



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Colleagues,

NARC election season is upon us. As such, we invite you to look for future communications about NARC's Board of Directors and Executive Directors Council elections. NARC encourages members to attend these meetings and consider running for a leadership position. Specific information about open positions, nomination and election processes, credentials, and length of term will be provided in a memo very soon.

Board Election Announcement

The election for the 2018/2019 NARC Board of Directors will be held during the 52nd Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 9:00 AM at the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Individuals running for an elected position must be present at the membership meeting.

- Although not required to run for an officer or regional representative, anyone who wishes to announce an intent to run may send a letter to Anna Rosenbaum via anna@narc.org. This letter should come from the member regional council or metropolitan planning organization.

EDC Election Announcement

The election for the 2018/2019 NARC Executive Directors Council will be held during the 52nd Annual Conference during the Executive Directors Council Business Meeting at the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

- Anyone who wishes to announce an intent to run may send an email to Anna Rosenbaum via anna@narc.org. This email should specify the open seat for which the individual is running.

NARC will electronically publish these announcements on the website (www.narc.org) by May 7, 2018 (four weeks prior to the start of the Annual Conference). After that date, NARC will continuously publish the names of additional candidates as we receive them.

In addition to elections, please keep a lookout for NARC Awards information. Submit a nomination for an innovative project your organization helped realize. And remember that we also have NARC Leadership Awards – designed to highlight the superior work achieved by your elected officials, executive directors, and staff.

Thank you,
Leslie Wollack

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is in session.

Congress Faces Many Key Deadlines in 2018

Congressional leaders have a lot to do before they hit the campaign trail this fall. Here are just a few items on Congress' plate for consideration before they break for mid-term elections in November:

- Adopt an omnibus appropriations package that will fund the federal government through the end of FY 2018 (September 30) by the current continuing resolution expiration date of March 23, 2018.
- Develop an FY 2019 budget plan in line with the budget agreement recently agreed to by the House and Senate.
- Approve technical amendments to the recently passed *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* to address a series of private sector concerns regarding tax assessment.
- Adopt legislation that reauthorizes the Federal Aviation Administration and the Farm Bill.
- Pass immigration reform that includes: protections for Dreamers, plans for a border wall, and a path to citizenship for some undocumented workers.
- Pass an infrastructure package that actually funds infrastructure redevelopment.
- Address concerns raised by the school shootings in Parkland, Florida.
- Address many popular pieces of legislation that expire on September 30, like the *Violence Against Women Act*.

Time, unfortunately, is not on Congress' side. Other timing considerations include a two-week "spring" break in April, a month-long "recess" that runs from around August 1 to September 3, and a four-week break to campaign prior to the November 6 election. And if the election brings a shift in Senate or House leadership, all work in Congress could come to a halt. This leaves Congress with about 50 legislative days, spread out over seven months, to complete all this work.

NARC Urges Congress to Include Brownfields Language in Appropriations Omnibus

In partnership with the National League of Cities (NLC), National Association of Counties (NACo), and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), NARC signed a letter urging congressional leadership to include Brownfields Reauthorization language in the final appropriations omnibus bill. There was disagreement on the House side about putting the language in the final bill without including any new due care provisions. NARC and its partners sent Congress a snapshot of feedback from city and county leaders regarding their concerns about a due care provision, reinforcing our argument for not including this language in the omnibus bill.

Has Your Representative Signed the CDBG Dear Colleague Letter?

Six House members are circulating a 'Dear Colleague Letter' asking for \$3.3 billion in FY 2019 funding for the Community Development Block (CDBG) program. The letter praises the flexibility of the CDBG program to meet local needs while stressing that program cuts have severely weakened the ability of grantees to revitalize their communities. As of last Thursday, **ninety-nine house members signed on to support this letter**. If you do not see your House representative as a current co-sponsor or signee, please have them contact Caitlin Hodgkins (Caitlin.Hodgkins@mail.house.gov) with Representative McGovern's office by close of business tomorrow, March 13.

