



Municipal Reporter



EQUITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

"We get stronger by working together."





Values

Local Governance

We believe that local authority and autonomy are central to effective municipal government and we are fully committed to their protection, preservation and advancement.

Non-Partisan

We welcome and respect the perspectives of all elected and appointed officials without regard to their political affiliation.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

We value the diversity of our members and the people they serve, and are dedicated to ensuring equal respect, recognition, fairness, and access to opportunity for everyone.

Leadership

We understand that highly-competent current and future local leaders are vital and we proactively support their ongoing development.

Service

We listen to our members and ensure that their priorities, needs and satisfaction drive what we do.

Collaboration

We work to enhance all municipalities through alliances with public entities, organizations, businesses and educational institutions.

Innovation

We embrace the need to find and develop new ideas and solutions to help local governments increase their adaptability, effectiveness and impact.

Fiscal Integrity

We believe that accountability, transparency and the responsible management of resources are essential for both our association and local government.





Municipal Reporter



Pennsylvania Municipal League

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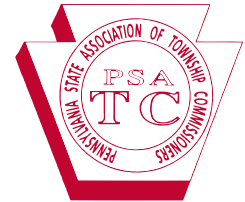
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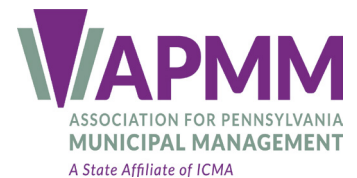
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The Pennsylvania Municipal League
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Our Mission

To strengthen, empower and advocate for effective local government.

The League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1900 as an advocate for Pennsylvania's 3rd class cities. Today, The League represents participating Pennsylvania cities, boroughs, townships and home rule communities that all share The League's municipal policy interests. Our Board of Directors oversees the administration of a wide array of municipal services including legislative advocacy (on both the state and federal levels), publications designed to educate and inform, education and training certification programs, membership research and inquiries, programs, and group insurance trusts.

We are continually monitoring the needs of our members and are committed to providing the Commonwealth's municipalities with cost-effective programs and services required to meet the distinct needs of their communities.

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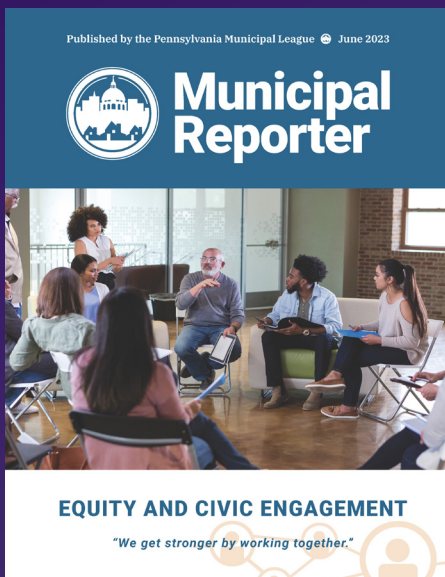
Original articles on subjects of interest to municipal officials are welcome, but subject to review by editorial staff. The publisher has the right to reject unsuitable advertising.

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Municipal Leadership Summit

BETHLEHEM  OCTOBER 5-8, 2023



Pennsylvania Municipal League



#MunicipalLeadershipSummit23

Topics To Include: *(subject to change)*

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



Fairview Park Playground Build

October 2-4

REGISTER NOW at:

PML.org/municipal-leadership-summit



Mark Your Calendar

Virtual League Board of Directors' Meeting
July 25

U-COMP Board of Trustees' Meeting
August 23-25

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, Farmington

PennPRIME Subcommittee Meetings and Dinner
September 21
Hotel Hershey

PennPRIME Board of Trustees' Meeting
September 22
Hotel Hershey

ICMA Annual Conference
September 30 - October 4
Austin/Travis County, TX

Fairview Park Playground Build
October 2-4
Fairview Park Bethlehem

Municipal Leadership Summit
October 5-8
Wind Creek Bethlehem



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The League President's Message



MICHAEL LOMBARDO
MAYOR
CITY OF PITSTON



As we progress into the third quarter of 2023, there is much work to be accomplished and we are actively planning for this year's Municipal Leadership Summit in beautiful Bethlehem. We will continue to be guided by The League's mission to strengthen, empower and advocate for effective local government in an inclusive, non-partisan manner as we initiate the goals outlined in our ENVISION 2032 Forum. Our legislative priorities for this year are based on three categories – Public Safety, Municipal Finance, and Community Development and Infrastructure. We continue to advocate for use of local radar by municipal police and many issues related to revitalization and blight remediation.

Membership in The League provides a forum for many important discussions and this issue's topic of Equity and Civic Engagement is timely and important. As municipal leaders, it is important for us to ensure that all individuals are treated fairly and impartially. This idea is one of the tenets that our great country was built upon. Civic engagement is extremely relevant at this point in our history when politics have become so extreme. Many individuals are disenfranchised and as a result, we are seeing low levels of election participation and elected offices with no candidates seeking election. I believe that here at the local level we can demonstrate effective non-partisan solutions and the value of working together. This is a responsibility we all must commit to. Together, much is possible. We must focus and engage in effective leadership; model effective problem solving and demonstrate civil and respectful disagreement, which is possible. The League's leadership and technical staff remain available to assist you in this effort and connect you with other municipalities that have implemented successful equity policies and strategies for improved civic engagement.

As municipal staff and leaders, we continue to work our way through new challenges, specifically in terms of affordable housing: I am certain that with continued collaboration and open communication we can successfully meet these challenges. As local elected officials, we need to demonstrate that good leadership is most important and ultimately has nothing to do with politics or political party. Let's be the example as we build our communities from the ground up and strengthen our Commonwealth.

I continue to challenge each of you to actively engage and respectfully ask that each of you commit to bringing one new member to The League. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming forums, trainings and the Annual Summit. Together, we can grow our influence and impact.

Finally, I look forward to continuing working with The League's Executive Director John Brenner and the entire talented staff of our Pennsylvania Municipal League.

Best Regards,

Michael A. Lombardo
Mayor, City of Pittston

The League Executive Director's Message

Back in the 1980s – yes, I am old enough to make that reference – an aging B-rated Hollywood actor was President, Madonna was blaring from our Walkman cassette players and new Coke just didn't quite quench our thirst. I found myself on a school bus headed to the State Capitol building for the Rural Electric Youth Tour. A few high school students were selected from areas all over our state covered by rural electric cooperatives to get a firsthand view of civic engagement. Meeting other student council type nerds as we sat in the chairs of our State Representatives was awe inspiring. Our State Senators greeted us as did the Governor. We walked the hallowed hallways, took in the mahogany offices, and marveled at the Mercer floor tiles and depictions of life and history of Pennsylvania and its people.

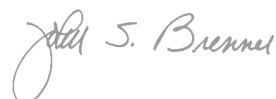
After a few days, we got back on our school bus and drove down the interstate highway to Washington D.C. to tour the U.S. Capitol. We met our U.S. Senators John Heinz and Arlen Specter. My Congressman, Bill Goodling, gave us a personal tour and a ride in the underground Capitol subway "people mover." We learned how a bill becomes a law and how we, as citizens, could impact the decisions made at the state and federal levels. As good as it was reading books and taking classes about civics and government, there was something special about meeting the people we elect to work on our behalf and seeing the incredible places in which they make these decisions that impact our lives. We weren't on the sidelines learning, we were engaged.

