

Alaska Municipal League 56th Annual Local Government Conference

Speaker Biography List

Keynote & Luncheon Speakers

Robert Wendover

2006 Keynote Speaker & Workshop Presenter

Robert W. Wendover is the Managing Director of the Center for Generational Studies. Over the past 20 years he has presented customized training and keynotes for industry, education and government. He specializes in assisting organizations with intergenerational relations and other management issues.

Mr. Wendover has authored the Center's newly released training curriculum, *Generations: Understanding Age Diversity in Today's Workplace*. His books include *On Cloud Nine: Weathering the Challenge of Many Generations in the Workplace* and the soon-to-be-released *Hey Dude! The Manager's Short Course on the Emerging Generations*. In addition he has produced audio and video packages entitled, *From Ricky & Lucy to Beavis & Butthead: Managing the New Work Force*. He serves as the editorial director of the Center's monthly newsletter, *GenTrends*, and has written or contributed to more than 200 articles for national and local publications. Mr. Wendover is a regular guest on radio & TV across the U.S.

Mr. Wendover's education includes degrees in psychology, education and industrial arts. He served on the management faculty of the University of Phoenix for more than ten years. Along with being past president of both the Colorado Speakers Association and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development, he is a two-time past Chair of the National Meetings Industry Council.

Dr. Brendan P. Kelly

Alaskan Communities in a Changing Climate

Opening Session Speaker

Dr. Brendan P. Kelly is Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Alaska Southeast. He has Degrees in Biology from the University of California Santa Cruz (B.A.), the University of Alaska Fairbanks (M.S.), and Purdue University (PH.D.). Dr. Kelly has been studying polar marine mammals for the past 30 years. He spends spring months camped on the Arctic sea ice studying the ecology of ice-associated marine mammals. He serves on local, state, national, and international scientific panels and chairs the City and Borough of Juneau's Scientific Panel on Climate Change.



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George Canelos

Day Two Luncheon Guest Speaker

George J. Canelos was appointed the Federal Co-Chair of the Denali Commission by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez and began work at the Commission on October 3, 2005. He most recently served as the President and Chief Operating Officer of the architecture & design firm, Koonce Pfeffer Bettis, Inc. and Director of the Heritage Land Bank for the Municipality of Anchorage. He capped a 32-year military career as a Brigadier General commanding the Alaska Air National Guard.

Mr. Canelos also has considerable experience in rural Alaska. He began his career in Alaska in 1975 with the Department of Community & Regional Affairs. Over the years, he has completed planning projects in over 50 Alaskan communities, both in the public and private sector, to include comprehensive planning, coastal management planning, transportation planning, feasibility studies, training and ANCSA 14(c) land management work. He served as Chief Operating Officer for Chugach Alaska, Inc., and as Land Manager and General Manager for Bethel Native Corporation. He resided in Bethel in the early 1980's.

Jim Hunt

Day Two Luncheon Guest Speaker

James Hunt is president of the National League of Cities (NLC), the nation's oldest and largest organization representing municipal government. He is a council member from Clarksburg, West Virginia and was elected by NLC's membership in December 2005 to a one-year term.

Hunt formerly served as NLC's first vice president in 2005 and as second vice president during 2004. He has been active for more than 15 years with the National League of Cities. He served as vice-chairman and chairman of both the Leadership Training Council and the Advisory Council, and served on the Board of Directors from 1993-95. In 2002, he traveled to the Peoples Republic of China and to Caux, Switzerland, advocating on behalf of NLC programs. Hunt's primary goals as NLC president are to "build a nation of inclusive communities" and to elevate the stature of local government service. He has been a leader in NLC's "Undoing Racism" campaign, first initiated by former NLC President, Mayor Bob Knight of Wichita, Kansas. Hunt led the Race Equality Forum in Washington, DC, in 2005, and is working with Mayor James Perkins, Jr., the first African-American mayor of Selma, Ala., on a project to develop a community plan to address the effects of racism and poverty in that city.

