

**KLC Direct**

A Kentucky League of Cities Publication

**Cities**  
*on the*

**MOVE**

**15TH ANNUAL KLC CONVENTION**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

*Membership News*

**2**

*Take a Break*

**6**

*Legislative Flash*

**9**

**October 6-9, 2004**  
**Owensboro, Kentucky**



**FRONT PAGE NEWS**

Moving Sessions! **1**

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

DLG Goes "GOLD" **2**

**CITY PEOPLE**

Leaders Moving Forward! **3**

**THE LAST WORD FIRST**

City Leaders . . . On the Move! **4**

**CITY POSTCARD**

A Look at the City of Owensboro **5**

**TAKE A BREAK**

Convention Highlights **6**

**SHOW ME THE MONEY**

Award Programs **7**

**LAW ABIDING**

P&Z Update **8**

**LEGISLATIVE FLASH**

Local Tax Modernization **9**

**FRONT PAGE NEWS**

**Cities on the Move: Moving Sessions!**

**WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 6**

- 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration
- 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Golf Outing
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Pre-Conference Session
- 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. POESI Luncheon (by invitation only)
- 1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Convention Workshop
- 1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Mobile Workshop
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. KLC Board of Directors Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. KLC Executive Board Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Association Meetings
- 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Board/Delegate Reception

**THURSDAY – OCTOBER 7**

- 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration
- 7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Buffet
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Opening General Session/KLC Business Meeting
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Convention Workshops
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Spouse Outing
- 1:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Interim Joint Committee Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Convention Workshops
- 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Opening Reception and Exhibit Hall
- 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. Hospitality Rooms

**FRIDAY – OCTOBER 8**

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast Buffet in Exhibit Hall
- 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration
- 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open
- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Cracker Barrels
- 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Spouse Outing
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon
- 1:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Convention Workshops
- 1:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. CLE Workshop (MAAK Meeting)
- 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. President's Banquet
- 9:15 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Entertainment

**SATURDAY – OCTOBER 9**

- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Event TBD

**Oh, I Get It!**

Steve Allen of Sheehan and Associates in Washington, DC, will help KLC stakeholders better communicate with any constituency group. The program will feature videotaped do's and don'ts examples of political and business leaders, as well as identifying and defining messages.

Mr. Allen has appeared on Nightline, NBC News, ABC World News Tonight, FOX News and MSNBC.

*Pre-Conference Session: Crafting an Effective Message with Greater Clarity, Wednesday, October 6*

**Sneakers Ready for the Mobile Workshop**

Put on your walking shoes and join Steve Austin, President and CEO of Bluegrass Tomorrow as he leads you through Owensboro's outdoor "laboratory." You'll observe and discuss simple but vital steps that can make any city more walkable and user friendly for active people.

*Getting Back on Your Feet Again: Turning Your City into a Pedestrian Paradise: Wednesday, October 6*



**That's Laugable**

Featured on National Public Radio, ABC News and in the *New York Times*, renowned political humorist Joey Novick will share ways to use humor as a powerful tool in governing. Whether it is used to enhance creativity or problem solving or improve team building, everyone will take

something from this program. Novick said, "I believe we take our work seriously, but ourselves lightly."

*Humor and Professional Relationships, Friday, October 8*

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

**DLG Goes "GOLD"**

Effective in mid July, The Department of Local Government restructured to better serve local government. With the changes comes a new name, the Governor's Office for Local Development (GOLD).

Bill Nighbert, deputy commissioner of the Governor's Office for Local Development and a former KLC president, said the changes are meant to enhance efficiency and provide a more direct line for cities and counties to the Governor's Office. GOLD includes the following services: Division of Grants, Division of Financial Management and Administration, Office for Legislative Services, Office for

Renaissance Kentucky, Kentucky Appalachian Regional Commission (KARC), Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), East Kentucky Corporation and West Kentucky Corporation.

Also included in the reorganization is a new program aimed at providing a link for local officials to the Governor's office. The Local Initiative for a New Kentucky (LINK) program will provide seven representatives from the governor's office who will meet with local officials regularly.

