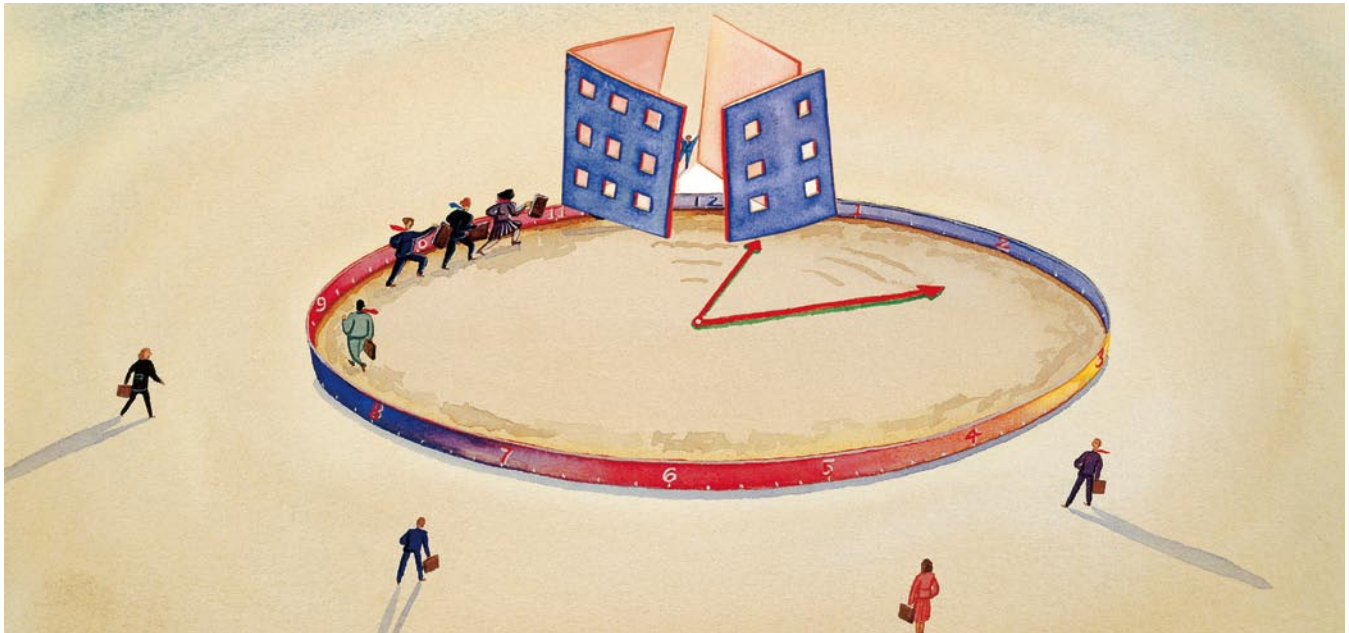


The 2008 TML Annual Conference and Exhibition Is Big on Small Cities

By Rachael Pitts

TML Assistant Director of Member Services



The 2008 TML Annual Conference and Exhibition will be held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio on October 28-31, 2008. This year's program offers a variety of educational sessions, numerous networking opportunities, and an exhibit hall full of businesses and organizations that are eager to support your efforts back home. Although most of the educational sessions will appeal to cities of all sizes, several sessions are designed specifically for small cities. When developing your game plan for the conference, consider attending these sessions.

While attending the Annual Conference offers many benefits, it also has a monetary cost and requires a commitment to be away from your professional and personal lives. If you are on the fence as to whether you will attend or are looking for a little reassurance or inspiration about the value of the TML Annual Conference experience, who better to deliver some encouraging words of advice than your colleagues? Here's what they have to say.

Why Attend the TML Annual Conference?

Mexia Mayor Pro Tem Judy Chambers

Attending the TML Annual Conference or any TML-sponsored educational event is an investment in your city.

Participants will have an opportunity to network with cities of a similar size, and I bet there is another elected official somewhere in Texas who has faced or will face some of the same issues going on in your city. The TML Annual Conference is a chance for you to showcase your city by telling other delegates all the great things going on at home and is a great place to get new and innovative ideas to improve upon what you already have going on.

Azle Councilmember June Earp

I guess it's obvious when people get elected they have some knowledge of the job they have been elected to do; however, there will be so many situations arise that you never expected. You need to be prepared. I believe one of the most effective ways to be ready for those situations is by attending the TML Annual Conference. I certainly wouldn't be the confident councilmember I am today without the training I have received from TML. The more knowledge I can acquire, the better I can serve my citizens. I always come back from training with a renewed enthusiasm, almost like when I was first elected.

SPOTLIGHT ON SMALL CITY SESSIONS

Wednesday, October 29

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

WORKING WITH YOUR CITY ATTORNEY IN SMALL CITIES

Whether your city attorney is in-house or a private practitioner, this session will help you make the most of your relationship with your city attorney.

Thursday, October 30

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. and 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

SMALL CITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A BEST PRACTICES APPROACH

Local leaders can play a role in generating entrepreneurship in the community and, ultimately, creating local economic development. Come to this session and learn how.

3:00 – 4:45 p.m.

BEYOND THE LIMITS: REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR SMALL CITIES

Economic development doesn't always fit neatly into one city's limits, and it shouldn't. Intergovernmental cooperation can spur your city's economic growth and your neighbor's. Learn how three regions attracted a cheese factory, a wind farm industry, and a high-technology company.

Friday, October 31

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

GREAT IDEAS FOR SMALL CITIES: WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?

Walk away with some great ideas than can enhance the quality of life for your residents. Learn how to host a welcome reception for new residents, provide hospitality training for businesses, and more.

For more information about these sessions and to review the entire conference program, visit the TML Web site, www.tml.org, or pick up the July issue of the *Texas Town & City* magazine.

Windcrest Mayor Jack Leonhardt

The TML Annual Conference is an opportunity to get away from your city's day-to-day grind and get into an environment with others with common interests and challenges. The breakout sessions are educational, worthwhile, and pertinent to all sizes of cities. In many cases, the sessions are focused on smaller cities. Visiting the exhibit hall is a great way to interact with many companies and agencies about specific items affecting your city. There you can establish initial contacts and schedule follow-ups. You can also pick up merchandise that may be useful to you or your city staff.

How Do You Justify the Cost?

Parker Mayor Joe Cordina

Every worthwhile event has a price to pay, be it financial or simply your time away from home. The return on your

investment is in direct proportion to what you put into it by attending sessions, listening, learning, and participating. The conference is an opportunity not to be missed!

Roanoke Mayor Pro Tem Holly Gray-McPherson

I believe it is our responsibility to our communities to be well-informed and well-educated. You will not leave this conference disappointed. It is worth every minute and every cent. You owe it to yourself and to the citizens you serve.

General Conference Advice

Willis Mayor Leonard Reed

Be sure to look over the program ahead of time and have an idea about the sessions and events you plan to attend so that you can make the most of the conference.

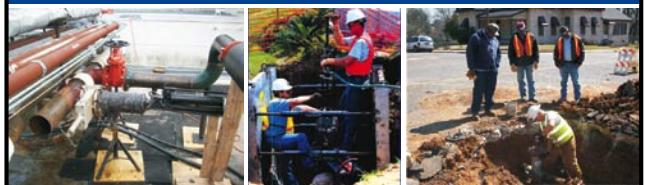
Windcrest Mayor Jack Leonhardt

The TML Conference is a great opportunity to seek out other officials or TML staff on specific issues.

Parker Mayor Joe Cordina

Be ready to ask questions – your situations are not unique, and many there will offer you help! ★

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