

League Link

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



League Link

March 2024



Executive Director's Report



Advocacy Action

House Committee Passes Unfunded Mandate on Local Governments in a 23-2 Vote: Post-traumatic Stress Injury Bill is One Step Closer to Passage. Watch Committee Meeting [Here](#) (Discussion on HB 1632 Begins at Minute 13:00)

[House Bill 1632 and Senate Bill 365](#) will likely continue to move through the General Assembly this spring. We need your advocacy efforts to achieve a fair, affordable compromise or stop the bills entirely.

Both bills amend the Workers' Comp Law and would allow for easier access to a PTSI benefit for first responders. While we support our first responders and agree their mental health must be taken seriously, the bills are written with such broad language that it creates a fiscally irresponsible and uninsurable program. These bills lack any reasonable and commonsense provisions that would help control costs to taxpayers. As a result, a massive unfunded mandate will be placed on local governments.

Senate Bill 365 has recently undergone second consideration, and currently Senators are in discussions to determine whether to move the bill any further. House Bill 1632 was referred out of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee on March 4 in a 23-2 vote. Representatives Banta and Hamm were the only negative votes. During the meeting, some legislators expressed the need to address local government concerns, and the bill's sponsor, Representative O'Mara, said she would continue to look for a compromise. Please view a video of the Committee meeting [here](#).

While The League continues our advocacy efforts, it is **vitaly important** your legislators hear from you. Please use this [sample letter](#) and send to both your Representative and Senator urging them to carefully review the fiscal impacts this will have on municipalities and taxpayers. Alternatively, you can send this [Op-ed](#) to your local paper. It is important we keep local government's concerns with these proposals at the top of your legislators' minds as we enter the spring legislative session.

League's Latest

The League is excited to announce a fantastic start to 2024! We're thrilled to welcome seven new municipalities and three new business partners to our growing community.

New Municipal Members:

- Boroughs of [Bradford Woods](#), [Oxford](#), and [Souderton](#)
- Townships of [East Pikeland](#), [New Garden](#), [Tinicum](#) and [Kennett](#)

We're excited to have these communities join The League. Each brings unique perspectives, challenges, and strengths to our efforts in building stronger communities.

New members of our Business Leaders Network:

- [Integral Group Solutions \(IGS\) Handyman Solution](#): Offers a pre-paid tailored handyman services pairing homeowner with vetted contractors to residents of League municipalities.
- [eCollect+](#): Identifies and recovers uncollected taxes, helping municipalities manage finances effectively.
- [Aspirant Consulting](#): A well-established team whose primary focus is on public safety policy development, implementation and training as well as a host of other customized services to their municipal clients.

These partnerships are carefully selected to ensure the continued collaborative efforts of The League, that assist in bringing opportunities with proven and innovative businesses, to all of you. We encourage all members, new and old, to take full advantage of League resources, programs, support, and networking opportunities. Your participation and engagement are important to us as it contributes to allowing The League to be an effective organization which continues to strengthen and empower local government. Let's extend a warm welcome to our new members! Together, we will build stronger, more resilient communities across Pennsylvania.

Municipal Reporter Article Topics – We would love to feature your municipality in one of our upcoming editions! Below is our 2024 Publication Schedule for the remainder of the year and themes for each issue:

1. April – **Diversity**; copy due date **March 10** (*reach out for deadline extension opportunities*)
2. June – **Livable Communities**; copy due date **May 10**
3. August – **Leadership**; copy due date **July 10**
4. October – **Civility**; copy due date **September 10**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Debbie Bitting at dbitting@pml.org

[Register now for the upcoming District Meetings](#). See below for dates, locations, and the great line up of presenters we have so far, and stay tuned to our website for additional presentation speakers and topics as they are confirmed.

