



WCMA Winter Conference 2025 Speaker Bios

HARRY ALLEN

Harry Allen is a Municipal Advisor with our Wisconsin Municipal team, helping clients with debt issuance and management, economic development and redevelopment, and financial management and planning. Prior to joining Ehlers, Harry worked for Baker Tilly, assisting counties and municipalities with tax increment creation/amendment, reporting and projections, incentive structuring and reporting, and debt issuance. Before that, he was Director of Research for the Council of Development Finance Agencies, where he ran technical assistance programs for federal, state and local economic development finance programs.

GABE ALTENBERND

Gabe Altenbernd is currently the Village Administrator of Belleville, Wisconsin, a community of approximately 2,900 residents and growing rapidly. Belleville is located just southwest of Madison between Verona and New Glarus. Gabe is currently the Chair of the Talent Recruitment Committee in WCMA.

SAMUEL J. ARONSON

Samuel J. Aronson is the President & CEO of The Friends of ArrowPride, a grassroots organization devoted to promoting inclusivity in outdoor education and leadership programs for America's youth. An expert in inclusive pedagogy, Sam was a dean and faculty member in the Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service in Washington, DC for 16 years. Mr. Aronson is a leader in the inclusivity movement in outdoor education. In 2022 he oversaw the first ever national-level affinity spaces for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), celebrating and supporting Scouts of Color, women, Scouts with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ and allied Scouts. He was the lead author of the newest Merit Badge offered by the Boy Scouts, Citizenship in Society Merit Badge, which empowers young people with the tools to be transformational leaders within their communities. He is the co-author of the National Leadership Seminar and served on the BSA's diversity advisory group, supporting the creation of online DEI training modules for BSA volunteers.

His research focuses on the intersection of science and technology with the Holocaust as well as an exploration of responses to the Holocaust by playwrights and other artists. He has authored numerous articles on anti-Semitism and the use of Holocaust memory and frequently speaks on this subject.

TYLER BURKART

Tyler Burkart is the Village Manager of Brown Deer. He has been Village Manager since 2022. Prior to Brown Deer he worked for the Village of Shorewood, City of Woodbury (MN), City of Janesville, and City of Middleton. He received his master's in public administration from the University of Kansas. Tyler is starting an internship program at the Village of Brown Deer beginning in 2025. He serves on the Talent and Recruitment Committee, which is actively working with colleges and universities in the region to promote internships and learning work experiences with their students.

TRAVIS COENEN

Travis Coenen is currently the Village Administrator of Wrightstown Wisconsin, a community of approximately 3,838 residents and growing. Wrightstown is located directly between Green Bay and Appleton, Wisconsin, where he is responsible for village administration and management under the direction of the Village Board. Travis has thirteen years of experience in operations and financial management at multiple levels and types of government. In addition to his experience at the Village of Wrightstown, Travis's background includes positions with City of De Pere, the Village of Wrightstown Water and Sewer Utility, and Project Manager for multiple Wisconsin based utility contractors. Travis is also an active member of; WCMA Emerging Leaders, WCMA Conference Committee, WCMA Scholarship Committee, WCMA DEI committee and Strategic Task Force, WCMA/ILCMA Joint Conference Committee, as well as member of ICMA and ELGL. Travis was the recipient of the WCMA's president's award for contribution to the organization at the 2023 WCMA summer conference. Travis spends his free time coaching youth sports, volunteering in many community nonprofit organizations, and enjoying time with his wife and three children.

KRISZTINA DOMMER

Krisztina Dommer, CPA, has dedicated over two decades to advancing local government operations through her expertise in financial management. Her passion for supporting local governments extends nationwide, with a particular focus on Wisconsin since 2018, where she has provided financial services at all levels of government.

Krisztina began her auditing career after a distinguished 11-year tenure with the national Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) in Chicago. During her time at GFOA, she became a sought-after speaker on governmental accounting and financial reporting, sharing her knowledge across the country. In 2015, she transitioned to auditing, further honing her skills and deepening her understanding of governmental financial practices.

In 2023, Krisztina channeled her extensive experience and passion into building a visionary practice at Lauterbach and Amen, a firm specializing in the unique needs of local governments. As an outsourced finance director, she leverages her niche expertise to help municipalities improve their financial management, drawing from her vast experience across various roles and levels of government.

Throughout her career, Krisztina has observed varying standards of records retention in government offices. She consistently advises her clients to prioritize improvements in this

area, emphasizing how better records management can enhance operational efficiency and foster a more productive and positive workplace environment.

ELLIOT EISENBERG

Elliot Eisenberg, Ph.D., is an internationally acclaimed economist and public speaker specializing in making economics fun, relevant and educational. Dr. Eisenberg earned a B.A. in economics with first class honors from McGill University in Montreal, as well as a Master and Ph.D. in public administration from Syracuse University. Eisenberg is the Chief Economist for GraphsandLaughs, LLC, an economic consultancy that serves a variety of clients across the United States. He writes a syndicated column and authors a daily 70-word commentary on the economy that is available at www.econ70.com.

Dr. Eisenberg has spoken to hundreds of business groups and associations, as a keynote speaker on topics including economic forecasts, economic impact of industries such as homebuilding, tourism, consequences of government regulation, and other current economic issues. Dr. Eisenberg was formerly a Senior Economist with the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C. He is the creator of the multifamily stock index, the author of more than 100 articles, serves on the Expert Advisory Board of Mortgage Market Guide and is a regular consultant to several large real estate professional associations, hedge funds and investment advisory groups.

