

73rd
Annual



WTa

Convention

At Your Convenience!

*The staff, Board of Directors, and town officials across Wisconsin are all disappointed that the “in person” annual WTa convention had to be cancelled this year (please see Mike’s article for the cancellation announcement). But, WTa is focused on making lemonade out of lemons and is pleased to inform you that you will still be able to take advantage of all of the great educational opportunities we had planned to offer you this year – **AT YOUR CONVENIENCE!***

*We have worked with each of the presenters to provide their session in a distance learning format. You will be able to engage in a live webinar by calling in from your telephone (the way we’ve done distance learning for years) or you will be able to participate via your computer. You will be able to hear and/or see the program, as well as, ask questions. **Each of these one hour programs will begin at 10:00 am on the date indicated, except for the elections training on October 13th which will start at 9:00am and run until 11:30am.***

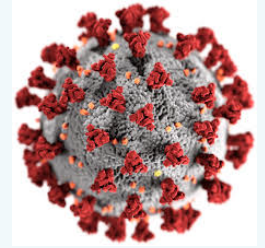
*If you are unable to listen in to the live webinar, don’t worry! We are going to be recording these sessions and posting them to our website shortly after each session. This way, the registered convention attendees who want to listen at their leisure or go back and hear the program again will have the opportunity to do so. If you had trouble getting away from work to attend the convention in past years, this new format is going to allow you listen and learn when it works for you – **AT YOUR CONVENIENCE!***

If you’ve attended in person in the past, you always had to pick and choose which sessions to go to. Ultimately, you had to miss out on some great educational opportunities, but not anymore. Another great thing to remember about the distance learning format is that you can participate in every session!

*Instead of picking and choosing, you’ll have the opportunity to listen to all of the sessions live, or go to the WTa website and watch the recording. You can even watch again and again and again. So, while we won’t see you in person this year, we encourage you to take advantage of this cost effective and time saving convention that you can still enjoy – **AT YOUR CONVENIENCE!** Registration information is provided later in this magazine.*

October 5th

Coping with COVID-19 and its Related Stress



COVID-19 demands a focus on your physical and emotional well-being. Dr. Kesebir's presentation is "How to Cultivate a Healthy Mind?" while dealing with COVID-19 and beyond. Her focus is on the healthy mind qualities and how to cultivate them while emphasizing the importance of gratitude. Also, the UW-Madison - Extension Local Government Education Program (formerly Local Government Center) will provide additional healthy mind and body resources to aid local government officials and their families. Presenters: Dr. Pelin Kesebir, Assistant Scientist, Center for Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Hannah Katz and Amy Shircel, Program Assistants, Local Government Education Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension.

October 6th

Legal and Technological Considerations When Hosting and Running Remote Public Meetings

Productive virtual meetings require some additional skill sets. This session will focus on understanding the various electronic meeting and technological resources available to host remote meetings, including ZOOM, Microsoft Teams, Google Hangouts, GoToMeeting, and Skype for Business, and practical instructions for using each, practical advice for the meeting Chair on running and for members attending an electronic meeting, updates to the DOJ Office of Open Government electronic meeting advisories. Presenters: Andrew T. Phillips, von Briesen & Roper, S.C., Outside Counsel for Wisconsin Counties Association; Karen W. Moore, Local Government Specialist, Local Government Education Program, UW-Madison - Extension

October 7th

Dealing with Revenue Shortfalls

The COVID-19 impacts on town revenues remain unclear, but are likely substantial. This session will assist local governments in understanding the potential revenue impacts and coping strategies to address them. Also, tips for organizing effectively to secure COVID-19 resources, current available economic forecasts on local government revenues, and essential scenario planning and strategies regarding the COVID-19 financial impacts. Presenters: Jonathan Katz, Financial Specialist, Ehlers, Inc., Daniel D. Foth, Interim Program Manager, Local Government Education Program, UW-Madison – Extension

October 9th

Local Control of Siting and Expansion of Large Livestock Agriculture Operations – Sixteen Years of Livestock Siting Law Lessons

Wisconsin enacted a livestock facility siting law in 2004. This law represented a significant reduction in local control over land use decisions related to new and expanded farms that contain livestock. Much has changed in agriculture practices and the regulatory approaches of local governments during the last 16 years and those changes strongly influence the livestock siting process. In addition, recent high-profile attempts by state regulators and legislators to update this law have caused turmoil in this program. Join us to discuss where we started, how practices, interpretations, and administration of this program have evolved, and the program's uncertain future. Presented by Atty. Larry Konopacki Stafford Rosenbaum LLP.



October 12th

2020 Wisconsin Department of Revenue Update

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) will provide an update on (1) law changes, (2) calendar items, (3) communications, (4) MYDORGOV and (5) Property Assessment Process Guide for Municipal Officials. Law changes will focus on property assessment and property tax. Calendar items will include upcoming property assessment and property tax due dates. A review of the increased outreach efforts and the DOR customer survey represents the Communications section of the presentation. The MYDORGOV section will review resources on the DOR website and common questions. The Property Assessment Process Guide for Municipal Officials will also be discussed, which includes assessment terms and sample assessment contracts.

October 13th (9:00-11:30am)

Election Update with the WEC!

The Wisconsin Elections Commission will provide election officials with some important reminders for the November General and Presidential Election, outline the preparations and precautions clerks and election workers should take to ensure public health at the polls and review the training resources available on our website and in the Learning Center. Election security will continue to be front and center and we will provide an update on the Commission's election security program and our efforts to work with federal and state governments and our clerk-partners to guarantee that Wisconsin elections continue to be fair and open! This session will count towards recertification training for clerks.

