

The Administrator

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City management pioneer passes away

Kent Mathewson, one of the pioneers of city management, died on March 31 in Lewisville. He was 90.

According to the *Winston-Salem Journal*, Mathewson fell and broke his hip about two weeks before his death. He died at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem due to complications from the fall.

Mathewson was born on Aug. 6, 1917, in New York City, though his family lived on Long Island. In 1925, the family moved to Raleigh. Mathewson attended UNC-Chapel Hill and, according to the *Journal*, he persuaded the university to offer a bachelor's degree in public administration with a major in city management.

President Frank Porter Graham offered a challenge to Mathewson, according to a story in the *Winston-Salem Journal* in August 2001.

"We want you to take that degree and become the best city manager in the country," Graham told Mathewson.

In 1939, Mathewson graduated with the first

bachelor's degree in public administration with a concentration in city management.

Mathewson would go on to get a master's in public administration from Syracuse.

He then went to San Diego, where he worked as a city manager — with no salary. He would serve as a captain in the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II, and afterward was hired as the city manager of Asheboro, being the youngest in the country. Two years later, he became the city manager of Martinsville, Va.

In June 1956, he was hired as the city manager of Salem, Ore. His next job was in Detroit, where he became president of a research foundation concerned with urban problems and the problems of rural areas surrounding cities, according to the *Journal*.

From there he taught city and county management and planning at the University of Texas for eight years.

Mathewson and his wife, Mariana Worth, bought a retirement home in Bermuda Run in

1984. He was heavily involved in civic affairs and even ran as a Democrat for a seat on the Davie County Board of Commissioners in 1988.

He then began working in Lewisville and later was involved with the incorporation of Bermuda Run in 1999.

Mathewson helped create a comprehensive plan for Lewisville and led the effort to create Shallowford Square, former Mayor Bob Stebbins said.

Mathewson wanted Lewisville to have a central town square based on the design of a New England village commons, said Stebbins and Kent Mathewson II, his son.

"I'm not sure any of us thought it would be as successful as it has been," Stebbins, who was mayor from 1997 to 2003, told the newspaper.

In 1991, at age 73, Mathewson was hired as the interim town manager of Lewisville.

PELA application deadline is May 1

The deadline to apply for the Public Executive Leadership Academy (PELA) at UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Government is May 1.

PELA will take place in two, week-long residential sessions: July 6-July 11; August 3-August 8. Sessions will be held at the Rizzo Conference Center in Chapel Hill. Twenty-five participants will be admitted to the program.

PELA will help you collaborate with elected officials and other leaders to develop a community or regional vision; bring about changes to improve the quality of life in your community;

manage a diverse and changing workplace; and communicate effectively with your staff, governing board members, community, and the media.

Each hour of participation in PELA counts toward the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program and will satisfy the 40 hours of professional development required annually for ICMA credentialed managers. Graduate credit hours (6).

PELA is open to new and veteran municipal and county managers interested in honing their

leadership and collaboration skills as well as assistant managers and key department heads.

The course fee is \$4,000 and may be paid over two fiscal years. NCCCMA members will receive a \$500 tuition discount. Contact Gwen Harvey, NCCCMA professional development chair, at 919-245-2307 or ggharvey@co.orange.nc.us for information.

For more information about PELA, and to apply, go to www.pela.unc.edu.

Ethics Q&A

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The mayor is under attack

Q The mayor has asked the town manager to take the lead in defending her character against recent attacks by her detractors. These individuals have criticized the mayor for using a town cell phone for personal business. The cell phone plan that the town provides covers a certain number of minutes, and the mayor's monthly charges often exceed the plan's allowance. Although the mayor often makes some reimbursement to the town for excess charges, her critics charge that the mayor has been unethical in asking the town to pay for some of the out-of-plan charges.

The critics also say that the mayor has lied to residents, making campaign promises that she never intended to keep. The town manager is sympathetic to the mayor as the town's finances have been strained since she was elected. The town has had to make tough choices just to maintain town services, so some of the mayor's priorities for service improvements have been put on the back burner. The town manager seeks advice on how to deal with the mayor's requests. He believes that some of the mayor's critics might decide to run

for town council in the future. He is uncomfortable taking the lead in responding to the attacks, although he sees the need to respond



to issues related to city services.

A It is important for the

town manager to stay above the fray when there are political attacks on individual members of the town council, including the mayor. Defending the conduct of an individual elected official could make it appear that the town manager is a political operative, rather than a professional. It is appropriate for the town manager to defend policies adopted by the town council and to update the community on staff's progress in achieving town council goals.

