

## Thursday, September 22, 2022

10:00 am – 4:00 pm      **Elected Officials Training**

5:00 – 8:00 pm      **Welcome Reception and Social**  
Cloud 9 Events

## Friday, September 23, 2022

7:45 am      Registration opens

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 pm      **Exhibitor Showcase**

8:00 – 10:00 am      Exhibits and Eats  
*Continental Breakfast from 8:00-9:00 am*

10:15 – 11:15 am      **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Introduction to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

In this interactive session, participants will learn common definitions of diversity, equity, and inclusion, review current North Dakota population trends, and leave with actionable steps to further the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion in their cities.

*Dr. Tamara Uselman, Director of Equity and Inclusion, Fargo Public Schools*

- **Keeping Your Residents Informed: Successful Communication Strategies**

Keeping residents informed about large projects and city activities takes thoughtful strategy and a broad approach. Our panelists will discuss how they develop their messaging, the tools and communication platforms they use and how they leverage partnerships to reach all residents.

*Brenton Holper, Administrator, Horace*

*Jim Neubauer, Administrator, Mandan*

*Melissa Richard, Communications Director, West Fargo*

- **Cryptocurrency Payment Implementation**

The city of Williston has been accepting cryptocurrency as payment for services since June 2021. Join Hercules to learn about the different types of cryptocurrencies, why a city may want to consider accepting cryptocurrency as payment, the accounting process for accepting the payments and what Williston has learned since implementing this payment option.

*Hercules Cummings, Finance Director, Williston*

- **North Dakota Opioid Response Update**

North Dakota has been actively working to address the opioid epidemic through federally funded grant efforts since 2017. Significant progress

has been made in reducing the burden of overdose, increasing access to treatment services, and building out recovery infrastructure through these grant efforts and through policy changes by the North Dakota Legislature. This session will detail the progress made in addressing the opioid epidemic in North Dakota and discuss future efforts to continue this important work in light of the recent resurgence in overdose deaths nationwide.

*Michael Dulitz, Opioid Response Project Coordinator, Grand Forks Public Health*

- **Housing Solutions for North Dakota Cities**

A group of state, regional and local leaders have come together to discuss ideas for solving the housing availability and affordability issues in North Dakota. Hear from members of the group about potential solutions that cities can implement today and about potential legislative solutions that could be considered during the 2023 Legislative Session.

*Jennifer Henderson, Planning & Housing Development Division Director, ND Housing Finance Agency*

*Kylee Merkel, Business Banker, Bank of ND*

*Lisa Rotvold, Development Director, Beyond Shelter Inc.*

*Shawn Kessel, COO/Deputy Commissioner, ND Department of Commerce*

11:30 am – 1:15 pm

**Lunch, Scholarship Awards & Keynote Speaker**

***No Bad Days: How to Live the Rest of Your Life Without Having Another Bad Day with Hunter Pinke***

After becoming a paraplegic in a skiing accident during the winter of 2019, Hunter was told by health professionals that he would have good days and bad days going forward. He told them they were wrong. He doesn't have bad days. Hunter has learned to stack good days upon good days and live a life of gratefulness and joy. Hunter will help you:

- learn where joy truly comes from,
- discover the three truths that can get you through any tough day,
- learn how your small gesture of kindness could change the world,
- discover the healing that comes with helping someone else, and
- be entertained and inspired by his examples and stories.

1:15 – 2:00 pm

Exhibits and Eats

2:15 - 3:05 pm

**Concurrent Sessions**

- **What Keeps You Awake at Night**

When crisis strikes or the media calls . . . minutes do matter. In this session, you will learn how to develop a response strategy in order to quickly take control of the narrative and be a trusted source of information for your stakeholders, community and the media. You will learn skills to deliver messages to our targeted audiences with precision and clarity to protect lives, property and your reputation.

*Rob Keller, President, ND Assn of Public Information Officers*

- **NDIRF: ND Fire & Tornado Fund**

The ND Fire & Tornado Fund (NDFT) provides property insurance coverage for North Dakota state agencies and political subdivisions. Topics covered in this session will include an overview of NDFT coverages, the claims process and member services.

*Brennan Quintus, CEO, ND Insurance Reserve Fund*

*Jeff Tescher, Director of Underwriting, ND Insurance Reserve Fund*

- **Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Compliance**

In 2021, the US Environmental Protection Agency implemented the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) to identify and replace all lead pipes in cities. Join Sandra to learn what your city must do to be compliant and the tools and resources that ND Environmental Quality has to help you through this process.

*Sandra Washek, Drinking Water Program, ND Environmental Quality*

- **The Future of Electric Vehicles in North Dakota**

Join Jen for an electric and engaging discussion on the future of electric vehicles (EV) in North Dakota. She'll highlight challenges and solutions and provide an update of the ND Department of Transportation's EV Plan. Bring your questions!

*Jen Turnbow, Deputy Director for Planning, ND Department of Transportation*

3:15 - 4:05 pm

### **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals**

Representatives from the Money Follows the Person Housing Project and Independence Inc. will share information on service animals and emotional support animals. This presentation will include the difference in HUD's Fair Housing rules and regulations and the Americans with Disabilities Act, specific breed restrictions and a city's responsibility for a reasonable accommodation.

*Cheryl Merck, Consumer Housing Resource Specialist, Money Follows the Person Housing Project, ND Center for Persons with Disabilities*

*Scott Burlingam, Executive Director, Independence Inc*

- **Supporting a Vibrant Local Business Climate**

The cultivation of a strong business climate via systematic, comprehensive recruitment and retention programs that focus on customer satisfaction, create satisfied business owners and managers who can be effective leaders for your community. The importance of appointed and elected city leaders in creating this positive and strong business climate cannot be underestimated. This panel will cover some of the many issues that city leaders should be aware of as they develop their local economic development efforts.