*For more information, call GOLD at 1-800-346-5606 or visit [www.dlg.ky.gov](http://www.dlg.ky.gov).*

**CITY PEOPLE**

**Convention Topics Keep Leaders Moving Forward!**

"Upon taking office in 1999, I thought I had a "fair idea" of what this position involved (serving on council three terms). Was I surprised? Thank goodness KLC had a training session for Newly Elected Officials in January of that year. I've also attended each convention since then, as well as a number of other training programs. How has KLC convention training helped my city? What I learned has helped me do a better job as mayor and has actually helped my city prevent litigation. Convention is also a good place to see friends, share ideas and have fun."



Mayor Ann Deatherage, City of Carrollton

"There's no telling how many 'tight spots' we may have been in if not for the seminars on conducting effective meetings and using parliamentary procedure. I learned basics about my role in council meetings, what the council could and could not discuss, how to manage difficult or controversial issues and to use a proactive approach with the press.

To sum it up, KLC training has been quality of the first degree and priceless to my staff and me."



Mayor Gary Williamson, City of Mt. Sterling

**Lexington's Mayor Isaac Selected for International Program**

In July, at the request of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs, Lexington Mayor Teresa Ann Isaac flew to Argentina to participate in a democracy project in Buenos Aires, Cordoba, and Rosario.

Her assignment was to teach Argentine office holders and other government officials how to effectively communicate with citizens. She was selected for the program based on her own experiences communicating with citizens and city departments during stressful times, including the 2003 ice storm, 2004 tornado and during heated debates on issues such as the city's smoking ban. Congratulations!

**THE LAST WORD FIRST**

**City Leaders . . . On the Move!**



Colorful day lilies and welcome signs greeted mayors and other officials from around the commonwealth when Madisonville rolled out the red carpet for the annual KLC Board meeting.

Mayor Karen L. Cunningham, who is nearing the end of her term as president of KLC, and her staff, provided warm hospitality and several special treats. The annual meeting gives our members a chance to review the work plan and budget for the coming fiscal year, which began on July 1.

On the second day of the two-day event, the board of directors was honored to have Bill Nighbert bring greetings from the governor's office. Bill, deputy commissioner of the Governor's Office for Local Development (GOLD), is a past KLC president and former mayor of Williamsburg. One of Bill's comments really spoke to me, and I think it's worth repeating here:

"The Kentucky League of Cities took a bold step in endorsing the governor's tax modernization concept. KLC's stock definitely went up as far as how the state views our efforts. Right now only 29 percent of Kentuckians know anything about tax modernization. This administration is not about Republicans and Democrats. We're Kentuckians. We need to start a grassroots effort of not being about one party or the other, but moving Kentucky forward."

It is increasingly clear to me and those who have been in this field for a long time that if things are to improve, each of us must accept the responsibility of making Kentucky better. Bill Nighbert's call for a grassroots effort is one we should all heed.

If we wait, our cities will fail. It is incumbent upon each of us to rally the charge in our hometowns, to get our citizens engaged in bold steps and move Kentucky forward.

Please take advantage of the chance to learn more about how you can take these bold steps by attending our annual convention October 6-9 in Owensboro.

We have a number of workshops and other activities that offer innovative ways in which you can make positive changes for your city. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Sylvia L. Lovely  
Executive Director/CEO, Kentucky League of Cities



The Madisonville Community Singers presented a Command Performance Patriotic Concert to the delight of the KLC Board of Directors during their annual board meeting.



Owensboro City Attorney David Fowler chats with Madisonville Mayor and KLC Board President Karen L. Cunningham at the board meeting.

**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. Phone (859) 977-3700 or 1-800-876-4552. Fax (859) 977-3703. www.klc.org.

