

Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Fall Conference
November 16-17, 2017
Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center, Alexandria, Minn.

To register online for the conference, go to <https://greatermncities.org/2017fallconf/>.

Thursday, November 16, 2017

- 10 a.m.** **Board of Directors meeting**
- 11 a.m.** **Check-in and registration begins (*Hotel lobby*)**
- 12 p.m.** **Welcome and Introductions – CGMC President & Granite Falls Mayor Dave Smiglewski**
- 12:05 p.m.** **Luncheon Presentation: “A Quiet Crisis: Minnesota’s Child Care Shortage” – Marnie Werner, research director for the Center for Rural Policy**
Werner will share results of the CRP’s study on child care options in Minnesota. She will discuss the struggles communities face when it comes to attracting and retaining child care providers and how the child care shortage impacts the growth and viability of rural communities.
- 1 p.m.** **Panel Discussion – “The Child Care Conundrum: Is the Lack of Options Stunting Greater Minnesota’s Growth?”**
Economic development experts and child care professionals will discuss concerns surrounding the shortage of child care providers in Greater Minnesota and ways in which city leaders can help play a role in developing solutions to this growing problem. Invited panelists include:
- Nancy Jost, early childhood coordinator for West Central Initiative
 - Tim Penny, president and CEO of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
 - Erin Shay, community impact & engagement director for the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota
 - Amanda Benda, director of Little Huskies Daycare Center & Preschool in Jackson, Minn.
- 2 p.m.** **Interactive Discussion – Share your thoughts about the rural child care shortage**
To conclude the sessions on child care concerns, we want to hear from you! We will utilize our computerized audience response system to survey CGMC members about their communities’ child care needs, potential solutions and the role of organizations like the CGMC and the Greater Minnesota Partnership.
- 2:15 p.m.** **BREAK**
- 2:30 p.m.** **“The Quest for Better Broadband” – Bill Coleman, President, Community Technology Advisors**
Rural cities that struggle with poor broadband services are facing a community vitality crisis. This presentation will provide attendees with a critical perspective on rural broadband deployment challenges and public policy considerations.
- 3 p.m.** **Legislative Panel Discussion – “What’s Down the Road for Transportation?”**
After years of failed attempts, the Legislature finally passed a transportation package in 2017. However, it is clear it isn’t enough to fulfill all of the state’s transportation needs. A bipartisan group of legislators will participate in a panel discussion on the pros and cons of the 2017 transportation bill and the Legislature’s plans to address transportation demands in the upcoming legislative session and into the future.

- 4 p.m. Panel Discussion – “Elected Officials’ Roles in Labor and Employee Relations”**
Brandon M. Fitzsimmons, a shareholder attorney with Flaherty & Hood, will summarize the legal framework for and moderate a panel discussion with appointed and elected Greater Minnesota city officials on the “productive” and “unproductive” involvement of elected officials in dealing with unions and personnel issues in their city.
- 5 p.m. BREAK and Hotel Check-in**
- 5:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception**
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Quiz Show with the Theater of Public Policy**
While conference attendees enjoy dinner, the funny folks behind the award-winning Theater of Public Policy will lead an entertaining and informative quiz show featuring trivia questions about Minnesota and national news stories from the past year.

Friday, November 17, 2017

- 8 a.m. Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 a.m. CGMC Membership Meeting**
- **Update on CGMC Environmental Action Fund**
 - **Discussion and Adoption of 2018 Policy Positions**
 - **Local Government Aid/Property Taxes**
 - **Environment & Energy**
 - **Transportation**
 - **Economic Development**
 - **Annexation & Land Use**
 - **Messaging & Strategy for 2018**
 - **Upcoming Events**
- 11 a.m. Adjourn**

* Please note that attendees are responsible for booking their own hotel rooms. A block of rooms is reserved for the CGMC at a rate of \$94 a night. Call Arrowwood at 320-762-1124 to make a reservation.

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact CGMC Communications Director Julie Liew at 651-259-1917 or jlliew@flaherty-hood.com.