

2013 has been a great year at the League. Serving our 91 cities and towns in Arizona is a continual opportunity to refine how we assist our members to better serve their residents. The League exists only to provide service and value to each city and town in the state. As the year comes to a close we wanted to provide a brief overview of some of our activities during 2013.

Legislative Advocacy

The 2013 Legislative session saw the introduction of 1,158 bills; 218 of which were monitored by the League for their municipal impacts. Reform to state and local transaction privilege taxes (TPT) took center stage at the Capitol in the form of HB2111. Hundreds of man-hours from League staff, elected officials and municipal staff went into our legislative efforts on that bill, which ultimately led to an eleventh-hour compromise that saw real changes to our TPT system without devastating our budgets or hampering our current and future economic development efforts. Additionally, the League dedicated significant resources to passing legislation to “clean-up” last year’s consolidated election legislation to ensure smooth implementation and prevent harmful, unintended consequences from hindering municipal “home rule” elections.

In furtherance of our legislative advocacy program, 2013 also saw the Legislative Division undertaking the following:

- Implementation of our [Legislative Bill Monitoring page](#).
- Streamlining of the [Legislative Bulletin](#).
- Revisions to our Friends and Champions recognition program.
- Publication of the [2013 New Laws Report](#).
- Traveling the state to provide an overview of the legislative session.





2013 Annual Conference

The 2013 Annual Conference was held at the El Conquistador Resort in Oro Valley. More than 1,100 attendees participated in this year's event with 83 of 91 cities and towns represented. This year's conference also hosted the 8th Annual Youth Day, where more than 100 high school age leaders who sit on youth councils and advisory committees gathered to take part in conference activities. The 2014 event will be held in Phoenix at the Downtown Sheraton, August 19-22.

Technical Assistance and Inquiry Service

The League is continually busy fielding questions via calls and emails from our members. In 2013, League staff fielded more than 8,000 inquiries from members, the news media and the public. Questions range from the basic procedural questions on running a city or town to legislative analysis, model ordinances, best practices and everything in between.

Trainings and Seminars

The League sponsored or hosted a variety of discussions and training classes on a broad range of topics during the year. Additionally, we again hosted the two-day Newly Elected Officials Training for newly elected municipal mayors and councilmembers. Topics and training sessions in 2013 included:

- Newly Elected Official Training
- City Government 101
- Grants Training
- Impact Fee Training
- Legislative 101: Making Impact at the Capitol
- Immigration Reform and Arizona Cities and Towns discussion
- Open Meeting Law Training

Legal Services

The League's general counsel provides legal advice and information sharing among the city and town municipal attorneys. In addition, the League continues to coordinate amicus briefs that support city and town positions as well as monitor court cases that have potential municipal impact. In 2013, the League filed one amicus brief in the Arizona Supreme Court and also assumed the responsibility for managing the listserv for the city and town attorneys in Arizona.



Publications and Manuals

The League produces a number of technical publications, everything from budgeting and finance to charter government. Most of these publications are available online and many are updated annually to ensure they are in sync with current law. In addition to our technical publications, the League also produces the bi-annual magazine, *Arizona City and Town*, and the Local Government Directory, a comprehensive directory of contact information for city and town officials. Our website, www.azleague.org is content-rich and updated frequently. You can also keep up with the League by following us on **Twitter: @AzCities**.

A sampling of League publications includes:

- A Guide for Annexation
- Arizona City & Town Magazine
- Charter Government Provisions in Arizona
- "Connection" E-Newsletter
- Council-Manager Government in Arizona
- Exploring Charter Government for Your City
- Guide to Preparing and Adopting Local Laws / Municipal Publication Requirements
- Legislative Bulletin
- Local Government Directory (online and in print)
- Municipal Budget & Finance Manual
- Municipal Election Manual
- Municipal Incorporation in Arizona
- Municipal Policy Statement
- Salary and Benefit Survey
- You as a Public Official

For a full listing of publications [click here](#).



Arizona Cities @ Work

During the year, the League launched AZ Cities @ Work, a long-term collaborative educational program designed to increase support for Arizona's cities and towns. This effort will help to raise awareness about the valuable services cities and towns in Arizona provide to citizens each and every day that increase the quality of life of our residents.



The AZ Cities @ Work program is flexible enough to be utilized by each of the 91 cities and towns to help augment and increase our outreach and communication to residents. For more information, visit www.azcitieswork.com, follow us on **Twitter: @AzCitiesWork** and like us on **Facebook: Az Cities Work**.

Executive Recruitment Service

Another service the organization provides to cities and towns is municipal executive recruitment. This service is provided to ensure that we continue to recruit quality public managers to Arizona. Our process includes devising a recruitment plan that meets the needs of the community, coordinating the recruitment process, and screening applications. During the year, the league has provided recruiting services for: Sahuarita, Winslow, Kingman, Benson and others.



League Affiliate Groups

In addition to our core service offerings, the League provides professional management services, staff support and coordination of trainings and conferences for several partner organizations. Comprised of local officials, our main affiliate associations include:

- Arizona City Attorneys Association
- Arizona City/County Management Association
- Arizona Municipal Clerks Association
- Government Finance Officers Association of Arizona

This report provides just a brief overview of some of the League activities during 2013. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact us 602-258-5786 or send an email to Executive Director Ken Strobeck at kstrobeck@azleague.org.