Notable Committee Hearings This Week

- Tuesday at 10:00 AM ET: The Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security hearing, **Rebuilding Infrastructure in America: Investing in Next Generation Broadband**.
- Tuesday at 10:00 AM ET: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hear **testimony from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke** on the Department of the Interior's FY 2019 budget.
- Tuesday at 2:30 PM ET: The Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security hearing, **Rebuilding Infrastructure in America: State and Local Transportation Needs**.
- Thursday at 9:30 AM ET: The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development will hear **testimony from Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao** on the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2019 budget.
- Thursday at 10:00 AM ET: The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development will hear **testimony from Energy Secretary Rick Perry** on the U.S.

- Department of Energy's FY 2019 budget.
- Thursday at 10:00 AM ET: The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education will hear **testimony from HHS Secretary Alex Azar** on HHS's FY 2019 budget.

House to Consider Bill Authorizing Safe Neighborhood Grants Program

The House is scheduled to consider *Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2017 (HR 3249)* on Wednesday. The bill would authorize \$50 million annually over fiscal years 2018-2020 for the U.S. Department of Justice to make grants to states and local governments to support intergovernmental partnerships aimed at reducing violent crimes. The bill would require 30 percent of funding each year to be set aside for Regional Task Forces in areas with high-levels of gang activity, and that the funds would be locally controlled to the greatest extent possible.

EPA Awards \$8.7M to Replace/Retrofit 450+ Diesel School Buses in 32 States

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it will award more than \$8.7 million to replace or retrofit 452 diesel school buses. One hundred forty-one school fleets in 32 states will receive rebates through the agency's *Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA)* funding, which equates to about \$15,000-\$20,000 per bus. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said, "These rebates are an innovative way to improve air quality across the country and provide kids with safe, reliable transportation to and from school." See the full list of **rebate recipients**.

OTHER NEWS

Infrastructure Week 2018 is Coming Soon!

This year, the sixth annual Infrastructure Week will take place May 14-21. It is a national week of events, media coverage, education, and issue advocacy to elevate infrastructure as a critical issue impacting America's economy, society, security, and future. The Infrastructure Week team created resources to help you start planning your own regional event or campaign. Download their **toolkit** to access their brand guide, field trip guide, message guide, and outreach templates. You may also register for their web training series to learn about strategies, tactics, and best practices for talking about infrastructure (register for the **March 21** or **April 3** webinars).

2018 National Economic Development Week Celebration Toolkit

Created by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), Economic Development Week (EDW) highlights local programs that create jobs, advance career development opportunities, and increase the overall quality of life. Organizations are encouraged to share success stories on the local, regional, and state level. To help you begin planning for EDW 2018, which will be held May 7-12, IEDC created a **Celebration Toolkit**. The toolkit is full of outreach ideas and templates for press releases, resolutions, social media messages, advertising, and tips on engaging your local elected officials.

REGION SPOTLIGHT

Florida RPCs Host Hurricane Irma Recovery Workshops

Last month, the Central Florida, South Florida, Southwest Florida, and Tampa Bay regional planning councils hosted workshops on economic recovery and resiliency efforts following Hurricane Irma. Each event provided the opportunity to foster greater agriculture, business, and community resiliency by connecting community leaders with information on state and federal resources available after a disaster. Local elected and community leaders were encouraged to attend to learn more about their disaster recovery role and how to prioritize actions for short-term and long-term recovery. Each workshop was tailored to address the priority needs of each region.

MEMBER REQUESTS

MORPC Request: CRM Survey

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is exploring the integration of a new contact management system, also known as Customer Relationship Management (CRM). While there are hundreds of products on the market, MORPC is interested in finding out what is suitable for a regional council. They are also interested in learning if regional councils are using electronic archival and/or retrieval services. Please **participate in this survey**; results will be shared. Responses are due Friday, March 30.

NARC Request: Data for County-Level Map of Regional Planning Organizations

NARC is working with MORPC to create a map of regional councils and MPOs in the U.S. We have started by mapping out organizations in Florida, Ohio, and Texas, and we hope to include all other states by our Annual Conference in June. To expedite the project, we request your assistance in gathering data for the map. Please include this data in an excel spreadsheet and send to Cameron Herbolsheimer (cameron@narc.org).