In this issue of the Municipal Reporter, we focus on the importance of equity and civic engagement. We invite you to think about the work you are doing in your municipality. What specific steps has your city or borough council, board of supervisors or commissioners taken recently to engage residents and stakeholders or to help give your neighbors the chance to succeed?

"Equality is treating everyone the same. Equity is taking differences into account, so everyone has a chance to succeed." Author Jodi Picoult's take on equity seems to get it right. As terms are often battered about these days, we tend to lose sight of their real meaning and practicality. Here in our Commonwealth, Norristown, Doylestown, St. Marys, Upper Chichester Township, Allentown and Lancaster are examples highlighted in The League's signature publication, ENVISION 2032. Each community is making a meaningful impact to advance equity and civic engagement.

If your community has an innovative equity and civic engagement example that you would like to share, please let us know and we will share it with our members and partners on The League website. Remember Margaret Mead, born in Philadelphia and raised in Doylestown once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Yours in Service,



John S. Brenner



[JOHN BRENNER](#)



Executive Director's Video Report



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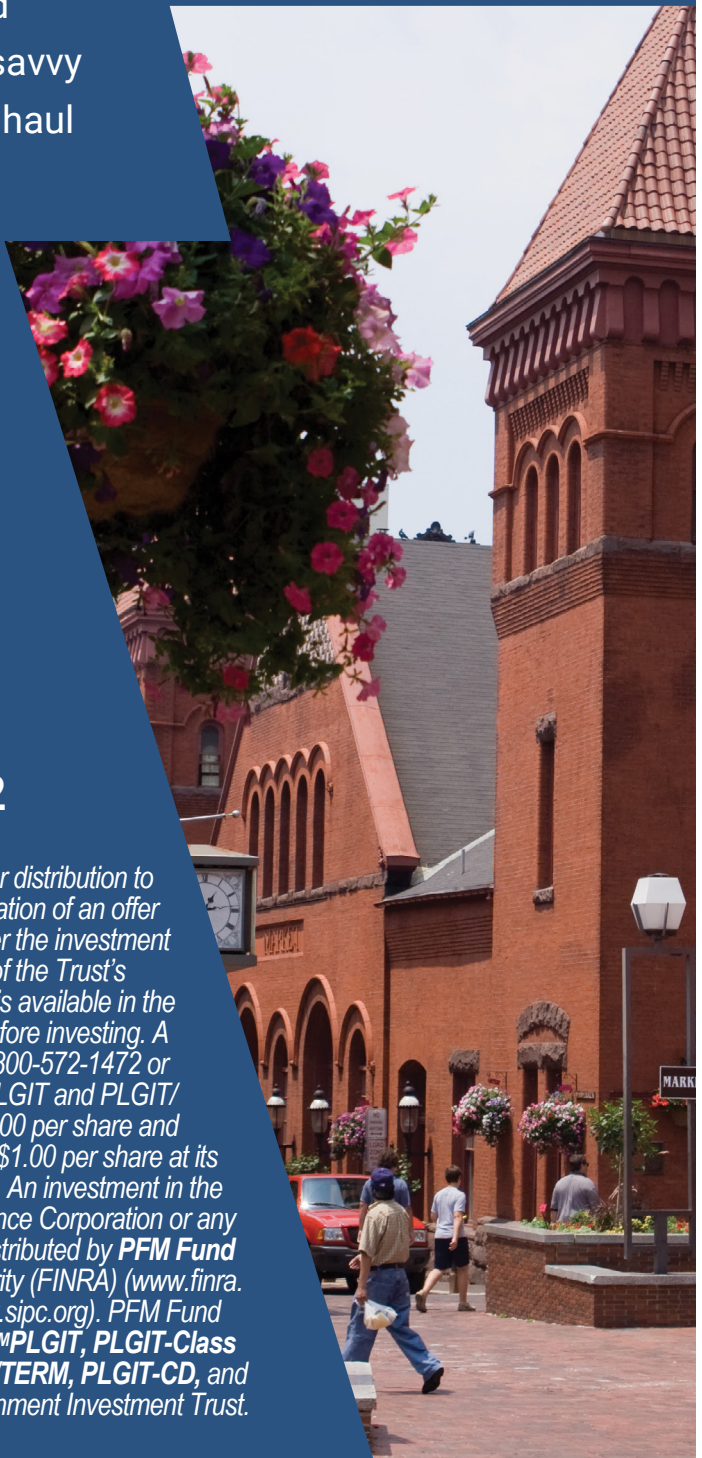
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Inside The League



ABE AMORÓS
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -
OPERATIONS

It's been quite a year at The League under Operations, and we continue making progress on several major initiatives that will greatly benefit our members.

The League has been invited to apply for a major grant under Lever for Change, an organization in Philadelphia dedicated to empowering underserved and underrepresented communities, which will be used to establish a solid Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) initiative at The League. We continue collaborating with Venus Ricks, formerly of the Governor's Office of Advocacy and Reform, on this endeavor. If successful, we will take a hard look at starting in the fall.

Our executive director, John Brenner, and I also recently met with Dr. Larry Terry, Vice President of Outreach at Penn State to discuss providing additional resources to elected and appointed officials along with best practices on how to perform their roles even more efficiently. Stay tuned for progress reports in our subsequent publications.

Internally, The League has created a Wellness Committee that will examine opportunities for personal enrichment of its employees while maximizing newly cleared space in our basement that will allow for exercise equipment and a quiet room to pause, reflect and regenerate. We value our employees and recognize how hard they work to bring you the very best in training and services.

We hope that you can also take time out of your busy schedules to refresh and reflect on all the positive and constructive initiatives within your own municipalities that not only address their needs but bring people together.

From Inside The League,

Abe Amorós

Abe Amorós

Q&A with League Leader

Matt Tuerk
Mayor
City of Allentown
Allentown Representative



This Q&A feature section of the Municipal Reporter highlights an individual local leader who has been involved and engaged with their community and The League.



Pennsylvania Municipal
League

Q: Mayor, thank you for your service as mayor of Allentown. How did you get involved in local government?

My very first experience in local government was serving on the Allentown Shade Tree Commission. I'm a big fan of trees and the positive impact that they have on neighborhoods. During that time, I worked in a non-profit for economic development organizations. Economic development relies on quality local leadership to succeed in attracting jobs and investment to a region, so I found myself often thinking about how I could help Allentown by getting more involved.

Q: What leadership advice do you have for other local leaders?

Be present. Listen. Use data to drive decision making. Consult with your team before making big decisions. Get eight hours of sleep per night.

Q: What has been your most rewarding experience as a municipal official?

Being Mayor of Allentown means being the CEO of an 800-person company that provides a wide array of services to 125,000 residents and tens of thousands of daily visitors. By using that frame, I've been able to affirm to employees that they matter, and seeing the impact on their self-worth has been huge. Similarly, being a visible and accessible leader to our residents has begun to rebuild trust in government at a critically important time.

Q: What has been the greatest challenge in your position?

