

League Link

A Newsletter of [The Pennsylvania Municipal League](#)



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May 2023



Executive Director's Report



Advocacy Action

House Passes Expansive Unfunded Mandates for Local Government

Legislation that would place large unfunded mandates on local governments swiftly and easily passed the House on May 2 with bipartisan support.

[House Bill 299](#) would establish the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act implementing OSHA standards for public employers. As public employers, municipalities, the Commonwealth and non-profits would all be impacted by these new standards and administrative processes.

[House Bill 930](#) would expand permanent disfigurement benefits under the Workers' Compensation Law, allowing an employee to claim permanent disfigurement anywhere on their body, not just the head, face or neck. This legislation will increase insurance premiums, litigation and place a monetary value on all injury and surgery scarring.

The League opposes these bills, as they will result in new and expensive unfunded mandates on municipalities; and ultimately, taxpayer dollars will pay for the mandates. Both bills upend the current standards and regulations local governments have successfully been operating under for decades, straining municipalities both financially and administratively.

The League actively opposed both bills and sent letters (HB 299 [letter](#), HB 930 [letter](#)) to the House. We will continue to oppose these bills as they move to the Senate. We encourage you to [reach out to your Senator](#) to express the detrimental fiscal impact this legislation would have on local governments.

Treasury Portal Remains Open For Late ARPA Report Filers

ARPA Project and Expenditure Reports were due April 30; however, the U.S. Department of Treasury will keep its portal open for at least 60 days to accommodate late filers. Treasury strongly urges all NEUs to complete their filings as soon as possible.

Treasury Resources:

- For help from the U.S. Treasury regarding ARPA reporting questions, contact the help desk at SLFRF@treasury.gov or call [\(844\) 529-9527](tel:(844)529-9527).
- Additional self-help resources for completing a report can be [found here](#).
- Finally, a new, simplified video on how to report for smaller communities produced by the U.S. Department of Treasury can be [accessed here](#). This video came from NLC's urging of Treasury to make the process simpler for the smallest communities with the least capacity.

NLC Resources:

- NLC posted a blog [here](#) that provides a quick and simple 10-minute instructional video on how to file an ARPA report using 6.1, revenue replacement, which most NEUs will be doing.
- NLC's step-by-step walk-through in PowerPoint slide format of everything a community needs to know to file a report. [The slides can be accessed here](#).

Please find the below information from the Governor's Office

[Governor Shapiro's Office Regional Directors](#)

[Governor's Office Regional Map and Regional Directors' counties that they cover](#)

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE

INTERNET FOR ALL: CONNECTING THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

JULY 13, 2023 | STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA

This day long event will bring together local governments, community leaders, industry, state and federal representatives, and other partners from around the state to learn about and discuss key programs that are aimed at expanding broadband infrastructure and promoting digital equity for our residents.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO


Individuals with disabilities requiring an accommodation to attend this event should contact Julia Pulidindi at jpulidindi@nta.gov by June 30.

League's Latest

Click Here! Municipal Leadership Summit Registration is Now Open!!

Information on sponsorship, exclusive exhibiting and advertising is now available. The League is looking forward to your company's participation! The Schuettler Center donation portal for the silent auction is also now live for any cash or gift certificate donations.

Municipal Leadership Summit

BETHLEHEM  OCTOBER 5-8, 2023



Topics To Include: *(subject to change)*

- Sanitary System - New Lawsuits Between Municipalities
- Fire and Borough Interaction and Growth
- Creating Affordable Housing for Your Community
- Working Together Between Manager and Elected Officials
- Hiring Law Enforcement and Retention
- Long-Term Regional Planning



Fairview Park Playground Build

October 2-4



Wind Creek Bethlehem
77 Wind Creek Blvd.
Bethlehem, PA 18015

REGISTER NOW at:

[PML.org/municipal-leadership-summit](https://www.pml.org/municipal-leadership-summit)

REMINDER: We Need Your Input To Inform Our Strategic Plan – The League is currently creating a multi-year strategic plan. A critical step is understanding the needs and perspectives of elected and appointed officials and staff from our member municipalities. To that end, we're conducting a strategic assessment of the roles we fill for municipalities. While the survey will only take about 5 minutes, the results will play an integral role in our decision-making. Thank you to those who have already filled out the survey. If you haven't had a chance to respond to the email sent on May 12, please click on the following link to participate: <https://www.research.net/r/PALeagueMbr2023>. We greatly appreciate your input!