**EDITORIAL STAFF**

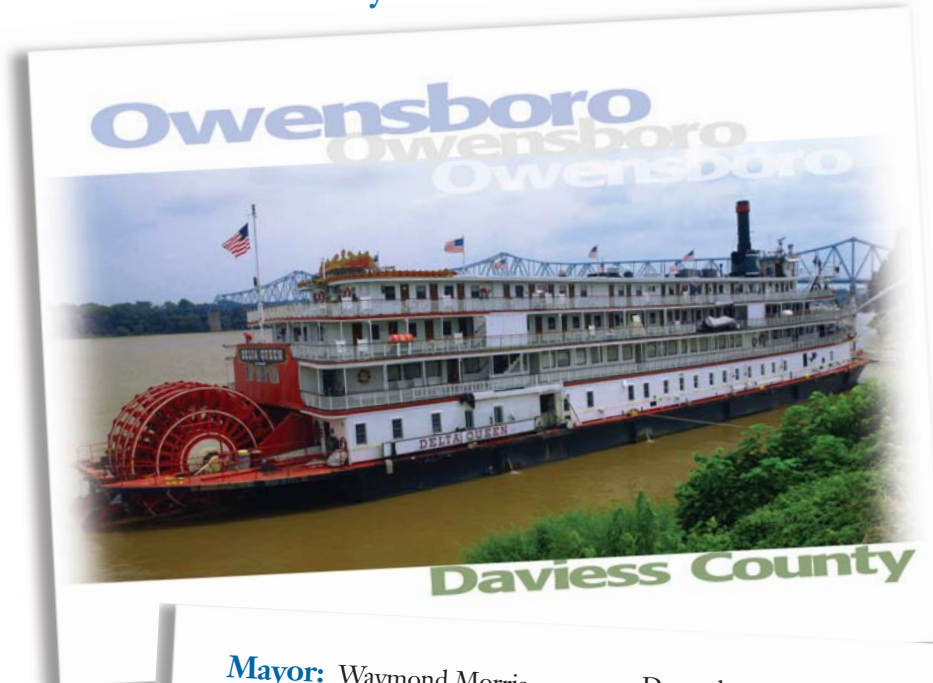
- Publisher, Sylvia L. Lovely
  - Editor, Terri Johnson
  - Design/Layout, Ulysses C. Hayes
  - Senior Writer, John McGill
  - Director of Communications, Bobbie Bryant
- For a full list of KLC staff visit [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org).

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**CITY POSTCARD**

**A Look at the City of Owensboro**



**Mayor:** Waymond Morris

**Population:** 54,067

**Location:** Western Kentucky Coal Field Region; Owensboro is on the southern banks of the Ohio River

**Home of:** NASCAR stars Darrell and Michael Waltrip, Jeremy Mayfield, and Jeff, Mark, and David Green

**Special Attractions:** Owensboro is known throughout the state as Kentucky's Festival City and holds 20 festivals annually running from March through

December. The city also has a 1,500-seat multi-purpose performing arts center along with numerous museums dedicated to fine arts, bluegrass music, motor sports heritage, science, and history.

**Festivals:** The International Bar-B-Q Festival is held the first week of May, celebrating Owensboro's claim as the "Bar-B-Q Capital of the World." The city celebrates our nation's birthday with a 4th of July Extravaganza which features countywide sports competitions, music, and a fireworks display.

**Golf Scramble!**

**What:** KLC Golf Tournament, four person scramble.

**When:** Wednesday, October 6 with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. CST.

**Where:** Summit Country Club in Owensboro. This will be the second time the tourney has been held at this course.

**How:** Register online at [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org). Cost is \$75 per person which includes range balls, greens fees, cart rental, lunch, prizes, and fun!

For more information on the Golf Tournament, contact Linda Shearer, Senior Underwriter at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3776 or [lshearer@klc.org](mailto:lshearer@klc.org).

**FACTOID**

**Dangerous Moves!** According to *Prevention Magazine's* May 2004 issue, driving while yapping raises your risk of a traffic accident by 38%. Cell phone use is cited as being responsible for 330,000 crash injuries and 2,600 deaths! Be careful en route to the convention!



## TAKE A BREAK

### Convention Highlights



**OWENSBORO SWING**  
Wednesday, October 6, 2004, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

It will be a swinging time in the RiverPark Center as the City of Owensboro treats delegates to Owensboro's world famous barbeque while listening to sounds of Little Moe and the Two Tones.

