

**TENNESSEEE CITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**2015 FALL CONFERENCE**

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

**October 21-23, 2015**

**DOUBLETREE HOTEL**

**Vision Ballroom A & B**

 **407 Chestnut Street**

**Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402**

**WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 21, 2015**

**8:30 – 9:00 AM – Early Registration**

**9:00 – 11:30 AM - Next Big Things: Are You Future Ready?** – What might our cities look like in the year 2036? Overview the forces and trends that should be on your radar screen. This session will break into groups and conduct a “big sort”, looking at your community’s vulnerabilities and where you might need to focus your efforts – action steps to be future ready. The session will conclude by watching animated plausible scenarios for communities in 2036. Karen Thoreson, President of the Alliance for Innovation, will lead session. *(CMFO 2.5 Hours–Other*)

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM - Lunch on Your Own, Early Hotel Check-in and Regular Conference Registration**

**1:00 – 1:30 PM – Welcome and Update on TCMA and ICMA Activities –** TCMA President Kirk Bednar (Brentwood) and ICMA Vice President Bill Hammon (Alcoa)

**1:30 – 2:30 PM - What to Do and How to React When You Are Under Attack**– What are effective communications strategies when you are in the foxhole? What is the best management approach for moving beyond crisis management? Panelists include Bill Phillips (Former Deputy Mayor of Metro Nashville & now with Windrow Phillips), Gary Hensley (retired Maryville City Manager), and Louie Brogdon (Chattanooga Times Free Press). Amanda Deaton-Moyer to moderate session. (*CMFO 1 hour-Other)*

**2:30 – 2:45 PM – Break**

**2:45 – 3:00 PM – Recognition of Graduate Students** – A brief introduction from students interested in internships and careers in local government

**3:00 – 4:00 PM - Living in the Fishbowl – the Challenge for City Manager Spouses and the Family** - Being in the family of the City Manager is hard. Your career is not always about you – so understanding and addressing the needs of the family is critical to your success. Learn from a panel of spouses about the ups and downs, how they manage through the challenges and the positive aspects of being a partner in this profession. Discussion will touch on living a “public life”, dealing with open, often personal, criticism, terminations and relocations, disruptions to their own careers, etc. Panelists include Jane Johnson (Shelbyville), Sonya Helms (Harriman), Bethany Lay (Spring Hill), and Jenna Watson (Oak Ridge). Linda Hood (Brentwood) to moderate session. *(CMFO 1 hour–Other)*

**4:00 – 4:30 PM – TCMA Committee Meetings**  - Policy/Legislative, Professional Development, Communication, Recruiting the Next Generation, Sponsorship Development, Nomination & Recognition, Ethics, and 2019 ICMA Conference Host Committee. Non-committee members are encouraged to sit in and participate in a committee of interest.

**4:30 – 5:30 PM – On Your Own/Hospitality Suite** (3rd Floor) – Sponsored by **CUMBERLAND SECURITIES CO.**, represented by John Wernerand Joseph Ayres – [www.cumberlandsecurities.com](http://www.cumberlandsecurities.com)

**5:30 – 8:00 PM - Social Event** – The Association will host an early evening cruise of the Tennessee River on the **Southern Belle 2 Riverboat**. The dock is located 4 blocks north on Chestnut St past the Tennessee Aquarium and AT&T Ballpark. It is an easy walk but for those with special needs, parking is available across the street for $5. Spend a relaxing evening enjoying the fall scenery, getting to know others better and catching up with old friends on a multilevel riverboat with open decks and inside climate controlled areas. Tickets must be purchased in advance and will cover the boat cruise and buffet dinner. The actual cost of the event for TCMA members is being discounted through the generous support of TCMA Sponsor **RETAIL STRATEGIES**, represented by Lacy Beasley – [www.retailstrategies.com](http://www.retailstrategies.com). **NOTE**: Boarding will begin at 5:30 and the boat will leave promptly at 6:00 PM.

**8:00 – 11:00 PM – Out on the Town/Hospitality Suite** – (Note: Hospitality Suite will close promptly each night at 11:00 PM)

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015**

**8:30 – 9:00 AM – Recognition of GOLD Level Sponsors**

**9:00 – 10:00 AM - What Does Your Credit Rating Mean and How Is It Derived** – A technical introduction to the rating agency’s methodology in rating local government debt obligations with a focus on recent updated methodology used by S&P and Moody’s.  Included will be a discussion of the value of having an issuers rating and overview factors and weights of rating agency metrics and what steps can be taken to potentially improve an issuers credit rating. Presentation by Lauren Lowe from Public Financial Management, Inc. *(CMFO 1.0 hour-Financial)*

