

**KLCC** Direct

A Kentucky League of Cities Publication



**CITIES  
WITHOUT  
LIMITS**  
UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

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September 2005

vol. 7 issue 6

## FRONT PAGE NEWS

# KLC CONVENTION: The Only Conference Just for Cities!

KLC Convention - the one conference just for you! Content is developed with your input and needs in mind. For 2005, explore new directions to keep your city thriving. And, as always, the 76th KLC Annual Convention offers updated informational sessions on topics that constantly change and never go away - liability, avoiding legal pitfalls, critical legislation, obtaining funds for city projects and much more.

Throughout the year, KLC provides programming and education to benefit city officials such as the City Officials Academy. But, there's nothing quite like the KLC convention - a 76 year tradition.

### WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 5

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	KLC Board of Directors Meeting
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.	KLC Executive Board Meeting
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Golf Outing
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	City Achievement Awards Luncheon
1:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Dealers Take All - How Communities are Taking a Stand Against Drugs
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Association Meetings
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Board/Delegate Reception

### THURSDAY - OCTOBER 6

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Registration
7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Welcome to Louisville Breakfast
8:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Opening General Session/KLC Business Meeting
11:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Interim Joint Committee Meeting Luncheon
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Spouse Outing
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Convention Workshops
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Mobile Workshops
2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open and Refreshment Break
2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Fire Arms Training System (FATS)
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Reception
8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Hospitality Rooms

### FRIDAY - OCTOBER 7

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Registration
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Political Power Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Cracker Barrels/Workshops
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Spouse Outing
11:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	President's Luncheon
1:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Convention Workshops
1:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	CLE Workshop (MAAK Meeting)
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception
After 7:30 p.m.	Dinner on Your Own

### SATURDAY - OCTOBER 8

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast (Vouchers provided by KLC)
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Association Meetings

[www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org)

Site to See

Register online for the 76th KLC Annual Convention in Louisville Kentucky!

Don't miss out on the pre-convention registration prizes!

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## CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS: Big Names, New Ideas . . . . . . Unlimited Possibilities!



**CITIES  
WITHOUT  
LIMITS**  
UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

- >>> Over 25 cracker barrel sessions covering topics you need and want!
- >>>> FATS (Firearms Training System)
- >>> Spouse outings
- >>>> Exhibits and demonstrations
- >>> Networking and time to tour the host city



### Dealers Take All: How Communities are Taking a Stand Against Drugs

A new spin on last year's most meaningful sessions. It's a national epidemic and every community is touched by the reality of drug use. During this provocative session, join a panel of experts tackling the problem daily and learn from their tools, techniques and answers to your questions. Panelists include Teresa Barton, Executive Director, Office of Drug

Control Policy; David James, Chief Investigator, Office of the Attorney General; Dan Smoot, Law Enforcement Director, Operation UNITE; Frank Rapier, Director, Appalachian High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area; and Charles Beach, III, Mayor, City of Beattyville. (Wednesday, October 5)

### What's a Mobile Workshop?

Several years ago, KLC created a unique convention experience. As the name implies, these are workshops on the go. Learn from experts as you walk through some inspiring sections of Louisville. Sites

will include the reclaimed waterfront, neighborhoods, revitalized sections of downtown, commercial, industrial, business and retail development. (Thursday, October 6)

### Zap the Gap!

"Zap the Gap!" Join national expert Meagan Johnson as she explores a touchy subject that challenge all leaders. Today, generational issues in today's workplaces are a huge source of misunderstandings... now is the only time in history when we

have four different generations working side by side. Johnson created an innovative process to help you and your city staff "zap the gap" and avoid turnover and conflict. (Friday, October 7)

### Congratulations POESI Recipients!

KLC's Public Officials Essential Skills Institute is a voluntary continuing education program that recognizes city leaders in five critical leadership areas!

Want to learn how you can get involved in a POESI track? Contact Karen Butcher at [kbutcher@klc.org](mailto:kbutcher@klc.org) or 800-876-4552, ext. 3711. (Wednesday, October 5)

## CONVENTION SPECIAL GUESTS:

Distinguished guests at this year's event include (from top to bottom): Louisville Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson, Governor Ernie Fletcher, Secretary of State Trey Grayson, Heather French Henry,

Commerce Cabinet Secretary Jim Host, Transportation Cabinet Acting Secretary Bill Nighbert and Congressman Hal Rogers.

