



**83rd Annual Conference & Expo
July 22-25, Nashville TN
Renaissance Nashville Hotel**

Schedule At-A-Glance

FRIDAY, JULY 21

9 am - 5 pm MTAS Elected Officials Foundations

SATURDAY, JULY 22

9 am - 5 pm MTAS Elected Officials Operations
12 noon - 5 pm Conference Registration
1 - 4:30 pm CMFO & Utility Board Training Workshops
1- 4:30 pm TML Policy Committees

SUNDAY, JULY 23

8:45 - 10:15 am Women in Government
9 - 10 am Small Cities Mixer
9 am - 5 pm Registration
9:30 am - 3 pm Exhibit Hall Open
10:30 - 11:30 am Workshops
11:45 am - 12:45 pm Lunch
1 - 1:45 pm Time in Exhibit Hall
2 - 2:45 pm District Meetings
3 - 5 pm Opening Session
6 - 7:30 pm Welcome Reception

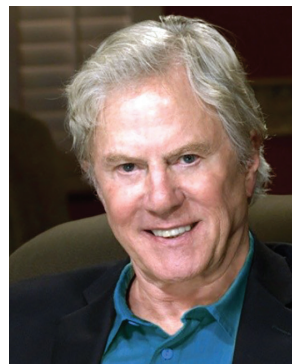
MONDAY, JULY 24

7:15 - 8:15 am Breakfast
8:30 am - 3 pm Exhibit Hall Open
8:30 - 9:30 am Workshops
9:45 - 11 am Second General Session
11:15 am - 12 pm Annual Business Meeting
12:15 - 1:15 pm Lunch
1:30 - 2:30 pm Vendor Door Prizes
2:45 - 3:45 pm Workshops
4 - 5 pm Workshops
6:30 - 11 pm Public Entity Partners Social

TUESDAY, JULY 25

8 - 10 am Awards Breakfast

**Opening General Session
Sunday, July 23, 3 - 5 pm**



Joe Elmore

Joe Elmore, host of NPTs *Tennessee Crossroads*, will serve as the keynote speaker for the opening general session on Sunday, July 23. He will share some of his favorite stories from his travels throughout the state.

Tennessee Crossroads is a magazine-style, travel show that celebrates the interesting people and places mostly found on the back roads of the state. The show takes viewers on a journey exploring all of the unique personalities, crafts, food, destinations and events that make our state such a special place to live and visit. Each unique subject highlighted by the show is not only a point of pride for our state but is taking place in one of the 345 municipalities you call home.

Mr. Elmore has hosted the show since its inception at WNPT, Nashville, in 1987. "Crossroads" – now aired on stations throughout Tennessee and the Southeast – reigns as one of the highest-rated PBS-based shows in the nation.

Also on Sunday's agenda is Clarence Anthony, National League of Cities executive director. He will update city officials on key happenings on the federal level and share his insights as to what's over the horizon for towns and cities across the country.



Clarence Anthony

Mr. Anthony has served as NLC's executive director since 2012. Before joining NLC, he served for 24 years as the mayor of South Bay, Fla.

2023 Conference Agenda

FRIDAY, JULY 21

9 am – 5 pm MTAS EOA Foundation *Belle Meade*

SATURDAY, JULY 22

9 am – 5 pm MTAS EOA Operations *Belle Meade*
12 – 5 pm Conference Registration *Level 1*

1 – 2 pm **Concurrent Workshops**
Workshop 1. *5 Points*

Governing Water/Wastewater Utility Systems Policies and Operations

Speaker: Steve Wyatt, MTAS Utility Operations Consultant

Improving your knowledge of municipal water/wastewater operations can improve how you govern and make decisions regarding your community's water supply. This course will provide insight into the laws and regulations for water and wastewater utilities, introduce challenges utilities are facing, and explore some policy examples for utility boards.

