

## **THURSDAY, JUNE 22**

### **OFF-SITE: Pre-Conference Golf Tournament** *(Separate Registration)*

**Location:** Wilmington Municipal Golf  
Course, 311 Donald Ross Drive, Wilmington,  
NC 28409

**11:00 A.M.**

**Check-in & Registration at Course**

**11:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.**

**Lunch at Course**

**1:00 P.M.**

**Shotgun Starts**

**Cost:** \$85 per person in advance. \$100 per  
person on-site (includes golf and lunch).  
Optional “Trash packages” are \$25 per  
person.

Captain’s Choice Format. Separate  
registration required. Proceeds go to the  
NCCCMA Civic Education Program to  
support teacher training and the NCCCMA  
Civic Education online book “Local  
Government in North Carolina.”

**Coordinators:** Justin Hembree, Executive  
Director, Mid-Carolina COG

Eddie Smith, Deputy City Manager, City of  
Kannapolis

**Hotel Ballast: 12:00–5:00 P.M.**  
**Registration Desk** *(Lower Lobby)*

**2:00–5:00 P.M.**

### **Pre-conference Workshop: A Model for Effective and Efficient Team Building and Employee Engagement** *(Carolina Room)*

Creating your own FUN DEPT is an  
interactive workshop designed to engage a  
cross section of your employee population:  
leaders, managers, HR professionals, and  
administrators. Create opportunities for  
using fun as a mechanism to further engage  
your organization and your people. The  
workshop details the fun dept’s research-  
based science model while offering a  
creative outlet—your very own *Creative  
Inventory*—self-generated ideas for fun at  
work with your team.

The workshop presents collaboration  
amongst all participants and offers an  
opportunity for creative thinking.  
Participants will leave with their very own  
“*Creative Inventory*” of ideas, activities, and a  
strategic action-plan for the *Inventory* to  
engage, recognize, or entertain people in  
their organization, both professionally and  
personally.

**Speakers:** Nick Gianoulis, Founder, fun  
dept. and Chris Bruce, Creative Director,  
fun dept.

**5:30–7:00 P.M. Reception** *(Riverview  
Terrace)*

## **FRIDAY, JUNE 23**

**7:00 A.M. 5:00 P.M.**

**Registration Desk (Lower Lobby)**

**7:00–8:00 A.M.**

**Breakfast (Grand Concourse)**

**8:00–9:15 A.M.**

**General Session: Disruptive Trends Create New Opportunities (Grand Ballroom)**

Changing population creates propitious opportunities for inclusive and equitable development strategies local governments can engage to build new entrepreneurial ecosystems. Using reimagined place-based approaches, local leaders can create prosperous communities.

**Speaker:** Jeanne Milliken Bonds, *Professor of the Practice, Impact Investment and Sustainable Finance*, Urban Investment Strategies Center, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School

**9:15–9:30 A.M. Break**

**9:30–10:45 A.M.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Session 1: ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) at an Even Faster Pace (Merrick/Lillington Room)**

Learn from your colleagues about how they are using federal funds for innovative projects and programs to transform their communities. As the deadline approaches for appropriating ARPA dollars, it's not too late to learn something new and incorporate it into your plan. This will be a rapid-fire session, with lively discussion featuring multiple presenters from across the state, while also giving you a chance to share your ideas and ask questions.

**Moderator:** Adam McLamb, Director of Public Works, Town of Indian Trail

**Panelist:** Don Adams, Manager, Jackson

County

leisha Carter, ARPA Administrator, Forsyth County

Ally Fouts, Lead for North Carolina Fellow, Harnett County

Bertha Johnson, Deputy Manager, City of Durham

Lynn Lambert, Natural Resources Director, Harnett County

Kimberly Price-Shore, Grants Program Compliance Manager, Forsyth County

**Session 2: Managers & Assistants: Best Practices for CAO/CAAO Relationships (Caswell/Harnett Room)**

This interactive session will be a panel discussion moderated by DK Wesley of Buncombe County who is also on the ICMA Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Committee (ACAOC). The panel will discuss their personal experience as both CAO's and ACAO's, best practices for effective CAO/CAAO relationships, and provide career path advice.

**Speakers:** Elton Daniels, Assistant Manager, City of Rocky Mount

Mary Furtado, Manager, Catawba County

Jae Kim, Assistant Manager, Village of Bald Head Island

**Moderator:** DK Wesley, Assistant Manager, Buncombe County

**10:45–11:00 A.M. Break**

**11:00 A.M. –12:15 P.M.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Session 1: Economic Development Resources & Strategies for Smaller Jurisdictions (Merrick/Lillington Room)**

Economic Development smaller jurisdictions includes both a unique set of challenges and sometimes, fewer opportunities and resources. This session will include a summary of economic development agency

resources and suggested strategies for managers to utilize.

**Speakers:** Fred Ventresco, Administrator, Town of Pinetops

Jeff Emory, Community Economic Development Planner, NC Department of Commerce

Dr. Patricia Mitchell, MPA Director, Appalachian State University

Scott Hamilton, President & CEO, Golden Leaf Foundation

**Moderator:** Marcus Abernethy, Business Services Consultant, NC League of Municipalities

## **Session 2: Operationalizing Your Strategic Plan (Caswell/Harnett Room)**

This session dives deep into how organizations have successfully operationalized their strategic plans within their jurisdictions. Topics will include plan integration across various departments, ways to Increase employee buy-in, incorporation with departmental business plans, how plans and results are influencing actions, and relationships with elected officials and other stakeholders.