**SHOWTIME AT THE TWO**  
Thursday, October 7, 2004, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.\*

Theatre Workshop of Owensboro (TWO) has been creating lasting impressions in Owensboro since 1955. Join us for an exceptional theatrical experience! Dessert and coffee will be provided.



**WILD WILD WEST**  
Thursday, October 7, 2004, 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

It's a rodeo roundup! The KLC Insurance and Finance teams invite you to round up your western wear and mosey on over to the KLC Corral for an evening filled with the sights and sounds of the Wild Wild West.

**EXHIBIT HALL: START YOUR ENGINES**  
Thursday, October 7, 2004, 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, October 8, 2004, 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ladies and Gentleman, start your engines! In addition to the 100 plus booths, test your skill behind the wheel of a racecar simulator, fill your tank at the pit stop food stations and network with delegates from across the state.



**OWENSBORO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**  
Friday, October 8, 2004, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.\*

Arts and crafts, history, music and dancing, shopping and gardening, this spouse tour has something for everyone. Enjoy a card making class at the Woodward's Café, a tour of the Bluegrass Museum, a cowboy style show over lunch, antique shopping downtown and a "Cooking with Herbs" class at the Botanical Gardens.

**THE MONARCHS**  
Friday, October 8, 2004, 9:15 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Grab those dancing shoes! Covering music from the 1960's through the 1980's, the Monarchs have appeared in concert with the likes of The Beach Boys, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and Dusty Springfield to name a few.



\* Transportation will be provided.

## SHOW ME THE MONEY

### Harvard Innovations Award

The Innovations in American Government Award is administered through Harvard University's Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government. It is heralded as the premier public-sector award in the nation.

Each winner receives a \$100,000 grant as well as national media attention.

For more information or to apply, visit [www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu](http://www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu). The deadline is September 15, 2004.

### Keep America Beautiful Announces Graffiti Hurts Award Program

Keep America Beautiful, Inc. and Sherwin Williams Company have announced the first Graffiti Hurts National Award - to recognize programs that are bringing innovation and best practices to erase graffiti vandalism. The Graffiti Hurts National Award program will raise awareness about graffiti's negative impact on our communities. The winning program will receive a \$2,000 cash award and national recognition for its graffiti-prevention activities.

For more information visit [www.kab.org](http://www.kab.org). The deadline is September 15, 2004.

## LEADERSHIP ADVANTAGE

### What is POESI?

- ♦ A KLC initiative that helps officials develop expertise in four key areas and is open to members at no cost.
- ♦ A professional certification program that recognizes excellence in governments and includes three levels of achievement.
- ♦ A recognition opportunity for participants at the KLC convention.

- ♦ A type of blooming flower.
- ♦ Public Officials Essential Skills Institute.

### All of the above (except the flower)

The Convention will feature a number of POESI credited programs.

Want to get started as a POESI participant? Visit [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org) or contact Karen Butcher at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3711.



## ASSOCIATIONS

KLC is also pleased to host our member associations and committees during the KLC convention.

Wednesday, October 6:

**Kentucky Municipal Environmental Safety and Health Association (KMESHA)**

**Kentucky Municipal Clerks Association**

**Kentucky City/County Management Association (KCCMA)**

**Kentucky Government Finance Officers Association (KGFOA)**

Wednesday, October 7:

**Women in Municipal Government (WIMG)**

Wednesday, October 8:

**Kentucky Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (KBC-LEO)**

**Municipal Attorneys Association of Kentucky (MAAK)**



## THANKS PARTNERS

KLC would like to thank the organizations that support KLC as 2004-2005 Cornerstone Partners. All money raised through the Cornerstone Partner program is reinvested in providing training for our member cities. Thank you!