Maintaining balance. I try every day to use every minute I have to serve our residents, which can be unfair to three incredibly important Allentown stakeholders: my wife Karen, and my kids Mel and Margot. They're rooting me on because they know how much service matters to me. At the end of a long day, they're there for me. And the love means a lot.

Q: Thank you for serving on The League Board as the Allentown Representative. How has your involvement with The League helped you and your community?

Being able to draw on the collective wisdom of municipal leaders from across decades of service in the Commonwealth has been the greatest benefit of being involved with The League. We're all facing complex challenges in our communities, and I think that we can only address those issues with collective action. If Mayor Sorace or Mayor Cagnetti have been through something that we're struggling with in Allentown, I know that I can count on them to help me out.

Q: What advice do you have for people considering municipal government as a career?

Don't be afraid to start small. The Mayor of Allentown started out as a shade tree commissioner. Our Director of Public Works started out as a maintenance worker. Our Chief of Police started out as a patrolman. Our Equity and Inclusion Coordinator started out as a part-time clerk.

Q: As a proud mayor, what would you say are some of Allentown's greatest attributes?

Allentown is full of resilient, brave, passionate people. We're proud of what we've accomplished, and we can't be kept down. Yes, we have a phenomenal parks system, and we're the cultural center of the Lehigh Valley, but I think our greatest attribute is our ability to host a person's second act. The future of this great country is being written in Allentown.

Q: What programs or practices has Allentown implemented to address this edition's topic of "Equity and Civic Engagement?"

We recently hired Lucinda Wright as our equity and inclusion coordinator responsible for nurturing a welcoming environment across our City's departments and for ensuring the fair delivery of City services. She's part of a Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative-supported Innovation Team, focused on creative solutions to engage our residents in the life of Allentown. We're working to build our stakeholders' connection to this great city through block parties, outreach to small businesses, and meeting our neighbors where they are. It sounds simple, but we're focused on one big thing that's been missing for a while: listening. □



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Equity and Civic Engagement



This year the *Municipal Reporter* is covering the issues of highest concern that municipal leaders identified during The League’s [ENVISION 2032 initiative](#), which included a broad survey and statewide forums. We are sharing articles and information relating to these very important topics of concern – Infrastructure, Municipal Finance, Equity and Civic Engagement, Community Development, Sustainability, Public Health & Safety, and Economic Vitality.

This June edition, our third issue this year, covers the topic of Equity and Civic Engagement.

As noted in our [ENVISION 2032 publication](#):

“We get stronger by working together.”

Municipal leaders place a high value on residents taking an active role in their communities. When residents are informed and understand what their local government does, they are better able to access available services, contribute ideas, make their voices heard, and see the value of their tax dollars

Please see an excerpt on Equity and Civic Engagement from ENVISION 2032 on the following two pages. For more information and municipal actions, check out our [ENVISION 2032 publication](#).



*Charting the Future for
Pennsylvania’s Municipalities*



EQUITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

“We get stronger by working together.”

Municipal leaders place a high value on residents taking an active role in their communities. When residents are informed and understand what their local government does, they are better able to access available services, contribute ideas, make their voices heard, and see the value of their tax dollars.

The Commonwealth’s demographics continue to evolve and point to a future that will present both opportunities and challenges. The Pennsylvania State Data Center projects that, by the end of the decade, the percentage of young people will decline somewhat, making it even more essential to draw them into active civic participation so they become knowledgeable voters and future leaders.

PSDC also reports that from 2010 to 2021, Pennsylvania’s ethnic diversity has increased, with the percentage of indigenous and people of color growing from 20% to 25%, led primarily by the Hispanic population and proportionately more Asian and Black residents. This shift is projected to continue and underscores the importance of finding common ground and building solid connections among diverse community members.

ENVISION Forum participants shared powerful examples of community planning and problem-solving informed and guided by individuals and groups with diverse backgrounds and life experiences. They universally agreed that municipalities of all types and sizes benefit when their residents, businesses, and other community stakeholders actively participate in building healthy, thriving places for everyone to live, work, and play.

TODAY’S REALITIES

Across Pennsylvania, municipalities are taking steps to advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in their communities. The events of the past several years raised awareness throughout the nation about systemic racism and moved DEI to the forefront. Increasingly, local governments are committing to undertaking honest and thoughtful reviews of their policies, procedures, and operations and making substantive changes to eliminate racial disparities, heal racial divisions, and build more equitable communities.

Most municipalities are actively addressing equity and civic engagement. The League’s recent survey revealed that:

- 82% actively involve residents in their municipality’s decisions and activities.
- 64% are helping build relationships and connections among residents from diverse ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic groups.

- 63% embed DEI as core principles in their community’s policies and operations.
- 59% are building awareness and understanding among residents regarding civic issues, rights, and responsibilities.

A perennial question is taking on new urgency: How to engage young people? By 2032, Gen X will be on center stage, and the entire Baby Boomer generation will have passed into retirement age. Accordingly, ENVISION Forum participants underscored the importance of engaging Millennials, Gen Z, and Gen Alpha, whose generational era began in 2010, in local governing, planning, and problem-solving. Doing so means that civic engagement and outreach strategies must be adjusted, and new methods developed to better align with how different age cohorts consume information, communicate and interact.

MOVING FORWARD

Municipal leaders who participated in the ENVISION Forums expressed a strong desire to invest in and gain the benefits of an engaged, diverse populace. Their plans include:

- Increasing the use of multiple languages to reflect those spoken in their communities.
- Enhancing public communication, including using multiple channels to reach different age and ethnic groups.
- Deepening their own efforts to create fair and equitable workplaces.
- Modeling access and consistent quality in service delivery.
- Helping to foster a climate of DEI by sponsoring programs that celebrate diversity, encourage honest conversations, and share proven practices that strengthen communities.
- Taking on a more significant role in stimulating youth engagement and preparing future leaders – possibly through a League-developed program.

Structural changes are already underway. Numerous municipalities have established dedicated municipal positions for civic engagement, and several have formed Human Relations Commissions with representation from all genders, races, ages, and socioeconomic groups, to ensure full implementation of directives within their communities.