**KLC CONVENTION TEAM - Neil Hackworth, Bill Hamilton, Bobbie Bryant, Arlene Nance, Karen Butcher, Linda Shearer, Joe O'Nan, Tammy Lyons, Sharon Ferguson, Jeri McCullough, Freda Meriwether, Robyn Miller and Phil Huddleston**

## CITY CHRONICLES

### Where Would We Be Without Cities?



As we look to our gathering together for Convention in Louisville, I continue to be amazed at the work that is being accomplished in cities across the state, particularly in light of the tragic results of hurricane Katrina. It is heartening to see the outpouring of support that our Kentucky city officials, employees and citizens have stepped up to help their fellow cities in this time of dire need. If we didn't step up to the plate, we'd be ignoring the very essence of what we're about. Helping cities is what we do and I thank you for your commitment to share the resources you have available to our neighbor cities.

To give you a recap of our work in recent weeks, I met with Zev Buffman who heads up the River Park Fine Arts and Performing Center in Owensboro. I'm working with him, Jim Host and former Senator Lindy Casebier, on getting the word out to cities about building arts and entertainment centers as economic engines for their cities. Zev has produced over 70 Broadway plays and fell in love with Owensboro during a recent visit. He loved it so much, he moved to Owensboro to serve as executive director of the RiverPark Center. Who are your Zev Buffmans? Let us know about them so we can shed a spotlight on them as well as add your entertainment venues to our growing list.

I met with Jim Host, Mayor William Paxton of Paducah and Mayor J.P. Wiles of Somerset about the restaurant tax and the importance of giving cities additional options for raising revenues to improve quality of life in their communities.

KLC President David Cartmell continues his fine work on your behalf in the environmental area and may well become known as the "environmental president". He is part of a task force that is designing a program that will allow the state to take over the permit process that covers everything from the placement of a culvert in a stream to the mountaintop removal method of coal mining. The task force is chaired by LaJuana Wilcher, Secretary of the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. Joe Ewalt, KLC director of policy development, reports that he's doing a great job.

We continue preparations for the KLC Annual Convention in Louisville and we look forward to seeing you there. If you haven't turned in your registration, please do so soon - you won't want to miss this year's event!

We continue to spread the word about the NewCities Foundation (NCF). While attending the Sister Cities International Conference, I made contact with city leaders from all over the world that could bring more international opportunities to our Kentucky cities. NCF is partnering with KCTCS to facilitate the Woodford County Summit on September 26 and NCF will join the Brushy Fork Institute in Berea, Kentucky, September 14-16, in presenting a 10-hour track session on "running for elective office." Also, the National League of Cities and the NewCities Foundation have been working together to develop NLC's January Leadership Training Institute in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The success of KLC and NCF depends on your support and guidance as we continue to move forward with the strength of cities.

Sincerely,

*Sylvia L. Lovely*  
Sylvia L. Lovely, KLC Executive Director/CEO

## KLC Direct

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The voice of Kentucky cities

**KLC Direct** is published monthly by the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). KLC is a voluntary association of nearly 400 cities and provides a multitude of services to assist in improving local government. Please address any correspondence to KLC Direct, Kentucky League of Cities, 101 East Vine Street, Suite 600, Lexington, Kentucky 40507-3700. Phone (859) 977-3700 or 1-800-876-4552. Fax (859) 977-3703. [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org).

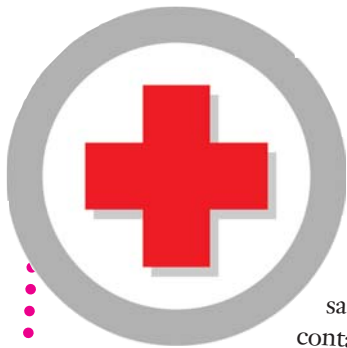
### EDITORIAL STAFF

Publisher, Sylvia L. Lovely  
Editor, Terri Johnson  
Design/Layout, Ulysses C. Hayes  
Senior Writer, John McGill  
Director of Communications, Bobbie Bryant

For a full list of KLC staff visit [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org).

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## Hurricane Katrina Update.....

### Cities Supporting Cities!

Kentucky cities are taking action to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina in a number of ways: collecting money, deploying safety and disaster related professionals and receiving victims and hospital patients. The Kentucky League of Cities is in contact with state and national agencies daily and will continue to keep city leaders updated via email as we get information.

## CITY POSTCARD

### A Look at Louisville Metro



**Mayor:** Jerry A. Abramson

**Population:** 700,030

**Website:** [www.loukymetro.org](http://www.loukymetro.org)

Enjoy all our largest city has to offer its fellow Kentuckians! Within the United States, Louisville has been called "The Gateway to the South" which means, logically, that it is also "The Gateway to the North." It all depends on which way you're traveling.

