



TML's Annual Conferences have traditionally featured a strong educational component. A total of 18 concurrent sessions covering a broad range of topics important to cities and towns will be offered as part of our conference lineup. Many workshops qualify for CMFO and Utility Board Training continuing education hours.

## Workshops / General Sessions At-A-Glance

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

1 – 2 pm

1. City Alternative Energy Projects
2. Utility Board Training (Module B)

2:15 - 3:15 pm

3. Overview: Municipal Budget Manual
4. Utility Board Training (*continued*)

3:30- 4:30 pm

5. Overview: Municipal Debt Guidelines
6. Utility Board Training (*continued*)

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

10:30 - 11:30 am

7. Overview: Civil vs Criminal Court
8. Utility Board Training (*continued*)
9. Panel: Ransomware / Cybersecurity

3:30- 5 pm

Opening Session

- Keynote: *From Conflict to Conversation*

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8- 8:45 am

Annual Business Meeting

9 - 10 am

10. Panel: Tomorrow's Ready Workforce
11. Trends in Retail & The New Retail Alliance
12. From Conflict to Conversation

10:15 - 11:45 am

Second General Session

- Panel: ARP Funding

2:45 - 3:45 pm

13. Risk Management Case Study
14. Maximizing Your Stimulus Dollars:  
Broadband / Transportation
15. Burnout and Employee Engagement

4- 5 pm

16. Risk Management Case Study (*continued*)
17. Maximizing Your Stimulus Dollars:  
Water / Wastewater

### Saturday, September 18

1 – 2 pm

**Workshop 1.** *Best Practices: City Alternative Energy Projects*

Speaker: Warren Nevad, UT-MTAS Management Consultant

With a goal to reduce petroleum dependence and greenhouse gas emissions, and at the same time save cities money, many municipalities in Tennessee have installed the infrastructure necessary to make alternative fuel vehicles a viable transportation option. This workshop will highlight some of the best practices with alternative transportation fuel projects that TN cities have completed. *CMFO: Financial 1 hr.*

**Workshop 2.** *Utility Board Training (Module B)*

Speaker: Brad Harris, UT-MTAS Finance Consultant

State law mandates that all utility board members, which may include city council members, attend 12 hours of utilities training within 12 months of their initial election or appointment. Module B is a 4-hour session. You must attend all 4 sessions to get credit for the training. These workshops will teach participants the basic precepts of internal controls, budgeting, capital improvement planning, debt and financial statements. The classes will help prepare board members with the tools needed to lead and make critical decisions in managing utilities. *Utility: 1 hr (must attend all 4 sessions)*

2:15 – 3:15 pm

**Workshop 3.** *Overview of Municipal Budget Manual*

Speaker: Kay Stegall, UT-MTAS Finance Consultant

Two new laws initiated by the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury were enacted this past legislative session that alter the budgeting process for local governments. And as a result of the new process, the Comptroller's Division of Local Government Finance has updated two manuals to accommodate these changes in law. This session will give a detailed overview of the Comptroller's Municipal Budget Manual as it relates to the annual budget process for Tennessee's local governments. *CMFO: Financial 1 hr.*

**Workshop 4.** *Utility Board Training (Module B continued)*

Speaker: Brad Harris, UT-MTAS Finance Consultant

*Utility: 1 hr (must attend all 4 sessions)*

3:30 – 4:30 pm

**Workshop 5.** *Overview of Municipal Debt Guidelines*

Speaker: Kay Stegall, UT-MTAS Finance Consultant

This session will give a detailed overview of the Comptroller's guidelines on Municipal Debt. The workshop will cover uniform procedures for the issuance of notes by Tennessee municipalities and other local governments and provide some best practices for the issuance of debt. *CMFO: Financial 1 hr.*

## Workshops & General Sessions

### **Workshop 6. Utility Board Training (Module B continued)**

Speaker: Brad Harris, UT-MTAS Finance Consultant

*Utility: 1 hr (must attend all 4 sessions)*

### **Sunday, September 19**

**10:30 – 11:30 am**

### **Workshop 7. Overview: Civil vs Criminal Court**

Speaker: Rex Barton, UT-MTAS Police Management Consultant

What's the difference between civil court and criminal court? Why are there so many different courts and what do they do? We'll take an entertaining look at how the various courts work and how they impact your city. You'll leave understanding the role that different courts play in making our communities safer and ensuring fairness for folks who are victims of criminal offenses or civil injuries.

