When I wrote last year’s message for this, the State of League, I never imagined the League would face some of its toughest challenges in the 12 months that would follow. After all, this incredible organization had lost its leader of more than four decades. How could anything be more difficult to overcome? We’ve got a much easier path for 2019 and 2020—or so we thought. As my father and mother told me hundreds of times during my childhood, “Be careful with what you wish for, you never really know how it’ll turn out.” Prophetic.

Your League staff pressed forward in the fall of 2019, continuing to provide exceptional services and programs all while endeavoring to make them better, more creative and more useful for you. As always, there was amazing comradery among the staff and a positive spirit that was easily felt when walking into League headquarters. Each of us lifted each other to higher levels of performance. Attitudes were great. We all believed that 2020 would be one of the League’s finest hours. We were right, but not for the reasons we thought.

January and February began simply enough, or so it seemed. Soon however, media reports about a virus in China were a daily occurrence in January. The news became more concerning as January ended and February began. And from there things began to move quickly. On March 11 the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus a pandemic and the president of United States declared the virus a national emergency on March 13. The rest is history as they say. We all learned about social distancing, the need for a face covering or mask, how to wash our hands properly, and the benefits of hand sanitizer and wipes with bleach.

I’m so happy and proud to tell you that your League staff did not miss a beat. They rose to the challenge of teleworking, temperature taking and a variety of other work-related mandates that seemed cumbersome in the beginning but are now just a regular part of the day. We hold staff video meetings that sometimes feature guest appearances by children, dogs, spouses, cats and the occasional delivery person ringing the doorbell. Through it all spirits have remained high, our mission to give the membership the very best programming and services has been met or exceeded, and our sense of humor remains intact! As I’ve said many times, “we are you, the membership; and you, the membership, are us.” That mantra has done nothing but get stronger.

Great Cities Make a Great State. Those words have never been more true as our country faces not only this terrible pandemic but also the historic movement of Americans seeking fairness, justice and meaningful change. You, the municipal officials and employees of Arkansas, are making those changes every single day. You truly are the frontline first responders. Rest assured the League is with you every step of the way and will be for many, many years to come. Arkansas’ cities and towns are strong and vibrant and your League is the same.

Swing by the offices if you find yourself in North Little Rock. You’ll need a mask to come in and we’ll take your temperature, but we’ll be here every single day doing our utmost to help your city or town be the very best it can be.

Peace.

Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

2019-2020 Leadership

Mayor
Harold Perrin
Jonesboro
President

Mayor
Gary Baxter
Mulberry
First Vice President

Mayor
Paul Wellenberger
Fairfield Bay
Vice President, District 1

Council Member
Allan Loring
Wrightsville
Vice President, District 2

Mayor
John Mark Turner
Siloam Springs
Vice President, District 3

Mayor
Parnell Vann
Magnolia
Vice President, District 4

Professional Development

112 Events | 10,828 Attendees

• Annual Convention: 1,388 Attendees
• Winter Conference: 1,071 Attendees
• AML Voluntary Certified Municipal Official Program: 1,466 Participants at 8 Events
• Safety, Wellness & Other Training: 6,659 Participants at 99 Events
• Continuing Legal Education: 129 Participants at 2 Events
  Virtual Continuing Legal Education: 76 Attendees at 1 Event (4 hours)
• COVID-19 Virtual Meetings, Informational Calls and Congressional Virtual Events: 39 Events
• League-Sourced Messages Posted to the AML Community Listservs: 1,588
• League-Sourced Attachments Sent out on the AML Community Listservs: 772
• Total Logins to AML Community Listservs: 7,259
Who is the AML?

Founded in 1934, the Arkansas Municipal League is a service and advocacy organization for the cities and towns of Arkansas, representing more than 65 percent of Arkansas’ citizens.

League membership includes:
- 120 First Class Cities
- 202 Second Class Cities
- 175 Incorporated Towns

AML Benefit Programs

**Municipal Vehicle Program (531 Members)**
The MVP, Part I, is an optional program whereby participating municipalities can pool their resources and provide liability protection on their vehicles. Part II allows municipalities the option of carrying physical damage coverage on their vehicles on a pooled, self-funded basis.

**Municipal League Workers’ Compensation Program (465 Members)**
The MLWCP was established in 1985 to help cities and towns meet their statutory responsibilities for on-the-job employee injuries and loss-of-time claims.

**Municipal Legal Defense Program (463 Members)**
The MLDP is an optional program whereby participating municipalities can pool their resources and provide limited protection for the personal assets of officials, board or commission members, and employees.

**Municipal Property Program (370 Members)**
The MPP is an optional program whereby participating municipalities can pool their resources and provide all risks protection for their buildings and contents.