Of course, Louisville's most famous spectacular event is the world renowned Kentucky Derby - the most exciting two minutes in sports! The 2006 Derby Festival,

which leads up to the Derby on the first Saturday in May will run from April 15 to May 6. The city also hosts a number of other festivals and celebrations throughout the year, listed on the website.

Louisville is: a swirl of diversity; wonderful neighborhoods and thriving downtowns; museums, arts and music; great food; thoroughbred racing; sports; legendary native sons like Muhammad Ali, Pee Wee Reese, Hunter S. Thompson and Zachary Taylor; and now the "16th Largest City in America" and thrilled to play host to KLC's 76th Annual Convention!

## NEWCITIES NEWS

### NewCities Taking National Stage



*Working with Idaho city on year-long project, building partnerships nationwide and spreading NewCities hope for the future . . .*

Not long ago, the NewCities Foundation (NCF) started as a fresh approach at local governance. Now, NewCities ideals are at work in living, breathing American communities.

NewCities, which was founded in 2001 by KLC leadership, is a separate 501(c)3 and serves community leaders nationally. It is emerging as a resource with ground-breaking philosophies on intentional community building and citizen engagement. In essence, NewCities is helping today's leaders build the communities of tomorrow.

Since last year, the NewCities Foundation (NCF) and its President, Sylvia L. Lovely, have been featured in media outlets nationwide including large newspapers, CNN and the like.

Recently, NewCities staff members began work on a sustainable model for NewCities' rapid growth and long term financial maturity.

NCF is also rating headliner status at conferences and forging partnerships with

high profile visionaries and organizations around the country including the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Perhaps its most exciting project is "NewCity Moscow" in Moscow, Idaho, a year-long pilot program of America's First NewCities Initiative. NCF is working with elected officials, civic leaders, the University of Idaho and truly all local interested factions and citizens to create a model "new city." The NewCity Moscow project will launch with a September 22 community kickoff event, followed by a series of citizen listening sessions and subsequent work sessions and action steps with the citizens and leaders of Moscow.

Where will all this lead? "Our holistic approach to building sustainable, livable places is carving out a unique niche for us throughout the nation," said Tom Prather, NewCities Executive Vice President.

*For more information on NewCities, visit [www.newcities.org](http://www.newcities.org).*

### Profile on NewCities Executive Vice President Tom Prather



Immediately prior to joining

NewCities is pleased to introduce and welcome Tom Prather as Executive Vice President of the NewCities Foundation (NCF). In this role, Tom will oversee strategy, operations and fundraising for the

NCF, Prather was president of Central Bank in Georgetown. He was also mayor of Georgetown during which time Toyota Motor Manufacturing located there and literally changed the economy of Kentucky.

"We are thrilled with the expertise and vision Tom brings to NewCities," said Sylvia Lovely.

*Contact Tom at 1-800-876-4552 or email [tprather@klc.org](mailto:tprather@klc.org) or [tprather@newcities.org](mailto:tprather@newcities.org).*

## FROM THE FIELD

Mayor Earl Russell of Hartford is currently serving as chairman of the Green River Area Development District office. Mayor Russell said he encourages more mayors to pursue this role with the ADD's, noting it gives him a regional perspective and allows him to promote the cities in his region more prominently.

Several Kentucky cities are among the best in the nation for relocating families, according to the latest study by Primacy and Sterling's BestPlaces. Included in the national study were **Ashland, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Lexington, Louisville, and Owensboro**. In addition, **Owensboro** was also recently named a "Broadband Boomtown" by *Business 2.0* magazine.

The July issue of *Money Magazine* named the City of **Crestwood** as one of its 100 best places to live in the nation!

Governor Ernie Fletcher has appointed Paducah Mayor **William F. Paxton** to the Commercial Mobile Radio Service Emergency Telecommunications Board.

Paducah Commissioner **Robert A. Coleman** was one of 14 recipients to be inducted into the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Other inductees include **U.S. Senator Walter "Dee" Huddleston**, National Fair Housing Training Academy Executive Director, and **Beverly Watts** of Louisville. Nominees also included Radcliff Councilmember **Jeannette Stephens** and Richmond Commissioner **Robert Blythe**. Congratulations to all of them!

The Kentucky Reperatory Theater and its home city of **Horse Cave** were named as one of the "10 Great Places to See this Summer" by *USA Today*.

