



THE LEAGUE News

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SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CITIES WEBINAR

This course will review social media use for cities including basic social media policies and terms of use for external audiences. The course will also provide discussion and review of social media best practices including current technology, platforms and applications including:

- Strategic messaging to engage audiences;
- Creating editorial calendars and content management;
- Developing graphics and video for social media; and
- Tips on how to use low-to-no-cost applications for scheduling, advertising, and planning.

The webinar will be held on **Wednesday, April 18 at 10 a.m.** Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. Register [online](#).

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This week has been filled with conference committees; the League staff has been monitoring the conversations for issues related to local government issues. Next week is a planned break for the legislature.

Amusement Ride Act (SB307):

On Tuesday March 27 the House Committee of the Whole debated *H Sub for SB307*. The House approved one technical amendment as well as an amendment clarifying that antique carousels qualified for the service-proven standard for inspection purposes. The House then passed the amended bill on Wednesday March 28 and the Senate, later that day, voted to appoint a conference committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions of this bill. The Federal and State Affairs Conference Committee met on Monday April 2 and came to an agreement concerning *H Sub for SB 307*. The Conference Committee Report will contain the following changes to the Amusement Ride Act:

1. The act will only apply to water slides 35-feet or higher.
2. All water slides 15-feet or higher must have an attendant present while operating.
3. The annual inspection for amusement rides can be completed by a Level I NAARSO certified inspector (current law requires a Level II NAARSO certified inspector).
4. Inflatables require that operators and inspectors be certified by the Safe Inflatable Operators Training Organization or other nationally recognized organization.

The Conference Committee Report still must be approved by the House and Senate before it becomes law. Contact [Eric Smith](#) for information on this issue.

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LEAGUE LAUNCHES NEW COMMUNITY AWARDS

The League is excited to announce the all new **Inspire - Create - Innovate - Community Awards** to celebrate recent innovations, programs, community projects, and acknowledge overall excellence in local government. Beyond honoring cities, we aim for these awards to spotlight innovations that other communities might replicate.

Recipients of the new Community Awards will be recognized at the League's Annual Conference later this fall. A representative from the winning city will receive a complementary conference registration and may be asked to present on a panel highlighting some of the projects. All winning entries will be featured in League social media and in a future issue of the *Kansas Government Journal*.

Award Categories:

- Community Health
- Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Public Safety
- Youth Engagement
- Communications

For more information including judging criteria and entry rules, [visit our website](#).





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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES (CONTINUED)

K.S.A 12-104:

HB2505 was bundled into *HB2597* in conference committee. The conference committee report has been passed by the Senate and is awaiting House action. The bill now contains the original contents of *HB2597*, dealing with designating Sedgwick county as an urban area, plus *HB2505* which redefines when a mayor is a member of the governing body, and the contents of *HB2509* dealing with election commissioners. Contact [Amanda Stanley](#) for information on this issue.



As a member city of the League of Kansas Municipalities, we hope that you can attend the League's Governing Body Institute & Mayors Conference in Topeka April 20 & 21. This conference is one of our premier educational events and is designed for all levels of local government – mayors, city council members, city commissioners, and staff. The Governing Body Institute and Kansas Mayors Conference includes a selection of workshops and general sessions designed to provide insight into local government issues, as well as provide useful strategies to take back to your community. This year, we're offering topics that include:

- Managing Differences in the Workplace;
- Building Your Legacy of Public Service;
- City Government 101: Kansas Open Meetings Act, Home Rule and other local government fundamentals; and
- Breakout sessions featuring topics on municipal finance; economic development and planning; personnel management; and public safety and code enforcement.

Attending this conference is the first step new officials should take toward success in public office. Re-elected officials or seasoned appointed officials will also value the up-to-date information on municipal operations and networking opportunities this conference offers. Additionally, we have revised the *Governing Body Handbook*. All GBI participants receive this publication (a \$40 value) as part of their conference materials.

We recommend local government officials attend the institute as a group to learn together and meet their peers across the state. The feedback we receive on our trainings is that the peer-to-peer networking is one of the best reasons to attend League events. Register by **April 11, 2018**; any registrations after this date will include a \$35 late fee.

DOWNLOAD THE FULL AGENDA ONLINE: www.lkm.org/gbi

MUNICIPAL TRAINING INSTITUTE - MUNICIPAL FINANCE

This course is designed to provide participants with an overview of municipal finance issues in Kansas. It will help city officials address the responsibility of fiscal operations at the local level to ensure effective service to your community. In today's particularly challenging fiscal climate, local leaders must understand the parameters required to set local budgets. This course will be taught on **Friday, April 13 in Garden City**. To register, [visit our website](#).





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WE WANT TO KNOW...

The League is considering making changes and improvements to our Annual Conference, and we'd appreciate your input!

Please take this short survey, which should take about 5 minutes.

Everyone who provides their full contact information at the end of the survey will be entered to win one complimentary registration to the next League conference.

Thank you! Provide your feedback via our [online survey](#).

Look for details on the 2018 Annual Conference in future League News and the *Kansas Government Journal*.

2018 SURVEY OF PERSONNEL PRACTICES, SALARIES, AND FRINGE BENEFITS

Have you ever found yourself saying, "I wish I knew what this position pays in other Kansas cities?" We have a solution for you! The 2018 Survey of Personnel Practices, Salaries, and Fringe Benefits was released this week. This survey is one of the most important pieces of research/data the League collects on behalf of members. The survey analysis can assist your city in contract negotiations, pay adjustments, benchmarking, and reviewing benefits. **As a thank you for participating in the survey and for your time, the League provides all participating cities with free access to the survey once formatting is complete.**

If you have not received your link to the survey, please contact Research Associate [Chardae Caine](#). The survey will close on April 13, 2018.



UPCOMING USDA COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANT WEBINAR

USDA is accepting applications through May 14 in the Community Connect program. This program helps fund broadband deployment into rural communities where it is not yet economically viable for private sector providers to deliver service. A webinar for interested local governments will be held on **April 10, 2018** from Noon to 1:00 p.m. CST. Register for the [webinar online](#).

Community Connect Grants from \$100,000 to \$3 million are available to state and local governments, federally-recognized tribes, nonprofits, and for-profit corporations. Applicants must be able to provide a 15% match on the desired grant amount.

On March 15, the Community Connect Grant Program's Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) was published in the Federal Register.

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will host webinars focused on the Community Connect Grant Program. These webinars will inform participants about the major eligibility and regulatory requirements of the program and will provide detailed guidance on how to submit a successful application. There will also be time for participants to ask the speakers specific questions about putting together an application.

For questions on eligibility for the Community Connect Program in Kansas, contact Shekinah Bailey, USDA RUS General Field Representative in Kansas at (316) 570-3249 or by [email](#).

Additional information on the community connect program, can be found [online](#).

