



FCCMA 2025 Winter Institute

What Keeps Managers Up at Night in 2025

January 30-31, 2025

Agenda

Thursday, January 30, 2025

8:00 – 8:30 am **Registration / Continental Breakfast**

8:45 – 9:00 am **Welcome and Introductions**

Session One: Infrastructure: Surviving Today's Civility

9:00 – 10:00 am

Civility and Trust

Establishing trust requires building relationships before they are needed. Hosting local events such as fundraisers, holiday gatherings, and recreational activities can bring people of differing viewpoints together. Governments should be accessible, transparent, and deeply involved in their communities, keeping promises to build a track record of reliability. When trust is established, civil interactions are more likely to occur—people are more inclined to listen and less likely to act with suspicion or hostility when they believe in the motives and sincerity of others.

***Speakers:** Russ Blackburn, ICMA/FCCMA Senior Advisor; Jerome Fletcher, City Manager, City of North Port; and T. Michael Stavres, City Manager, City of Winter Haven*

10:00 – 10:15 am **Refreshment Break**

10:15 – 11:15 am

Civility and Common Information

Transparency is key to fostering trust between governments and the public. Sharing the same facts enables more civil discussions, as all parties are aligned in understanding the issues. Reaching consensus involves asking the right questions and addressing misinformation, which can sometimes originate from constituents or officials. Public Information Officers and technology can play a vital role in correcting disinformation, sharing knowledge, and engaging with the community effectively.

***Speaker:** Steve Vancore, President, VancoreJones*

11:15 – 12:15 pm

Civility and Agendas

Balancing agendas by mixing challenging topics with positive or neutral ones can reduce tension. Difficult discussions can be broken into smaller segments or workshopped before a formal vote, with input from third-party consultants to offer neutral perspectives. Ensuring adequate time for meaningful debate allows all voices to be heard, fostering understanding over confrontation. The goal of discussions is not to win but to listen, treat others with respect, and promote civility by focusing on reasonable, courteous, and dignified interactions.

***Speakers:** Terry Atchley, County Manager, Hardee County; Pam Brangaccio, ICMA/FCCMA Senior Advisor; Lee Feldman, Principal, The Euclid Group*

12:15 – 1:00 pm **Lunch**

Session Two: Bricks and Bucks

1:15 – 2:15 pm

Assessing Your Assets: Risks and Liabilities

How can you get your arms around the scope of your liabilities and risks associated with infrastructure, from roads and bridges to utilities and facilities? Tools and techniques for understanding the current state of your assets and planning for maintenance and replacement.

***Speakers:** Thierry Boveri, Vice President, Raftelis; Scott Parker, Senior Manager, Raftelis; (both from Raftelis); and Doug Spiers, Vice President, Raftelis; Branden Vatter, Senior Manager, Raftelis*

- 2:15 – 3:00 pm **Best Practices and Asset Management: Lessons from Research**
How much will it realistically cost to maintain and replace your vital infrastructure and how will you be able to afford it? New tools for building a financial forecast that is realistic and attainable.
Speaker: Chris Morrill, Executive Director, Government Finance Officers Association
- 3:00 – 3:15 pm **Refreshment Break**
- 3:15 – 3:45 pm **Breakout Session**
Have participants fill out a matrix for each of their respective infrastructure categories and identify if they have an inventory, a condition assessment, a maintenance plan, a replacement plan, and a funding plan for each. Discuss at the table what the deficiencies they see are and what most concerns them. Report out significant concerns to the overall group.
- 3:45 – 4:00 pm **Group Reports/Feedback**
- 4:00 – 4:45 pm **From Streets to Stories: Building Public Support for Critical Projects**
Now that you know your liabilities, risks, and future costs, how do you engage elected officials and the community in implementing a plan to finance and execute the projects necessary to maintain your infrastructure? Techniques and tools you can use to have a robust conversation about the future infrastructure needs.
Speaker: M. Michelle Bono, CEO, Bono Communications & Marketing, LLC
- 5:30 – 6:30 pm **Reception**
Sponsored by Anser Advisory (part of Accenture)

Friday, January 31, 2025

- 8:00 – 8:45 am **Breakfast**
- Session Three:**
9:00 – 10:15 am **Responding to Extreme Events**
Extreme Events: Preparation and Response
Explore the critical role of hurricane forecasting and hazard coordination in preparing for and responding to extreme weather events. Daniel Brown, Branch Chief of the Hurricane Specialist Unit at NOAA's National Hurricane Center, brings decades of expertise in tropical cyclone forecasting and emergency management collaboration.
Speaker: Daniel Brown, Branch Chief, Hurricane Specialist Unit, National Hurricane Center
- 10:15 – 10:30 am **Refreshment Break**
- 10:30 – 11:45 am **Resilient Leadership: Strategies for Managing Extreme Weather Events**
Local government professionals face unique challenges in building resilient communities and fostering effective collaboration for extreme weather events. This session focuses on strategies for navigating complex emergency management issues, improving interdepartmental coordination, and enhancing community outcomes through effective leadership and operational preparedness.
Speakers: George Landry, County Administrator, St. Lucie County; Patrick Robinson, Deputy City Manager, City of Sarasota; Kim Demay, Building and Zoning Department Administrative Assistant (Retired), City of Sarasota
- 11:45 – 12:00 pm **Closing**