*Utility: 1 hr*

### **Workshop 8. Utility Board Training (Module B continued)**

Speaker: Kay Stegall, UT-MTAS Finance Consultant

*Utility: 4 hr (must attend all 4 sessions)*

### **Workshop 9. Ransomware / Cybersecurity**

Speakers:

- Penny Austin, Deputy Director, TN Comptroller
- Joe Howland, VC3 Chief Information Security Officer

Municipal leaders in Tennessee know that local governments continue to be the biggest target for cybercriminals who wish to steal money, change or destroy information, or even hold your data for ransom. Expert panelists will speak about the threat of cybercriminals to local governments and what cities can do to protect themselves.

*CMFO: Financial 1 hr*

**3:30 - 5 pm**

### **Opening General Session**

**Keynote:** *From Conflict to Conversation*

Speaker: Matt Lehrman

Must disagreement be disagreeable? 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 in ways that make people feel heard, respected, and empowered. Inspiring and wholly actionable, Matt Lehrman animates the principle that where people work together courageously, their potential is unlimited.

*Utility: 1 hr*

### **Monday, September 20**

**8 - 8:45 am**

### **Annual Business Meeting**

**9 – 10 am**

### **Workshop 10. Planning for Tomorrow's Ready Workforce**

Panelists:

- Bo Drake, Chattanooga State Community College
- Miles Huff, Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce
- Blake Freeman, Future Readies Institute, Hamilton County
- Jermaine Freeman, Economic Development, Chattanooga

With unemployment at record lows and post-secondary graduation rates still not where they need to be, how do we develop the workforce that business and industries need to drive economic development for the state? Hamilton County is working on a solution through apprenticeships at their community colleges and work based-learning programs in their high schools. A panel of education and economic and development experts will discuss the issue.

*Utility: 1 hr*

### **Workshop 11. Trends in Retail & The New Retail Alliance**

Speakers:

- Angie Carrier, UT-MTAS Management Consultant
- Lacy Beasley, Retail Strategies

How has retail changed throughout the pandemic and how does that affect your city? Tennessee cities are the economic engine of our state. For many communities, sales tax is the predominant revenue stream to provide services to the citizens of Tennessee. This session will discuss changes in this area as well as introduce MTAS' new Tennessee Retail Alliance. The Alliance will provide a vehicle to assist communities in promoting economic development through retail recruitment, to increase jobs and increase their sales tax revenue. Come learn about this program and how it can benefit your municipality.

*CMFO: Financial 1 hr / Utility: 1 hr*

### **Workshop 12. From Conflict to Conversation**

Moderator: Matt Lehrman

Panelists: TN City Officials TBA

How are you moving your community *From Conflict to Conversation*? What challenges are you facing and what do you specifically hope to achieve? Keynote presenter Matt Lehrman facilitates a candid and helpful follow-up discussion that invites attendees to seek practical insight and advice from a diverse panel of Tennessee municipal leaders. Come prepared to "wear your heart on your sleeve" about how to engage more people and gather agreement around whatever you hope to accomplish in your community.

*Utility: 1 hr*

**10:15 – 11:45 am**

### **General Session**

*America Recovery Plan Funding*

Panelists:

- US Treasury
- TN Comptroller's Office
- Department of Finance and Administration
- Office of the Governor

The U.S. Treasury is expected to issue its final guidance in September on allowable expenses for funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. A panel of experts will discuss the final rules concerning allowable expenditure eligibility, accounting, reporting requirements, and other issues. There will be ample time for questions and answers.