### GRANITE, \$10,000

Adams, Stepner, Woltermann & Dusing, PLLC  
Peck, Shaffer & Williams, LLP

### MARBLE, \$5,000

Bridgeway Medical LLC

### SLATE, \$2,500

Fannie Mae  
Landrum & Shouse  
National City Bank  
Seasongood & Mayer  
Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney, PLLC

### LIMESTONE, \$1,000

Ad Plus/Ideas Etc.  
American Legal Publishing Corp.  
Angela L. Greene & Associates  
BB&T Governmental Finance  
Bell, Orr, Ayers & Moore, PSC  
Burgess & Niple, LTD  
Chi Tech, Division of Chilton & Medley, PLC  
Dean, Dorton & Ford, PSC  
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Harding, Shymanski & Co., PSC  
Jackson Kelly, PLLC  
Kentucky American Water Company  
Lisk Associates, LLC  
Nesbitt Engineering, Inc.  
Public Entity Risk Institute  
Quest Engineers, Inc.  
Sweeney & Fiser, PLLC

(as of printing)

For more information on the KLC Cornerstone Partners program, contact Tammy Lyons, Executive Assistant, at 859-977-3741 or email [tlyons@klc.org](mailto:tlyons@klc.org).

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY

Sept. 28 - Oct. 3, 2004

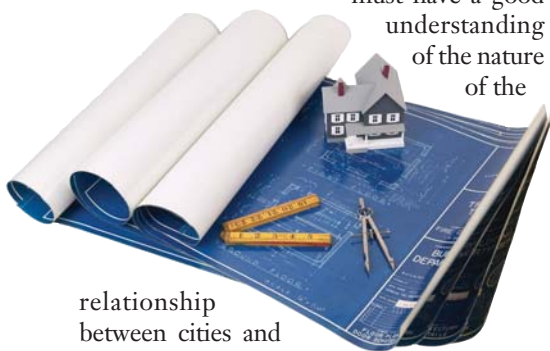
National Trust for Historic Preservation,  
Galt House - Louisville. Information:  
[www.NTHPconference.org](http://www.NTHPconference.org).

**LAW ABIDING**

**P&Z Update**

*The planning and zoning roles of city officials in 2nd through 6th class cities*

Although much of the focus of the planning and zoning process is centered upon the planning commission, elected city officials also have a critical, albeit limited, role in implementing and maintaining effective planning and zoning for their communities. In fulfilling planning and zoning responsibilities, elected city officials



must have a good understanding of the nature of the

relationship between cities and planning commissions. The roles of city officials in the planning and zoning process include the creation of the planning commission, appointment of members to commissions and boards of adjustment, establishment of goals and objectives, adoption of regulations and amendments, and the continual monitoring of zoning regulations.

City officials must take the first step to bring planning and zoning to their cities. Cities must either create an independent planning unit to serve the planning and zoning needs of the city or agree to participate with other governments, such as counties and other cities, in a joint or regional planning unit. If a city agrees to the later procedure, it must establish the boundaries of the planning commission's authority and detail its administration in a planning unit agreement adopted in the form of ordinances by all participating governments.

The mayor and legislative body members of cities are responsible for selecting the individuals who will serve as planning commissioners and board of adjustment members. In all second through sixth class cities, the mayor's appointments to planning commissions and boards of adjustment must be approved by the city's legislative body. It is important to note that city officials cannot

select themselves to serve on planning commissions because of a 1999 Kentucky Court of Appeals case holding that occupying both positions simultaneously creates a common law conflict or incompatibility.

When the planning commission develops or amends its comprehensive plan, the city has the opportunity for input by developing its own statement of goals and objectives. The final statement of goals and objectives must also be approved by the city's legislative body. Since these goals act as a guide for the preparation and implementation of future land use regulations and the planning unit's comprehensive plan, it is very important that city officials become involved in this process.

One of the most important planning and zoning functions performed by city officials is the adoption of ordinances regulating land use and approving amendments to those ordinances and maps. The city cannot take unilateral action to enact or modify the text of a zoning ordinance or a map. Such changes must be referred to the planning commission before adoption. The legislative body then may act upon the recommendation of the planning commission.

In most cities, new regulations must be approved by a majority of the entire legislative body before they can take effect. In order for a text amendment to be made, a majority of the legislative body must approve the amendment by a majority vote.

With map amendments, the recommendation of the planning commission will become effective unless a majority of the entire legislative body votes to override the recommendation of the planning commission. In the mayor-council form of government, if the legislative body deadlocks and there is a tie vote, the mayor may not proceed to break a tie vote because the statutes require votes by a majority of the body rather than the traditional "majority of a quorum."