- Please send us a list of the counties your organization serves.
- If you can obtain information for your state, please send us a list of each regional planning organization or MPO, as well as the counties that each of them serves.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

Join the Inaugural Regional Food Economies Fellowship Program!

Applications Due: April 2, 8:00 PM ET

Informational Webinar: March 20, 12:45-1:45 PM ET

The Wallace Center is looking for 6-8 fellows for its Regional Food Economies Program – an initiative that will help provide models for successful engagement between regional food systems and community and economic development stakeholders. Those selected will receive a \$15,000 stipend and additional financial support for travel, meeting expenses, and tool/resource development to help food systems practitioners with best practices and lessons learned. Each fellow will be selected based on their experience and existing efforts to build the case within stakeholder groups, including their regional planning and development group (e.g. economic development agencies, regional councils, councils of government, MPOs).

SAFER Grants

Applications Due: April 27

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate implements and administers the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants. SAFER grants provide financial assistance to help fire departments increase frontline firefighters. SAFER offers grants to support: 1) hiring of firefighters and 2) recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. Three hundred grants are expected to be awarded to fire departments of national, state, local, and tribal governments representing the interests of volunteer firefighters.

Innovative State and Local Public Health Strategies to Prevent and Manage Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Stroke

Applications Due: June 30

HHS grants support the design, testing, and evaluation of novel approaches to address evidence-based strategies aimed at reducing risks, complications, and barriers to prevention and control of diabetes and cardiovascular disease (CVD) in high-burden populations. Work will occur in state and local/city/county health departments with a population of 900,000 or more where significant reach may be achieved. Consortia of smaller local/city/county health departments may submit one application that, together, includes a population of 900,000 or more. High burden populations are those affected disproportionately by high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, or prediabetes due to socioeconomic or related factors.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

Preparing for Census 2020: Resources for Local Communities

March 13, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

With the 2020 Census just two years away, local communities need to prepare. An accurate count is important for congressional redistricting and to ensure that communities get their fair share of

the more than \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs. What resources are available to local communities that want to help ensure an accurate census? This webinar will describe the Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA) and how participating governments are helping to improve the census count. It will provide an overview and demonstration of the Census Bureau's new Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM) tool, which can be used to identify hard-to-survey areas. It will also provide a data user perspective on resources and tools—and a new website—that local stakeholders can use to improve the census count in their communities.

The OAA Meal is Part of the Equation: A Conversation with Lance Robertson, ACL Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging

March 14, 3:30-4:30 PM ET

In celebration of National Nutrition Month, Assistant Secretary of Aging Lance Robertson will be featured in a webinar by the National Nutrition and Aging's Resource Center. Since 1973, March has been a month to appreciate and celebrate how good nutrition positively affects Americans. ACL's theme for the 2018 National Nutrition Month Observation is: "The meal is only part of the equation." ACL is very supportive of the OAA nutrition program because good nutritional intake plays a vital role in maintaining an older adult's health and supporting independence. The OAA nutrition program is the largest federally funded nutrition program exclusively for seniors and it provides participants much more than just a meal.

Engaging Workers in Creating Good Jobs

March 22, 3:00 PM ET

How can workers, especially in lower-wage frontline jobs, contribute to improving their jobs in ways that benefit them, their families, and their employers? In this webinar, you will learn ways that workers are making their voices heard on a range of policy and practice issues. New technologies and organizing tools will be explored that address many common concerns in new ways such as improving scheduling, expanding leave policies, and increasing worker rights knowledge. Examples of how these tools have been used to improve job quality results will be discussed.

The Cloud: Using Information to Engage Your Community

March 28, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

We live in a time when citizens are looking for new ways to engage with their communities. While most communities have made some inroads with digital communications, there are unprecedented opportunities to expand civic engagement beyond the town hall. This ICMA webinar will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various forms of digital communications and describe strategies and techniques for bringing your government to the citizens in the digital world where they live. This webinar will feature:

- Different examples of effective use of social media
- Strategies for digital communications
- New ways to engage your community

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