

**63rd Annual Convention of
Wisconsin Towns Association
Sunday, October 3, 2010 to Wednesday, October 6, 2010
@ La Crosse Center
300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, Wis. 54602-1027**

Convention Highlights

The 63rd Annual Convention of Wisconsin Towns Association will be held from Sunday, **October 3, 2010 to Wednesday noon, October 6, 2010 at the La Crosse Center** located at 300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, Wis. 54602-1027 (Located in downtown La Crosse along the Mississippi River.)

As in past years, nearly 25 different workshop topics will be offered for town and village officers, planning commissioners and other interested persons during the convention. The following pages contain a tentative agenda that features the variety of activities for all attending this year's convention. We urge every town and village to send two or more officers, plan commissioners, and other interested persons. (Note that the final agenda is subject to change.)

Sunday Afternoon Early Registration

Join your fellow officers and attendees on Sunday afternoon, October 3, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for Early Bird Registration. The conference registration will be open in the Convention Center. Free parking is available across the street from the La Crosse Center.

We invite convention attendees to come early and visit the dozens of exhibitors, including displays of highway equipment and other items. The La Crosse Center has the largest exhibitor area of any facilities that WTA regularly uses for conventions. From 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. we will have complimentary refreshments of beer, soda, and snacks in the exhibitor's area sponsored by **Rural Insurance Companies**. {Just a note, the Green Bay Packers play the Detroit Lions at noon! Join the post game reception in the exhibitor area!}

Sunday Evening Cruise

Early Sunday evening a two hour cruise on the La Crosse Queen Cruise will board at 5:15 p.m. and leave dock at 5:30 p.m. returning by 7:30 p.m. for a cruise on the Mississippi River. Boarding will be at the North end of the Riverside Park, across from the La Crosse Center and about two blocks north of Center. This cruise will include complimentary hors d'oeuvres and snacks. *(Please note this is not a dinner cruise, but limited snacks and hors d'oeuvres are provided.)* Cost is \$25 per person. Please mark registration form and pay with registration for convention. Limited to 149 persons! Cash bar is available on board. Enjoy the beautiful Mississippi fall colors on this early evening cruise!

Spouse Functions (Optional Events only for Registered Spouses and Guests)

Registered spouses and guests of registered officers are welcome to participate in the convention activities including the General Assemblies on Monday and Tuesday mornings, or any workshop during the convention, or any social event. Registration for spouses and guests remains at \$25 per spouse or guest for the entire convention or one day. Registration for spouses or guests does not include Monday or Tuesday lunch, which is only included in the registration of officers for one day or the full convention. Spouses and guests may join in lunch by

purchasing an optional ticket for lunch at a price of \$12.00 for each day. Tickets will be required for anyone to eat lunch each day. (Note officers' registrations include lunch tickets as part of the registration.)

Registered spouses and guests may also participate in the Monday afternoon farm tour as described below (no additional registration fee required) but please note on the registration form your request to participate as the farm tour will be limited to two busses.

Monday afternoon, registered spouses and guests may participate in a La Crosse Queen Cruise on the picturesque Mississippi River. Boarding at 1:15 p.m. Cruise from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Note this does not include any food, beverages may be purchased on the boat. Cost is \$14.00 per person. Tickets will be part of registration material at WTA registration booth. Please mark your registration form and pay with convention registration. Limited tickets available.

Tuesday afternoon Bingo, registered spouses and guests may participate in Bingo (at no cost) with prizes (including cash prizes) on Tuesday afternoon.

Many other activities for convention attendees, spouses and guests will be available in the La Crosse area, with information available at the WTA Registration area in the Convention Center.

Special Events During the Convention

Special Tour of Modern Family Dairy Farm—Monday, October 4, 2010

Monday afternoon (leaving by bus at 1:15 p.m. and returning approximately 4:30 p.m.) those registered convention attendees, including any registered spouses and guests (who have marked their registration form with intent to participate) will tour the Norse-Star Jersey farm, located west of Westby, Wisconsin. This family farm is owned and run by the Michael Fremstad family and Arden Sherpe family. This farm was expanded in 1998, but Jersey cows have been in the Fremstad family since 1917. This is a sixth generation family farm! The Norse Star milking herd currently numbers over 500 animals on official test.

