

2015-2016  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



*Looking  
Back at the  
Past Year*

*Preparing  
for the  
Future*

In the past year, the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) and League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) continued to provide you with the resources and information you need to govern and manage your city. We also focused more than ever on helping you prepare for the future. Here are some examples.

**3,000+**

Total attendance at LMC's eight in-person training events and 12 webinars, which covered a wide variety of future-focused topics.

**Innovation** and forward-thinking strategies are key to helping your city succeed. You learned many ways to help your city meet current and emerging needs at our training events and conferences—from getting nuts-and-bolts basics for new elected officials and city clerks, to exploring the outlook for transportation funding, understanding demographic data and economic disparities, and discovering ways to create “lovable” cities and emotionally engage your residents.

The 2016 Annual Conference, “Future-Ready Communities,” was our first-ever joint conference in partnership with the Alliance for Innovation, a national organization of local governments that seeks to foster innovation to advance communities. League members gathered with hundreds of officials from across the country to discover ways to bring innovation to life in local government. We explored a wide range of topics, from creative parks and recreation planning, to managing mental health issues in your community, to promoting racial equity in the delivery of services.

**5,195**

Peace officers enrolled in LMCIT's PATROL online training program.

**Public safety** was a critical topic for cities this year. Along with the valuable training provided by the PATROL (Peace officer Accredited TRaining OnLine) program, you asked for guidance on the latest technology and for innovative programs to help keep your city safe now and in the future, and we delivered.

- **Body camera guidance.** Many cities want to use police-worn body cameras, but struggle with questions about the resulting recorded data. With the help of several partners, including cities and local government associations, we provided you with a model body camera policy and information memo, and successfully advocated for state legislation to provide guidance on these issues. Thank you to the cities that helped with the model policy: Burnsville, Cannon Falls, Columbia Heights, Duluth, Maplewood, Minneapolis, and St. Paul.
- **Training Safety Officer (TSO) program,** recipient of the national Public Risk Management Association's 2015 Outstanding Program of the Year Award. Hundreds of Minnesota city officials at a variety of LMC events learned how implementing the TSO program can prevent injuries during the training of public safety officers. Word of this great program got out—LMCIT's Public Safety Project Coordinator Rob Boe was asked to give presentations on the TSO program to five other state municipal organizations.
- **City hall security training.** Keeping city hall, city employees, and citizens safe from active shooters and similar threats is—and will continue to be—a pressing issue. We provided tips on how to do this in 16 presentations given at various trainings throughout the state, where members learned how to develop a threat response plan, evaluate their city's risk, and more.

**Technology** is enabling your city to provide services above and beyond what could be imagined 25 years ago. It was top-of-mind this year as we provided a variety of technology training, where you got tips on using the latest technology, as well as critical information on protecting your city's data for little or no cost.

Technology can also have a big impact on your ability to attract and retain residents. We worked with our partners to advocate for adequate funding for the state's Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant program and to maintain the integrity of new state speed goals. In the end, \$35 million was included for the grant program in a supplemental budget bill that Gov. Dayton approved. We will continue to advocate for increased funding and to ensure city eligibility for the grant program.

Since technology is ever-changing, a constant forward-thinking stance is imperative. This year the League completed a top-to-bottom technology assessment, so we can maximize the efficiency of our own operations and make sure we're in a position to help your city with technology needs in the future. One of the first steps was to hire a chief information officer to help ensure that we make smart, strategic decisions about how we implement and use technology and, eventually, to provide guidance to cities interested in improving their use of technology.

***“Investing in technology is as essential to the future of your city as investing in city hall, snowplows, lift stations, and squad cars.”***

—LMC Assistant Technology Services Director  
Greg Van Wormer

## The Year in Numbers

*Here are a few highlights from the past year.*

7

**Amicus curiae (friend-of-the-court) briefs that LMC attorneys filed with Minnesota appellate courts to advocate for decisions favorable for member cities.**

19

**Member city officials that serve on the LMC Board of Directors to provide stewardship, strategic guidance, and vision to the organization.**

28

**Consecutive years LMCIT has returned a dividend to property/casualty members, including \$16.5 million in December 2015.**

41%

**Minnesotans living in cities that participate in the GreenStep Cities program, an environmental sustainability initiative co-administered by the League.**