The Kentucky Education Cabinet/Department for Libraries and Archives announced grants awarded to the cities of **Cambridge, Clarkson, Dayton, Eminence, Highland Heights, Midway, Mt. Olivet** and **Owensboro** for local records automation, restoration and security projects.

**Northern Kentucky** and **Vision 2015** received the 2005 Alliance for Regional Stewardship Award from the National League of Cities.

## SHOW ME THE MONEY

### Engage Youth with Pay It Forward Foundation Grants

**What:** Pay It Forward Mini Grants are designed to fund one time only service oriented projects identified by youth as activities they would like to perform to benefit their community. This grant program is ongoing and grants are awarded three times a year.

**Next deadline:** October 15, 2005

**How:** [www.payitforwardfoundation.org](http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org)

### Get Brownfields Money from the United States EPA

**What:** Brownfield funds from the EPA. Last year, more than \$76 million was awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess and clean up brownfield properties. Unfortunately, none went to Kentucky communities. The Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet encourages communities to get started in preparing to be part of the funding this year.

**Deadline:** Anticipated to be November 2005

**How:** [www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/pilot/htm](http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/pilot/htm). If you are unable to access this site or would like additional information or assistance, you can contact the Division of Compliance Assistance at 800-926-8111.

### Playground Grants

**What:** KaBOOM! Playground Equipment Company offers \$5,000 grants towards playground systems and construction that serve communities.

**Deadline:** December 31, 2005

**How:** [www.kaboom.org](http://www.kaboom.org)

### Outreach Assistance Grants from 7-Eleven

**What:** 7-eleven Corporation gives grants for adolescent programs in workforce development, language education, at-risk and economically disadvantaged individuals.

**Deadline:** December 31, 2005

**How:** [www.7-eleven.com/about/outreach-programs.asp](http://www.7-eleven.com/about/outreach-programs.asp)

### Wage & Salary Survey: Send it in!

City clerks or persons responsible for human resources in cities have received the Kentucky League of Cities Wage and Salary Survey. Once compiled, this data will be a great tool to help cities work through their current budget process. The survey is shorter and more succinct than ever before. Thanks in advance for your cooperation! With any questions, contact Joseph Coleman at [jcoleman@klc.org](mailto:jcoleman@klc.org) or 1-800-876-4552.



## STAFF NOTES

### What Happens in Vegas . . .



Nick Harpe spent two weeks in Las Vegas a couple of months ago and didn't lose a dime - mainly because he never even got a good glimpse of a green felt table or slot machine.

Nick, a senior systems administrator in KLC's Information Technology department, was going through an accelerated course to become a Microsoft certified systems engineer, a field of study that under normal circumstances takes 12 months to complete. Nick spent 12-hour days in class (and one 16-hour stint). Back at his hotel, there was no time for anything but studying and sleep.

"You go there all gung-ho but about the fourth day, you start realizing what you've gotten yourself into," said Nick.

The course consisted of nine exams.

"It's the ultimate Microsoft certification as far as an IT professional like me goes," he said. "I feel very, very fortunate that KLC was willing to invest their resources and give me the time to keep my education ongoing."

While Nick's newfound knowledge was primarily to enhance the efficiency and capabilities of KLC in-house, the benefits carry over to our members as we find more effective approaches in communication and technology-based programs that help our cities in a myriad of ways - such as the reverse auction program.

As for Nick, he went back to the Vegas strip recently on vacation. This time, he actually saw it.

### Professional Kudos

KLC Executive Director/CEO and NewCities Foundation President **Sylvia L. Lovely** has been appointed to the Kentucky World Trade Center Board of Directors.

KLC Deputy Executive Director **Neil Hackworth** has been named to the Greater Louisville, Inc. Regional Leadership Coalition.

**J.D. Chaney**, Legal Counsel for Member Services, is chair-elect of the Kentucky Bar Association Local Government Law Section.

**Terri Johnson**, Senior Marketing & Communications Manager, has been appointed to the United Way of the Bluegrass Marketing Cabinet. In addition, she has been named Director-Advertisers for the Lexington Advertising Club Board.

KLC Executive Assistant **Freda Meriwether** has been appointed to the task force formulating ideas on uses for Lexington's historic Lyric Theatre. Once refurbished, the Lyric will become the city's African-American Cultural Center.

Paralegal **Andrea Shindlebower** was re-appointed this past May as the National Federation of Paralegal Association's Leadership Co-Coordinator. In this position she presents and makes available training in leadership skills for paralegals throughout the U.S.