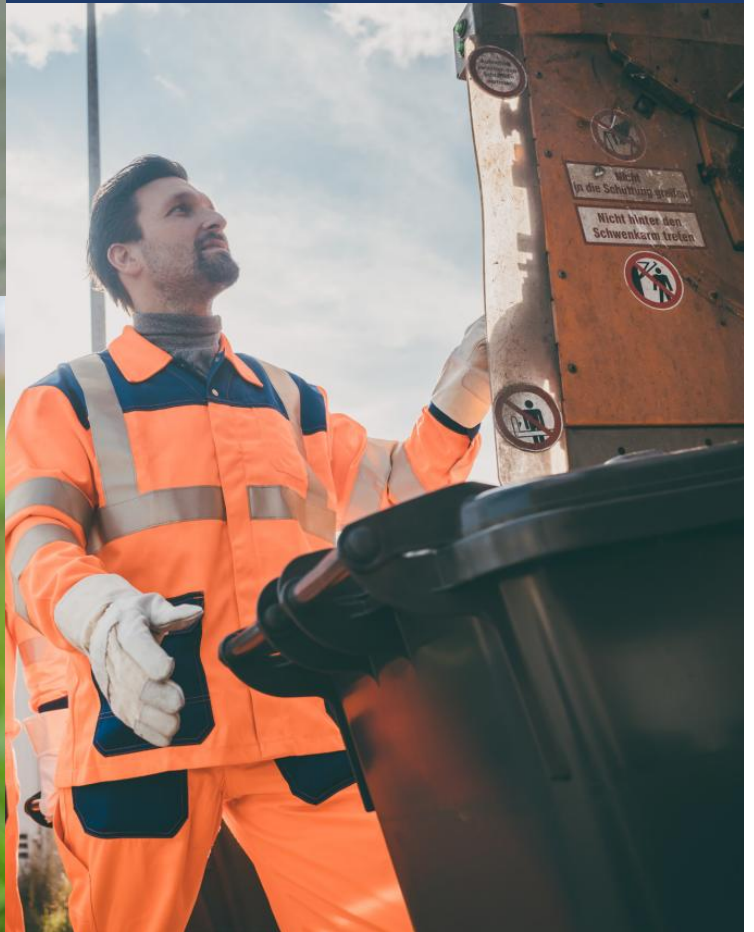
Municipalities are finding answers, guidance, and support for their DEI efforts from a growing body of resources, including the Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL) Program created by the National League of Cities.



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EQUITY and CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



BY ABRAHAM AMORÓS, LEAGUE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONS

Let me begin by stating what may already be obvious: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) work is hard. It not only challenges us to confront our own implicit biases but also puts many well-intentioned folks on the defensive. However, it doesn't need to be as such.

For many the first question is, "Why do we need DEIB training?"

Everyone remembers what happened with George Floyd, protests in Portland, social unrest throughout the nation and how political divisions are becoming increasingly sharper with every day that goes by. Engaging proactively in DEIB training allows municipal officials and managers to expand creativity in problem solving, better decision making, increased productivity, improved organizational reputation and enhanced employee recruitment that engages its current workforce and can retain it.

Every municipality is different. There is no cookie-cutter solution or model with a "one size fits all" approach. Typically, we tend to focus on demographics rather than individuals or bear down on what can be called "superficial" differences such as race, gender and sexual orientation just to

name a few. If the end goal is true equity, we must shift our focus to "human equity" which addresses inclusion.

Shifting to human equity not only stresses positive psychology and job/talent fit but also focuses on individuals rather than groups. It allows for talent differentiation, investment in high performers and provides opportunities to discover and highlight strengths of each employee. By analyzing what has been done in the past, seriously evaluating your current situation and planning on substantive changes for the future, municipal leaders can begin tackling DEIB credibly.

Using the right language in this space is also key. One of the worst things that can happen to an organization is thinking that decision makers will be labeled as "racists." Racism is "the belief that different races possess distinct characteristics, abilities or qualities, especially as to distinguish them as inferior or superior to one another." (Source: Oxford American Dictionary)

We also need to be aware of the systemic and institutional racism that plagues our society and has also filtered its way down to local government. According to the

publication Health Affairs, this form of racism "is pervasively and deeply embedded in and throughout systems or laws, written and unwritten policies, entrenched practices and established beliefs and attitudes that produce, condone, and perpetuate widespread unfair treatment of people of color." As we all know, it could also include women, people with different sexual orientations, ethnicities, and religion.

The presence of systemic racism also leads to microaggressions which can be defined as micro assaults, microinsults and microinvalidations. Since there isn't enough space in this article to touch upon all of them, The League is in the process of applying for a major grant that would allow us to work collaboratively with a DEIB professional with a proven track record on training municipal officials with DEIB.

As public servants, we value everyone as every person we represent in our communities has value. Stay tuned for more as we move forward! □



Tools for Local Government to Improve Opportunity for All

BY GINETTE WALKER VINSKI, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS,
SUSTAINABLE PITTSBURGH



Pennsylvania's local leaders have a profound role in advancing quality of life

and access to opportunities in their communities.

An equitable community is one in which all people have the ability to engage, prosper and reach their full potential. Municipalities that prioritize social equity build value for residents and businesses via approaches that support accessible main streets; ensure affordable housing for all; celebrate cultural diversity through tourism, public art, and community events; and more.

Sustainable Pittsburgh works to build a fundamentally equitable, resilient, healthy and prosperous region. In support of this mission, some of our work extends statewide. This article describes tools available for local governments in Pennsylvania to advance social equity in their communities. The tools lean on the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification (Sustainable PA) program, a voluntary performance recognition program managed by Sustainable Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania Municipal League. It provides strategies, resources,

and recognition to municipalities for improving quality of life and expanding opportunities for everyone.

Across the Commonwealth, over 120 municipalities have earned Sustainable PA certification, including 11 achieving the Platinum level. Certified sustainable municipalities are home to more than 3.4 million residents across the state. In 2016, Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) officially recognized the program; when a municipal government in Pennsylvania seeks funding from DCED they are asked to indicate their level of achievement in Sustainable PA.

Sustainable PA offers an online questionnaire for municipalities to baseline their current sustainability performance, as well as serving as an action plan for advancing their performance. There are more than 150 point-earning criteria to which municipal officials respond. Certifications range from Bronze through Platinum. Actions that impact social equity span topics covering housing, food access, transportation, public engagement, community planning, social programs, economic development and municipal staffing.

Examples of some of the point-earning actions available include:

Land use and housing

- The municipality has inclusionary housing incentives/requirements for housing developments or support for affordable housing.

Municipal operations

- Develop a diversity and inclusion vision and plan for the municipality. Required for Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

Public health and safety

- The municipality supports local food access by assessing access, planning, and/or supporting programs or policies that increase local food access. Select all that apply.

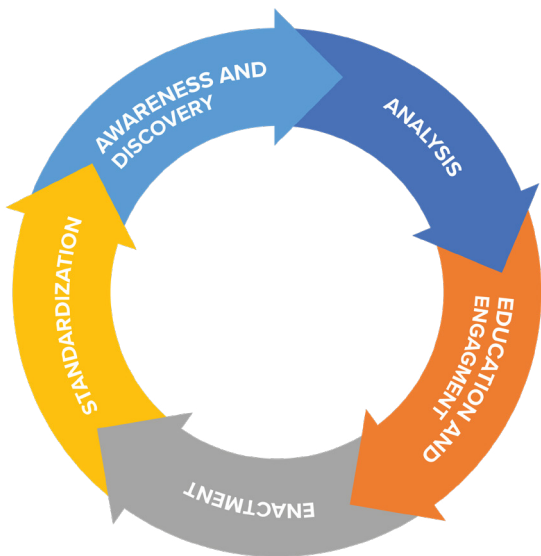
Strategic engagement and resilience

- The community has identified vulnerable populations in the community to prepare for emergencies and created a registry to check in on those citizens in case of an emergency.

A municipal staff person completing the questionnaire answers only those questions that are relevant; it's not necessary for a municipality to have answered in the affirmative for all questions. After all, sustainability is a process of continual improvement.

