism ★ History ★ Education ★

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.

2026 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

February 23-24, 2026



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

Atrium & Lower Level

Registration in the Atrium

Visit Display Areas (coffee and rolls available)

8–8:10 am

Welcome

DEF

League President Marlin Seeman, Mayor of Aurora

8:10–9:15 am

Affordable/Workforce Housing: Be informed on how your city or village can access and partner with NIFA's housing initiatives.

DEF

Shannon Harner, Executive Director, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA)

9:15–9:30 am

Break: Visit Display Areas

Atrium & Lower Level

9:30–10:45 am

Changing Demographics and "Brain Drain" Challenges: What it means for your city or village!

DEF

Josie Schafer, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Public Affairs, University of Nebraska at Omaha

10:45–11 am

Break: Visit Display Areas

Atrium & Lower Level

11 am–12 pm

League Legislative Update

DEF

L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM

12–12:15 pm

Break: Visit Display Areas

Atrium & Lower Level

12:15–1:30 pm

Luncheon

Lancaster

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.

Special Presentation by Jewel Rodgers, Nebraska State Poet

Break: Visit Display Areas

1:30–1:45 pm

Atrium & Lower Level

1:45–2:45 pm

Concurrent Sessions:

ABC

A. Social Media Guidelines for Municipalities and Their Employees to Limit Liability

This session is sponsored by the League Association of Risk Management (LARM).

(Session repeated at 3 pm)

John Hobbs, Loss Control Specialist, LARM

Arbor 1,2

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

Hawthorne

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

DEF

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

Atrium & Lower Level

Monday, February 23, 2026 (con't.)

3–4 pm

ABC

Concurrent Sessions:

A. **Social Media Guidelines for Municipalities and Their Employees to Limit Liability**

This session is sponsored by the League Association of Risk Management (LARM).

(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)

John Hobbs, Loss Control Specialist, LARM

Arbor 1,2

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

Hawthorne

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

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(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

Atrium & Lower Level

4:15–5:30 pm

Section Meetings:

Mayors and Village Board Chairs

Smaller Cities and Villages

Larger Cities

Clerks

City Managers/Administrators

Utilities Section

ABC

Hawthorne

Lancaster 4,5,6

DEF

Arbor 1,2

Yankee Hill 3

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

8 am

Registration in the Atrium

Visit Display Areas (coffee and rolls available)

Atrium & Lower Level

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)

ABC

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

Arbor 1,2

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

Lancaster 1,2,3

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

Hawthorne

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

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 (con't.)

9 am–4 pm

Garrat

Fire Chiefs Section Meeting

9:15–9:30 am

Atrium & Lower Level

Break: Visit Display Areas

9:30–10:30 am

Lancaster 4,5,6

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

Michael Helgerson, Chair, NROC; Executive Director, MAPA

Edward Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer, NROC; Executive Director, WCNDD

Tom Bliss, Executive Director, SENDD

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ABC

Arbor 1,2

Lancaster 1,2,3

Hawthorne

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Atrium & Lower Level

Break: Visit Display Areas

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ABC

Arbor 1,2

Lancaster 1,2,3

11:45 am–12 pm

Atrium & Lower Level

Break: Visit Display Areas

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 (con't.)

12 pm

Atrium

Designated Delegates with White Ribbons on Their Name Badges: Greet your State Senator.

12–1:10 pm

Senator Appreciation Luncheon

DEF

1:10 pm

Adjournment – Thank you for coming! Please drive safely!

1:30 pm

BC

LARM Board of Directors Meeting

2026 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

February 23-24, 2026



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. 6	After Feb.6	Recordings Only (prepayment required)
(Includes electronic handbook; meals are extra) Per city/village official, League member	_____ \$410	_____ \$445	_____ \$410
Partial conference attendance: (Includes electronic handbook; meals are extra)			
Monday sessions	_____ \$315	_____ \$345	_____ \$315
Tuesday morning only	_____ \$160	_____ \$180	_____ \$160
Conference Total:	\$ _____		

Meals: (not included in registration fee; indicate number needed by **Feb. 6**)

Please note any special dietary restrictions/food allergies: _____

Monday Luncheon _____ \$33
Tuesday Senator Appreciation Luncheon _____ \$33

Meals Total: \$ _____

Conference Information

- 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.
- If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **Feb. 6**.

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

[Click here](#) to register online with a credit card.

2026 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

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.