We know that many town officers with farm backgrounds enjoy visiting these modern dairy farms, however, we particularly want to encourage those town officers who do not have a farm background to join to better understand what family farming in Wisconsin is today! Registered spouses and guests are welcome to join in this tour. This tour is sponsored in part by Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin (PDPW). **Please register on your convention registration form that you intend to participate in this tour.** While there is no cost to participate in this tour, it will be limited to two busses. First registered will receive confirmation of their place on the busses.

Tuesday Evening Awards Banquet (Optional Event/Ticket Required)

On Tuesday evening, October 5, 2010 the Annual WTA Awards Banquet will be held. Presentation of \$7,500 in cash awards to the winners of the **Rural Insurance Companies/Scott Construction Inc./WTA Scholarships** will be made at this award banquet. We will also be continuing the tradition of recognizing long standing town and village officers who have served for 30 years or more (in one or more offices in total). This year recognition will be given for any officer who has served for 30 years or more and attending this year's convention who was not recognized in any of the past three years. We will also be giving special certificates to those officers who have reached a five year plateau of 35 years; 40 years; 45 years; 50 years or 55

years. **Please mark the convention registration form accordingly and acknowledge whether you were recognized in either 2007, 2008, or 2009 at the annual convention.**

Following the awards you will be entertained by James Wedgwood, a comic ventriloquist. Like a one-man variety show, James makes virtually everything talk – from hilarious wooden “associates,” to purses, bottles, and even audience members (yes, they just open their mouths and James provides the surprising words)! James Wedgwood’s show is simply *“The Most Fun You Can Have Without Moving Your Lips!”*

The Awards Banquet menu will include Pork Tenderloin Medallions; Roasted Red Pepper Chicken Breast; Macadamia Crusted Orange Roughy; Baby Spinach Salad with Choice of Buttermilk Blue or Warm Bacon Dressing; Spring Greens with choice of Creamy Parmesan-Peppercorn or French Dressing; Fresh Baked Rolls and butter; Fresh vegetable; potato or pasta; Dessert, Coffee, Tea, or Milk

The cost of this optional banquet ticket is \$35 per person. Tickets for spouses/guests who are not registered for the convention are available for the Tuesday Evening Awards Banquet at a cost of \$35 per ticket. Again please mark your convention registration accordingly.

Monday and Tuesday Lunches (included in registration for officers)

The cost of registration for the entire convention (\$125) or a one day registration (\$70) for a town/village officer includes lunch on Monday or Tuesday. Lunch tickets will be collected each day.

Monday’s lunch menu will feature “Top your own Pasta”, including Garden Greens with choice of dressing; bread sticks with butter, Italian seasoned vegetables, Penne and Bowtie Pasta, Marinara sauce with meat, Alfredo sauce, coffee, tea or, milk (with cookies or bars in the exhibitors display area following the meal).

Tuesday’s lunch menu will feature soup, with sliced turkey or ham sandwich buffet, with Kaiser rolls and breads, tomato, lettuce, onion and pickles, mayonnaise, Dijon mustard, creamy horseradish sauce, vegetable pasta salad, coffee, iced tea, or milk (with cookies or bars following the meal).

Note registered spouses and guests may purchase the optional lunch tickets for \$12.00 per day. Please mark your convention registration forms accordingly.

Wednesday Morning Legislative Update In Radisson Hotel (located next to the La Crosse Center) at 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, Wis. 54601

On Wednesday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. a Legislative Update will be presented by the WTA staff. We will be discussing the legislative agenda for the 2011-12 Legislative session. We urge all attending the convention to participate in this Wednesday morning legislative session. Bring your ideas for issues to be included in the next WTA legislative agenda. *Please note that this Wednesday morning session will be held in the Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel, located adjacent to the La Crosse Center at 200 Harborview Plaza. .*

Registration Form in this Magazine

Please see the registration form on a page later in this magazine. It may be duplicated, but one registration form should be sent for each officer and spouse/guest. Please mark the form accordingly, including the number of years served if more than 30 years in office. Again, we will announce all registered who have served over 30 years, but will only make presentations of

certificates who were not recognized in 2007 or 2008 and those who have reached 35 year, 40 year, 45 year, 50 year, or 55 year plateaus.

