



ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, July 18 – Thursday, July 20, 2023

Graduate Bloomington
210 East Kirkwood
Bloomington, Indiana

AGENDA

TUESDAY, JULY 18

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Registration

12:30 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Cathy Gross, ICOM President & Mayor, Monticello
John Hamilton, Mayor, Bloomington

12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

ICOM Business Meeting

Mayors Only

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

WORKSHOP: Learning from Sullivan's Experience –
Response and Recovery from a Devastating Spring
Tornado

On March 31, a deadly EF-3 tornado left a path of
destruction and loss of life in a residential

neighborhood on the south side of Sullivan. Mayor Clint Lamb will be on hand to walk attendees through the early hours following the tornado to the present day, where the recovery is well underway. This discussion will offer timely, relevant lessons learned that you could implement if your community faces a natural or man-made disaster that leaves wide-scale property damage and a grieving community in its wake.

Presenter:

Clint Lamb, Mayor, Sullivan

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

WORKSHOP: Turning Crisis into Opportunity – Transforming Indiana’s Housing Market

The United States is experiencing a severe housing shortage, with housing inventory at a record low. Indiana is no exception, and in this presentation, the expert panel will discuss the current state of the housing shortage and explore economic development tools and legislative updates to combat this issue. Topics including an overview of the legislative updates on HB 1005 (if applicable), common incentive vehicles, risk management strategies, along with a detailed case study, will be discussed. The goal is to walk away from this workshop with actionable insights and innovative strategies for addressing Indiana's housing shortage.

Presenters:

Lisa Lee, Partner, Ice Miller LLP

Gary Smith, CPA, Partner and Municipal Advisors, Reedy Finance Group, P.C.

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

BUS TOUR: Guided Bus Tour of Bloomington

City of Bloomington leaders will narrate a bus tour showcasing major economic and cultural infrastructure projects. Be sure to embrace the Bloomington history as we learn about these great projects throughout the city. The group will disembark several times, so please notify Lesley Mosier at (317) 223-9306 or lmosier@aimindiana.org regarding any accessibility needs ahead of time.

Presenter:

City of Bloomington

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dinner

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

WORKSHOP: Employment in Our Communities in a Post-Covid World

Manufacturing has a long and strong history in Indiana. The state remains highest in its share of GDP in manufacturing, but what does this mean in terms of manufacturing employment, on which many of our policies are based? In this session we will explore employment trends in our communities, including the impacts of remote work, automation, and education. We will explore the implications of these trends as well as policy impacts to be considered.

Presenters:

Dr. Michael Hicks, Director, Center for Business and Economic Research, Ball State University

David Terrell, Executive Director, Indiana Communities Institute, Ball State University

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

WORKSHOP: Creative Community Engagement – The Arts as a Vehicle for Transformative and Democratic Change

The link between the arts and community and economic development has become well-established in recent years. What is often overlooked is an opportunity for the arts to create spaces for local participation in transforming civic life. In this presentation, we will talk about the link between the arts and both new and effective community development strategies for overcoming areas of difference, bolstering civic participation, and embracing artists as a new kind of civic leader. As mayors, you will learn how artists can support your city's vision through creative community development, and how you can support artists in fostering their own creative vision.

Presenter:

Dr. Michael Fortunato, Founding Partner, Creative Insight Community Development (CICD), Madison

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Lunch w/ Pacers Danny Lopez

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

WORKSHOP: Free Speech, Social Media, and Other Things You Need to Know

In this age of social media, it is very important to know how the use of these sites applies to your city. The rights of city and town employees are very different from those in the public sector. This workshop will discuss some of those differences, expose some potential land mines, and help you avoid possible litigation.

Presenters:

Scott Lage, Vice President of Claims, Bliss McKnight, Inc.

Frank Pinson, Vice President of Sales, Bliss McKnight, Inc.

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Break

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

WORKSHOP: Mayors Helping Mayors – Building a Substantive Foundation for ICOM’s Peer-led Critical Incident Response Program

Some of the best advice and support we get comes from our peers. When you are the mayor, your peers are not always within arm’s reach. However, they are a phone call, email, or quick car ride away. This workshop will utilize the expertise of a Hoosier psychologist experienced in critical incident stress debriefings for first responders to supply the building blocks of a strong, supportive response network of mayors. Dr. Kelly Dardeen will cover important steps you and your fellow mayors can take before, during and after traumatic events to not only help yourselves and each other, but also the citizens you serve.

Presenters:

Dr. Kelly Dardeen, PhD, Suncrest Psychological Services

Cathy Gross, Mayor, Monticello

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Community Updates, Hot Topics, and Recent Happenings

Let’s see what is on everyone’s mind! ICOM President Mayor Cathy Gross and Aim CEO Matt Greller will moderator this hour as a roundtable style discussion

regarding community updates, hot topics, and recent happenings.

Moderators:

Cathy Gross, Mayor, Monticello

Matt Greller, Chief Executive Officer, Aim

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

WORKSHOP: Clay Township Government Leads Effort to Deliver \$90M in Public Improvements in the City of Carmel

The Clay Township Impact Program started in 2018, as a Township led effort to deliver nearly \$90M in public improvements across the City of Carmel. The bond, sponsored by Clay Township, provided most of these dollars. The Township knew the City was ideal to support the efforts because of their shared goals of building a thriving community that attracts the best and brightest people and businesses. Since most township governments don't have the in-house technical resources such as a city engineer and park department experts, the Township was able to use their valuable expertise during the development and implementation of the Impact Program. Some public amenities that were constructed included: three public road roundabouts, multiple trail and parks projects, new community center and fire department administration building, and many other fire station improvements. The presenters are excited to share the success of the program and give insights on how the partnership could be scalable to nearly any size community.

Presenters:

Jeremy Cashman, City Engineer, Carmel

Jonathan Mooney, Project Manager, DLZ Indiana

Matthew Snyder, Board Member, Clay Township

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dinner

Nick’s English Hut – Hoosier Room
423 E Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, Indiana

THURSDAY, JULY 20

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

WORKSHOP: Attracting and Retaining the Growing Mobile Workforce

You’ve heard about Indiana’s growing remote workforce. This session will discuss strategies communities are using to meet the demands of these changing dynamics for employees and residents. Both quantitative and qualitative community characteristics (access to healthcare and housing, sustainability efforts, local policies, etc.), as well as successful economic development practices and initiatives, play a significant role in building a destination where people want to live, work and play. Learn what will make the biggest impact on employee retention in this “new reality” and ways to set departments on a path to provide a culture where employees want to stay. Speakers will share how communities can prepare for their next project opportunity and discuss the benefits of governmental entities collaborating and overcoming challenges that come with it.

Presenters:

Emma Adler, Director, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC

Heidi Amspaugh, Principal, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Break

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

WORKSHOP: Building Awareness of Railroad Basics and Safety Initiatives

If your municipality has a railroad presence, this workshop will be informative and timely. Representatives from Norfolk Southern Railroad will be at Mayors Institute to offer information about how the rail freight system works, as well as various safety concerns. Speakers will also discuss how they are working with first responders, ensuring they have the training necessary to respond to emergency situations involving the railway system.

Presenters:

Will Miller, Public Safety Director, Norfolk Southern Corporation

Derek Sublette, AVP North, Government Relations, Norfolk Southern Corporation

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Closing Remarks & Adjourn