One step the town manager can take immediately is to change the cell plan policy. The town can either get a plan with unlimited use or ask the mayor to pay for the existing plan and receive a monthly reimbursement from the town for official business.

The town manager can offer the mayor private counsel and personal support, which may bolster her confidence in dealing with the issues directly. Elected officials usually are best served by facing their detractors directly. The town manager may also want to provide the mayor with an example of another elected official's conduct that the mayor would agree should not have been defended by staff. The key point to reinforce is that the town manager's role is to serve the entire governing body, not individual members.

Tenet 3 of the ICMA Code of Ethics requires members to act according to the highest ideals of honor and integrity in order that they can gain the respect and confidence of elected officials and the public. It would be inconsistent with Tenet 3 for the town manager to attack a resident's credibility just because that person had complained about an elected official's conduct.

Counting ballots in a pinch

Q Because of the untimely death of a member of Congress, the state has a contentious election coming up. The county anticipates a large number of absentee ballots, and a printing error is expected to cause some complications in tabulating the results. These two factors have created significant pressure on the county, less than a week before the election, to find qualified people to help count the absentee ballots.

Two ICMA members are willing and able to assist but became concerned when they discovered that tabulating teams must be staffed by both a designated Republican and a designated Democrat. Would this requirement to declare a political party to count ballots be a violation of Tenet 7?

A Designating a political party affiliation in order to count ballots is not a violation of Tenet 7. For one thing, the requirement to designate a political party is arbitrary; not everyone who counts ballots has to declare a party affiliation. ICMA members may also declare a political party affiliation in order to vote in primaries, although in some states

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Calendar of Events

Transforming Local Government
June 4-6, 2008
Greenville, S.C.

NCCMA Summer Conference
June 19-21, 2008
Crowne Plaza
Asheville/Buncombe County

ICMA Annual Conference
September 21-24, 2008
Richmond, Virginia

The Administrator is a monthly newsletter of the North Carolina City and County Management Association, a professional association for city and county managers and assistant managers from counties and municipalities throughout the state of North Carolina.

For comments or suggestions, please contact Matt Lail, editor, at (919) 715-3929, fax to (919) 733-9519, or mlail@ncclm.org.





To the North Carolina City and County Management Association:

I would like to personally invite you to join us in Greenville, South Carolina June 4-6, 2008 for the Transforming Local Government Conference (TLG). As you know, TLG is unique because we encourage team attendance by local governments, best practice case studies from innovative local government organizations, acclaimed thought-provoking speakers, and great networking options. We keep the conference size well under 1,000 to allow for a more connected and personal environment.

I recognize that times are tight for many local governments. We think that this year's TLG provides value and return on investment. This year's conference theme is Creating Sustainable Futures: Global Issues/Local Solutions. We think this is the most important and timely topic facing our organizations and communities.

While there will be innovation on best practices for making your city/county more green, the conference extends to all aspects of sustainability, with sessions on economy and social equity and community, and special presentations on land use, planning, and urban design. And as these challenging fiscal times remind us, sustainability of our finances and organizations is key also. Look for case studies and sessions on these issues too.

This year, the Alliance for Innovation and the City of Greenville have partnered to host some of the world's leaders on innovation and sustainability. Keynote addresses from Peter Block, Rafe Esquith, Neal Pierce, and Alex Steffan will highlight the conference.

In addition to these keynote speakers, TLG will open with pre-conference sessions from ICMA University, Greg Innes with Innes Strategies, and former Boulder City Manager and Sister Cities International Executive Director Tim Honey will talking to us about his concept of "Glocalization." We expect more international participation than ever before too.

The program will continue for three and a half days with interactive case studies and great evening fun that provide critical networking opportunities. Visit www.tlgconference.org to learn more about conference details, to register and book your hotel room in Greenville.

TLG's essence lies in its design as a co-created experience and learning and team strengthening event. Your participation is important. I look forward to seeing you in Greenville!

Jim

James Keene,
President
Alliance for Innovation

Summer conference registration due May 2; hotel registration no later than May 19

The early-bird registration deadline for the N.C. City/County Management Association's Summer Conference is May 2, with hotel room registrations needing to be taken care of by May 19.

The NCCCMA Summer Conference will take place June 19-21, 2008, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Asheville/Buncombe County.

To register for the conference, please go to www.ncmanagers.org. To make hotel reservations, please call the Crowne Plaza at 1-800-733-3211. NCCCMA has reserved a block of rooms with rates of \$129 per night plus tax. (Note that the Crowne Plaza has a 72-hour cancellation policy.)