Please note the Tuesday evening Awards Banquet Ticket is an optional event and is not included in the registration cost. **Registrations received after Wednesday, September 22, 2010 will have a late registration charge of an additional \$15.00 per person for late registration.** We need your registrations by that date to insure proper head counts for meals and optional events. Please register early!

Please note that this is a tentative agenda subject to change. More details on some of the workshops will be released in upcoming monthly magazines. Please also see this information on the WTA website at www.wisctowns.com We are sorry, but on-line registration is not available, however the registration form may be copied at this website.

Tentative Agenda for 63rd WTA Annual Convention

Sunday, October 3, 2010 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Early Bird Registration

Complimentary Reception sponsored by **Rural Insurance Companies** in the Exhibit Area from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. of the La Crosse Center. Come and visit the nearly 100 different exhibitors, including exhibits of highway equipment.

Note Sunday evening optional La Crosse Queen Cruise boards at 5:15 p.m.(at north end of Riverside Park) Limited to first 149 people registering for this optional tour at \$25 per person, please register on registration form.

Sunday evening dinner on your own in La Crosse area. Information on restaurants and other area activities will be available at the WTA Convention Registration area.

Monday, October 4, 2010

7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Registration for Convention at the La Crosse Center.

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Exhibit Area Open in the La Crosse Center

Complimentary coffee sponsored by **Scott Construction, Inc.** in the Exhibitor Area from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. each morning

8:00 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. General Legal Cracker Barrel in General Assembly Area

Bring your questions and hear the questions and answers of others.

8:45 a.m. to 10:45 am. General Assembly (with featured speakers to be announced later)

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Round I Workshop topics (room assignments to be announced at the Convention)

- 1. Working Lands Ordinance Development**, Hear about ordinance development and amendments to implement the “Working Lands” program for farmland preservation. Presented by Warren Uttecht of Mortensen and Eisele and Keith Foye of DATCP.
- 2. Stormwater Utilities**, Hear about the pros and cons of creation of stormwater utility and the do’s and don’ts in the process of creating, presented by representatives of Robert E. Lee & Associates
- 3. Prevailing Wage Rate Law**, bring your questions to the representative of the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) regarding the “prevailing wage rate law,” presented by representatives of DWD

4. **Legal Cracker Barrel, focusing on Highway Issues** such as encroachments, injury to highway, tree trimming, discontinuance, etc. presented by Carol Nawrocki, Senior WTA Legal Counsel
5. **NR 151 Non-point rules**, Hear about the latest status of NR 151 Non—point rules and how they will affect landowners, particularly farmers, and towns/villages. Presenters to be confirmed.

12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. in La Crosse Center

Lunch will be provided as part of the convention registration for those town and village officers registered for the convention. Spouses and guests may purchase a lunch ticket at a cost of \$12.00 per lunch. (See menu details in convention highlights above.) Also visit the Exhibitor Area after you have had lunch for cookies or bars!

1:15 p.m. Busses leave from La Crosse Center for Dairy Farm Tour to the Norse-Star Jersey farm, located west of Westby, Wisconsin. **(with return approximately 4:30 p.m.)**

Please see details in the convention highlights above. This is being sponsored in part by Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin (PDPW). There is no cost for this farm tour, but you must be registered and have a ticket. Please mark your registration form. Limited to two busses.

1:15 p.m. Boarding time for La Crosse Queen afternoon cruise

Boarding time for Optional La Crosse Queen afternoon cruise on Mississippi River. Board at north end of Riverside Park across street from La Crosse Center and about two blocks north of Center. Cruise leaves at 1:30 p.m. and returns approximately 3:00 p.m. Beverages may be purchased on the cruise. Cost of \$14.00 per person, must be registered spouse or guest to obtain tickets. Mark registration form and pay with registration fees. Limited number of tickets available.

Round II Workshops on Monday 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. at La Crosse Center

Repeat of the same workshop topics and presenters as Round I at 11:00 a.m. as announced above.

