

CALLED TO SERVE '26 WINTER CONFERENCE

STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER
JANUARY 14–16, 2026

REGISTRATION

Registration now open at **REGISTER.ARML.ORG**.

- \$350 Member registration October 1 through January 13.
- \$150 spouses and significant others.
- \$600 Nonmember registration through December 31.
- No refunds will be available after December 31.
- On-site registration increases by \$50 January 14.
- Registrations made via telephone will not be accepted. All registrations must be processed online with a credit card.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

ACCRTA will hold a **New Clerk Orientation** in the Arkansas ballroom of the Marriott at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14 and a silent auction in the Exhibition Hall.

Plan to join us at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, for the **Joint City, County and Local Affairs Committee** meeting in the Marriott.

Opening Night Dinner will be a serve-yourself sit-down buffet dinner in the Wally Allen Ballroom with live music entertainment.

On Thursday, January 15, municipal IT directors and IT staff have been invited to a special **Information Technology training**. Email jmelton@arml.org for additional details.

General Wesley Clark will address us at the Inspire Breakfast on Friday, January 16 in the Marriott Ballrooms.

EXHIBITION HALL

Wednesday's Happy Hour, Thursday morning breakfast as well as popcorn and refreshments will all be served in the Exhibition Hall along with live content and podcast recordings.

As our Exhibition Hall continues to grow in popularity, sponsoring is the best way to secure a preferred booth location.

Sponsor & Exhibitor information is available at **REGISTER.ARML.ORG**.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Celebrate your city's achievements at the **Arkansas Business Trendsetter City** and the **EngageAR Volunteer Community of the Year Awards** luncheon at 12 p.m. on Thursday, January 15 in the **Wally Allen Ballroom**.

Tickets are included in Member & Nonmember registration but can be purchased separately for those not attending the conference by emailing events@arml.org.

COME PREPARED

Take advantage of the **ACE Program**, a self-paced learning platform that currently offers over 50 on-demand credits. Level 1 Civilpedia covers the essentials of municipal government, municipal finance, human resources, planning and zoning and FOIA. You can find past convention and conference breakouts, grant writing certification, disaster preparedness course and many more certification credit opportunities available. With over 1,000 users already engaged, the ACE Hub is an ideal supplement for continued training and certification. Create your account on the ACE Hub at acehub.learningmanager.com.

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GENERAL SESSIONS

In addition to the Wednesday afternoon **Joint CCLA Committee Meeting**, the conference will feature three General Sessions highlighting major legislative and civic developments.

- Thursday Morning: **John Wilkerson** will lead a session exploring the evolving role of building and land use codes in shaping housing supply and affordability. With the 2025 Arkansas Legislative Session placing significant emphasis on land use policy, this session will highlight recent and anticipated changes, signaling a "Regulatory Renaissance" aimed at modernizing local and state regulatory frameworks to support economic growth and community development.
- Thursday Afternoon: Following the passage of SJR 15, Arkansas cities are poised for transformative change. **Mark Hayes** and **Senator Jonathan Dismang** will discuss the impact of the upcoming constitutional amendment and how the creation of Economic Development Districts could reshape local economies. Drawing on successful models from Texas, this session will explore how these districts can drive growth, attract investment and foster regional collaboration.
- Friday Morning: After "Know Before You Go" reminders from **Mark Hayes**, **General Wesley Clark** will lead a compelling conversation on restoring civility and common ground in American public life. Through his work with Renew America Together General Clark promotes civic education, respectful dialogue, and informed leadership. Attendees will be introduced to key initiatives including SERVE (a framework for civility), TRUST (addressing disinformation) and the Civility Leadership Institute which offers practical tools to strengthen civic engagement and build bridges across communities.

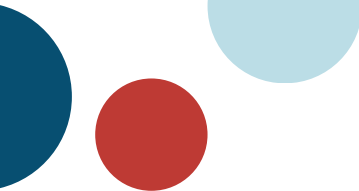
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

working list

- Building inspectors are a critical line of defense in protecting both property and lives. **John Wilkerson** will explore how code enforcement and structural integrity directly impact firefighter safety. Learn how proactive inspections and interagency collaboration can reduce fire risks and improve emergency response outcomes in your community.
- MLDP's partnership with Benchmark Analytics is helping Arkansas cities identify the most effective, evidence-based practices in law enforcement. **Brie Gibson** will discuss how data is being used to guide officer training, reduce liability, and build safer, more trusting relationships between police and the communities they serve.
- Act 371 has reshaped how Arkansas municipalities manage district court funding, requiring new procedures for collecting and disbursing uniform court costs and filing fees. **Caleb Alexander-McKinzie**, **Taylor Handford** (AAC) and **Kristin Clark** (AOC) will explain the law's impact on city and county operations and offer guidance on navigating the transition from legacy systems to this new funding model.
- The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) has allocated \$125 million for water and sewer treatment facility grants. **Caran Curry** and **Debby Dickson** (ANRC) will discuss what qualifies as shovel-ready, how to prepare for the one-year construction start requirement, and what to expect as rules and definitions are finalized in early 2026. This session is essential for municipalities looking to secure funding and move quickly on critical infrastructure improvements.
- The Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership (ARORP) continues to guide municipalities through the implementation of national settlement funds. **Mark Hayes** and **Kirk Lane** will provide updates on form submissions, funding timelines and how cities can access resources to support prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts. Learn how to align your local strategy with ARORP's mission to combat the opioid crisis.
- In addition to the topics listed above, finance training will be available designed for treasurers, finance directors, mayors, and council members, providing practical tools and insights to strengthen your city's financial leadership.

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WORKING AGENDA

at a glance

Times and locations are a work in progress and may change prior to the event. Stay tuned for updates made to [REGISTER.ARML.ORG](https://register.arml.org) as we get closer to the event.

Wednesday, January 14

10 a.m.- 12 p.m. ACCRTA New Clerk Orientation, Arkansas Ballroom

1-5 p.m. Check-In & Exhibition Hall Open

2 p.m. Exhibition Hall Stage

3 p.m. Joint City, County and Local Affairs Committee, Marriott Ballroom

5 p.m. Delta Dental Happy Hour, Exhibition Hall

6-7:30 p.m. JTS Opening Night Dinner, Wally Allen Ballroom

7:45 p.m. Stephens Dessert Reception, Capital Hotel

Thursday, January 15

7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Check-In & Exhibition Hall Open

7:30-8:45 a.m. Breakfast

8 a.m.-5 p.m. ACAA CLE, Drew Room

9-10:15 a.m. General Session: Regulatory Renaissance, Governor's Hall 4

10:30-11:50 a.m. Breakout Sessions

12-1:30 p.m. Wyndham Hotel ABPG Trendsetter and EngageAR's VCOY Awards Luncheon, Wally Allen Ballroom

2-3:50 p.m. Breakout Sessions

4-5 p.m. General Session: Issue 3, Governor's Hall 4

Dinner on your own

Friday, January 16

8 a.m.-3 p.m. ACAA CLE, Drew Room

8-10 a.m. Inspire Breakfast featuring General Wesley Clark and Know Before You Go from Mark Hayes, Marriott Ballrooms

Attendees on the road by 10:30 a.m.

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