*Have questions? Contact KLC Legal Services at 1-800-876-4552.*

**It's the Law: Kentucky Leads the Nation with P&Z Education Requirements**

*By Marshall D. Slagle*

It has been nearly three years since the Kentucky Legislature enacted the nation's first historic planning legislation, HB55, KRS147A.027, requiring planning commissions, boards of adjustments members, and planning professionals to meet new continuing education standards.

Prior to HB55, it was generally understood that most persons appointed to these boards generally gained knowledge about their position "in the line of duty."

- HB55 requires that planning commissioners and boards of adjustment members receive 8 hours of training within each period of two consecutive years starting from the date of their appointment, while professional planning staff is to receive 16 hours during the same two-year period.
- Orientation training is also required for newly appointed planning officials and planning staff either prior to or within 120 days of their appointment.
- Each individual planning commission is responsible for monitoring the training (a

summary of HB55 can be found at [www.lrc.ky.gov/recarch/01rs/HB55/bill.doc](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/recarch/01rs/HB55/bill.doc)).

**Where do you get this education?**

Since passage of HB55, the Kentucky Chapter of the American Planning Association (KAPA) has teamed with KLC and other organizations to help implement the requirements of HB55 by offering training programs via the **KLC Host City Program**. This training close to home is a convenience and value to city leaders and employees throughout the state by keeping costs and travel to a minimum.

In addition, as with many KLC programs and services, KLC Insurance Services members get an additional discount on host city training programs. KAPA also offers a library of videotapes that meet P&Z educational requirements.

*For more information on the Host City Program, contact Karen Butcher, Leadership and Training Manager, 800-876-4552, ext. 3711 or [kbutcher@klc.org](mailto:kbutcher@klc.org).*

**Keep it Legal - Not Just for Attorneys**

KLC's Legal Services program fields 2,000 calls annually on legal issues. With that in mind, a number of this year's convention programs will focus on frequently asked legal questions, as well as new legislation and laws that affect local governance. The programs were designed for mixed attorney and "non-attorney" audiences. Sessions featured during the convention include:

- *Occupational License Tax Reform: Is Your City Ready?*
- *Electronic Records Retention and the Open Records Law*
- *Abandoned, Blighted and Tax Delinquent Properties*
- *Identifying and Preventing Potential Employment Lawsuits*
- *Wage and Hour: Basics and Beyond*
- *Police Pursuits (done right and gone wrong)*
- *Municipal Annexation in Kentucky - Step by Step*
- *Oops, What do I do Now? (after the mistake)*

**CLE: Keep it Legal - For Attorneys**

This is a three-part series for attorneys on timely issues of concern.

- *Municipal Law and Public Officials (1 hour CLE)*
- *Municipal Law Update (1 hour CLE)*
- *Municipal Attorneys Association Meeting (1 hour CLE)*

**MEET ME AT KLC**

**Staff Profile**

**KLC Convention Team**



Convention Team members pictured in the photograph above include (top row from left) Lydia Heathman, Karen Butcher and Marty Nemes, (bottom row from left) Linda Shearer, Tammy Lyons, Freda Meriwether, Arlene Nance and Sharon Ferguson.

**STAFF NOTES**

KLC Community Development & IT Advisor, **Anthony Wright**, has been named to the United Way of the Bluegrass 'Get On Board' Advisory Board and Recruitment Committee.

In June, **J.D. Chaney**, Counsel for Member Legal Services, was elected Vice Chair of the Kentucky Bar Association's Local Government Law Section.