Please welcome our newest members to The League – [Northampton Township](#), Bucks County and [The City of Meadville](#), Crawford County. Welcome aboard!

Please welcome our newest Business Leaders Network member – [Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz \(BSSF\)](#) is a premier advisory firm providing accounting, assurance, tax and consulting services across the Mid-Atlantic region. BSSF has worked with municipalities and other governmental entities for over 30 years. We realize the lack of experienced accountants has exposed many municipalities to the risk of lower credit ratings and makes it difficult to manage finances effectively. Supplementing your accounting resources or outsourcing accounting services to experienced accountants like BSSF can yield multiple benefits including improved financial reporting and management. Contact BSSF today at the above website to learn more about their services. Welcome aboard!

We wrapped up our Spring District Meetings on May 2 and wanted to thank all of our wonderful League members for a great turnout and informative member presentations centered around our ENVISION 2032 topics of concern! [The presentations can be viewed on our website here](#) and [photo albums are posted on Facebook](#).

Upcoming PATH Classes: Proper Planning to Prepare Successful Grant Applications (May 30 and June 28, 1-4 p.m.) – Successful grant writers develop ideas, recognize grant writing as a team effort, conduct proper research and planning efforts prior to submission, and understand the language needed for funding agencies. Learn how to plan and develop successful grant applications. Applying to local, state, federal, and foundation grants; **Fiscal Management Strategies for Local Government Officials** (June 7-9, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.) – Managing the fiscal affairs of a municipality is a daunting task regardless of whether you are new to the game or have been at it for years. This course was developed to provide up-to-date information and guidance that will assist elected and appointed municipal officials; **Developing and Managing Your Municipal Budget** (June 12-13, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.) – This virtual training course is designed to help municipal officials understand key concepts of financing, including capital budgeting, cash flow, and capitalization so that they can apply them to their community and municipal operations. Demonstrate the differences between capital expenditures and operating expenses and explain the concept of present value; **Bookkeeping and Accounting Basics** (June 26-27, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.) – Introduction to fund accounting using accounting basics such as assets, liabilities and fund equity. Topics include reviewing double-entry bookkeeping, monthly accounting cycles, realistic accounting transactions, vouchers, account reconciliation and related computer software.

The Municipal Job Junction+ (MJJ+) is a League service program that is FREE to League members and provides available positions open within local government entities. It also provides classified advertising for RFPs, used office equipment, vehicles, heavy equipment, and other items that an entity may be selling. Be sure to take a look at all of our job postings and contact Britton Kosier at bkosier@pml.org to post your job openings for free!

Be sure to fill out our [ARPA Investment Tracker](#) so we can share the great ways you are using your ARPA dollars with all members. Thank you!

We have compiled a list of articles for [League member actions regarding ARPA funding](#). We will continue to update this list as more information becomes available.

For more information, see our [News & Announcements and newsfeed](#) on our homepage.

See/click on the below flyer for upcoming PCCA Classes!

2023 Upcoming Schedule:

To see full class descriptions and prices, [CLICK HERE!!](#)



May 26th

2023 BCO Update (2 CEUs)
9am-11pm, Virtual

May 30th

2018 IRC Solar Photovoltaic Provisions (3 CEUs)
8:30am-12pm, Virtual

May 31st

Update Enforcing the International Fire Code to the 2018 Edition (3 CEUs)
8:30am-12pm, Virtual

June 2nd

2018 Residential Building Update (3 CEUs)
8:30am-12pm, Virtual

June 5th

Residential Mechanical Update (3 CEUs)
8:30am-12pm, Virtual

June 6th-9th

Floodplain G-284: Advanced Floodplain Concepts (12 CECs for CFMs, 24 Uniform Construction Code CEU)
8am-4:30pm, In-Person, Butler County

June 9th

New BCO Lunch and Learn (1 CEU)

"How does the UCC apply to temporary tents and permanent buildings for consumer fireworks?"

