

# THE MUNICIPAL REPORTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

VOL. 2014-10, OCTOBER 2014



## 2015 New Mexico Municipal League Legislative Priorities

The New Mexico Municipal League Board of Directors has made the following 2014-2015 Resolutions and Statement of Municipal Policy priorities for the 2015 Legislative Session beginning in January:

- Amendments to the Hold Harmless Gross Receipts Tax – the League will seek amendments to the phase-out of the hold harmless distribution contained in CS/HB 641 as amended which passed in the 2013 Legislative Session, and will also seek amendments to provide an additional distribution where the local option Hold Harmless Gross Receipts Tax does not generate enough revenue to equal the current hold harmless distribution.
- Local Gross Receipts Taxes on Food – the League will seek legislation to return food to the gross receipts tax base for only local gross receipts tax rates, including the 1.225 percent distribution. The proposal also calls for legislation that would increase the Low Income Tax Credit, repeal of the Hold Harmless Distribution in one year instead of seventeen years, repeal the Hold Harmless Gross Receipts authority of 3/8ths percent to local governments and reduce the state tax rate from 5.125 percent to 5 percent.
- State Tax Policy and its Effect on Local Governments – the League will also seek to amend the confidentiality provision of the New Mexico Tax Act to allow certain municipal officials access to currently confidential information regarding taxpayers in a municipality and the ability to identify businesses that are not in compliance with the state’s or municipal business registration statutes and ordinances, which would further enhance the Taxation and Revenue Department’s ability to enforce and collect taxes.
- Public Employees Retirement Act Return to Work Provisions – the League will seek legislation that exempts law enforcement, fire service, EMS first responders, water and wastewater operators, certified electric utility employees and correctional retirees from the return to work law.

In addition, the Board also determined the following issues to be of municipal importance:

- Removal of limitations on municipal revenue sources for home rule municipalities;
  - Support for a means for municipalities and counties to penalize nonconformance with the required Lodgers Tax Audits;
  - Support legislation to provide funding and legislative statutory support to mandate Regional Crisis Intervention Teams that would be established and utilized to further support the Law Enforcement and First Responder mission of protecting and assisting a person or persons in crisis;
  - Support continued funding for critical local projects to follow current state transportation improvement plans established by Metropolitan Planning Organizations, DOT Aviation Division and Regional Planning Organizations. The League will also urge the Governor and the Legislature to collaborate with municipalities on the development of critical local transportation projects and a comprehensive investment plan that includes the identification of alternative funding resources necessary to finance such plan, including matching funds and in-kind services in rural areas;
  - Support legislation to enact a Municipal Telecommunications Tax Act using the Utah Act as a model;
- and
- Encouraging the Legislature and the Governor to enact inflation indexed interest and fee caps across all loan products offered by small loan companies and non-chartered lenders.

## Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Provides Funding For Water System Projects

The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRLF), a part of the Drinking Water Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department, provides low-cost funding for water system needs. Features include:

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For prompt consideration, submit your Project Interest Form today at <http://swim.nmenv.state.nm.us/SWIM/index.php>.

For more information, call (575) 647-7969 or visit [http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/loan\\_fund/Index.htm](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/loan_fund/Index.htm).

## Upcoming Events

If you have municipal events planned in your community, send us the dates, time and location. Send them to Roger Makin at [rmakin@nmml.org](mailto:rmakin@nmml.org) at least a month in advance of the event.

### CLOVIS

Veterans Parade  
10:00 a.m., Saturday, November 15, 2014  
Main Street

Clovis News Journal Holiday Bazaar  
November 15 & 16, 2014  
Clovis Civic Center, 801 Schepps

Clovis Community College Cultural Arts Series: Handel's Messiah  
3:00 p.m., Sunday, November 16, 2014  
Marshall Auditorium, 100 Commerce Way

Community Charity Ball  
Saturday, November 22, 2014  
(Time TBA)  
Hotel Clovis Ball Room

### RED RIVER

Switch on the Holidays  
7 p.m., November 27, 2014  
Brandenburg Park

### SILVER CITY

Tamal Fiesta Y Mas  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Downtown Silver City

### New Mexico Municipal League

P.O. Box 846  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0846  
(505) 982-5573  
(505) 984-1392 fax  
[www.nmml.org](http://www.nmml.org)

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## Getting to Know You

This is a new feature that focuses on learning more about League Executive Committee members, Board members and other elected officials. The first person interviewed is League President Linda Calhoun, Mayor of Red River.



