

2011: It's a Great Year to Be a Part of the Texas Municipal League Institute (TMLI) Program!

Service as an elected city official is a rewarding and challenging job—one that will give you a great sense of satisfaction in knowing that you're helping make your city, and this great state, stronger and better. To encourage elected city officials to learn as much as possible about their governance roles and city government in general, TML and the Association of Mayors, Councilmembers, and Commissioners (AMCC) offer a variety of educational programs to improve the policy-making and leadership skills of municipal elected officials in Texas. These training opportunities provide elected officials a chance to enhance their policy-making and leadership skills.

In an effort to reward commitment to the continual process of learning new skills and abilities, TML and AMCC sponsor the Texas Municipal Leadership Institute (TMLI). This voluntary certification program allows local elected officials the opportunity to be recognized for their commitment to knowledge and diligence in attending training sessions. This recognition, for completing a certain number of continuing education units (CEUs) within a calendar year (January 1-December 31), begins with a *certificate of recognition* for 42 CEUs and increases to *certified municipal official* status for 72 CEUs.

Individuals who opt to participate in the TMLI program can earn CEUs by attending TML-sponsored events (one credit for every 50 minutes of education; however, there are limits to the number of CEUs an individual can receive for individual categories of training). A TML-sponsored event is defined as any educational program or activity in which TML plays the primary role (that is, TML provides program development, onsite logistics, and/or staff participation). Some of these events include:

- TML Annual Conference and Exhibition
- TML Elected Officials' Conference
- TML-AMCC Newly Elected City Officials' Orientation
- TML Small Cities' Problem-Solving Clinics
- TML Workshops
- TML Regional Meetings
- TML Committees

- TML Board Service
- TML Online Training
- TML Webinars

Please note that city council meetings, council briefings, and council workshops are *not* considered training events for the purposes of earning CEUs.

In addition to receiving CEUs for TML events, city officials can also earn CEUs for training offered by other organizations. The number of CEUs a person can receive per individual category of training is limited, with no more than 19 CEUs accepted from outside organizations (if you wish to receive CEUs for an event sponsored by another organization, you must provide a copy of the program and proof of your attendance). Examples of these types of training are:

- Training offered by city-related organizations (councils of governments, National League of Cities events, etc.)
- Online training by outside organizations (no more than 6 CEUs per year)
- College courses
- Other professional education

TMLI participants who earn a minimum of 42 CEUs during a calendar year are eligible for several types of special recognition:

- The Certified Municipal Official (CMO) designation is awarded upon completion of 72 or more CEUs in one year. The 72 hours must include two hours of open government training (one hour on the Open Meetings Act and one hour on the Public Information Act. This training is required by the State of Texas, and proof of training must be provided in the manner of a certificate or other documentation). All CMOs will receive a lapel pin and will have the designation of CMO included with their names on materials distributed by TML throughout each year they complete the 72 required hours.

- A Certificate of Outstanding Accomplishment is awarded upon completion of 72 CEUs in a year.
- A Certificate of Achievement is awarded upon completion of 54 CEUs in a year.
- A Certificate of Recognition is awarded upon completion of 42 CEUs in a year.
- An Award of Excellence is awarded to an elected official who has received a TMLI certificate for five consecutive years.
- An Award of Leadership is awarded to a city that has had any elected official or combination of elected officials receive a TMLI certificate for five consecutive years.

Recipients of TMLI awards are recognized in several ways:

- They receive a press release to announce their accomplishment.
- Their names appear on a plaque displayed in the TML office in Austin.
- They are recognized in the final programs for both the TML Elected Officials' Conference and the TML Annual Conference and Exhibition.

- Their names are included in a list of TMLI recipients in an issue of the TML magazine, *Texas Town & City*.

Through the years, the TMLI program has been extremely popular with and enthusiastically supported by elected city officials in Texas. In 2010, an impressive 19 individuals received the prestigious Certified Municipal Official designation. In addition, 10 Certificates of Achievement were earned, along with 6 Certificates of Recognition and 5 Awards of Excellence. Plus, 4 Texas cities were recognized with Awards of Leadership for having an elected official receive a TMLI certificate for at least *five* consecutive years. And keep in mind—all these awards require a *minimum* of 42 CEUs; approximately 550 additional elected officials participated in the program but earned a more modest number of credits.

Elected officials who participate in the TMLI program can view their progress on the TML Web site at www.tml.org (click on "Training," then click on "TMLI," and then scroll down the page to click on "Current TMLI Participants"). You can also learn more about the TMLI program by visiting the "TMLI" page on the TML Web site or by calling 512-231-7400. ★

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