*CMFO: Financial 1.5 hr. / Utility: 1.5 hr.*

## Workshops & General Sessions

**2:45 – 3:45 pm**

### Workshop 13.

*Decision-Making: A Risk Management Case Study (Part 1)*

Speakers:

- Michael G. Fann, ARM-P, MBA, President/CEO, P.E. Partners
- Steve Isbell, Police Chief, Dyersburg Police Dept

The critical discipline of public entity risk management impacts every element of municipal operations. Certainly, law enforcement presents critical challenges for any elected or appointed public official with responsibility in that area. This session will examine the basis for liability and other risk exposures for your municipality. Then these elements will be applied to a case study of a critical event that occurred in Dyersburg impacting municipal liability, potential property loss, and employee safety and wellness. The importance of how a city prepares for, and then responds to, a critical event will be analyzed within the context of making reasonable, responsible and defensible decisions.

*CMFO: Financial 1 hr. / Utility: 1 hr.*

### Workshop 14. *Maximizing Your Stimulus Dollars: Broadband, Water & Wastewater projects*

Speakers: TBA

Many of the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act allows funds to be used for “necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.” Specific sections of the Act provide for new or improved broadband access for students to access educational resources and for citizens to access government services that normally require physical presence in an office. In addition, a broad range of projects that improve access to clean drinking water, and improve wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems are considered eligible projects. This workshop will take a deeper dive into the ARP Act and review what type of investments are considered eligible projects as it relates to improved infrastructure for broadband, water and wastewater projects.

*CMFO: Financial 1 hr. / Utility: 1 hr.*

### Workshop 15.

*Burnout & Employee Engagement*

Speaker: John Grubbs, UT-MTAS HR Consultant

Feeling “burned out” is a common phrase today. We often envision highly paid executives, medical professionals, and overburdened front-liners when that phrase comes up. However, any one of us who serves the public can be burdened by this occupational phenomenon. In a recent survey conducted by the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, 33% of all local government respondents showed symptoms of job burnout. Join us to discuss the impact of ‘emotional labor’ on employee engagement and retention.

*Utility: 1 hr.*

**4 - 5 pm**

### Workshop 16.

*Decision-Making: A Risk Management Case Study (Part 2)*

Speakers:

- Michael G. Fann, ARM-P, MBA, President/CEO, P.E. Partners
- Steve Isbell, Police Chief, Dyersburg Police Dept

*CMFO: Financial 1 hr. / Utility: 1 hr.*

### Workshop 17.

*Maximizing Your Stimulus Dollars through Leveraged Savings*

Speaker: Ryan Stanton, TDEC

In this session, you will learn about how to apply for, receive and maximize your city’s stimulus funds. Both public and private sector experts will share details about the CARES Act and the American Jobs Act. Led by the Tennessee Chapter of the Energy Services Coalition, this session will cover how to leverage future utility and operational savings to stretch those funds further. The Coalition is a public private partnership promoting the benefits of, providing education on the widespread use of Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracting.

*CMFO: Financial 1 hr. / Utility: 1 hr.*

### Other Conference Events

- **Saturday, September 18, 5:30 - 6:30 pm**  
Meet & Greet Reception
- **Sunday, September 19, 7:30 am**  
Golf Outing
- **Sunday, September 19, 2:30 - 3:15 pm**  
District Meetings
- **Sunday, September 19, 6 - 8 pm**  
Host City Reception: Chattanooga Aquarium
- **Monday, September 20, 6:30 - 11 pm**  
Public Entity Partners Social
- **Tuesday, September 21, 8-10 am**  
Annual Awards Breakfast

### Expo Hours

- **Sunday, September 19**  
9:30 am - 3 pm Exhibit Hall Open  
11:45 am - 1:45 pm J.R. Wauford Ice Cream  
1:15 - 2:15 pm Roundtable Discussions
- **Monday, September 20**  
8:30 am - 3 pm Exhibit Hall Open  
1:30 - 2 pm Vendor Door Prizes  
1:30 - 3 pm J.R. Wauford Ice Cream

To register go to TML’s website, [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org).

Or contact Sylvia Harris at (615) 425-3903

or by e-mail at [sharris@TML1.org](mailto:sharris@TML1.org).

For more information about the

Expo & Golf Outing, contact

Debbie Kluth at [dkluth@tml1.org](mailto:dkluth@tml1.org), (615) 425-3908.