



Municipal Technical Advisory Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

MUNICIPAL E-NEWS

JUNE 2022 | QUARTER 2 | ISSUE 104



Selected New MTAS Resources

- [City Attorney and Conflict of Interest](#)
- [Facebook Posting Sufficiency for Notice of Public Meeting](#)
- [Notice Requirements for Special Meetings](#)
- [Selected Municipal Employment Benefits Survey](#)

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- [New Knowledgebase materials](#)
 - [New MRLn materials](#)
 - [New MORE materials](#)
 - [Register for MTAS Training Event \(K@TE\)](#)

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Municipal Technical Advisory Service
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 **VIEW OUR CURRENT TRAINING CALENDAR**

Captain Barry Brady, A Legacy of Lives Saved

Eligible Tennessee firefighters will receive an additional benefit from the 112th General Assembly effective July 1, 2022. The benefit is in the form of two additional cancers being added to Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.) § 7-51-201(d) Cancer Presumption Law (Barry Brady Act). The 111th General Assembly passed the original legislation in 2019, establishing certain cancers to potentially be considered a workplace illness for eligible firefighters. This act is legacy legislation named for Sparta Fire Captain Barry Brady.

Brady leaves a great legacy of being a dedicated public safety public servant. He not only served the residents and visitors of Sparta, but his efforts in fire service professional associations was impactful across our state. Brady found himself battling late-stage colon cancer, but he never lost his passion for public service. His unwavering love and support to his wife Dawn, family and members of the fire service inspired many to get this legislation passed.

Brady was, like many other firefighters, a hometown hero. He used his hands to touch and save many lives in and around Sparta. Through this legislation, Captain Brady's legacy continues, saving the lives of brother and sister firefighters from across our state.



Steven Cross

MTAS Fire Management
Consultant

The act passed by the 111th General Assembly originally covered four cancers including colon cancer, non-hodgkin's lymphoma, skin cancer and multiple myeloma. The 112th General Assembly amended the act adding two additional cancers including leukemia and testicular cancer.

Firefighters owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the 111th and 112th General Assembly and Governor Bill Lee for recognizing the inherent dangers associated with the profession of firefighting and passing legislation to help fight these covered cancers.

Visit the MTAS Knowledgebase to review a more [comprehensive report and other resources](#) related to the Barry Brady Act.

If MTAS consultants can be of service to your community, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help and serve.



Training Updates

2022 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2022 Tennessee legislative session recently adjourned, and there is a lot to unpack! Make plans to attend one of our upcoming virtual sessions on Tuesday, June 14, or Wednesday, June 15, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. CT/9:30-12:30 a.m. ET.

MTAS Legal Consultants will provide a straightforward summary of legislation passed by the Tennessee General Assembly that will impact every aspect of municipal operations. Register at kate.tennessee.edu/MTAS or contact Doug Brown at (865) 974-9140. Registration is free.

IMPACT SERIES: BUILDING YOUR BENCH WITH SUCCESSION PLANNING

Whether you call it the Great Resignation or the Silver Tsunami, organizations across the country are experiencing a wave of resignations and retirements. If you do not have a strong bench ready to step in to fill key positions, it's time to build your bench with succession planning! Our next session of the IMPACT Series will be Thursday, June 16, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. CT/1:30-2:30 p.m. ET. Register at kate.tennessee.edu/MTAS or contact Doug Brown at (865) 974-9140. Registration is free.



Yolanda Dillard
MTAS Training Consultant

2022 ELECTED OFFICIALS ACADEMY LEVEL II

Are you a recently elected official or an experienced elected official in need of a refresher? Join us for the 2022 Elected Officials Academy Level II in Gatlinburg on August 12 and 13. You will increase your knowledge and understanding of municipal leadership and the intricacies of operating a municipality. Topics include public works, human resources, police services, fire service, and risk management.

The cost is \$210 per attendee. To register, contact Doug Brown at (865) 974-9140, or email doug.brown@tennessee.edu.

Municipal Budgets Reminder

Your city's budget should be submitted to the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury by June 30, 2022. Here are some helpful resources on local government budgets:

[MTAS Budget Guide](#)

[Tennessee Budget Manual for Local Governments \(June 2021\)](#)



TREEDC Hosts Philippines Department of Agriculture Officials

TREEDC’s international collaborations are reaching new heights. Recently, TREEDC stakeholders, member universities (the University of Tennessee, Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee Tech University and the University of Tennessee Martin) and the Philippines Department of Agriculture gathered for a week to promoting international agriculture and economic development. In attendance were TREEDC International Affairs Director and Urdaneta City University President Dr. April Alcazar; Philippines Undersecretary for the Department of Agriculture Roldan Gorgonio; and Philippines Senior Advisor to Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Dennis Layug.

The delegation explored ways that TREEDC member universities can strategically align with international students and clean energy stakeholders. The Philippine delegation also toured Hico America’s manufacturing plant and the University of Tennessee Extension Services office in Sequatchie County.

The highlight of the trip was visit to the Tennessee State Legislature to join the Committee on Agriculture during its sessions. Logan Matthews, representative of the TREEDC Tennessee Flood-Ready Coalition, also met the delegation. As a result of the trip, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the



Dr. April Alcazar; Alisha Melton; UT Martin Interim Director of Research and Outreach, Keith Carver; Undersecretary Roldan Gorgonio.