## CONVENTION COURSES AT A GLANCE

COURSE CATEGORIES INDEX: ◆ Identifying Legal Issues ◆ Building Personal, Professional & Political Skills ◆ Developing the Community ◆ Managing Community Resources

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2004

- ◆ Pre-Conference Session: Crafting an Effective Message with Greater Clarity
- ◆ Getting Back on Your Feet Again: Turning Your Community into a Pedestrian Paradise
- ◆ Occupational License Tax Reform: Is Your City Ready?
- ◆ Electronic Records Retention and the Open Records Law (City Clerks)

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2004

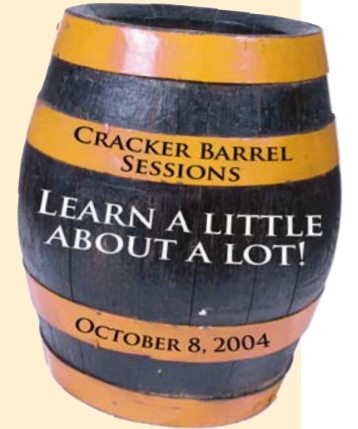
- ◆ Abandoned, Blighted and Tax Delinquent Properties
- ◆ Sanitary Sewer Backup Liability
- ◆ Trends in Indoor and Outdoor Aquatics
- ◆ Schmoozing: How to Work a Room
- ◆ Identifying and Preventing Potential Employment Related Lawsuits

- ◆ Small Cities Roundtable
- ◆ Successful Cities and Successful Education: What We Have in Common
- ◆ Interim Joint Committee Meeting/Lobbying: How to Tell Your Story...and to Whom

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2004

- ◆ Hello Winners! How Your City Can Survive and Thrive in the 21st Century
- ◆ Update on KLC Technology Initiatives
- ◆ Making New Places in Old Spaces: The Art of Innovative Neighborhood Revitalization
- ◆ Humor and Professional Relationships
- ◆ Wage and Hour: Basics and Beyond
- ◆ CLE: Municipal and Public Officials Liability
- ◆ Police Pursuits
- ◆ Illicit Drug Use in Kentucky

- ◆ Municipal Annexation in Kentucky Step by Step
- ◆ Fannie Mae's American Communities Fund
- ◆ All I Want is a Good Night's Sleep
- ◆ Oops, What Do I Do Now?
- ◆ CLE: Municipal Law Update



## 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).

## LEGISLATIVE FLASH

### Is it Realistic? A Look Ahead at Local Tax Modernization

Ever since the gubernatorial campaigns last year, Kentucky lawmakers have been abuzz with talk of tax modernization. Despite the political rhetoric, very few debate whether the current tax system is sufficiently addressing the needs and environment of the 21st century. However, all too often local taxes are not included within the scope of tax modernization.

Constitutional constraints and current state and local government tax laws make it nearly impossible for cities to generate the revenue necessary to provide critical services and economic opportunities. In fact, cities and other local governments are set up to fail by causing them to compete for revenue from the same limited and inflexible sources.

"Kentucky will not prosper as long as its local governments are locked in a struggle for adequate revenue from limited and inflexible sources," said KLC Executive Director Sylvia Lovely. "Tax modernization is an absolutely necessary ingredient to enable the

Commonwealth and its local governments to compete successfully in the 'new economy.'"

In March, the KLC Executive Board endorsed Governor Ernie Fletcher's tax modernization plan as an important first step in comprehensive tax reform. Though this plan did not address local taxes, Governor Fletcher has pledged to establish a task force to review and make recommendations on local government tax modernization.

The task force will address such issues as expanding the list of local tax options beyond those that are constitutionally permissible today, possible sharing of state tax revenues with local governments and the sharing of revenue among all local government entities. Over the next few years, KLC will play an active role in representing the interests of cities to truly modernize Kentucky's local government tax structure.

*For more information, please contact a member of the KLC Policy Development Team at 1-800-876-4552.*

### 2005 National Public Service Awards

Nominations for the 2005 National Public Service Awards (NPSAs) as well as the "Keeper of the Flame Award," sponsored by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) and the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), are being accepted through October 1, 2004. These annual awards honor individuals who make outstanding contributions and whose accomplishments can be viewed as models of public service within and outside the work environment. For more information, visit [www.napawash.org/about\\_academy/about\\_npsa.html](http://www.napawash.org/about_academy/about_npsa.html).



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Kentucky League of Cities, 101 East Vine Street, Suite 600, Lexington, KY 40507-3700  
859-977-3700 • 1-800-876-4552 • Fax: 859-977-3703 • [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org)



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