### National League of Cities Scholarship Winner



KLC Intern **Ashley Moore** has been awarded the prestigious Donald L. Jones scholarship from the National League of Cities Mutual Insurance Company. Ashley is a May *cum laude* graduate of Georgetown College, where she double majored in political science and communications & media sciences. She is pursuing her Masters of Public Administration at UK's Martin School. Ashley has interned with KLC for the past two summers, where she has contributed to the communications and leadership training center programs.

Ashley was selected from applicants across the country to receive the NLC Mutual Insurance Scholarship based on her "academic record . . . and career goals." Ashley is the daughter of KLC Insurance Agency Director, Larry Moore.

## LAW ABIDING

### Update on Eminent Domain

#### *The Impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's Kelo Decision in Kentucky*

This year the United States Supreme Court ended its term with a bang by issuing a number of important decisions that have proven to be controversial and divisive. Among those decisions was the now infamous *Kelo* case that dealt with the right of a city government to take private property for economic development. The fact that the right to hold property is so deeply rooted in our nation's collective belief and understanding of liberty is no doubt a reason for the intense and controversial media coverage. No matter your personal feelings about the case, it is important to understand the impact it will have on you in your roles as city officials and employees.

*Kelo v. City of New London, Conn.*, presented the Supreme Court an opportunity to evaluate the meaning of "public use" under the 5th Amendment to the United States Constitution for the first time in several years. The Takings Clause of the 5th Amendment permits the government to condemn private property only for public use and only upon the payment of just compensation. At issue in the case was whether the City of New London, Connecticut could condemn private property under its eminent domain powers and convey part of the seized land to other private enterprise for economic development purposes. The City of New London was an economically distressed city - its unemployment rate was nearly double that of the state and it was steadily losing much of its population because of the worsening economic condition.

After lengthy debate and deliberation, the city proceeded under a Connecticut state statute with a carefully formulated plan to rejuvenate the struggling city. The plan involved the rebuilding of a particularly hard hit area of the city with hotels, restaurants, a river-walk and other recreational and commercial opportunities along the waterfront. Most of the private landowners willingly sold their property to the city. However, the few that refused to sell forced the city to exercise its powers of eminent domain to complete the project.

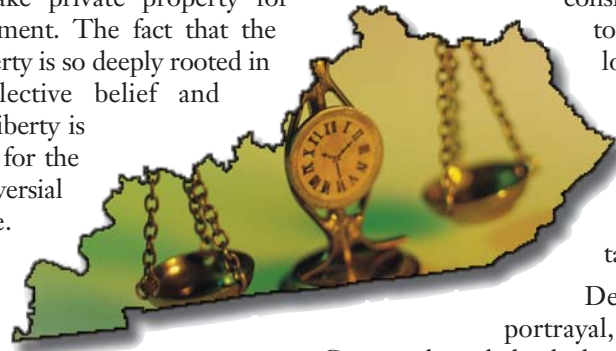
In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the city's power to take private land under the comprehensive economic development plan. In making the decision, the court did not depart from its previous

jurisprudence and create a new law. Rather, the court reaffirmed its long accepted position that promoting economic development and revitalization are traditional governmental functions that serve a valid public purpose. The decision embraced a position that paid considerable deference to the judgments of local legislative bodies in "determining what public needs justify the use of the takings power."

Despite the media portrayal, the Supreme Court acknowledged that governments do not have unfettered discretion to arbitrarily take productively used land so that it may be redistributed to individuals and corporations that the government believes will put it to a more enterprising use. No government, federal, state, or local, can take private property for the purpose of conveying a private benefit, nor may governments use public purpose as a mere pretext for bestowing private benefits. In addition, the Court noted that the decision involved an interpretation of the United States Constitution and that individual states were not prohibited from imposing more stringent standards either in their constitutions or by state statutes.

Kentucky is one of the few states that has interpreted its state constitution as being more restrictive with regard to the use of eminent domain powers. In 1979, when confronted with a state law that permitted local governments to take land for private and industrial development, the Kentucky Supreme Court held that the Kentucky Constitution required a more direct "public use" justification. In Kentucky, our Constitution limits governments from taking property for industrial or commercial purposes unless the property lies within an area considered blighted or deteriorated under a comprehensive set of state statutes. The statutes in KRS Chapter 99 have permitted a number of Kentucky cities to greatly improve the lives of their citizens by providing jobs, recreational opportunities, and new resources to make their communities better places to live and to work.