**10:00 – 10:15 AM – Break**

**10:15 – 11:15 AM - Great Things are Happening in Smaller Tennessee Cities** - Case studies from 4 TCMA cities with populations under 3,500 on proactive efforts being taken by their community to improve economic development, the quality of life, community pride, etc. Learn what is going on, what they are doing, how it came about, efforts to motivate people to take risks and do things differently, and lessons that could be used by other communities. Panelists include Joe Baker (Berry Hill), Joe Cosentini (Thompson’s Station), Matthew Graveley (Etowah), and Sherry Spicer-Dudley (Pittman Center). Ted Rogers (Collegedale) to moderate session. *(CMFO - No Credit)*

**11:15 – 11:45 - Vested Property Rights in Tennessee – Keeping Your City Out of the Courthouse!”** The property rights of landowners sometimes supersede what is allowed or prohibited in your zoning ordinance. A technical session led by Jeff Broughton (UT-MTAS) on what is expected and required of local governments. Jim Thomas (UT-MTAS) to introduce session. *(CMFO .5 hour-Financial)*

**11:45 AM – 12:00 Noon – Break**

**12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM – Lunch and Committee Reports** (Vision Ballroom C)

**1:00 – 2:00 PM - Transportation Funding at the Crossroads** – The Tennessee gasoline tax was last increased in 1989 to 21.4 cents per gallon. The revenue is used to fund state road maintenance/new construction and the State Aid Program for local governments. With increased road construction and maintenance cost in the last 26 years and no real revenue growth in recent years, TDOT is unable to initiate significant new road improvement projects across the State.  In addition, Congress is unable at this point to approve a multi-year federal transportation-funding program. The Transportation Coalition of Tennessee has been formed to educate the public on the critical need for new revenue to address the infrastructure needs.  Presentations by Kent Starwalt, Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Road Builders Association and Paul Degges, Deputy Commissioner of TDOT. Kirk Bednar (Brentwood) to introduce session. *(CMFO 1 hour-Financial)*

**2:00 – 2:15 PM – Break**

**2:15 – 3:15 PM - What I Know Now That I Wish I Knew Back Then (Part II)-** A continuation of the popular discussion at the Spring Conference from a new group of “seasoned” city managers as they share their knowledge, experience, and the “ups and downs” of their careers including both technical and personal matters. Questions submitted in advance by members will serve as the basis for the discussion. Panelists include Mark Johnson (Alcoa), James Lewellen (Collierville), Ken McLawhon) Nolensville), and Jeff Broughton (UT-MTAS). Victor Lay (Spring Hill) to moderate session. *(CMFO – No Credit)*

**3:15 – 3:45 PM – Recognition of GOLD Level Sponsors**

**3:45 – 4:00 PM – Break**

**4:00 – 5:00 PM - *CAOCamp, the Un-conference Session*** – Share and learn in an open environment, interactive session, peer to peer. In advance of the conference, members will be requested to their submit presentation topics. When the session begins, attendees will rank and choose the session topics that will be conducted. If your topic is chosen, you will lead a ten-minute presentation. As many as four presentations could occur simultaneously in each corner of the conference every ten minutes; up to 16 presentations possible within the hour. Attendees will be able to rotate around the room freely to listen and participate in the topics of their interest. Seth Sumner (Savannah) to organize and coordinate session. *(CMFO - No Credit*)

**5:00 – 11:00 PM – Hospitality Suite & Dinner on Your Own**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2015**

**8:30 – 9:00 AM – Recognition of GOLD Level Sponsors**

**9:00 – 10:00 AM- Gaining from Great Failures.**  You can only be a successful City Manager by taking calculated risks and experiencing failure. A panel of city managers will share their experiences with projects that went wrong, how they recovered and how the projects can assume Phoenix-like qualities. Panelists include Rusty Treadway (Sevierville), Jody Baltz (Tullahoma), and Jay Johnson (Shelbyville). (*CMFO – No Credit)*

**10:00 – 10:15 AM – Break**

**10:15 – 10:45 AM - Is Your City Ready for Biometrics Timekeeping?** Is the traditional time clock still the best, failsafe way to keep up with an employee’s time at work? What cost effective alternatives are available for tracking employee activities better? A technical session led by Gary Jaeckel (UT-MTAS). Jim Thomas (UT-MTAS) to introduce session. *(CMFO .5 hour-Financial)*

**10:45 – 11:45 AM - Preview of Issues Before the 2016 Tennessee General Assembly affecting Cities and Towns** – Presentation by Chad Jenkins (Deputy Director - TML). *(CMFO – 1 hour-Financial)*

**11:45 – 12:00 Noon – Closing Comments** – TCMA President Kirk Bednar (Brentwood)

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