*Brad Barth, Executive Director, Forward Devils Lake Corporation*

*Keith Lund, President & CEO, Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation*  
*Matthew Marshall, Economic Development Administrator, Minnkota Power Cooperative*

- **Investing in Infrastructure**

According to the Reason Foundation, North Dakota leads the country in highway performance and cost-effectiveness. Hear from Director Panos about the upcoming legislative session and how the ND Department of Transportation is working strategically to address transportation needs across North Dakota.

*Jen Turnbow, Deputy Director for Planning, ND Department of Transportation*

- **Workforce: Engage, Invite and Inspire**

The current labor market presents challenges for all employers and there isn't a one-size-fits all solution to solve this issue affecting every community statewide. With more and more businesses opening or coming to North Dakota every day, we need more people, but how do you get those people to come to your community to fill the open jobs? Join Pat as he explains his approach to community building and how together we can all make a difference.

*Pat Bertagnoli, Executive Director, Job Service ND*

- **Behavioral Health Transformation**

Learn how communities can engage in behavioral health. Also, get an update on the legislative merger of the ND Department of Health and the ND Department of Human Services to form the ND Department of Health and Human Services.

*Pam Sagness, Behavioral Health Executive Director, ND Department of Health and Human Services*

4:15 – 5:00 pm

Exhibits and Eats

5:10 - 6:00 pm

**General Session**

Small Cities Big Ideas

This session is an opportunity for elected and appointed small city representatives to discuss issues common to smaller cities. Come prepared to share your city's issues, offer ideas and suggestions and share your success stories. The conversation will be led by conference participants and League staff will be available to answer questions and provide legal background.

6:00 -7:00 pm

**Social**

**Saturday, September 24, 2022**

7:30- 8:00 am

Breakfast Buffet

- 8:00 – 8:45 am **NDLC Annual Business Meeting**
- 8:45 – 9:15 am **General Session**  
Governor Doug Burgum
- 9:30 – 10:15 am **General Session**  
**Legislative Panel – 2023 Legislative Session Hot Topics**  
Join Matt Gardner in a discussion with legislators on the hot topics for the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session.  
*Senator Curt Kreun*  
*Senator Ronald Sorvaag*  
*Representative Mike Lefor*  
*Matt Gardner, Executive Director, ND League of Cities*
- 10:30 – 11:20 am **Concurrent Sessions**
- **Did You Really Mean to Agree to That?**  
This session will include an overview of what constitutes a contract, the parties to a contract, authority to sign and troublesome contract provisions that a city may encounter.  
*Howard Swanson, Partner, Swanson & Warcup, Ltd.*
  - **2022 Revenue Projections**  
Join the Director of the ND Office of Management & Budget who will provide an update on the state's budget projections including state aid distribution, Prairie Dog and Legacy Fund.  
*Joe Morrissette, Director, ND Office of Management & Budget*
  - **Workforce Safety & Insurance**  
Join representatives from Workforce Safety & Insurance (WSI) to learn how premium rates are calculated and their safety programs that cities can access.  
*Tisha McParland, Loss Control Specialist, Workforce Safety & Insurance*  
*Nicole Spoor, Employer Compliance Specialist, Workforce Safety & Insurance*
  - **Data Centers – The Next BIG Thing**  
Data centers are coming to North Dakota. Learn from experts about how to successfully bring one to your city and the things you need to consider along the way.  
*Daniel Nairn, Senior Planner, City of Bismarck*  
*Christopher Waltz, Manager, Sales and Implementation, Otter Tail Power Company*  
*Shawn Wenko, Executive Director, Williston Economic Development*

11:30 am – 12:20 pm

### **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Effective Meetings**

Everyone wants more effective meetings. This session will cover the use of parliamentary procedures and meetings agendas to ensure business is conducted in an orderly manner. The session will also include techniques to make sure that all meeting participants feel empowered to participate in the meeting and techniques to handle disruptive meeting participants or attendees.

*Macine Lukach, Extension Program Coordinator, Leadership and Community Development, NDSU Extension*

- **What's New in the UAS Ecosystem**

Join the Executive Director of the Northern Plains UAS Test Site who will share what advancements North Dakota is making in the world of Unmanned Aerial Systems.

*Trevor Woods, Executive Director, Northern Plains UAS Test Site*

- **Geographic Roadway Inventory Tool (GRIT)**

Brad Wentz and the UGPTI team developed a road and bridge asset inventory for local governments called GRIT. As a web application based on Google maps, this tool is very intuitive and easy to use requiring minimal staff training or technical expertise. Brad will focus on the types of inventory data available in GRIT and how this data can be used to feed your city's planning and maintenance efforts.

*Brad Wentz, Program Director, Department of Transportation Support Center, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute*

- **Future of Energy in ND**

The Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) is a global leader in researching and developing technologies that make the energy we use and produce more efficient and environmentally friendly. Utilizing decades of energy research, we are a driving force for innovation and new opportunities in the energy industry. Josh will discuss energy opportunities in North Dakota and how the EERC is working with state leaders to power North Dakota's energy future.

*Tom Erickson, Chief Operating Officer, Energy & Environmental Research Center*

- **Bismarck Citizen Academy**

The Bismarck Citizen Academy is designed to broaden knowledge of city operations and enhance understanding of ongoing efforts to increase connectivity between residents and the community. Participants learn about the many facets of city government, both its internal structure and external impacts. Join Jason to learn more about this program and how it might work for your city.

*Jason Tomanek, Assistant City Administrator, Bismarck*

12:30 – 2:00 pm

### **Awards Luncheon**