Utility: 1 hour (must attend all 4 sessions)

Workshop 2. Overview of Internal Controls *12 South*

Speaker: Cassie Wheeler, MTAS Finance Consultant

What are internal controls? Why are they important for your municipality and who is responsible for them? This session will answer your burning questions about internal controls and review common internal control deficiencies in municipalities. *CMFO: 1 hour*

2:15 – 3:15 pm **Concurrent Workshops**

Workshop 3. Compliance & Regulation Challenges *5 Points*

Speaker: Steve Wyatt, MTAS Utility Operations Consultant

Utility: 1 hour (must attend all 4 sessions)

Workshop 4. Revenue Collections *12 South*

Speaker: Tonya Travis, MTAS Finance Consultant

This session will explore the various types of revenues that a municipality can collect. A brief description will be provided along with any recent changes. *CMFO: 1 hour*

3:30 – 4:30 pm **Concurrent Workshops**

Workshop 5. Treatment and Distribution Basics *5 Points*

Speaker: Steve Wyatt, MTAS Utility Operations Consultant

Utility: 1 hour (must attend all 4 sessions)

Workshop 6. Drug Fund Administration *12 South*

Speaker: David Moore, MTAS Police Management Consultant

This workshop will cover all aspects of drug fund administration including the accounting process; allowable expenditures; budget requirements; and maximizing drug fund revenues. *CMFO: 1 hour*

1 – 4:30 pm *Music City Ballroom*
TML Policy Committees

SUNDAY, JULY 23

S.T.I.R. Events (Socialize, Talk, Interact and Reconnect)

8:45 - 10:15 am

Women in Government *Music City Ballroom*

9 – 10 am
Small Cities *SoBro*

9 am – 5 pm Registration *Level 1*

9 am – 3 pm Exhibit Hall Open *Level 2*

10:30 – 11:30 am **Concurrent Workshops**

Workshop 7. Tracking Farmland Loss In Tennessee *SoBro*

Speaker: Charles Martinez, UT Agricultural and Resource

Economics Professor

Tennessee continues to incur unprecedented growth in population, commerce, and development. A recent national analysis of the rate of farmland loss listed Tennessee as the second highest state in the nation, behind Texas, for the rate of farmland loss. Upon a further analysis conducted by the UTIA, the Institute found that when looking at the rate of "prime farmland" loss, Tennessee moves to number one. TN. Agricultural Commissioner Charlie Hatcher and leadership of the Tennessee Farm Bureau have asked TML and Tennessee County Services Assoc. for their help in identifying strategies, policies and proposals to help address the challenges facing the state's largest industry. TML members will get a first look at his analysis that is expected to be a topic of the next legislative session.

Workshop 8. *Belle Meade*

IT Budgeting for Non-Technical Leaders

Speaker: Bill Piper, Regional Vice President, VC3

How do you provide budget leadership for your city's IT when you don't understand how IT works? Municipal leaders face the daunting task of equipping themselves to lead with authority in this area and make the best choices, often with limited resources. Join us for a workshop on IT Budgeting that will provide you with an easy-to-apply framework to: provide budget leadership for your city's IT; provide helpful accountability to your IT provider/staff; articulate an intelligent cybersecurity strategy without understanding how to do it; and know when you should bring IT in-house (and what functions make the most sense) *CMFO: 1 hour*

Workshop 9. Ongoing & Emerging Challenges *5 Points*

Speaker: Steve Wyatt, MTAS Utility Operations Consultant

Utility: 1 hour (must attend all 4 sessions)

11:45 am – 12:45 pm **Lunch** *Broadway Ballroom*

1 - 1:45 pm **Time in Exhibit Hall** *Level 2*

2 – 2:45 pm **District Meetings** *Melrose*

District 1
• Darrell Duncan, Alderman, Kingsport *Belle Meade*

District 2
• David Smoak, Town Administrator, Farragut *12 South 1*

District 3
• Stefanie Dalton, Vice Mayor, Red Bank *12 South 2*

District 4
• Keith Morrison, City Administrator, Algood

2023 Conference Agenda

- District 5 *5 Points 1*
- Ann Schneider Williams, Mayor, Springfield
- District 6 *Sobro*
- Blake Lay, Mayor, Lawrenceburg
- District 7 *5 Points 2*
- Mike French, Alderman, Somerville
- District 8 *Sobro*
- Bethany Huffman, Vice Mayor, Millington