Hunt is a five-term councilman and former mayor of Clarksburg, and served as president of the West Virginia Municipal League in 1996. In 1999, he co-founded, along with Pastor David Kates, "The Unity Project", a civil rights organization that is involved in community education on issues of racial unity and diversity awareness.



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Workshop Presentations & Speakers

58 Minutes: PERS/TRS Legislative Funding Consensus Position Session

Michael Lamb, CPA, CGFM has over 16 years' experience as a chief financial officer for municipalities and has worked in private, public and governmental financial management positions.

For the last 8 years he has served as the chief financial officer for the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Prior to that, for almost 9 years, Michael was the chief financial officer for the City of St. Paul, Alaska.

He currently serves on the board, and is President, of the Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool. The pool has had over \$300 million dollars of municipal funds in it.

Michael also currently co-chairs the Alaska Municipal League Revenue and Finance Legislative Subcommittee.

Renewable Energy: Alaska's Opportunity to Stabilize Rates Today and Still Be an "Energy State" in 2050

Chris Rose is the Executive Director of Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP), an organization that he founded in 2004. A lawyer and mediator, his private practice in Alaska for over 10 years included representation of Native Alaskans from small Northwest Arctic Villages. He has served on various statewide boards, writes a monthly opinion column for the Anchorage Daily News, and has lived in Sutton since 1992. REAP is a statewide coalition of utilities, businesses, environmental and consumer groups, Native organizations and state and federal agencies that share the goal of increasing the production of renewable energy in Alaska.

Boroughs In Alaska– What Will It Take?

John Hozey, City Manager of Valdez since August of 2005. Administrative Director for Senator Ted Stevens (Washington DC) from 2000 - 2005. Assistant Borough Manager for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough from 1997 - 2000. Air Force Search and Rescue Helicopter Pilot from 1985 – 1996.

Tim Bourcy is the current Mayor of Skagway serving his second term. He is also the Alaska Municipal League Board of Director's First Vice President and will assume presidency for the 2007 AML Board.



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Economic Development for Local Elected Officials

Wanetta Ayers is the Executive Director of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference, an ARDOR and EDD for 54 communities encompassing the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bristol Bay, Kodiak Island and the Pribilof Islands. She has worked in Community and Economic development for more than twenty years.

This session will explore the basic concepts of economic development and framework through which communities and local elected officials can address and evaluate local economic development issues and decisions.

National Streamlined Sales & Use Tax Agreement: Does this Impact Alaska or Do We Even Want It To?

The SSUTA is a multi-state effort to simplify sales and use tax procedures as an incentive for sellers to collect tax revenue on electronic commerce (i.e. internet purchases). Some states are garnering revenue from previously uncollected sales and use tax as part of this agreement. Could Alaska, with its geographic isolation and significant use of electronic commerce, gain from participation in the SSUTA? Is revenue enhancement a possibility for local governments through this process? This workshop will explore these questions and provide an interactive period for local governments to dialogue about sales and use tax in their communities – are there “streamlining efforts” within our state that could simplify and improve sales tax collection that may not involve formal affiliation with the SSUTA process? Steve Van Sant, State Assessor, will also participate and answer questions.

Patty Ware has been with AML as a fellowship recipient since September. She has significant state government experience and recently left the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services after 16 years. She served as Director of the state Division of Juvenile Justice from 2002 through June 2006. She has a B.A. in Psychology and a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

Facilitating Resolution of Public Controversy

Brian Rogers is principal Consultant and CFO for Information Insights, Inc. and Alaska management and economic consulting firm with offices in Fairbanks and Anchorage. Rogers holds a masters in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is a 36-year resident of Fairbanks.

Rogers is a former member of the Alaska House of Representatives, representing Fairbanks from 1979-1983. He served the University of Alaska as Vice president for finance from 1988-1995, and as budget director from 1984-1987.

He is a member of the University of Alaska Board of Regents. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Northern International University in Magadan, Russia, and is a member of the Board of Directors of Alaska Communications Systems, Inc. He previously chaired the State of Alaska Long-Range Financial Planning Commission, and serves on a variety of civic and non-profit boards.