- **Wednesday, April 3** – Northcentral – Lewisburg; Presentations from William Lowthert, Lewisburg Manager and Lance Miller, Mifflinburg Administrator
- **Thursday, April 4** – Northwest – Edinboro; Presentations from Jason Spangenberg, Edinboro Manager and Joseph Schember, Erie Mayor
- **Thursday, April 11** – Northeast – Wilkes-Barre; Presentations from Michelle Bannon, New Carbondale Mayor and George Brown, Wilkes-Barre Mayor
- **Wednesday, April 24** - Southwest District Meeting #1 – New Kensington
- **Thursday, April 25** – Southwest District Meeting #2 – Washington; Presentations from Shana Brown, Washington's Main Street Manager and Christie Johnson, Manager at Washington & Jefferson Ignite Business Incubator
- **Wednesday, May 1** – Southcentral District Meeting – Harrisburg; Presentations from Danielle Lewis, Harrisburg Sustainability Coordinator
- **Thursday, May 2** – Southeast District Meeting – Northampton Twp.

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!

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

Spring 2024 PATH Classes

April 24th and 25th

Fiscal Management Strategies for Local Government Officials

9am - 12pm, both days, Virtual.

Greg Primm

April 29th and 30th

Comprehensive Training for Elected Auditors

9am - 12pm, both days, Virtual.

Sam Miller

May 8th and 9th

Developing and Managing Your Municipal Budget

9am - 12pm, both days, Virtual.

Greg Primm

June 3rd

Proper Planning to Prepare Successful Grant Applications

9am - 12pm, both days, Virtual.

Sam Miller

June 12th and 13th

Basic Training for Municipal Secretaries and Administrators

9am - 12pm, both days, Virtual.

Greg Primm

Upcoming PCCA Schedule:

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

April 8th - 12th

Building Code Official Certification Academy (18 CEUs)

8:30am - 3:30pm, Coatesville, PA

April 16th - 25th

IBC 101: International Building Code Essentials (36 CEUs)

8:30am - 3:30pm, Virtual

April 19th

Foundation Insulation: From Slabs to Walls (2 CEUs)

9am-11am, Virtual

April 29th

Residential Moisture Management (3 CEUs)

8:30am-4:30pm, Virtual

May 3rd

New BCO Lunch and Learn (1 CEU)

11am-12pm, TWO Locations: Virtual and Macgunie, PA

May 6th

FREE Thinking of Becoming a Building Code Official (2 CEUs)

9:00am - 11am, Virtual

May 7th

Commercial Use and Occupancy Program (1 CEU)

12pm-1pm, Virtual

May 8th

2018 IRC Solar Photovoltaic Provisions (3 CEUs)

8:30am-12pm, Virtual

www.PAConstrucionCodesAcademy.org



Resource Roundup

On Thursday, May 16, 2024, starting at 10 AM EDT, EPA Mid-Atlantic Region will host their virtual summit, **"Empowering Communities for Environmental Equity."** The summit is an opportunity for everyone to gather and exchange ideas about equitable access to healthy and sustainable communities. **Please use this link to access the summit website:** <https://cvent.me/2Waz8q>. More details, including registration, summit agenda, and sponsors, will be available on the website as the event draws closer. Stay tuned!

The PBDA is excited to announce the launch of the new [Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority website](#). For the past few months, the PBDA has been working diligently to design a website that offers a more intuitive and visually appealing experience for its visitors. There are a number of new features added to this website including: navigation panel for ease in finding the information you're seeking, quick

links that will take you directly to hot topic resources, real-time data on unserved/underserved locations, projects awarded and funding allocated, and resources that are specifically tailored for various audiences.

[New Resource Hub for Local Officials: Protect Local Waterways Website](#) – Take action today to secure fishable, swimmable, and drinkable water for your municipality! Visit us at <https://www.protectlocalwaterways.org/>.

[Senator Casey's FY25 Appropriations Request Portal is Now Live](#) – **Appropriations request forms for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 are now live.** Links to the programmatic and community projects application forms are now posted on the Senator's website under the ["Appropriations" tab](#).

[Municipal Ombudsman](#) – The Municipal Ombudsman serves as a resource for communities seeking to comply with the **Clean Water Act** and works directly with Agency leadership and appropriate offices at headquarters and regional offices.

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

414 N. 2nd St, Harrisburg
Pennsylvania 17101 United States
PML.org

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