For a specific and tailored approach to equity, these types of actions are the basis for the focused recommendations in the Sustainable PA Municipal Equity Toolkit, produced in 2022. The Municipal Equity Toolkit is a resource for local government staff and elected officials in Pennsylvania when considering, developing, implementing and/or administering equity measures. It supports municipalities that are thinking about and/or working for an inclusive, fair, and just community in program and policy governance, administration, and outcomes. The Toolkit includes framing from the Equity in Action Toolkit, a national resource for municipalities to incorporate equity into policies and programs.

The Municipal Equity Toolkit offers municipalities the option to better understand how to make progress on social equity and take action at any point in the following cycle:



Many of the actions in the Toolkit translate to points that can be earned in a Sustainable PA certification.

Sustainability is a comprehensive, ongoing commitment to support healthy residents, build vibrant

communities and advance environmentally responsible practices. Social equity is a fundamental value of sustainable communities and workplaces.

Operational benefits of implementing sustainability policies and practices include an increased ability to attract and engage employees, cost savings due to efficiency improvements, and improved financial performance such as saving taxpayer dollars. In terms of community development and planning, a sustainability strategy can help communities attract residents and businesses, improve public health, and manage crises like flooding.

In addition to the Toolkit, Sustainable Pittsburgh recently hosted the inaugural Social Equity Sprint from November 2022 through February 2023. This competition helped businesses, organizations and municipalities jumpstart progress on social equity.

During the Social Equity Sprint, municipalities across Pennsylvania and businesses and organizations throughout southwestern Pennsylvania competed against peers and took point-earning actions in areas covering operations, hiring and promotions, accessibility, procurement, and more. Twenty-four participating organizations took more than 1,400 actions toward advancing social equity in their workplaces and communities.



The City of Scranton took the top score in the municipal category, with Millersburg Borough taking the second place spot. Congratulations to these and all the municipalities that participated.

The [Municipal Equity Toolkit](#) was produced by Sustainable Pittsburgh in collaboration with Pitt Public Health, The REACH program, and Western Pennsylvania Regional



Data Center (WPRDC). For readers based in Allegheny County, they can access additional data resources on health impacts, created by the Western PA Regional Data Center and the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Health Equity at the School of Public Health to help inform actions in the Toolkit: <https://profiles.wprdc.org/reach/demographics?>

For more information about Sustainable PA, visit SustainablePA.org. □



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NLC Service Line Warranty Program

by



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Do You Want to Save Tax Dollars, Protect Your Citizens and Employees?

SUBMITTED BY PAUL CORNELL, DIRECTOR OF TRUSTS

Do you have a Safety Committee? Is it State Certified? If not, why not? Safety Committees protect your employees, protect your residents, help avoid claims and in the end, save your municipality tax dollars. Municipalities as small as 12 total employees have established Safety Committees and become State Certified. PennPRIME helps its members establish Safety Committees through training and then helps them secure State Certification.

Establishing a Safety Committee is not difficult, but it does require a commitment to monthly meetings and routine self-inspections. Records of the inspections are kept and minutes of the committee's meetings must be maintained. There are standardized forms that can be used for inspections of facilities and parks. The Safety Committee meeting minutes can be very simple. After six months of continuous operation, submission to the state can be made for certification of the Safety Committee.

A trained and functioning Safety Committee fulfills several functions. Committees can identify problems, develop solutions and use their expertise to implement or recommend safety policies and/or improvements!

Safety Committee responsibilities may include:

- Developing safe work practices
- Crafting written safety programs
- Leading safety training
- Conducting workplace inspections and safety audits
- Reviewing incidents, near misses, accident investigation reports, claim summaries and loss analyses to prevent reoccurrences of similar incidents
- Proposing and creating safety checklists

- Promoting employees' interests in health and safety issues
- Providing a forum in which labor and management can discuss health and safety issues and collaborate on solutions

The foremost consideration is that State Certification of a Safety Committee can net a reduction in your insurance costs. Consider the benefits that your municipality can gain with a State Certified Safety Committee.

Information such as above is available to all PennPRIME Members. Please contact Paul Cornell, Director of Trusts, pcornell@pml.org / 717-236-9469, ext. *258, for additional information. □

Learn More About Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz (BSSF), Our Newest Member of The Business Leaders Network!



BSSF is a premier advisory firm providing accounting, assurance, tax and consulting services across the Mid-Atlantic region. Since their founding in 1990, BSSF has grown to become a successful, multi-faceted accounting firm with approximately 140 team members and offices in Camp Hill, Hanover and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as well as Frederick and Westminster, Maryland.

BSSF has worked with municipalities and other governmental entities for over 30 years. They 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
- Improved financial management
- Staying in compliance with federal, state & local regulatory requirements
- Staying informed on federal, state & local grant funding opportunities

Learn more about their services and contact them today at www.bssf.com.



Legislative Status Report STATE



PREPARED BY AMY STURGES, LEAGUE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – ADVOCACY – asturges@pml.org
KAITLIN ERRICKSON, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MANAGER – kerrickson@pml.org

All legislation can be found on the General Assembly's website:

legis.state.pa.us

Legislative Update

Cosponsor Memos Affecting Local Government

Local Tax Enabling Act Exemption for Campgrounds

Senator Chris Gebhard has announced his intention to introduce legislation amending the Local Tax Enabling Act to clarify that admission sales to recreational campgrounds are exempt from locally enacted amusement or admissions taxes.

Removes Municipal Millage Cap for Fire and EMS Services

Senator Frank Farry has announced his intention to introduce legislation amending the various municipal codes removing the millage caps for fire and EMS services and provide municipalities with the flexibility to determine the needed amount for these services.

Water, Sewer and Stormwater Infrastructure Fundings

Senator Lindsey Williams has announced her intention to introduce legislation allocating \$300 million to drinking water, sewer and stormwater programs, such as H2O PA, Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Projects and the PA Small Water and Sewer Program.

Legislation Affecting Local Government

Municipal Code Enforcement Assistance

Passed the House, June 13, 2023

[House Bill 255](#) (PN 1479), introduced by Representative Robert Merski, would create three new optional programs to enhance municipal code enforcement.

First, the bill would establish the Municipal Enforcement Grant Program within the Department of Community and

Economic Development (DCED) so municipalities without an existing code enforcement department may form one and hire and train code enforcement personnel. Grants may not exceed \$100,000 and cannot be awarded to the same recipient for more than three consecutive years. Municipalities must provide matching funds as determined by DCED.

Second, municipalities with an existing code enforcement program may establish, through an ordinance, a Municipal Neighborhood Mitigation Fund. The fund would be used to mitigate code violations, including demolition, cleanup, cleaning and sealing and repairing blighted properties. The bill would authorize a penalty upon conviction for a code violation – a penalty of \$25 to \$250 for the first violation, \$250 to \$500 for the second violation and \$500 to \$1000 for the third or any subsequent violations. The penalty would be collected by the municipality and deposited into its Neighborhood Mitigation Fund to pay for this program.

Lastly, the bill would allow counties to establish code enforcement programs. A county may enact a property maintenance ordinance that incorporates either a standard or a national code. A county may only impose their ordinance in municipalities that do not have their own in place. A municipality may decide to pass and enact their own property maintenance ordinance in the future, which would then supersede the county's ordinance. Counties may appoint property maintenance inspectors for enforcement of the property maintenance code. Any incurred fees, fines or penalties will be transferred to the county treasurer. Counties are also eligible to apply to the Municipal

Codes Enforcement Grant Program to aid in their establishment of a code enforcement program.