October 14th

Flexing Trust: Firefighters and Farmers Tackling Farm Safety Together

The Rural Firefighters Delivering Agriculture Safety and Health (RF-DASH) program is a train-the-trainer program designed to increase rural firefighters knowledge and ability to promote injury prevention on local farms. We will present the work from the past four years training over 70 rural fire/ EMS personnel from around the country. Presented by Casper Bendixsen, PhD - Director of the National Farm Medicine Center.

October 15th

Town Law and Legislation Update

This session will provide an overview of the 2019-2020 legislative session and recent changes to law affecting towns. Learn about WTA legislative priorities and accomplishments, and how new state laws will impact your town. Presented by WTA Legal Counsel Joe Ruth.

October 19th

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program – What is it, how does it work, and how is it calculated?

Have you ever wondered how the state and federal governments process and distribute PILT payments? This presentation focuses on providing a clear understanding of both the state and federal PILT programs to give you a better understanding of how it works and what you can expect on a yearly basis. Presented by Brett Daul – PILT and Capital Budget Policy Specialist with the Bureau of Facilities and Lands in the DNR.

October 20th

Worker's Compensation – How to effectively control your premium costs

This session will take a deep dive into how the State of Wisconsin determines your Worker's Compensation insurance premium, and what you can do to effectively control that cost. From effective employment policies to a coordinated approach with your insurance company resources, learn how you can control your premium. Presenter: Chris Schlechta, Safety and Loss Control Manager for Rural Mutual Insurance Company.



October 21st

Local Redistricting in Wisconsin: Legislative Reference & Technology

The Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) and Legislative Technology Services Bureau (LTSB) will provide information on the legal process of local redistricting, and the software utilized for local redistricting throughout the state of Wisconsin. This will include legislative reference information as well as introduction to the software. Presenters: Joseph Kreye, LRB & Ryan Squires, LTSB

October 22nd

Adopting Effective Ordinances

How can your town or village make the best use of local ordinances? How can you make sure your local rules are clear, consistent, and enforceable? This session will provide answers to common questions about municipal ordinances, including when to use an ordinance versus a resolution, what procedures are required to properly adopt or amend ordinances, common pitfalls to avoid when drafting ordinances, how to format ordinances, how to adopt and maintain a code of ordinances, what notices are required to make ordinances effective, and what methods can be used to enforce ordinances. Presented by WTA Legal Counsel Lara Carlson.

October 27, 2020

Outdoor Advertising

The State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), Outdoor Advertising, is providing outreach and education to municipalities regarding State of Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules and Federal Highway laws pertaining to Outdoor Advertising along State, US and Federal highways, Scenic Byways and The Great River Road. We want to ensure that you have all the information for your residents and businesses regarding erecting and installing signs along regulated highways in Wisconsin and the process to apply for a WisDOT sign permit. Presented by Debikay Johnson, Statewide Outdoor Advertising Coordinator/SharePoint Coordinator.

October 30th

Tools and Assistance to Help Your Community Clean Up and Improve Distressed Commercial and Industrial Properties

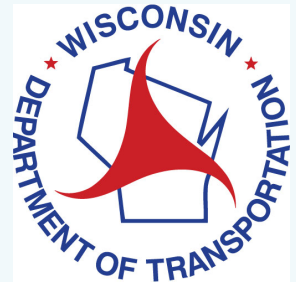
If your town is ready to take charge of an abandoned or underutilized gas station, feed mill, factory or some other commercial property, the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment program is ready to help. Our staff have years of experience helping communities clean up and revitalize these so-called "brownfield" properties in ways that protect public health and meet your community's goals. *Continued...*

This presentation will outline current environmental and redevelopment resources available from state and federal partners, as well as legal options to take control of tax delinquent properties and obtain an environmental liability exemption. You'll also find out how a Green Team meeting with DNR and others is often a great way to learn more about brownfield redevelopment for a specific property. Presented by: Michael Prager – WI DNR Land Recycling Team Leader & Barry Ashenfelter – Brownfields Program & Policy Analyst.

November 2nd

Wisconsin Information Systems for Local Roads (WISLR): Certifying Local Roads and Entering Pavement Ratings

This presentation will explain how to certify your local road mileage for general transportation aids (GTA) and how to enter your pavement ratings. The WISLR website has also been updated! Attend the session so you can learn about the changes to Web WISLR. Presented by Kathleen Spencer, WI DOT.



November 3rd

Road Creation and Abandonment

Managing town road issues is a common cause of concern for many town boards. There are often questions about how to establish new roads, how to discontinue existing roads, and how to figure out if a particular road ever was or still is a town road. We'll discuss how to work through these questions at the local level and explain the basics of road creation, discontinuance and abandonment. Presented by: WTA Assistant Director Carol Nawrocki.

November 4th

Implementing an Effective Employee Safety Program for Your Municipality, Regardless of Size

Whether you have two or twenty two employees, we will discuss specific strategies and resources to reduce risks using site-specific policies and procedures. Mr. Schlechta has spent years working with municipalities from towns to counties developing and implementing custom safety programs. He has also developed a custom safety manual template specifically for Wisconsin town's that will be discussed and provided for free to WTA member townships attending this session. Presenter: Chris Schlechta, Safety and Loss Control Manager for Rural Mutual Insurance Company.