Round III Workshops on Monday, October 4, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

1. **Urban Towns Committee Annual Meeting** This annual meeting of the Urban Towns Committee is open to any town or village officer registered to attend the convention, but voting will only be available to member town and village officers of member towns and villages of the WTA Urban Towns Committee. Election of three UTC board members for two year terms will be held at this meeting. Note this workshop is expected to be approximately 1 and ½ hours to 2 hours long.
2. **“How Can My Town Utilize Land Information”** Jodi Helgeson, Adams County Register of Deeds/Land Information Officer and Justin Conner, Wood County GIS Specialist will discuss how towns can use land records systems to work smarter and not harder. Learn how to access land records websites, geographic data, assessment information and other resources available to Towns.
3. **Providing Public Access to Public bodies of water and Limits on discontinuance of public access.** Hear about state programs to assist in providing public access to navigable

bodies of waters and state limitations and procedures required to on discontinuance of public access, presented by Dave Need of DNR.

4. Purchase of Agriculture Easements (PACE) and Agricultural Enterprise Areas

(AEAs) Hear about these new state programs under the Working Lands program to preserve farmland. Hear what these programs are? Hear what towns may do to participate? Bring your questions! Presented by Vicki Elkin of DATCP

5. Website Development for Towns and Villages Hear how to develop a website for your town or village. Bring your questions and thoughts for others to hear if you have your own website! Hear more about WTA's website! Presented by Dustin Overbeck of Town Web Design Inc. (host server of WTA website) and Lee Turonie Legal Counsel and Lobbyist of WTA.

Round IV Workshops on Monday, October 4, 2010 at 3:40 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.

Repeat of the same workshop topics and presenters as Round III at 2:30 p.m.. as announced above, except that WTA/Urban Towns Annual Meeting will run from 2:30 p.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m. or so.

4:40 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Exhibitor Reception (complimentary beer, soda, and snacks)

Dinner on your own on Monday Evening

8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. Dance and enjoy the Music of "Stateline Playboys" Playing a great variety of music including polkas, waltz's, fox-trots, to big band swing to country old and new, all the way to your favorite rock and roll from the 50's to the present. The Stateline Playboys are the "boys that have made the noise for forty-five years of entertainment."

Tuesday, October 5, 2009

7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Registration for Convention at the La Crosse Center

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Exhibit Area Open in La Crosse Center

Complimentary coffee sponsored by Scott Construction, Inc. in the Exhibitor Area from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. each morning

8:00 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. General Legal Cracker Barrel in General Assembly Area

Bring your questions and hear the questions and answers of others.

8:45 a.m. to 10:45 am. General Assembly (with featured speakers to be announced later)

10:50 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. Resolutions from County Units. Voting by registered town or village officers. Voting certificates to be issued with registration material to be picked up at the Convention.

12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m.

Lunch will be provided as part of the convention registration for those town and village officers registered for the convention. Spouses and guests may purchase a lunch ticket at a cost of \$12.00 per lunch. (See menu details in convention highlights above.) Also visit the Exhibitor Area after you have had lunch for cookies or bars!

1:15 p.m. to approximately 2:15 p.m. BINGO for registered spouses and guests!

Round V Workshops on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

- 1. Government Accountability Board (GAB) Election Training for Clerks** This will be a two hour session for clerks training on election laws and procedures. Bring your questions and comments for the GAB staff that will be presenting this workshop. (Note this is a two hour workshop and will run until approximately 3:30 pm. with breaks.)
- 2. General Transportation Aids (GTA) Formula** Hear how the General Transportation Aid formula works! What does it mean to be capped out at 85% of three year average expenditures? How are the GTA aids determined for all towns, villages, and cities? What expenditures are eligible highway expenses? Also hear a brief overview of the Local Road Improvement Program (TRIP for towns). Bring your highway aids questions for the DOT representatives including Lori Richter of DOT
- 3. PDPW (Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin) Panel** Hear from two modern dairy farmers on their dairy farm expansions in recent years. Ask your questions about dairy farm operations of individuals involved in day to day operations. This panel is provided by PDPW as a cooperative effort under the ACE (Agricultural Community Engagement) partnership with WTA; Wisconsin Counties Association and PDPW.
- 4. Weight Limit Authority and Special Study of Heavy Farm Equipment on Local Roads** Hear from Tom Harnisch, WTA Education Director and Attorney on the legal authority of towns to impose weight limits on town highways, including weight limits on farm equipment and logging trucks. {Note to be confirmed is a presentation on a three year study of the impact of heavy farm vehicles on local roads being conducted in Minnesota Test Site.)

