

2022



WTa

Convention

Hilton Appleton Paper Valley and Fox Cities Exhibition Center
333 W. College Avenue, Appleton
October 9-11, 2022

Join town officials from around the state as we gather in one place to listen, learn and connect with each other! Our convention offers a wonderful opportunity to network with your peers, learn from experienced educators about the topics that matter most to towns, and become acquainted with state agency staff and other exhibitors that provide the services and products that can make your life easier. Mark your calendar and come spend some quality time with us this October!

Sunday October 9th

Registration will be open from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The exhibitor area will open at 1:00 p.m. Come meet, learn from, and build relationships with vendors and companies that provide products and services of interest to towns. There will be a general assembly from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A highlight of the afternoon will include awarding of the WTA, Scott Construction, and Rural Mutual Insurance Scholarships!

Sunday Welcome Reception & Evening Entertainment

Convention attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy complimentary beer, soda, and snacks from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. while they visit with the exhibitors.

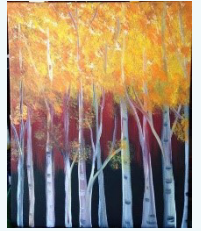
After enjoying dinner on your own Sunday evening, guests are invited to come to our **75th birthday party!** Have a piece of cake, enjoy complimentary beer, soda and snacks and listen to live music. **Bella Musik**, a Midwestern vocal duo, will be performing classic, easy listening, acoustic songs for your enjoyment from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Come celebrate with us!

Monday October 10th

New this year—Monday breakfast! Join us for a hot breakfast buffet from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Following breakfast, there will be a general assembly from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with featured speakers whose names will not be released until confirmed. Workshops will begin at 11:00 a.m. and run through 4:45 p.m. with a break for lunch.

Monday Spouse Activity

Monday afternoon, registered spouses and guests will have the opportunity to practice their painting skills and complete a 16" x 20" stretched canvas painting of birch trees in the fall during an art workshop provided by Paint U Something. All materials will be provided. Attendees need to be sure to pre-register for this fun event as the workshop will be limited to the first 30 registrants. **The fee is \$35.**



Monday Afternoon Exhibitor Reception

There will be a reception in the exhibitor area with complimentary beer, soda, and snacks for all registered attendees. Note that the exhibitors will tear down at the end of the day Monday and will not be present on Tuesday.

Monday Evening Banquet

The annual banquet will be held on Monday night of the convention at 6:00 p.m. Long standing town officers will be recognized for their service. To receive this recognition, please mark your registration form accordingly and indicate that you will be attending the banquet. The banquet is an optional event that will feature a buffet dinner at a cost of **\$25 per person** and is not included in the general registration fee. (Spouses and guests are welcome to attend the banquet at a cost of \$25 per person.) Be sure to indicate that you plan to attend the banquet on your convention registration form.

Monday Night Entertainment

Following the banquet, try your luck at the games that we'll have set up around the banquet area. Be sure to visit the exhibitors on Sunday and Monday to collect the tokens that you will need to use for your chances to play. Who knows, maybe you'll win a prize! All registered convention attendees are invited to join us for the games following the banquet. This will be a great time to mix and mingle with fellow attendees. Enjoy complimentary beer, soda, and snacks. You won't want to miss out on the FUN!

Tuesday October 11th

On Tuesday morning a hot breakfast buffet will be served from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. After you have enjoyed some breakfast, get ready to learn with a variety of workshops that begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 10:45 a.m. A BINGO game for cash prizes will be held for registered spouses and guests at 10:00 a.m. There will be a General Assembly from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and we will conclude the day with a buffet lunch.

Registration Fees

\$200 Full Registration

Includes breakfast and lunch on Monday and Tuesday, exhibitor receptions, all workshops, General Assemblies, digital materials, Sunday night entertainment, and game night admission.

\$120 Single Day Registration (Monday or Tuesday)

Includes Monday or Tuesday breakfast, lunch, workshops and General Assembly, digital materials, Monday exhibitor reception and game night admission.

\$40 Spouse or Guest Registration

Includes exhibitor receptions, BINGO, Sunday night entertainment, General Assemblies, and game night admission. Meals are not included, but tickets for breakfast, lunch, and the banquet may be purchased separately. See the registration form.

Deputy clerks and treasurers, election officials, plan commissioners and others who wish to attend workshops must pay regular full or single day convention registration fees.

Workshop Schedule and Topics

Please Note: There will be an election training class provided by the Wisconsin Elections Commission on Monday afternoon from 2:30 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. Please indicate on the registration form if you plan to attend the Election Training so we can accurately gauge the number of attendees and plan accordingly. Workshops are scheduled for both Monday and Tuesday. Most have one hour time slots and will be repeated a second time. The Election Training workshop will last for two hours and will not be repeated.

Monday: 11:00 a.m. - Noon (Repeated 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.)

1. Solar Regulation and Best Practices: Recent technological advancements and shifting energy priorities are causing significant increases in the construction of solar infrastructure. This presentation will examine state and local regulatory authority over solar facilities and provide guidance to successfully navigate solar infrastructure deployment in your community. Presented by WTA Legal Counsel Joe Ruth and Keith Ripp, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

2. Segregate Your Duties: How can you work with your board to mitigate the risk of fraud and financial errors or misstatements? Come ready to brainstorm and plan a proper risk assessment of your organization and its current internal control framework. You will walk out of this session with action items to improve your internal control framework and with tools on how to discuss these action items and the whole process with your board. Learn how to work with your board to help them understand and make this evaluation a regular part of their policy review process. Presented by Krisztina Dommer, CPA of KerberRose Certified Public Accountants.

