



2020 Annual Report



Shaun Mulholland
Chairman of Board
City Manager
Lebanon

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a year unlike any other. Like all of you, NHMA did not have the year we planned – in March, the focus and energy shifted to all things COVID-19 as they related to towns and cities. Looking back on this year, it was almost difficult to remember all that happened and all that we were involved with. Rather than our normal legislative advocacy, we found ourselves coordinating and working with state agencies, including Homeland Security, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General’s Office; advocating and communicating regularly with the Governors’ Office; and



Margaret Byrnes,
Executive Director

working with our Congressional Delegation. Among other things, we successfully advocated for multiple executive orders to bring flexibility to municipal operations; provided extensive guidance, information, and legal advice to cities and towns on all things COVID; and successfully advocated for \$32 million in funding for cities and towns from the federal CARES Act. We found ourselves involved with issues we had never considered before, like how to run a town meeting without a large crowd, local authority to require face masks, and, of course, Halloween.

Additionally, we already had plans to begin exploring virtual training and workshop options – those plans quickly turned into the reality of a completely virtual workshop and training schedule to keep people safe and socially distanced. We at NHMA are all incredibly impressed with the work our members have done this year, and we did our best to keep up with you, support you, and address and solve as many issues as we could. NHMA is extremely proud and grateful for the commitment and hard work of the NHMA staff during this challenging year and for the commitment of the NHMA board members, who were dealing both with challenges in their own communities and on behalf of all communities through NHMA. In non-COVID related news, in 2020 we also welcomed our new Government Finance Advisor, Becky Benvenuti, and added Salem as a member, bringing NHMA membership to 100%.

We look forward to serving your needs in 2021.



Membership

Representing all municipalities (234 cities and towns) in New Hampshire

31 Affiliate Group members representing municipal professions comprised primarily of municipal officials serving a particular position, such as assessors or road agents

52 Associate Members, including **6** counties, **8** regional planning commissions, **6** fire districts, **14** water and sewer districts, **12** village districts and more

Through the collective power of cities and towns, NHMA promotes effective municipal government by providing education, training, advocacy and legal services.



Legal Services



Attorneys handled over **3,345** legal inquiries

Top 5 legal inquiries were COVID-19, Selectmen’s Authority, Right-to-Know Law, Planning board, ZBA and employment and public meeting issues

25 workshops (*21 held virtually*) with over **1,600** attendees

Developed numerous legal guidance documents for members regarding COVID-19 pandemic

Hosted **12 On-Demands** covering topics including Right-to-Know Law, planning board basics, ZBA basics and decision-making

Participated in weekly calls with Homeland Security, instituted weekly COVID-19 calls for members, created COVID-19 resources webpage for municipalities and issued more than 20 COVID-related guidance documents



Additional Resources

Held the first ever *Academy for Good Governance* attended by 50 municipal and school officials.

Created a new digital version of our popular Important Dates Calendars, now available in a downloadable iCal format

Relaunched and streamlined NHMA’s Wage Salary Survey as an on-demand resource providing information and compensation for specific municipal positions

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Advocacy



Hosted and participated in advocacy calls with our members and federal delegation

Only 39 bills were signed into law (typically 250-350 bills) due to pandemic



Over 700 subscribers to *Legislative Bulletin*

44 municipal officials representing *37* cities and towns participated in 2021-2022 Legislative Policy Process this year

Successfully advocated for Emergency Orders from the Governor to provide support and flexibility to municipal operations

Successfully advocated for \$32 million in funding for cities and towns from the federal CARES Act, and conducted two municipal financial impact surveys



Communications

New email system (Mailchimp) to make email messages more dynamic, clearly branded and responsive to display on desktop computers and mobile devices



2,230 subscribers to *New Hampshire Town and City*



920 subscribers to *NewsLink*

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Education and Training



22 webinars; 1,996 registrants; 1,284 attendees; 64% attendance rate

1,679 members accessed NHMA's webinar archive in 2020



53,243 local government employees in New Hampshire
(NH Employment Security, Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau, Q2, 2020)

Shifted to virtual training, offering all our regular workshops, including a virtual annual conference, virtual On Demand programs tailored to your municipality, and several webinars focused specifically on COVID-19 issues, and began offering most of our publications and educational resources in a digital format.

Did you know that New Hampshire is a state largely comprised of small towns? In fact, nearly 70 percent of the 234 cities and towns have populations less than 5,000



Virtual Annual Conference & Exhibition

Over 220 members from 90 cities and towns attended our first-ever "virtual" Annual Conference and Exhibition

Received generous support from over 40 sponsors and exhibitors

Please visit our website regularly to take advantage of all our member resources and stay up-to-date on NHMA events

Thank you for your commitment to local government and for your support of NHMA!

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