11am-12pm, Virtual

June 12th-15th

BCO 101: Building Code Official Certification Academy (18 CEUs)
8:30am - 4pm, In-Person, Mechanicsburg, PA

June 20th

Residential Energy in PA
8:30am-1pm

June 26th

ACC 103 For Existing Buildings (6 CEUs)
8:30am-3pm, Virtual

Resource Roundup

We are saddened by the passing of former Mayor George Hood from Indiana Borough. Please see [this article](#) highlighting his long service to his community. Mayor Hood was active in The League and served for many years on our Board of Directors. He was a tremendous supporter of The League and an advocate for his community and all of local government. He will be fondly missed. We wish his family and the Indiana Borough community our heartfelt sympathies and hope that his passing will be a poignant reminder that service above self is undoubtedly the greatest work of any life. Rest peacefully, Mayor Hood. [Mayor George E. Hood Obituary](#).

[500+ Cities Call on Congress to Stop Rail's Risky Business Endangering their Communities](#) — In a letter to Congress led by NLC's Small Cities Council, more than 150 mayors, city council members and other

local leaders from cities, towns and villages urged Congress to pass the bipartisan S.576, the Railway Safety Act of 2023.

Infrastructure Grant Help from the National League of Cities – NLC and the Local Infrastructure Hub offer bootcamps for local governments with 150,000 or fewer residents. Building on the seven bootcamps already delivered to municipalities, NLC will host a new bootcamp series beginning in June focused on additional funding opportunities made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. [Click here](#) to learn more about the upcoming five bootcamps that are open for registration and programming which will run through Summer 2023.

[PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program NOFO Available Now](#) – USDOT announced the **PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program NOFO**. Applications are due **August 18, 2023**. For more info, please visit [Discretionary – PROTECT – Environment – FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#). The PROTECT Formula and Discretionary Grant programs aim to plan for and strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through formula and competitive discretionary grants.

[NLC's Hispanic Elected Local Officials \(HELO\) Summer Conference](#) – This summer, the National League of Cities' Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO) Constituency Group will host its annual summer conference in the beautiful and historic Coral Gables, Florida, **May 24-27, 2023**.

The National League of Cities' National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) Constituency Group will host its annual Summer Conference in Jackson, MS, June 13-16. This year's theme, "SEE Black (Safety · Education · Economics)," will drive the convening topics, workshops, discussions, and mobile tours, providing an opportunity for national and statewide leaders to come together and explore solutions to critical challenges facing our Black and African American communities. [Learn More Here](#)

[Register to Learn More About New \\$16 Million Pollution Prevention Grant Opportunities](#) – These grants are made possible by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and are a critical component of the Biden-Harris Administration's [Justice40 Initiative](#).

[Celebrate Park & Recreation Professionals Day in July With This Fun Way To Bring Your Community Together To Show Their Good Gratitude](#) – On July 21, communities across the commonwealth will celebrate the **Fifth Annual Pennsylvania Park & Recreation Professionals Day (PRP Day)**. This year, the Pennsylvania Park & Recreation Society ([PRPS](#)) is sharing a fun way for communities across Pennsylvania to celebrate: a *good Gratitude campaign* that invites local citizens and leaders to share the reasons they love their local park and rec facilities and the folks who keep these facilities safe, clean and inviting.

[ReImagine Appalachia Community Benefits Summit](#) – (**May 23 and 25**) ReImagine Appalachia is hosting a landmark "**Community Benefits Summit**" as partners highlight a vital opportunity that federal investment could bring to our region. They are thrilled to share their *nearly* final agenda!

[National Fitness Campaign](#) (NFC)

Announced \$300,000 in grant funding for up to 10 communities in the state of Pennsylvania for 2024. This funding will be allocated to support municipalities across the state to join the growing NFC wellness campaign building healthy infrastructure for smart cities and schools of the future.

The program is designed to bring world-class healthy infrastructure to public spaces, along with consulting, funding and community programming support. Please watch [NFC's 3-minute video](#) describing the program.

Funding is now available for 2024 site partners on a first come first serve basis so we encourage those interested to apply as soon as possible. The briefing is a 30-minute Zoom call which will qualify your community for a feasibility study and grant application.

Typically, the briefings with NFC require the Mayor, Manager and/or City/County Administrator to qualify for funding. If you would like to receive a briefing to learn more about the program and how to qualify, please fill out the short contact form at [nationalfitnesscampaign.com](#).



Remember, you can access all archived editions of The League Link as well as other member publications, forms and resources in your [Member Dashboard](#).

Pennsylvania Municipal League

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