3. Best Practices for Meeting Agendas and Minutes: This session will discuss responsibility for drafting meeting agendas, communicating about what to include on an agenda, and suggestions for how detailed agenda items should be. Time will also be spent on agenda posting requirements, what to include and not include in meeting minutes, policies for getting minutes approved, amending minutes, and sharing draft and/or final copies of minutes with the public. Presented by WTA Legal Counsel Lara Carlson.

4. The Impact of a Rising Interest Rate Environment on Municipal Finance Decisions and Cash Management– the Good and the Bad: In the news you see reports of inflation, and Federal Fund Rate increases, but how does that impact your Town? You have important decisions to make that could impact facility improvements, project planning, and budgets. These decisions are directly impacted by interest rates and it is important that your Finance Team be aware of how a rising interest rate environment can have a good and bad impact on these financial decisions. Presented by: Tami Olszewski, Senior Investment Advisor, Ehlers.

5. TBD

Monday 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Repeated 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.)

1. Planning for Renewable Energy Systems: Due to national and global efforts to reduce the dependency on fossil fuel consumption, renewable energy project developers are earnestly seeking acreage to site utility scale solar and wind projects, both in Wisconsin and across the nation. Rural towns with large tracts of undeveloped agricultural land are uniquely positioned to become the gateway communities to these large-scale renewable energy and sustainability projects, oftentimes with mixed resident support. Towns must be pro-active in their Future Land Use Plans to assess where renewable energy projects may be sited to be most advantageous to the Town, residents, and land. This session will discuss how towns can utilize land use planning to develop criteria that can help protect incompatible areas while identifying areas that could accommodate the multifaceted benefits of renewable energy. Presented by Ken Jaworski, Senior Consultant, Cedar Corporation.

2. Aids for Town Roads Amidst Emergency/Natural Disaster: Floods, storms, and other disasters often wreak havoc on town infrastructure. Are you aware that there are aid programs available to help towns repair the damage and recover after disasters? This session will provide you with an overview of the WisDOT Disaster Damage Aid program, the FEMA Public Assistance program, and the Wisconsin Disaster Fund program and explain eligibility for assistance under these programs. Presented by Patrick Vander Sanden, WI DOT Program Manager, and Derek Bodmer and Kelsey Brown, Wisconsin Emergency Management.

3. Building Broadband in a Rural Community: Making broadband available to rural communities requires collaboration. Learn how Langlade County Economic Development has built public/private partnerships in order to continue to implement a community- wide broadband plan. Presented by Angie Close, Executive Director, Langlade County Economic Development Corporation.

4. TBD

5. Cracker Barrel: Always popular, this session will offer the opportunity for attendees to ask the WTA Legal Staff questions about any town topic. Bring your questions or just sit and listen to learn more about issues towns around the state are facing.

6. WEC Election News and Updates: Wisconsin Elections Commission staff will provide clerks with the latest news and information concerning elections security, the WisVote data management system, Badger Books and any updates to election administration laws and procedures that impact your election officials and voters.

This two-hour session will count for recertification training. Presented by staff from the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Monday 3:45 p.m. (until conclusion)

The Town Advocacy Council (TAC) will hold its Annual Meeting during which it will elect three board members to the TAC Executive Board, review its financial report and discuss other matters related to TAC. Officials from all TAC member towns and villages are encouraged to attend!

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. (Repeated 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)

1. Public Records Overview: The Public Records Law is a cornerstone piece of Wisconsin's open government culture. It helps promote transparency in our government, and it helps promote an informed electorate. It also places significant responsibility on local government officials to understand public records requirements. This session will provide an overview of common public records issues including when something is considered a public record, responding to public records requests, and how to adopt a records retention policy. Presented by: Jake Langenhahn, Wisconsin Towns Association Outreach Specialist.

2. TBD

3. USDA Rural Development – Your Partner in Prosperity: USDA Rural Development is the lead Federal agency helping rural communities grow and prosper. We increase economic development and improve the quality of life in rural places and small towns. We provide loans, grants and technical assistance to build critical infrastructure like broadband, water systems, town halls, libraries, childcare centers and hospitals. We also work with communities on purchasing first responder vehicles and equipment. Our programs expand access to e-connectivity, electric and transportation infrastructure, and support business growth, healthcare, education, housing and other community essentials. Join us to learn about our program opportunities and how we can help be your partner in prosperity. Presented by USDA Rural Development Staff.

4. Renewable Energy Development: Empowering Communities: Invenergy's local partnerships reflect the core principles of our business and the role we play in a changing world. Through local engagement, we have amplified our impact in the communities where we live, work and operate. This presentation to WTA will provide an overview of our collaboration with local governments, communities and landowners and contextualize these efforts within the state regulatory process. Presented by Cooper Johnson, Manager, Renewable Development, Invenergy LLC.

5. TBD

The convention registration form follows in this magazine. Please use separate registration forms for each person and send them into our Shawano office as directed on the form. Online registration is also available on the WTA website. We are excited to be planning a fun and educational experience for you. We hope to see you at the convention!