177

**City legislative policies developed and approved by the 150+ members who volunteered to serve on LMC policy committees.**

314

**Sessions presented during LMC conferences, trainings, and webinars on topics from buffer strips to controlling health care costs.**

904

**Total LMC membership, including cities, townships, and special districts. Welcome to our newest members—the cities of Rice Lake and West Union!**

5,260

**Member inquiries received by LMC Research and HR departments seeking guidance on a variety of issues, from data practices to the Affordable Care Act.**

10,600+

**Followers of @MinnesotaCities, the League's Twitter account, where you can get timely news about League programs, services, legislative policies, and more.**

783,932

**Visits to the LMC website for the latest news, legal information, job listings, event registrations, and more.**



# A Great First Year with an Eye on the Future

LMC Executive Director David Unmacht joined the League in August 2015 and shares his thoughts on the past year and what's ahead.

**Q: What do you think is the most exciting part of public service?**

**A:** City government is a people business. We help people get to work, keep people safe and secure, and provide people a high quality of life. There is no other profession that makes as big a difference in citizens' lives as local government. It's difficult work, but it's also challenging, exciting, rewarding, and fulfilling all at the same time.

**Q: What was the wisest professional advice you received in the past year?**

**A:** A metro area mayor called me after reading a column I wrote about the "power of one." I talked about the goal of getting one more city official from each member city involved in League programs and services (see the January-February 2016 *Minnesota Cities* magazine). The mayor said I was aiming too low. He offered that engaging five new people per city was a more ambitious and robust goal. Upon reflection, he's absolutely right.

**Q: Why has the League chosen diversity as a priority topic for the coming year?**

**A:** The face of our cities and city government is changing. The people who serve in government and the residents we serve bring a rich variety of experiences and distinct expectations that we must respect and appreciate. Successful communities are those that engage with and encourage the involvement of all individuals and groups.

**Q: Looking further ahead, how do you see the League changing and evolving over the next 10-15 years?**

**A:** I would like to see the League serve a more prominent role as a "think tank"—convening officials from around the state to discuss the future of how city services in Minnesota are structured and delivered. The past may or may not be an indicator of the future; however, we don't want to leave that to chance. The League is considering ways it could use its resources to organize, convene, and host elected and appointed officials who will explore challenges, trends, and concepts for how cities will operate in 10, 20, or 30 years and beyond.

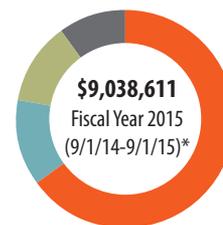
**Q: What role do members play in helping to make the League successful?**

**A:** Minnesota is the 12th-largest state in the country by area. Our cities are spread across all four corners of the state, separated by hundreds of miles of trails and highways, corn and bean fields, mines and manufacturing plants, and ballfields and downtowns. Each city dotting our state landscape is an equal partner in the League. Our commitment is to serve cities with expert analysis, trusted advice, and professional guidance. Keep us honest; hold us accountable; we will deliver. We are member-led and are continually looking for city officials to participate and support our affairs. Our mission is service, and we live that every day through our member cities.

## Financially Stable, Ready for the Future

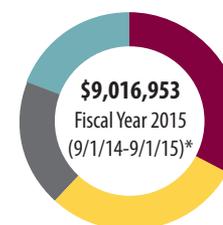
You have access to nearly 90 programs and resources provided by the League. As demand for services continues to increase, the League's solid finances allow us to continue to fulfill our mission as well as plan for and respond to your future needs.

- LMC has 100 percent member retention.
- LMC has net assets of \$10.7 million and a general fund balance of \$2.7 million; we met our fiscal policy on maintaining a 40 percent reserve of the subsequent year's net operating budget.
- LMCIT has a combined fund balance of \$183 million and assets of \$458 million.
- In December 2015, LMCIT's property/casualty program distributed dividends totaling \$16.5 million.
- LMC and LMCIT audits had clean opinion letters.



LMC Expenditures & Transfers

- Salaries & Benefits
- Contractual Services
- Transfers to Capital Improvement Fund
- Operational



LMC Revenues

- Dues
- LMCIT Cost Sharing
- Non-Dues
- Institutional Fee

\* Most recent audited numbers.