Elliot's interests include keeping the rate of restoration of his 65-year-old house ahead of its rate of deterioration and doting on his daughter. He loves ice hockey and talking economics with crowds large and small!

REBECCA EWALD

Rebecca Ewald joined Shorewood as Village Manager in November 2017. As Executive Director for the Community Development Authority, she has collaborated on an educational effort relative to housing and utilization of TID extension funds. Prior to Shorewood, Ewald served as Village Administrator for the Village of Waterford for 11 years. During this time Ewald additionally served as President of the Wisconsin City/County Manager Association (WCMA), President of the Real Racine Board and co-chair for the development of the Fox River Water Trail. Before Waterford, she was the Assistant to the Village Manager/Zoning Administrator for the Village of Elm Grove, Wisconsin for six years.

JENNIFER FLORES

Jennifer Flores, Principal, with Lauterbach & Amen and has been a part of the team since 2019. She assists local level government agencies with navigating the administrative functions and requirements in her role as a Professional Service Administrator.

Ms. Flores developed a unique records management program offered by Lauterbach and Amen, LLP and has dedicated countless hours applying her knowledge of state mandated processes towards Police and Fire Pension Boards, Fire Protection Districts and many levels of local government. By streamlining the Records Identification and Disposal (Records ID) service, she has been able to assist her clients with the management, retention and disposal of their records, alleviating the burden many agencies face and ensuring lawful adherence to the applicable state requirements.

She received a B.S. in Business Management from Western Governor's University. She is a member and speaker for the Illinois Public Pension Fund Association (IPPPFA).

CHUCK GALLAGHER

You may have seen Chuck on television, or heard him on CNN, CBS or NPR radio programs. His business insights are sought after for his strong position on ethics and ethical leadership. Chuck's focus is business—but his passion is empowering others. His unique business ethics presentations clearly demonstrate he brings something to the platform that isn't often found in typical business ethics speakers. Chuck's personal experience in building businesses and sales teams while leading companies provides a practical and powerful framework for ethical success.

Currently Chuck is Vice President of a national public company and former Sr. VP of Sales and Marketing for a public company.

Chuck's new book, *SECOND CHANCES: Transforming Adversity into Opportunity*, has received numerous endorsements and has been described as one of those rare books that effectively bridges the gap between personal accountability and business success.

With Chuck you have an industry professional sharing practical tested and time proven methods that can enhance personal and professional performance. What Chuck shares in his business ethics presentations, whether training, keynotes, and consultants are understandings of not only "how to", but also "what motivates behavior"—behavior of individuals that can create personal and professional success.

On a nationwide basis, Chuck has helped countless individuals on their journey to success!

JAMES MADLOM

James Madlom is CEO of Mueller Communications, a full-service communications and marketing firm based in Milwaukee that serves both public and private sector clients. James and his team have significant experience in supporting the diverse communications needs of municipalities, including education efforts around property tax levy limit referendum for communities across the state. James earned both his bachelor's degree and law degree, magna cum laude, from Marquette University. He is an active member of his community, serving as a director on numerous community boards.

AARON OPPENHEIMER

Aaron Oppenheimer currently serves as city administrator in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. Sun Prairie is the second largest municipality in Dane County with a population of 39,419. Previously, Aaron has served as the village administrator of Bellevue, Wisconsin (population 14,500) and as village manager in two municipalities in Michigan. Aaron received his MPA from Northern Illinois University. Aaron is a Past President of WCMA (2018-2019) and in 2024 he received WCMA's Meritorious Service Award. He currently serves as Chair of WCMA's Ethics committee.

ANDY PEDERSON

Andy Pederson currently serves as the Village Manager for the Village of Bayside, Wisconsin, since 2005. Andy has served as President of the Wisconsin City/County Management Association, International City/County Management Association Executive Board, and Alliance for Innovation Executive Board vice chair. Andy currently serves as Chair of ICMA Task Force in Governance. Prior to Bayside, Andy was served as the Assistant Village Manager/Community Services Director for the Village of Brown Deer; Human Resources Director/Special Projects Coordinator for the City of Whitewater and Assistant to the City Administrator with the City of Apple Valley, Minnesota.

CAITLIN STENE

Caitlin Stene is the Director of Administrative Services for the City of Sun Prairie where she oversees the human resource, clerk, finance, IT and assessing departments. Prior to working for the city, Caitlin served as the Deputy Administrator/Clerk for the Village of Waunakee and the Administrator for the Village of Cross Plains. She received her MPA from the University of Kansas (Rock Chalk!) and is a SHRM Senior Certified Professional.

KAYLA THORPE

Kayla Thorpe is an Associate Municipal Advisor with our Wisconsin Municipal Finance team, helping clients with public debt planning and issuance, project management, long-term financial management planning, economic development and redevelopment, and utility cash flow modeling. Kayla brings nearly 15 years of local and federal government experience to her role with the firm, most recently serving as the Administrator | Clerk for the Village of Butler, Wisconsin. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a Master of Business Administration degree.

MIA TRIPI

Mia Tripi is a Senior Client Director at Mueller Communications, helping guide strategic communication efforts and supporting communication solutions for local governments, nonprofits, and large corporations alike. Mia earned her bachelor's degree in political science at Marquette University and has experience in public affairs, media relations, social media, and business-to-business marketing. What seems like many, many years ago, Mia interned in the U.S. Senate. She now serves on the board of the Wisconsin Policy Forum.

KARL WARWICK

Karl Warwick has been the City Administrator for the City of Glendale for more than two years. Prior to working in Glendale, Karl was an Administrator for several communities for more than ten years. Karl has a Master of Public Administration from Southern Illinois University.