3 - 5 pm
 Opening General Session *Grand Ballroom 3*
 Keynote Speakers:
 Clarence Anthony, *NLC Executive Director*
 Joe Elmore, *Tennessee Crossroads*

6 - 7:30 pm *Fifth & Broadway*
 Welcome Reception: *510 Broadway*
 National Museum of African American Music

MONDAY, JULY 24

7:15 – 8:15 am Grab & Go Breakfast *Level 1*
8 am – 3 pm Exhibit Hall Open *Level 2*

8:30 – 9: 30 am Concurrent Workshops *SoBro*
Workshop 10.

The Sales Ratio: What You Should Know about Property Tax Collections

Speaker: Will Denami, Executive Director, TN Association of Assessing Officers

The TN Comptroller of the Treasury adopted a new rule change to the Sales Ratio Study that will impact market values assigned to certain properties. This workshop will define what a sales tax ratio is and why it's relevant to cities; what has changed and what are the consequences of the change; and what can local governments do about the change.

CMFO: 1 hour

Workshop 11. *Belle Meade*
Changes in the Retail Landscape

Speaker / Moderator: Lena Geraghty
 Director, NLC Sustainability and Innovation

Panelists:

- Todd Smith, City Administrator, Greeneville
- Jessica Morgan, City Recorder, Sweetwater
- Angie Carrier, UT-MTAS Management Consultant

As communities continue to recover from the pandemic and establish a new normal, the state of retail has changed. This workshop will detail the trends affecting small businesses, e-commerce, and the retail workforce. A new NLC research report confirms that retail is rebounding, but downtowns continue to be affected by the growth in flexible work-from-home schedules and the persistent struggles to hire and retain workers in retail, warehousing, and delivery services. Come learn creative strategies for promoting downtown and main street vitality in a post pandemic world. *CMFO: 1 hour*

Workshop 12. *12 South*

Social Media and the First Amendment

Speakers: Sam Jackson and Charles Bone

Attorneys, Spencer Fane McAllester Bone

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and other social media platforms are great ways to engage with your community. But what can an elected official do when a citizen responds negatively? Can you just delete a message you don't agree with? Are there First Amendment implications? Are these public forums? This session analyzes how to handle these issues, what can and can't be done. *Utility: 1 hour*

9:30– 9:45 am Break

9:45 – 11 am

Second General Session *Grand Ballroom 3*



Brian Solsbee



Mike Knotts



Justin Mairehofer

The Future of Electric Power in Tennessee

Panelists:

- Brian Solsbee, CEO, TN Municipal Power Assoc
- Mike Knotts, CEO, TN Electric Coop
- Justin Mairehofer, Regional Vice President, TVA

Electric power is essential to all aspects of our lives, economy and future. Tennessee has historically benefited from access to low-cost, highly reliable electric power, positioning the state as one of the most attractive for economic investment and quality of life for its residents. However, rapidly changing technologies, consumer demand, concern for climate change, and unprecedented population growth are challenging today's electric energy providers. What is the electric industry doing to meet these and other challenges, and how can cities best adapt to ensure their own competitiveness and livability? Our panelists are leaders in all aspects of Tennessee's electric power industry and will share their insights into these issues.

CMFO: 1 hour / Utility: 1 hour

11:15 am –12pm *Grand Ballroom 3*

Annual Business Meeting

Installation of 2023-24 TML Board of Directors

12:15– 1:15 pm

Lunch

Broadway Ballroom

1:30– 2:30 pm

Door prizes

Exhibit Hall, Level 2

2:45 - 3:45 pm

Workshop 13.