### **What was your primary motivation to run for political office in your community?**

Calhoun: My main motivation in running for office was that I love my community and I thought there were some things that should be done differently. There were tense relationships between some important town entities that needed some attention. I had been actively involved with both and thought I could help in those areas.

### **How do you view your role in serving as an elected official in your community?**

Calhoun: I think of myself as the eyes and ears for the community. I think it is always important to be aware of ways to improve Red River along with being available to listen to the public and learn from their input.

### **What do you think is the primary role of municipal government?**

Calhoun: I think the primary role of municipal government is to meet the needs of our residents and visitors. Anything from providing basic services to monitoring our advertising and events that help boost the local economy. Of course, we always have to be fiscally responsible in everything we do.

### **What do you think is the primary role of the New Mexico Municipal League in municipal government?**

Calhoun: The NMML is the voice of municipal government in Santa Fe and around the state. The other very important role the League plays is to provide us with the tools and support to be better elected officials and municipal employees.

### **What is your favorite “after work” pastime?**

Calhoun: I don't have a lot of after work time, but I love to spend it with my grandkids and traveling with my husband.



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# New Mexico Fire Chiefs Association Officers and Board of Directors



*New Mexico Fire Chiefs Association Officers and Directors (from left): Mike Cherry, Director IV; Jim Fambro, Immediate Past President; Terry Short, President-Elect; James Salas, President; Lewis Cooper, Director I; Travis Brown, Director II; and Phillip Mares, Director III. The Officers and Directors were elected during the annual Fire Service Conference held September 28 through October 1 in Ruidoso.*

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## State Land Office Earns \$78.3 Million in September *Second Highest Month in History*

In the month of September, the New Mexico State Land Office earned \$78.3 million for the beneficiaries of the state land trust. This marks the second highest revenue-producing month in the history of the Land Office. The highest month on record was \$79 million in December 2013.

The New Mexico State Land Office is responsible for managing state trust lands to generate income for 22 beneficiaries and for taking care of the lands so they are healthy and productive for the future. The revenue in September was distributed to beneficiaries as follows: more than \$65 million went to support public schools in New Mexico; more than \$1.9 million went to state colleges and universities; more than \$1.9 million went to special schools, such as the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in Alamogordo, and the School for the Deaf, in Santa Fe; more than \$1.1 went to hospitals, including Miner's Colfax Hospital in Raton, and special hospitals like Carrie Tingley Hospital in Albuquerque; and the remaining \$2.2 million went to other institutions, including the State Penitentiary and public buildings, water reservoirs, Rio Grande improvements, and other beneficiaries.

Revenues from nonrenewable use of the trust lands, such as the royalties from oil and natural gas extraction, are deposited into the Land Grant Permanent Fund. They are invested and a percentage of the fund is paid to the beneficiaries.

## Former League Counsel Honored



*Former League General Counsel and former Rio Rancho Municipal Judge Judi Olean accepts a plaque of appreciation from the New Mexico Municipal Judges Association and the New Mexico Court Clerks Association during the League's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Albuquerque. The plaque noted her dedication and professionalism serving and educating the municipal judiciary over the years.*



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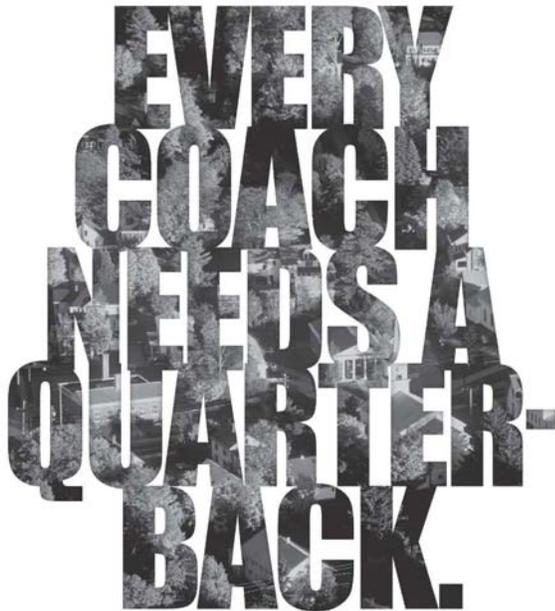
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