**Panelists:** Quentin McPhatter, Assistant Manager, City of Gastonia

Matt Rhoten, Deputy Manager, Gaston County

Lisa Hayes, Strategic Performance Manager, Town of Wake Forest

Jennifer Rigby, Chief Strategy Officer, New Hanover County

Obed Pasha, Associate Professor, UNC School of Government

**Moderator:** Lydian Altman, Teaching Assistant Professor, UNC School of Government

**12:15–1:00 P.M.**

**Networking Lunch (Grand Ballroom)**

**1:00–2:15 P.M.**

## **General Session: Managing the Direct and Ripple Effects of Major Economic Development Projects (Grand Ballroom)**

North Carolina is experiencing unprecedented economic growth, including the announcement of multiple major manufacturing, health sciences and distribution center projects. These projects have profound implications for counties and municipalities and their managers. The purpose of this session is to share actual experiences and lessons being learned by county and town managers currently tackling the challenges and opportunities associated with major projects both planned and underway.

**Panelists:** Dan LaMontagne, Manager, Chatham County

Hank Raper, Manager, Town of Siler City

Rick Hester, Manager, Johnston County

Rich Coppola, Manager, Town of Clayton

**Moderator:** Gary Jackson, Life Member, McGill Associates

**2:15–2:30 P.M. Break**

**2:30–3:45 P.M. Legislative Updates**  
**NCLM (Merrick/Lillington Room)**  
**NCACC (Caswell/Harnett Room)**

**4:00–5:00 P.M.**

## **Walking Tour of Wilmington North Riverfront District (Separate Registration Required)**

Come join City staff on a guided tour of the northern riverfront district of downtown Wilmington.

Over the last 18 years the district has undergone a remarkable transformation. At roughly 90 acres, this area has transitioned from an underutilized working waterfront to an economic hub of lifestyle and leisure opportunities for residents and the region. Anchoring the southern end of the district is

the Wilmington Convention Center. On the northern end of the district is the Riverfront Park and Live Oak Bank Pavilion, which has become Wilmington's premier park and cultural venue which hosts 30+ national acts annually.

This investment has served as the catalyst for the creation of 1800+ new jobs, construction of 1100+ riverfront apartments/condos, 500,000 square feet of Class-A office space, a performing arts center, marina, and nearly 800 hotel rooms with plans for an additional 320 apartments, 170 hotels rooms, a city park, and 100,000 square feet of commercial and office space. In addition, the City's recent purchase of the former Salvation Army property and planned purchase (July 2023) of the 12 -story Thermo Fisher building, will ensure that the northern riverfront district continues to serve as a model for how the economic development tools available can be leveraged for the greater good of the community.

The tour will highlight development components involved in these projects, including public-private partnerships and economic development incentives, and will feature a tour and refreshments at Riverfront Park and Live Oak Bank Pavilion.

### **5:30–7:00 P.M. Networking Reception (Riverview Terrace)**

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 24**

**7:30 A.M. 12:00 P.M.**

**Registration Desk (Lower Lobby)**

**8:00–9:30 A.M.**

**NCCMA Business Meeting and Breakfast  
(Grand Ballroom)**

- Approval of Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Adoption of FY 23-24 Budget

- Strategic Plan Update
- Committee Reports
- Partnership Updates:
  - School of Government, Aimee Wall, Dean
  - NC League of Municipalities, Rose Williams, Executive Director
  - NC Association of County Commissioners
  - NC Association of Regional COGs
- Recognition of Board of Directors and Committee Chairs
- Installation of Executive Committee

### **9:30–9:45 A.M. Break**

**9:45–10:45 A.M.**

**General Session: Managing Through  
Difficult Board Transitions (Grand  
Ballroom)**

Three seasoned managers will share their experiences in managing through changes in Board composition, strategies in onboarding new elected officials, and how to manage the inevitable conflict that emerges after elections that alter the dynamics of governing boards. While there is not likely to be one best way to handle these situations, you'll enjoy a conversation about successes and failures and what they learned as they navigated these troubled waters.

**Speakers:** Rick Howell, Manager, City of Shelby

Brian Aligood, Manager, Beaufort County

Neil Emory, Outreach Services Manager, NCACC

**Moderator:** Dudley Watts, Manager, Forsyth County

**10:45–11:00 A.M. Break**

**11:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.**

**Closing General Session: Gilligan's  
Island, Survivor, or Cast Away? Feeling  
Isolated is Real and Manageable**

**(Grand Ballroom)**

City and county managers often feel like they are alone on an island to deal with intense stress and pressure from elected officials, citizens, and staff, not to mention the “normal” happenings at home. As you support others, who is there to help and support you? The job of a local government manager extends far beyond the workplace and often leads to compassion fatigue, burnout, and indifference. Join with fellow islanders for some engaging roundtable discussion that will provide mindful self-care helps to enhance your physical, mental, and emotional health to maintain optimal functioning across all aspects of your life.

**Speaker:** Will Eads, PsyD, NCFBPPC,  
Counselor/Psychotherapist, Atrium Health  
Wake Forest Baptist