Warren Nevad
Municipal Management Consultant

Philippine Department of Agriculture and the University of Tennessee at Martin, facilitated by the Chancellor and TREEDC Chairman Dr. Keith Carver. Discussions are now underway for future collaborations involving Tennessee cities, counties and higher education institutions.



Alcazar, Gorgonio, UT President Randy Boyd and Senior Advisor Dennis Layug.



Alcazar, Gorgonio, MTAS Director Margaret Norris and Senior Advisor Dennis Layug.

The TREEDC International Exchange Program started in 2012 and includes 10 member cities and 18 member colleges in the Philippines. The mission of the TREEDC International Exchange Program is to create renewable energy marketing opportunities and jobs for both Philippines and Tennessee entities through educational forums, business networking and collaborative projects while increasing clean energy solutions in the Philippines and Tennessee.



Rural Energy Pilot Program Offered By the USDA

The [Rural Energy Pilot Program](#) (REPP) offers grant assistance to Rural Energy Community Partnerships (RECPs) to develop renewable energy that can meet the nation's energy needs and combat emissions while prioritizing environmental justice, racial equity and economic opportunity. REPP partnerships may be comprised of, but are not limited to, non-profit entities, state and local entities, tribal entities, municipalities and other public bodies.

Funding may be used to support community energy planning, capacity building, and technical assistance; community efficiency and weatherization; and installation of community-scale renewable energy technologies and systems. Eligible rural areas include any area that is not:

- a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants or
- the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census using the latest decennial census of the U.S.

Selected projects will receive up to 80 percent of total eligible costs, not to exceed \$2 million for grant terms of three years. Applicants are encouraged to review all application materials found in the Federal Register Notices information at the [REPP Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) webpage.

The deadline to submit full applications will be due July 18, 2022. Review the Letter of Intent requirements, how to apply, and other important information at the [REPP webpage](#).



MTAS Staff Retreat: Examining and Expanding Our Point of View in 2022

As an agency whose work covers the state of Tennessee, MTAS gets together once a year to reinforce great working relationships and to increase our capacity to serve the municipalities in Tennessee. This year, our time together in retreat focused on examining and expanded our point of view in 2022. And we did!

The program was created by a staff committee which included Dawn McMillen (chair), Betsy Cunningham, John Eskew, Chuck Downham and Rick Whitehead. The retreat was over a year in the making due to COVID-19 postponements in 2021, but it was well worth the wait.

During the annual retreat we take time to recognize each other’s hard work through the MTAS annual awards. These are special recognitions of unique and lasting contributions of individual MTAS team members.



The Hobday Award

This award is named for Victor Hobday, MTAS executive director from 1952 until 1980, and recognizes an employee that has

been a cornerstone of the agency and provided exceptional service. The 2022 awardee was **Frances Adams-O’Brien**, MTAS librarian.



The Trailblazer Award

This award recognizes an employee who has taken the lead on an exemplary project. Our 2022 awardee was **Chris Shults**, grants and training specialist.



The Customer Service Award

This award recognizes an employee for exceptional service to both internal and external customers. The 2022 awardees were **Justin O’Hara**, IT administrator, and **Eric Spencer**, finance and accounting consultant.



The “This Bud’s for You” Award

This award is named in honor of former employee Tess Davis

to recognize an employee who exemplifies Tess's spirit of friendship, good humor and helpful nature. The 2022 awardees were **Betsy Cunningham**, HR consultant, and **John Eskew**, municipal courts specialist.

In a reminder to not take ourselves too seriously, we poke a little fun at each other in our long-running tradition of the MTAS Gag Awards. Staff members are awarded for their fashion statements, ability to over-explains things, likewise being able to talk to anyone anywhere, being photogenic and more.

Management Consultant Pat Hardy honored two MTAS staff members with the Signature Award, Frances Adams-O'Brien and Rex Barton, MTAS police management consultant. Hardy created the honors to acknowledge members of the agency whose contributions to MTAS make it a better place to work.

Staff were wowed with a tour of the UT IPS Polk Avenue Training Facility. Truly a state-of-the-art training location that is comfortable, flexible and

ready to host any sort of meeting or class for our customers. Staff also had the opportunity to tour both the Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee State Library to learn about the array of archived documents and research resources available.

The retreat provided a valuable opportunity to stop, think about and expand our individual points of view through self-study with an Enneagram program, an inspiring presentation from Zalfat Suara, an elected official on the Metro Nashville City Council with a fascinating story, and an update on some of the broad service offerings available to businesses and local governments through our parent institution, the UT Institute for Public Service. In the hustle and bustle of everyday work life, it is a gift to have time to slow down and take on other points of view to expand and enhance your own.

Most of all, we reinforced how important our personal relationships with co-workers are to successfully serve and build relationships with the cities and towns of Tennessee.



Management Consultant Pat Hardy honored Frances Adams-O'Brien and Rex Barton with the Signature Award. This award acknowledges members of the agency whose contributions to MTAS make it a better place to work.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

ICMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

September 18-21, 2022 | Columbus, OH

TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS AND RECORDERS

Fall Conference | September 14-16, 2022 | Murfreesboro

TENNESSEE CITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Fall Conference | October 26-28, 2022 | Gatlinburg

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

September 21-23, 2022 | Murfreesboro

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

82nd Annual Conference Expo | August 13-16, 2022 | Gatlinburg

TENNESSEE STORMWATER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

October 18-20, 2022 | Montgomery Bell State Park

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