Municipal Lien Priority

First Consideration in the House, June 22, 2023

[House Bill 291](#) (PN 1693), introduced by Representative Rick Krajewski, would amend the Municipal Claim and Tax Lien Law regarding priority of municipal claims. Municipal liens and claims filed before a federally backed mortgage modification would be removed from first priority to allow the modification to be completed. Any municipal claims or liens filed after the federally backed mortgage modification would be given first priority under the bill.

Vacant and Blighted Property Registration

First Consideration in the House, May 24, 2023

[House Bill 775](#) (PN 1357), introduced by Representative Tim Twardzik, would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) allowing municipalities to establish, by ordinance, a vacant and blighted property registry and collect a registry fee.

A municipality that elects to pass a blighted and vacant property registry ordinance, and impose and collect a fee, shall compile and maintain a list of vacant and blighted properties. Under the legislation, a registration fee shall be imposed for each year that a vacant and blighted property is not in compliance with the municipal code. A fee schedule is provided in the legislation: the first year on the registry is a \$500 fee; the second year on the registry is a \$1,000 fee; the third and fourth years on the registry is a \$2,000 fee; the fifth through eighth years on the registry is a \$3,500 fee; and nine or more years

on the registry is a \$5,000 fee. The bill lists several exemptions from the fees, such as government properties, those under active rehabilitation, and those where the property owner shows economic hardship.

A property owner that fails to comply with the registration requirements would be penalized \$25 a day for residential properties and \$50 a day for commercial properties for each day the property owner fails to pay the fee. The amount of any unpaid fee shall constitute a lien against the property.

Additionally, municipalities would need to establish a process to remove a compliant property from the registry, and an appeals process must be available to property owners. Lastly, municipalities with existing vacant and blighted property registration ordinances may continue to operate without any limitations.

Removing Population Threshold for Land Banks

Passed the House, June 20, 2023

[House Bill 1207](#) (PN 1277), introduced by Representative Robert Freeman, would amend Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) amending the definition of "land bank jurisdiction" removing the 10,000 population threshold to allow a municipality of any size to establish a land bank. The bill would also expand the definition of "municipality" to also include an optional plan municipality or optional charter municipality.

Municipal Grant Assistance Program

Second Consideration in the House, June 28, 2023

[House Bill 1216](#) (PN 1595), introduced by Representative Abigail Salisbury, would establish the



Municipal Grant Assistance Program in the Department of Community and Economic Development. The program would establish the Municipal Grant Assistance Fund to provide grants to municipalities to obtain grant writing services and training to teach municipalities how to develop projects, find and identify grant opportunities, and apply for grants.

A municipality wishing to obtain a grant for grant writing services may not have an employee whose primary responsibility is grant writing and must also meet one of the following qualifications:

- has adopted and is implementing an active strategic management plan, recovery plan, exit plan or receivership plan; or
- has at least 25 percent of all census tracts within the municipality designated as low income.

After five years of the program's establishment, the Local Government Commission would be required to provide the General Assembly with a report on the funding and impact of the program.

Ratepayer Referendum and Water Ratepayer Bill of Rights

Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, March 14, 2023

[Senate Bill 432](#) (PN 413), introduced by Senator John Kane, would amend Title 66, Section 1329 regarding acquisition of public utilities. The bill would add a ratepayer referendum to the fair market valuation process established in 2016 under Section 1329. The Public Utility Commission's (PUC) decision on the application for acquisition would rest on the results of

the referendum. Under the legislation, the referendum would be conducted by the selling utility with a fair market value of \$1,000,000 or more using a ballot mailed to ratepayers.

The bill would also establish a Water Ratepayer Bill of Rights requiring an annual report be filed with the PUC and sent to each ratepayer. Utilities would also be required to notify ratepayers of the source of drinking water.

Representative Sappy has introduced House Bill 144 as a companion.

Post-Traumatic Stress Injury in First Responders

First Consideration in the Senate, June 27, 2023

[Senate Bill 365](#) (PN 975), introduced by Senator Camera Bartolotta, would amend the Workers' Compensation Law easing first responders' access to receive a post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) benefit if it is established that the injury resulted from a working condition and that it was sustained in the course and scope of the individual's employment.

Under this bill, injuries must be based on the assessment and diagnosis by a licensed medical or mental health professional. Claims must be filed within three years of the date of diagnosis. Injuries diagnosed after

House and Senate Session Days 2023

House

September
TBD



Senate

September
TBD

**reminder
session dates are subject to change*

the last date of employment shall not prohibit a claim against the employer at the time of first responder's direct exposure. Finally, a PTSI caused by an employment action is not compensable.

First responders would be defined as an EMS provider, professional or volunteer firefighter, a State Police officer or a peace officer. ☐

Legislative Locator

Be sure to read the electronic Legislative Locator, produced bimonthly on the opposite months of the Municipal Reporter, for updates on legislation.



Charting an Equitable Electric Mobility Landscape

BY CHRIS TABOURNE, VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGIC DIVERSITY INITIATIVES FOR ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS

In the first quarter of 2023, electric vehicle (EV) sales increased by about [45% year-over-year](#), reaching a record quarter for the U.S. market and setting a pace for annual EV sales to surpass a million vehicles sold this year. Yet, similar to other technological changes such as broadband or infrastructure, systemic barriers remain as the nation strives to lay the groundwork for future EV universal adoption. With more drivers exploring the reality of EV ownership comes a need to accelerate the buildout of equitable charging infrastructure.

The gradual shift from gas to electric will bring monumental changes to the way communities operate. By learning from mistakes of the past and charting an inclusive path forward, local leaders can ensure disadvantaged and underserved communities are top of mind, rather than left in the dust.

The world's largest car rental provider, [Enterprise Holdings](#), engaged local governments in Columbia, SC, Houston, TX and St. Louis, MO through the NLC Capstone

Challenge to understand how cities can develop equitable EV policies, programs and charging investment strategies to meet the mobility needs of underserved communities. What followed was the [Equitable Electric Mobility Playbook](#)—a resource for policymakers and their stakeholders to recognize how an inequitable landscape can impact historically marginalized communities and explore ways to accelerate electric mobility adoption within their own communities.

While there is no one-size-fits-all recommendation to scale EV adoption equitably and enhance access to public charging, the study found three actions were critical to moving local electric mobility initiatives toward more equitable outcomes:

Fill the charging gap. There are currently a little over [130,000 public charging points](#) across the country — typically concentrated in wealthier neighborhoods where owners often have access to home charging. Yet, many socially vulnerable communities, travelers, and

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Tremco Roofing and WTI are part of Tremco Construction Products Group.

Uber/Lyft drivers have limited garage access. To help bridge the great EV charging gap, cities should prioritize public infrastructure investments where charging can be shared across land uses.

Partner with state and federal agencies to unlock equity-focused EV funding and programs. Funding and legislation are integral for improved EV adoption and charger deployment as well as equitable electric mobility. The public and private sector should work together to ensure policies meet the diverse mobility needs of all residents. For example, as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the initial round of \$2.5 billion in competitive grants to support community initiatives and increase EV charging in underserved communities was announced in March. The program is a [key funding opportunity program for cities' community charging infrastructure](#).