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Round VI Workshops on Tuesday, October 5, 2010

- 1. GAB Election Training for Clerks** (starts at 1:15 p.m. and runs through this session)
- 2. General Transportation Aids (GTA) Formula** (Repeat of workshop from above)
- 3. PDPW Panel** (Repeat of Producer Panel from above)
- 4. State Recycling Update:** DNR Recycling staff will provide an update on the recycling program, covering topics such as electronics recycling, the new oil filter/absorbents ban, trends in Wisconsin's recycling collection and results from a recent study on municipal solid waste going to Wisconsin landfills. There will be ample time for questions and discussion with participants.
- 5. Energy Independent Communities 2010** marks the second year of an innovative grant program offered by the State of Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence to help local units of government prepare plans to achieve energy independence goals. This presentation will describe the program, summarize results and lessons learned from last year with an emphasis on Town participants, discuss accomplishments to date of this years grant recipients and describe future funding opportunities.

3:40 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. Round VII Workshops on Tuesday October 5, 2010

- 1. State Recycling Update** (Repeat of Workshop from above)
- 2. Energy Independent Communities** (Repeat of Workshop from above)
- 3. Weight Limit Authority and Special Study of Heavy Farm Equipment on Local Roads** Repeat of Workshop at 1:15 p.m. from above)

4. **Legal Cracker Barrel for clerks and treasurers** presented by WTA staff and other resource people

4:40 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Free Time on your own

6:00 p.m. Doors to Tuesday Evening Awards Banquet open in La Crosse Center

6:15 p.m. Awards Banquet is served {Note this is an optional event. Ticket required. Please mark convention registration form appropriately. Cost is \$35 per person.}

Following banquet, the awards program presentation of 2009 **Rural Insurance Companies/Scott Construction Inc./WTA Scholarships** (a total of \$7,500 in scholarships will be awarded).

Special recognition for all town and village officers in attendance who have served in one or more elected offices for 30 years or more and were not recognized in 2007, 2008, or 2009. Except special recognition with presentation of certificates will be made to those officers who have reached the 35 year, 40 year, 45 year, 50 year or 55 year plateau. Please mark your convention registration form with appropriate information.

Banquet entertainment will be by James Wedgwood, a comic ventriloquist. Like a one-man variety show, James makes virtually everything talk – from hilarious wooden “associates,” to purses, bottles, and even audience members (yes, they just open their mouths and James provides the surprising words)! James Wedgwood’s show is simply *“The Most Fun You Can Have Without Moving Your Lips!”*

Note there will be no dancing or music after the awards banquet and entertainer this year.

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 in Radisson Hotel Ballroom (next to La Crosse Center) at 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, Wis.

8:30 a.m. Coffee, rolls and milk compliments of Scott Construction, Inc.

9:00 a.m. Legislative and Current Issues Update, discussion of WTA legislative agenda for 2011-2012 presented by WTA staff. Expect conclusion by 11:00 a.m.

Assessors Workshops Topics to be announced in August WTA Magazine

Please note that assessors workshop will be offered on Monday and Tuesday from 8:45 am. to 11:45 a.m. and from 1:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. (each day). Topics will be announced in the September WTA magazine. **The Assessor workshops will be held in the Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel on Monday and Tuesday.** Assessors should pick up their registration material on Sunday, at La Crosse Center. If first registering on Monday or Tuesday, assessor registration will be outside of Ballroom in Radisson Hotel starting at 8:00 a.m. each morning.

You can view more details about the workshops and presenters’ names on the WTA website at www.wisctowns.com A registration form follows in this magazine and can be found at the WTA website. Please use a separate registration form for each person registering. For any questions about the 2010 WTA convention please call (715) 526-3157.