



2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday July 9

1-5 p.m. Registration open

5:30 p.m. Bristol Speedway track laps

5:20 p.m. Bus leaves MeadowView

6-8 p.m. Dinner at Bristol Motor Speedway

Friday July 10

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Registration Open

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Excursions on your own (signups through Visit Kingsport)

11 a.m. – Noon Workshop

- Before You Borrow: A Tennessee Guide to Financing Options, Trade-offs, and Red Flags (CMFO) (Crockett) – Bryan Skinner, RSA Advisors

Noon - 1 p.m. Lunch on your own for attendees

Noon - 1 p.m. MTAS Advisory Board Luncheon (MeadowView Ballroom)

1 – 4:30 p.m. Expo setup

1-1:30 p.m. Executive Committee meeting (Bays Mountain Boardroom)

1:30-2:30 p.m. TMBF meeting (10 people) (Blue Ridge Boardroom)

1- 2:30 p.m. TML Policy meeting (20 people) (Crockett)

2:45? TML District Directors meeting (Bays Mtn Boardroom)

3 – 4 p.m. TML District meetings (10-30 people)

- District 1 – Scott
- District 2 – Sullivan
- District 3 – Boone
- District 4 – Cherokee
- District 5 – Hawkins
- District 6 – Holston/Watauga
- District 7 – Crockett
- District 8 – Washington

4 – 4:30 p.m. TML Board meeting (Holston/Watauga)

5:15 p.m. Buses leaves MeadowView

5:30-7:30 p.m. Host City Reception at the Farmers Market

5 – 11 p.m. Hospitality Suite (Meadowview Ballroom)

Saturday July 11

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Registration Open

7:30-9 a.m. Expo setup

7:30 - ?? Golf Tournament

9 a.m. – 5:30ish Expo Open (closed during General session)

7:30 – 9:30 a.m. BEMO breakfast (Meadowview Ballroom)(artists setting up at 6:15)

9 – 10 a.m. Workshops

- Oversight of Water Utility and Wastewater Systems Part 1 (Utility - must attend all 3 units to earn credit)(40 people) (Crockett) –Brad Peters, MTAS
- Touchy Topics and Tough People: Avoiding the Legal and Public Pitfalls (Cumberland) –Tom Griscom, Strategy and Communication Consultant & Sam Jackson, Spencer Fane

10:15-11:15 a.m. Workshops

- **Oversight of Water Utility and Wastewater Systems Part 2 (Utility- must attend all 3 units to earn credit) (Crockett) – Brad Peters, MTAS**
- **Keys to Attract, Empower, and Retain Emerging Leaders in Your Community (Warrior's Path) –Dr. Brenda White Wright, The Wright Approach**
- **Harnessing AI for Grant Writing (CMFO) (Cumberland) –Kathryn Good, Good Circle Marketing**

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch in Expo

11 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.WIMG luncheon (MeadowView Ballroom)

12:45 – 2:30 p.m. General Session 1 (Cattails Ballroom)

2:40 – 3:40 p.m. Workshops

- **Oversight of Water Utility and Wastewater Systems Part 3 (Utility- must attend all 3 units to earn credit) (Crockett) – Brad Peters, MTAS**
- **Sound Strategy: Using Music to Drive Growth in Every Tennessee Community (Cattails) – Jimmy Wheeler, Tennessee Entertainment Commission & Dr. Stephen Marshall, Appalachian Music Collective**
- **The Future of Energy & Water in Tennessee: Success Stories & Innovative Solutions (Utility) (Warrior's Path) –Warren Nevad, MTAS; Scott Stephens, SitelogIQ; Jon Sparkman, Tennessee American Water Company**

3:50 – 4:50 p.m. Workshops

- **Beyond Pay: Using Total Rewards to Attract and Keep Great Employees (Warrior's Path)– Leah Frazier, MTAS**
- **Who is Your Fire Chief? (Cattails) –Chief Ronny Beasley, La Vergne Fire & Rescue**

3 – 5 p.m. The Long Island Lounge in Expo

5 p.m. Door prizes in Expo

5:30 p.m. Dinner on your own

5 – 11 p.m. Hospitality Suite (Meadowview Ballroom)

Sunday July 12

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Registration Open

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Expo Open (closed during General session)

9 – 11 a.m. Sip & Savor Coffee Social in Expo

9 – 10 a.m. Workshops

- **Understanding Drone Statutes: Themes, Paths, and Political and Learning Dynamics (Warrior's Path) – Dr. Xuhong Su, Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs**
- **What is the Fire Chief Asking for Now? (CMFO) (Crockett) - Chief Ronny Beasley, La Vergne Fire & Rescue**
- **Make Your Website ADA-Compliant: Meeting ADA Standards for Your Community Part 1 (CMFO - must attend both units for credit) (Cumberland) –Kevin Benson, VC3**

10:15-11:15 a.m. Workshops

- **What's Next for AI and What to Do Now (Warrior's Path) –Kathryn Good, Good Circle Marketing**
- **Make Your Website ADA-Compliant: Meeting ADA Standards for Your Community Part 2 (CMFO - must attend both units for credit) (Cumberland) –Kevin Benson, VC3**

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch in Expo

12:45-2:30 p.m. General Session 2 (Cattails Ballroom)

2:40 – 3:40 p.m. Workshops

- **Tennessee's Economic Update (CMFO) (Cattails) –Dr. Marianne Wanamaker, Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs**
- **Industrial Development Boards and Infrastructure Development Districts: A Planner's Perspective (Warrior's Path) –Micah Wood, TAPA; Jessica Harmon, Kingsport; Emily Wright, Franklin**

3:50 – 4:50 p.m. Workshops

- **Cybersecurity Readiness & Dark Web Exposure (CMFO & Utility) (Cumberland) - Dale Graver, VC3**
- **Small Towns, Big Moves: Learn how 3 Tennessee Towns are Sparking Rural Prosperity (Crockett) - Brooxie Carlton, ECD; Kim Foster, Paris; Nolan Ming, McMinnville; Logan Engle, Elizabethton**

3 – 5 p.m. Ice Cream Social in Expo Presented by FMIG Health

5 p.m. Door prizes in Expo (odd-numbered booths)

6 - 10:30 p.m. PEP Rally Presented by Public Entity Partners (Cattails)