



2022 Annual Report



Elizabeth Fox, Asst.
City Manager/HR
Director, Keene,
Chair

Another year in the books! 2022 started to feel like the world we used to know—in some ways. Town meetings went forward, NHMA held its two-day annual conference, and we experienced the joy—and the challenges—of being together again. Cities and towns grappled with difficult decisions, like budgeting in light of record inflation, but also considered new possibilities, with unprecedented investments in local governments through the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.



Margaret Byrnes,
Executive Director

On the legislative front, 2022 featured a slew of bills that sought to erode local control or create additional costs and burdens on local officials. With the help of local officials from across the state, we advocated for municipal interests based on [NHMA's member-adopted policies and principles](#), and the outcome was a pleasant surprise: the worst of the bills were killed, and cities and towns saw additional one-time funding in a non-budget year for roads and bridges and to off-set employer NHRS contributions. And speaking of member-adopted policies and principles, this year was also a legislative policy process year; thank you to all the local officials who volunteered their time to serve on a committee or participate as a voting delegate at the Legislative Policy Conference in September. Did you miss out? Don't worry, we'll do it again in 2024—mark your calendars!

With 100% municipal membership, NHMA is proud to be your source of education, training, legal guidance, advocacy—and all things local government—as you navigate your municipal role as employee, elected or appointed official, or volunteer. We continue to benefit from our relationships with like-minded organizations like HealthTrust, Primex, and the School Boards Association—as well as state agencies like the Office of Planning and Development, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of Environmental Services, who all share a commitment to supporting local government.

Our Annual Report is intended to give members a snapshot of what NHMA has been doing to serve the interests of local government over the past year. We hope you're taking advantage of all NHMA has to offer—so if you think you might be missing out, please be sure to check out our *Getting to Know Your Membership Benefits* webinar, which can be found in the Webinar Archive on our [website](#).

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Representing all **234** cities and towns in New Hampshire

50 Associate Members, including 6 counties, 9 regional planning commissions, 7 fire districts, 15 water and sewer districts, 14 village districts, 8 fire districts and more

36 Affiliate Groups representing municipal professions comprised primarily of municipal officials serving a particular position, such as town and city clerks, assessors or road agents

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



Legal Services

Please see more details in *Legal Services 2022 Year-in-Review* contained in this issue



Attorneys handled over **3,200** legal inquiries

Top 5 legal inquiries were Right-to-Know Law, Planning Board, Select Board Authority and Procedures, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and ARPA issues



Presented **19** workshops and webinars (**both in-person and virtually**) with **1,450** attendees

Traveled to member municipalities for **23 On-Demands** attended by over **200** members covering topics including Right-to-Know Law, planning board roles and responsibilities, ZBA basics, conflicts of interest and road and land law issues, and much more

Presented to **44** outside agencies, including NH Tax Collectors Association, Primex Summit, NH Association of Chiefs of Police, NH Office of Planning and Development, NH Library Trustees and NH Association of Conservation Commission, and five workshops with UNH's T2

Filed **three** Amicus Briefs, including *Bisceglia v. Secretary of State*, *Ortolano v. Nashua*, and *Conway v. Kudrick*



Additional Resources

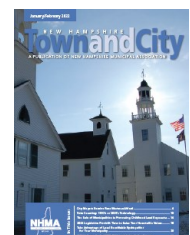
35 local officials graduated from the third Academy for Good Governance, Class of 2022

Maintained dedicated webpage on Federal Funding and Resources providing members with up-to-date information on the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the American Rescue Plan Act

Advanced a joint collaboration, the Broadband Planning Network, with the National Collaboration for Digital Equity (NCDE) for members interested in the opportunity to undertake broadband investment planning together



Communications



1,690 print subscribers to *New Hampshire Town and City*

NewsLink distributed **26** times in 2022 to a base of **1,050** subscribers

An average of **29,000 visitors** to NHMA's website on a monthly basis in 2022

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Advocacy



Cities and towns fared very well in 2022, particularly on state aid which saw a non-budget year record-breaking **\$100 million** in direct aid sent to municipalities and almost **\$150 million** funding for additional grant and loan programs

1,250 subscribers to *Legislative Bulletin* received **23** Bulletins and a *Final Bulletin* in 2022



NHMA followed **400** bills in 2022 which is right around our average, and we saw a number of important municipal priorities enacted or, in most cases, defended. Among those were:

- Protecting attorney-client privilege for municipalities
- Defending the local control of the decision-making process for zoning of short-term rentals
- Kickstarting broadband build out via changes in funding mechanisms
- Updating the state building and fire codes
- Helping municipal wastewater treatment facilities take action on PFAS
- Harmonizing state law on storage of ballot counting devices with the secretary of state's guidance
- Overturning the New Hampshire Supreme Court's decision in *Merrimack Premium Outlets v. Town of Merrimack*, allowing municipalities to update their assessed values as appropriate

Legislative Policy Process

Three policy committees comprised of over **50** members met several times in the spring to debate, discuss and recommend proposed legislative policy positions submitted by member municipalities

Over **50** members from **46** municipalities attended the 2022 Legislative Policy Process Conference held in September



Annual Conference & Exhibition

Nearly **400** members from **185** cities and towns attended our first *real* Annual Conference and Exhibition in Manchester since the pandemic. Received generous support from nearly **90** sponsors and exhibitors



Ken Robichaud, Northfield Town Administrator, received the **Russ Marcoux Municipal Advocate of the Year award** at NHMA's Annual Conference in November

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Education and Training

22 webinars; **1,845** registrants; **1,352** attendees; on variety of topics including electioneering, congressional direct spending, cybersecurity, default budgets, funding community projects and more

Over 1,360 members accessed NHMA's webinar archive in 2022

Over 200 members joined NHMA in two webinars with the New Hampshire's Congressional Delegation on Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Congressional Direct Spending



NHMA Board of Directors

Throughout its rich history, the NHMA has been honored by the outstanding caliber of the municipal officials serving on its Board of Directors. The active participation of these dedicated and experienced municipal officials continues to be an important part of the Association's history. The result has been many years of impressive leadership and innovation programs and services for New Hampshire's cities and towns.

CHAIR: Elizabeth Fox, Asst. City Mgr. HR Director, Keene

VICE CHAIR: Candace Bouchard, Councilor, Concord

SECRETARY: Jeanie Forrester, Select Board Member, Meredith

TREASURER: Cheryl Lindner, Treasury Management Officer, Nashua

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Laura Buono, Town Administrator, Hillsborough

David Caron, Town Administrator, Derry

Shelagh Connelly, Conservation Commission, Holderness

Phil D'Avanza, Planning Board, Goffstown

Joseph R. Devine, Assistant Town Manager, Salem*

Lisa Drabik, Human Resources Director, Manchester

Stephen Fournier, Town Administrator, Newmarket

Dale Girard, Mayor, Claremont

Joanne Haight, Select Board Chair, Sandwich

April Hibberd, Select Board Member, Bethlehem

Neil Irvine, Town Administrator, New Hampton

Holly Larsen, Finance Director, Berlin

Patrick Long, Alderman, Manchester

Conner McIver, Town Administrator, Barrington

Jim Maggiore, Select Board Member, North Hampton

Jim Michaud, Chief Assessor, Hudson

Judie Milner, City Manager, Franklin

Donna Mombourquette, Select Board Chair, New Boston*

Shaun Mulholland, City Manager, Lebanon

Dennis Shanahan, Deputy Mayor, Dover

David Stack, Town Manager, Bow

***Designates new board members elected in November**

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