**Municipal Health Benefit Program (380 Members)**
The League’s MHBP provides medical, dental and vision benefits to employees and officials. The advantage of being a part of the large group has enabled cities over the years to maintain a relatively stable cost for this important fringe benefit for municipal officials and employees in an era of soaring medical costs.

**Arkansas Local Government Pension Management Trust and Municipal Other Post Employment Benefits Trust (9 Members)**
The PMT is an optional program available to local municipalities’ pension plans that provides an excellent opportunity for relatively small or medium sized locally controlled plans to join together in a League-sponsored pension management plan. The League has established the OPEB Trust as a vehicle for cities (and city agencies) to implement a savings plan for OPEB costs.

Other optional programs include:
- Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- Firefighters Supplemental Income Protection and Death Benefit Program
- Non-CDL Drug Testing
- Ordinance Codification
- Grant Writing
- Loss Control/Safety
Our Mission:
The Arkansas Municipal League exists for a threefold purpose:

- To act as the official representative of Arkansas cities and towns before the state and federal governments;
- To offer a forum for discussion and sharing of mutual concerns; and
- To provide a clearinghouse for information and answers.

The online home of the Arkansas Municipal League is [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org).

Site Visits (June 2019-June 2020): **112,799**
Unique Page Views (same period): **189,513**

**Top Page Visits**
1. Home Page
2. MHBP Provider Search
3. Services/MHBP
4. Services/Benefit Programs
5. Contact/Staff Directory
6. Resources/COVID-19
7. Services/MLWCP
8. Publications

City & Town, the official monthly magazine of the Arkansas Municipal League, is free to members. Total readership: more than 7,000 per month in print and online.

Other Educational Publications
The League offers a library of over 50 publications available in print or by download.

AML Online
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Site Visits (June 2019-June 2020): **112,799**
Unique Page Views (same period): **189,513**

**Top Page Visits**
1. Home Page
2. MHBP Provider Search
3. Services/MHBP
4. Services/Benefit Programs
5. Contact/Staff Directory
6. Resources/COVID-19
7. Services/MLWCP
8. Publications

**Twitter @ARMuniLeague**
1,298 Followers | 795 Average Impressions Per Day

**Facebook.com/ARMuniLeague**
Followers: 4,314
Top Single-Day Reach: 139,113
Average Weekly Reach: 3,368

**League Events/Meetings Mobile App**
Access: 4,160 sessions

**Other Ways to Connect with AML Online**
LinkedIn: Arkansas Municipal League
Instagram: armunileague
Flickr: [flickr.com/arkansas_municipal_league](http://flickr.com/arkansas_municipal_league)
YouTube: [youtube.com/ARMunicipalLeague](http://youtube.com/ARMunicipalLeague)
Microsite: [GreatCitiesGreatState.com](http://GreatCitiesGreatState.com)
Microsite: [BeLocalBeHeard.com](http://BeLocalBeHeard.com)
2019-2020 By The Numbers

Benefit Program Membership
465—Municipal League Workers’ Compensation Program (Plus 128 Municipal Entities)
463—Municipal Legal Defense Program (*7 Limited Service Members-Housing Authorities)
438*—Municipal Vehicle Program, with 25,180 Units Covered and Insured to Value of $944 million (*32 Limited Service Members)
380*—Municipal Health Benefit Program (*93 Limited Service Members)
370*—Municipal Property Program, with 10,272 Properties Covered and Insured to Value of $3.37 Billion (*14 Limited Service Members)
217—Accidental Death & Dismemberment
208—Firefighters Supplemental Income Protection & Death Benefit Program
144—Ordinance Codification
120—Non-CDL Drug Testing
9—Arkansas Local Government Pension Management Trust & Municipal Other Post Employment Benefits Trust

Communications
112,799—Visitors to www.arml.org
189,513—Unique Visits to Pages on www.arml.org
4,314—Facebook Followers
1,298—Twitter Followers
6—Active AML Community ListServ Groups
1,110— AML Community ListServ Subscribers
1,887 AML Community Threads Created
12—Issues of City & Town Magazine
87—Information Requests Via www.arml.org

Legal Services
201—Cases Active 2,250+ —Legal Inquiries

State Aid Street Program
The State Aid Street Committee administers the State Aid Street Program to assist Arkansas’ cities and towns in improving city streets.
$158 million—Total Project Funding to Date
907—Miles of City and Town Streets Improved to Date
671—Projects Approved to Date
75—New Projects Approved for Funding
53—Projects Currently Underway Totaling $10.1 Million
473—Cities and Towns Participating in Program to Date