For more information, contact KLC's Counsel for Member Legal Services, J.D. Chaney at 800-876-4552, ext. 3719 or [jchaney@klc.org](mailto:jchaney@klc.org).



### Finance Factoid



With 30 loans totaling almost \$30 million dollars to 25 different cities, the last year has been a very good one for the KLC Financial Services Department. For instance, the Morehead Pool kicked off in June of 2004 with over \$44,000,000 available to loan to our members. Over the past year, nearly \$24,000,000 has been loaned to local governments across the state.

The KLC Capital Fund program is also moving along with two closed loans totaling over \$12 million.

For more information on how our competitive rates and comprehensive, excellent service can benefit your community, contact KLC Financial Services at 1-800-876-4552.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Upcoming Events

#### Implementing Facility Improvements Requiring No Budget Increases September 27-28, Louisville Clarion Inn, \$60

Topics include energy efficiency, ESPC - financial issues, measurement and verification, and contracts. Sponsors include KY Energy Services Coalition, KY Division of Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency and the KY Pollution Prevention Center. For more information visit [www.energyservicescoalition.org](http://www.energyservicescoalition.org).

#### Rural Telecommunications Congress Rural Telecon: States as Broadband Laboratories October 9-12, Lexington Convention Center, \$350

Hosted by connectkentucky. Sponsors include the Kentucky League of Cities. This event features Governor Ernie Fletcher, Congressman Hal Rogers and Kentucky Mens Basketball Coach Tubby Smith. The event focuses critical issues facing communities and residents as they use telecommunications for community and economic development. For more information visit [www.ruraltelecon.org/conference](http://www.ruraltelecon.org/conference).

#### Spirit of Unity: Achieving Common Ground - Kentucky Affordable Housing Conference October 27-28, Lexington Convention Center, \$100

Featured speakers include Secretary Alphonzo Jackson, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (invited), Mary Kelsar, Director- HUD Office of Affordable Housing, Ralph Hacker, Advisor to the Governor of Kentucky and author Kent Colton. Hosted by the Kentucky Housing Corporation and sponsors include KLC. For more information visit [www.kyhousing.org](http://www.kyhousing.org) or call 800-633-8896.

#### Alliance for Regional Stewardship National Conference on Local Government Collaboration and Lessons from Merger Workshop November 8-11, 2005 - Louisville Camberly Brown Hotel

Delegates from across the U.S. will discuss successful models of local government collaboration. Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson will participate in a workshop titled "Lesson from Merger" detailing the Louisville merger experience. For more information about the conference, contact the Alliance for Regional Stewardship at 303-477-9443. For the Merger workshop specifically, call Joan Riehm, Deputy Mayor, Louisville Metro at 502-574-8141.

## We Want to Hear from You!

To submit a story or commentary for KLC *Direct* departments, please contact the KLC staff listed or go to [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org). For overall feedback, contact Terri Johnson at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3784, or [tjohnson@klc.org](mailto:tjohnson@klc.org).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Celebrating a Year of Your Accomplishments



It is my pleasure to invite you to join us for this year's KLC Annual Convention. As I've served as your president this year, I have been constantly inspired by what Kentucky cities and leaders are accomplishing.

The KLC Annual Convention is unique in that it is the only educational offering JUST for us - it's a time when we can all let our guards down and discuss what matters in our cities. We all have challenges. But we all have successes, too. The convention is the place where we can share all those issues, ideas and achievements.

The convention will feature nationally renowned speakers, state leaders and presentations on best practices. There will be unique panels on issues such as dealing with drugs in our cities, mobile workshops and small group "cracker barrels." And, of course, there will be plenty of time to visit with peers along with good food, music and fun.

As my tenure winds down, I'm reflective and admittedly somewhat sentimental. The past year has been a tremendous learning opportunity. I've witnessed cities across the Commonwealth working through obstacles, building partnerships and bridging the gap between local government and the

citizens we all serve. More recently, I have seen, as we all have, the generosity of our cities and citizens with Hurricane Katrina support. The convention theme, "Cities Without Limits" certainly personifies the local leadership and opportunities here in Kentucky.

Of a more personal nature, this past year has been a time of growth. As KLC president, I've increased my circle of contacts and collaborators. And I've certainly expanded my circle of friends and mentors as well.

On behalf of the board of directors, leadership and staff of KLC, please accept my invitation to join us for the preferred educational and networking opportunity of Kentucky's city leaders. I look forward to seeing you October 5-8 in Louisville.

Sincerely,

Mayor David Cartmell  
City of Maysville  
President, KLC Board of Directors

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