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Tools & Strategies for Successful Online Selling

Joseph Davis has lived in Alaska for Over 30 years, almost 20 years in Villages working all kinds of jobs. He currently owns a consulting business and delivers workshops in rural villages around the world for Online Auctions, Desktop Coaching and more.

Barb Nickels is employed with Kawerak, Inc. as the Program Director for the Community Planning and Development Program and serves as the Director of the State ARDOR - Bering Strait Development Council. Ms. Nickels' program is part of the regional non-profit service corporation that serves the 20 tribal councils in the Bering Strait region.

Colleen Odden is the business Development Coordinator for Kawerak's Community Planning and Development Program. Ms. Odden provides technical assistance in business development in the region's communities and also assists them in establishing E-Commerce Centers. Ms. Odden provides individualized training on selling Native arts and crafts over the internet and digital camera use to volunteers in the villages who will in turn train those wishing to utilize the E-Commerce Center.

Municipal Revenues- Myth & Reality

Steve Van Sant has been in his present position of State Assessor since 1998. He has been in the assessment, appraisal and tax consulting business in Alaska for over 36 years, in Alaska. He has worked for several boroughs and has been the owner and CEO of his many business interests.

Jeff Sinz has over twenty-five years experience in public sector financial management and analysis. He is currently employed as Chief Fiscal Officer for the Municipality of Anchorage. Prior to accepting his current position with the Municipality of Anchorage, Mr Sinz served as Director of Finance for the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Tom Boedeker is the City Manager for Soldotna, Alaska and has held that position for over 10 years. Prior to that, he served for 13 years as Borough Attorney for the Kenai Peninsula Borough. He currently is a member of the AML Legislative Committee and has served a number of years as the Chairman of that committee and Board of AML. He is currently a board member of the Alaska Municipal Managers Association (AMMA) and is a member of the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA)

Shane Horan started his appraisal career in 1978 in Sitka Alaska with the private appraisal firm of Pomtier, Duvernay and Horan. In 1980 Shane was hired by the City & Borough of Juneau and assumed the position of Assessor in 1992 until departing to the Kenai Peninsula Borough in 2000. Shane assumed the position as the Director of Assessing for Kenai Peninsula Borough in 2000 to present. Shane is the current 2006 President of the Alaska Association of Assessing Officers.



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Southeast Issues – From Trash to Transportation – Everything in Between

Murray Walsh is the recently-hired Executive Director for Southeast Conference after many years in the consulting business. Prior to that he was Juneau’s Community Development Director in the late 80s to mid-90s and before that he worked in the Hammond administration to develop and implement the Alaska Coastal Management program. He moved from the Seattle area, where he grew up, to Juneau in 1976 to take the state job.

Energy in Rural Alaska

Chris Mello is a program manager with the Alaska Energy Authority. He oversees design and construction of bulk fuel storage facilities and power generation facilities in communities throughout bush Alaska. Chris has worked in this capacity for the past 6 years. Before that he and his family lived in Barrow where he worked for the North Slope Borough.

Public Officials E&O, “Is you asset on the line?”

Grady Fisher is the Director of Risk Management with the AMLJIA and has 13 years experience working in public entity pooling and risk management. This session is about knowing your potential liability as a public official. Are your personal assets at risk? Learn how to protect yourself and limit liability for your entity to ensure your assets remain just that – yours.

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness for Alaska

Representatives from the Alaska Division of Public Health, Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation, and the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management will present information on what pandemic influenza is and how your community can prepare before a pandemic starts.

Moderators: Deb Erickson–Deputy Director, AK Div. of Public Health; Mathew Robus–Director, AK Div. of Wildlife Conservation; David Liebersbach–Director, AK Div. Homeland Security and Emergency Mgmt.; Dr. Beth Funk–Sec. of Epidemiology, AK Div. of Public Health; Jim Mackin–Public Health Preparedness Program, AK Div. of Public Health

Building Municipal Economic Partnerships: Why, How, and building an Action Plan

PeggyAnn McConnochie, ACH Consulting a real estate consulting and education company also specializing in facilitation, mediation, and strategic planning services for all categories of business, corporations, non-profits, and individuals.



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