Collaborate with utilities to remove grid barriers. Momentum is gaining with utility companies—with partners like [Ameren Missouri](#) paving the way—but

more focus should be placed on centering equity and establishing clear definitions/metrics for universal access. To allow for public charging, communities will benefit by collaborating with utility companies to upgrade their grids to prepare for charging depots, transit and freight charging, and supercharging stations.

Cities across the country have the necessary tools to build an equitable electric mobility landscape the right way, but public and private sectors will need to be intentional and strategic about their EV policies and investments to break down the many barriers that exist today. By starting this work now, public and private partners can build a future of electric mobility for everyone. □



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

Logos for: Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, CCAP (County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania), Pennsylvania Municipal League, and PSATS.

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

Public Finance

PLGIT'S ON-SITE ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT SERVICE

THE LATEST STEP IN ADDING CONVENIENCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' TRANSACTIONS

BY MATT CONLIN, PLGIT SENIOR MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE

As we have noted in past articles, the definition of the term “workplace” in the United States has been altered dramatically over the last few years. Even with an increasing return to pre-COVID “norms,” it is probably safe to say that many industries will not return to the same working environment that existed at the beginning of 2020.

The drastic employment shift that came with the practice of social distancing showed employers and employees that remote working could be done conveniently and productively with the help of effective technology.

Fortunately for municipal officials and staff, PLGIT has been ahead of this trend for much of its 40 years serving local governments in Pennsylvania. PLGIT's products have made it possible for municipalities to conveniently leverage technology that is designed to securely schedule, perform and monitor critical transactions from anywhere.

In this article, we will offer a quick recap of some of the products local

governments have come to depend on in their day-to-day activities, and detail PLGIT's new benefit to municipalities, the PLGIT On-Site Electronic Deposit Service.

Direct deposits, wire transfers, P-Cards (Procurement Cards) and more

Pennsylvania municipalities have discovered that PLGIT's electronic transactions provide an easier audit trail for accounting purposes, help to eliminate errors and save time. In some cases, they can improve cash flow because they automate payments from vendors.

Here are a few features and benefits about some electronic transactions available to local governments:

Direct Debit of State and Federal

Payments: A local government can specify direct payments that can be debited from the local government's PLGIT account to a specific state or federal agency. These automatic transfers are offered at no cost by PLGIT and can be established for Pennsylvania

state payroll tax payments, federal tax payments and other automated debits from the municipality to state or federal programs. Note that this is only for state and federal programs; PLGIT does not offer other third-party debits.

Direct deposit of funds: Local governments may elect to have regular subsidies from the state or federal government, such as State Liquid Fuels payments, sent directly into a designated PLGIT account (or different accounts for audit purposes). These funds begin earning interest on the day they are deposited and eliminate timing challenges from traditional check printing and mailing.

Same Day Wire Transfer:

Through this transaction, a local government may transfer funds by wire from a PLGIT account to a financial institution, or vice versa. For incoming transfers, the PLGIT investor must notify its financial institution to send the funds to PLGIT and notify PLGIT to expect an incoming wire on a certain date for an exact amount. For outgoing transfers, the PLGIT Client Services Group can initiate the

transfer if requested to do so or it can be initiated through Connect, our online transaction platform. This option gives PLGIT investors the flexibility to move money quickly. Even better: there are no PLGIT fees for incoming wires, and no PLGIT fees for the first two outgoing wires each month.

Procurement Cards (P-Cards):

The PLGIT P-Card enables a local government's staff to conduct remote transactions and make electronic payments for a variety of business expenses. P-cards operate similarly to personal credit cards, providing investors flexibility and an easy way to keep track of their usage. Employees can use these cards to make purchases and sidestep the traditional requisition process. Investors can adjust spending limits across their employees and restrict where the P-cards can be utilized for purchases.

Next Day Transfer: Using this process, local governments can transfer funds to be made available in the designated account the next business day via the Federal Reserve's Automated Clearing House (ACH) system. Funds can be transferred to a financial institution, or even from one municipality's PLGIT account to another municipality's account. PLGIT offers unlimited ACH transfers at no out-of-pocket cost, though fees could apply at the institution receiving funds.

The new addition: PLGIT On-Site Electronic Deposit Service

Far from resting on the successes of past products and services, PLGIT continues to develop new ways of using technology to support local governments.

PLGIT's On-Site Electronic Deposit Service allows investors to make deposits into their PLGIT-Class account using either dedicated scanning equipment or the camera on a mobile device.

Benefits include:

- Rapid availability of scanned funds
- Saves time by eliminating trips to financial institutions
- Helps organization and recordkeeping via access to check images
- Reduced risk of loss or theft
- Lower check processing costs at financial institutions
- No limitations on daily deposits

A dedicated scanner is ideal for frequent deposits – especially if your entity frequently deposits five or more checks on a daily basis. There are multiple scanners to choose from based upon a municipality's volume and needs.

Even if a local government doesn't deposit a high volume of checks, it can still take advantage of the benefits of this new service. Using a camera-enabled mobile device at the scanning/depositing app, municipalities can achieve fast and efficient check processing and receive full credit in your PLGIT account on the next business day.

PLGIT has always made efforts to provide electronic tools to enable local governments to improve efficiency and put their money to work more quickly. The On-Site Electronic Deposit Service is just the latest example of that commitment. To learn more about this, or any of PLGIT's electronic transaction services, contact your PLGIT representative.

Matt Conlin is a Senior Marketing Representative with PLGIT, serving clients in the central part of the state. He can be reached at mconlinm@pfmam.com. □

Important Disclosure Information

This information is for institutional investor use only, not for further distribution to retail investors, and does not represent an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any fund or other security. Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in any of the Trust's portfolios. This and other information about the Trust's portfolios is available in the current Information Statement, which should be read carefully before investing. A copy of the Information Statement may be obtained by calling 1-800-572-1472 or is available on the Trust's website at www.plgit.com. While the PLGIT and PLGIT/PRIME portfolios seek to maintain a stable net asset value of \$1.00 per share and the PLGIT/TERM portfolio seeks to achieve a net asset value of \$1.00 per share at its stated maturity, it is possible to lose money investing in the Trust. An investment in the Trust is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. Shares of the Trust's portfolios are distributed by **PFM Fund Distributors, Inc.**, member Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) (www.finra.org) and Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) (www.sipc.org). PFM Fund Distributors, Inc. is an affiliate of PFM Asset Management LLC.



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PSATC President's Message



SAM JULIANO
COMMISSIONER
NORTH VERSAILLES
TOWNSHIP



PML.org/PSATC

Dear Commissioners,

I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful spring in Pennsylvania. It is a great time of the year, as we are all hosting and participating in outdoor events. Bringing people together is what community is all about!

As this is our Equity and Civic Engagement edition of the Municipal Reporter, it is important to note that we all benefit from advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in our communities and by actively involving our residents in township decisions and activities.

On April 25, in conjunction with our spring meeting, the PSATC Executive Committee hosted a legislative breakfast at the Hilton Harrisburg. This event presented an opportunity to discuss our association's legislative priorities with members of the General Assembly. I was humbled and honored to be presented with proclamations from both my senator and house member – Senator Brewster and Representative Markosek. (Please see opposite page for pictures.)