SoBro

From Conflict to Conversation: Public Engagement

Speaker: Matt Lehrman, Social Prosperity Partners

TML's 2021 conference in Chattanooga showcased an inspiring opening keynote titled "From Conflict to Conversation,"

which encouraged local leaders to harness the power of courageous conversations to build communities where individuals feel connected, respected, and heard. TML has invited Mr. Lehrman back for a deep-dive workshop that focuses on practical tools and strategies for navigating real-life situations. The first hour of the workshop will be dedicated to public engagement, while the second hour will focus on intra-council relations. Attendees are welcome to join either or both sessions. *Utility: 1 hour*



Matt Lehrman

Workshop 14. *Belle Meade*
Catching the Blue Oval Wave: Site Selection & Recruiting
Speaker: Chassen Haynes, TnEcd, Business Development

With the development of Blue Oval City in Stanton, TN, there will be plenty of opportunities for communities to land automotive suppliers – and it’s not just limited to West Tennessee. Come hear from economic development officials how suppliers could be coming to communities across all three grand divisions of the state. Municipalities with active industrial development boards, ready sites, and those that can quickly provide data on community assets will have substantial recruitment advantages. The state currently has 50 state-certified sites, but TNECD officials estimate more will be needed to meet the demand of suppliers interested in providing parts to Blue Oval City. Come learn how you can ready your community and catch the wave. *CMFO: 1 hour / Utility: 1 hour*

Workshop 15. *12 South*
What is a Utility Rate Study and Do I need One?
Speaker: Brad Harris, MTAS Finance Consultant

Some utilities proactively contract for a comprehensive utility study, while others are required by the State to do so. This session will discuss the need, what triggers a study and what to expect once it is complete. *CMFO: 1 hour / Utility: 1 hour*

4 - 5 pm
Workshop 16. *SoBro*
From Conflict to Conversation: Intra-Council Relations
Speaker: Matt Lehrman

Amidst unprecedented disruption and uncertainty, there’s never been a more necessary time for community leaders to learn how to tackle complex and sensitive issues. This workshop will focus on intra-council relations. *Utility: 1 hour*

Workshop 17. *Belle Meade*
How does Historic Preservation bring in tourism dollars?
Speakers: Philip Staffelli-Suel and Lane Tillner, Preservation Coordinators, TN Historical Commission

Taking an active role in preserving your communities’ historical sites can be an economic boon for your municipality, as well as highlight what makes your community unique. The Certified Local Government (CLG) program was established in 1980 with the goal of helping local governments, state preservation offices, and the National Parks Service partner together

to provide resources to local governments that can be used for historic zoning programs, and renovation and rehabilitation of historic sites. For smaller municipalities, this can be an important economic tool for bringing more visitors to your community. There are numerous credits, grants, and other financial benefits by becoming a member city in the CLG program. Come learn how you can join this partnership and help preserve your communities’ historic assets. *CMFO: 1 hour*

Workshop 18. *12 South*
Understanding Audited Financial Statements
Speaker: Brad Harris, MTAS Finance Consultant

While finance directors and city recorders work every day with the ‘numbers’, elected officials, departments heads and others often struggle to understand what is included in, and what is really important to understand about the annual Audit Report. This session will teach what is really important to know and how to read the information. *CMFO: 1 hour / Utility: 1 hour*

6:30 -11 pm *Broadway Ballroom*
PE Partners Social

TUESDAY, JULY 25

8:00 – 10:30 am *Broadway Ballroom*
Awards Breakfast
TML Achievement Awards
TCAPWA Murphy Snoderly
TCMA City Manager
Bob Kirk Local Government Award
Mayor of the Year

Conference Special Events

- **Sunday, July 23, 8:45 - 10:15 am**
Women in Government S.T.I.R event
- **Sunday, July 23, 9 - 10 am**
Small Cities S.T.I.R event
- **Sunday, July 23, 6 - 7:30 pm**
Welcome Reception
- **Monday, July 24, 6:30 -11 pm**
Public Entity Partners Social
- **Tuesday, July 25, 8-10 am**
Annual Awards Breakfast

Sunday night’s welcome reception will be held at the National Museum of African American Music – just a short walk from the Renaissance Hotel located at the new Fifth and Broadway development at 510 Broadway. The museum’s curated collections share the story of the American soundtrack by integrating history and interactive technology. Visitors will be able to explore sections of the museum at their own pace. Light refreshments will be served.