NCCCMA is once again sponsoring a sum-

mer pre-conference workshop to expand professional development opportunities. ICMA University Workshop — *Expand Your Leadership Style, Increase Your Effectiveness*.

Other highlights of the conference include a bus/walking tour of Waynesville's revitalized downtown, hosted by Town Manager Lee Galloway, and a Friday afternoon walking tour of downtown Asheville's architectural gems, hosted by Asheville Assistant Manager Jeff Richardson.

Thursday evening's reception will be held at the Governor's Western Residence.

This conference will once again offer Senior Partner Training, where experienced NCCCMA members interested in serving as mentors to

North Carolina's new city and county managers or those who have volunteered but have yet to undergo training should plan to attend the Senior Partner Training Session program on Friday morning.

NCCCMA will also hold a golf tournament at this summer's conference. This year's tourney will be a Captain's Choice tournament at Reems Creek County Club. Tickets are \$55 per person, including green/cart fee and lunch. Prizes will be awarded. Bus transportation will be provided. For more information, please contact Steve Wyatt, Henderson county manager, at 828-697-4809.

ICMA offering discount registration opportunities

Again this year, ICMA will offer the following scholarship and discount registration opportunities to the ICMA Annual Conference, to be held September 21-24 in Richmond.

State-Based Conference Scholarship Program

ICMA provides a complimentary conference registration to any state association that establishes a travel-and-housing scholarship. There is no limit to the number of comp registrations a state association can request, so long as they are willing to underwrite the cost of travel and housing for the state association member.

These comp registrations can be used by either a non-ICMA member or a member who could not otherwise afford to attend the conference.

Member-Get-a-Conference-Attendee Campaign

A personal invitation from a state colleague can make all the difference in encouraging a nonmember to attend the ICMA Annual Conference. As a special incentive, any nonmember colleague referred by an ICMA member receives \$100 off the nonmember confer-

ence registration fee. If the non-ICMA member colleague joins ICMA at the time of registration, they'll get the \$100 discount PLUS half-price ICMA membership for a year.

ICMA members who refer a nonmember also receive a \$50 savings conference bookstore coupon for every non-ICMA member they refer.

Host Region Registration Discount

Any ICMA member from the host Southeast Region (which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi,

North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia) who is attending his/her first annual conference is eligible to receive \$200 off the conference registration fee. (This is double the discount that has been offered for many years.) Additionally, any nonmember who joins ICMA receives the \$200 registration discount PLUS half-price ICMA membership for a year.)

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they can vote in political primaries as registered independents.

In this circumstance, the ICMA members are assisting other local government staff in the performance of a local government function.

To read more ICMA ethics advice on political activity, go to <http://icma.org>, click on "ethics,"

and select the ethics resource pages.

—Elizabeth Kellar
Deputy Director
ICMA
Washington, D.C.
ekellar@icma.org

Assistant manager nominations due May 30

In 2001, the Executive Committee of the North Carolina City and County Management Association (NCCCMA) authorized the annual recognition of one or more Outstanding Assistant Managers from our member jurisdictions. Assistant managers play important roles in the operation of local governments, including carrying out, in some instances, the duties of the manager. Many of the members of the NCCCMA are current or former

assistants, or have assistants under their direction.

NCCCMA members are encouraged to submit deserving assistants for consideration. Nominees can be longtime assistants or outstanding newcomers to the profession.

A panel will review the nominations and select the recipient. The award will be announced and presented at the NCCCMA

Business Meeting on Saturday, June 21, 2008.

If you wish to nominate an assistant manager for consideration for this award, please complete the nomination form (available at www.ncmanagers.org and also previously mailed out to the membership) and return via fax or email to Melissa Smith at 919-715-1900 (fax) or msmith@ncm.org by May 30th, 2008.

2008-09 NCCCMA Committee Volunteer Form

We are in the process of seeking volunteers to serve on NCCCMA's committees for 2008-09. Please complete this form and return it by **May 16, 2008** if you are interested in serving on a committee of the North Carolina City and County Management Association. (*Form also at ncmanagers.org*)

Name _____

Unit of Government _____

Mailing Address _____

Work Phone _____ Fax _____

Email Address _____

Please indicate any NCCCMA committee(s) you currently serve on _____

Please select a committee you would like to serve on in 2008-09.

- Civic Education Project Committee
- Membership Support Committee
- Sustaining Membership/ICMA Relations Committee
- Program/Conference Committee
- Professional Development Committee
- Retirement Committee
- Collaboration with MPA Programs Committee
- Professional Conduct Committee

Please complete this form and return via fax to 919.715.1900, attention Yolanda Hart, by May 16, 2008.