I encourage you to submit articles to share with our readers regarding any projects, programs or activities you are proud of in your communities. The topic of our next edition, which will come out in August, will be Community Development. Please reach out to Debbie Bitting, League Director of Communications, at dbitting@pml.org for details on how to be featured in the Municipal Reporter.

And finally, it's not too early to make plans to attend the 2023 Municipal Leadership Summit at Wind Creek Hotel in Bethlehem. Registration is now open and the hotel is accepting room reservations. This year's event, October 5-8, promises not to disappoint with relevant training programs and opportunities to network and share ideas with your peers from across the Commonwealth. I encourage all PSATC elected and appointed officials to attend and look forward to seeing you there. Please visit the [Summit webpage](#) for registration and hotel information. See promo on [page 6](#).

Take good care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Juliano".

Sam Juliano

PSATC News . . .

Executive Committee Hosts Legislative Breakfast

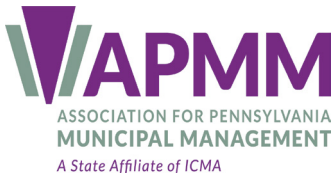
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APMM President's Message



AMANDA SEROCK
MANAGER
CONCORD TOWNSHIP



APMM.net

Greetings from beautiful Concord Township, Delaware County!

I am honored and excited to be serving this year as the President of APMM. I have been a member of this amazing organization for almost 20 years and have volunteered and served on various committees and positions since joining. I truly believe in our mission to promote professional and effective local government management in Pennsylvania, and with our great partnerships with the Pennsylvania Municipal League and ICMA, my game plan this year is to further that commitment and provide a sense of leadership that ensures everyone has a seat at the table!

Since graduating with my MPA from Villanova University in 2004, I have professionally served communities in various roles from an intern to a director to an assistant manager to the manager. So, whether you are an intern or a manager, I want to hear from you and leverage our collective experiences to improve our organization. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities I have had so far in my career, the many people who have held out their hand to lift me up, my amazing husband and children, my fellow Delco COG managers, my WIG colleagues who have supported me and my journey as a mom and a manager, my APMM colleagues and friends, and my remarkable staff and council members in Concord Township who dedicate so much time caring about our community and who fully support my professional goals and current role as the President of APMM.

My goal as this year's leader is to continue building on our great successes in educating and advocating for effective local government management, which includes fostering an inclusive environment and providing new ways of engaging our membership. I will work with our leadership to fill the vacancies on the Promotion and Membership Committees with representation from members across the state. These two committees will be tasked with gathering data on membership, strengthening our membership, coming up with ideas for greater outreach of our members, and using various mediums to promote the importance of professional management and joining our organization.

Additionally, we will continue to offer top-notch training opportunities for our members, and we will use an equitable approach to solicit ideas and partner with our sponsors to enhance our training events. This year's conference in Pittsburgh was fantastic, and I want to thank Gregory Primm (Past President), Dan Santoro (Conference Chair), the entire Conference Committee, Harry Krot, John Brenner and The League/APMM team, and our vendors/sponsors for making our conference so successful!

I look forward to an engaging year learning and growing with our membership!

Sincerely,

Amanda Serock

APMM News ...

APMM Annual Conference

Another successful conference was held this year at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh on May 22-24!



APMM Membership Update

New/Reinstated Members

Mr. Zachary Border

Township Manager
Lower Swatara Township
Dauphin County
1499 Spring Garden Drive
Middletown, PA 17057
717-939-9377

zborder@lowerswatara.org

Full Member – Manager

Mr. Eugene Briggs

Township Manager
East Coventry Township
Chester County
855 Ellis Woods Road
Pottstown, PA 19465
610-495-5443

ebiggs@eastcoventry-pa.gov

Full Member – Manager

Ms. Julie Brooks

Public Works Assistant
Superintendent
Bellefonte Borough
Centre County
236 W. Lamb Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-355-1501

jbrooks@bellefontepa.gov

**Affiliate Member – Municipal Govt.
Employee**

Ms. Randee Elton

Township Manager
Bristol Township
Bucks County
2501 Bath Road
Bristol, PA 19007
267-812-2914

relton@bristoltownship.org

Full Member - Manager

Mr. Christopher Frye, Jr.

City Administrator
City of New Castle
Lawrence County
230 N. Jefferson Street
New Castle, PA 16101
724-656-3510

cfrye@newcastlepa.org

Full Member – Manager

Mr. Charles (Sonny) Greco

Assistant to the Borough Manager
Kennett Square Borough
Chester County
600 S. Broad Street, Suite 110
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-444-6020

sgreco@kennettsq.org

Full Member – Assistant Manager

Ms. Maryann Menanno

City Manager
City of Meadville
Crawford County
894 Diamond Park
Meadville, PA 16335
814-724-6000

mmenanno@cityofmeadville.org

Full Member - Manager

Ms. Keri Miller

Senior Administrative Assistant
State College Borough
Centre County
243 South Allen Street
State College, PA 16801
814-278-4721

kmiller@statecollegepa.us

Affiliate Member - Student

Ms. Emily Pisano

Assistant Township Manager
Chadds Ford Township
Delaware County
10 Ring Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317
610-388-8800

episano@chaddsfordpa.gov

Full Member – Assistant Manager

Ms. Janis Rambo

Township Manager
Valley Township
Chester County
1145 W. Lincoln Highway
Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-5751

jrambo@valleytownship.org

Full Member – Manager

Ms. Skye Sorresso

Assistant to the Manager
Warwick Township
Bucks County
1733 Township Greene
Jamison, PA 18929
215-343-6100

ssorresso@warwickbucks.gov

Affiliate Member - Student

Ms. Katherine Wickert

Assistant City Manager
City of Meadville
Crawford County
894 Diamond Park
Meadville, PA 16335
814-724-6000

kwickert@cityofmeadville.org

Full Member – Assistant Manager

Mr. Jeffrey Winkle

Township Manager
Middlesex Township
Butler County
133 Browns Hill Road
Valencia, PA 16059
724-622-8306

jwinkle@middlesextownship.org

Full Member – Manager



Book Review

And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle

By Jon Meacham

REVIEW BY ABRAHAM AMORÓS, LEAGUE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONS

Undoubtedly one of the most esteemed historians of our time, Jon Meacham takes the reader on an incredible journey of the life and historic-making decisions of our Sixteenth President, Abraham Lincoln. As a child, you may have memorized the Gettysburg Address or visited the vast stone columned memorial with “Honest Abe” seated inside looking out over the reflection pool toward the U.S.

Capitol. His words and unique figure are enshrined in our memories. Meacham gives us an inside view of Lincoln from his youth to the fateful night at Ford’s Theatre. We gain a deeper understanding of the man who defended the Union, wrote the Emancipation Proclamation, guided our democracy from chaos and catastrophe, fought personal tragedy and depression, and led us toward “a more

perfect union.” Meacham illuminates Lincoln’s faith as the guidepost for his leadership during the vitriol of civil war. The reader not only learns more about Abraham Lincoln, a self-taught man of the 19th century, we explore the lessons that are relevant in our own time to strengthen and protect our American democracy. □

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