

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA). Ryti Treasurer, Executive Board, Board. There was a monthly Executive Board remote meeting in May. The main topic of that meeting was the results of the audit, which was the first for the organization. The 2024 review was unmodified and for 2025 two changes were required. There were recommendations on how grant income and payables should be handled. The Executive Board approved the audit and asked that its recommendations be implemented. We also had a recap of the New Nuclear Forum in Augusta GA (April 21-24). Oak Ridge will host the Forum in 2027 and New Mexico is scheduled to host in 2028. The other regular, annual meeting has been the Intergovernmental Meeting, which is organized by the National Association of Governors. This meeting was planned for November 2025, but due to the Federal Government shutdown the meeting has been postponed with new dates June 23-24 2026 in the Washington DC area. We will have a full Board meeting at the Intergovernmental Meeting and other full Board meeting will be at the National Cleanup Workshop, which is scheduled for September 15/16 in Crystal City VA. Treasurer duties have included reviewing and approving reimbursements, invoices, and grants. Main mission for ECA has been to help secure funding for environmental cleanup and productive re-use across the DOE complex. More recent initiatives for nuclear energy and interim/permanent geological repositories for nuclear waste. To that end ECA develops documents on relevant topics like a “Community Handbook on Nuclear Energy: Understanding Nuclear Energy and Alternatives for the Future” <https://www.energyca.org/handbook-index> and “Ensuring Long-Term Success: Recommendations for the Next Administration on the U.S. Department of Energy’s Environmental Management Mission.” More information is available on their webpage (<https://www.energyca.org/>).

National Association of Counties (NACo). Ryti is one the Vice Chairs of the Environment, Energy, and Land Use (EELU) Policy Committee. Every Councilor can get an account with NACo and this will be useful for seeing of the reports and information available (<https://www.naco.org/>). I encourage Councilors interested in NACo consider joining one of the policy committees.

Environment, Energy & Land Use (EELU) Policy Steering Committee. Member since February 2023, Vice Chair of Energy Subcommittee in 2023-2024 and Chair of Energy Subcommittee in 2024-2025, and one of the Vice Chairs of the Committee in 2025-2026. Successful interim policy statement in support of energy communities infrastructure funding, and changes to platform to clarify support for consent-based siting of nuclear waste. Co-sponsor of regulatory reform interim policy statement. EELU has monthly meetings with a different speaker each month. The current Committee Chair, Supervisor Mike Turner of Louden County Virginia has been coordinating speakers on meeting the

greatly expanding power needs in both his region and nationally due to higher demand from data center, AI, and the general trend to electrification.

The May meeting had information on the NACo County Practices and Innovations Programs regarding economic development and rural development. We also had a presentation from Oklo on their SMR design. The deadline for policy proposals was discussed. I plan to submit the Energy Community Infrastructure Program as a renewal and will sponsor a water policy proposal and will look to broaden a fire infrastructure policy proposal.

Resilient Counties Initiative. Member in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Attending meetings to hear lessons learned on natural disasters and mitigation planning best practices from around the country. I received a NACo Presidential appointment to this initiative for 2025-2026. Resilient Counties has an ongoing initiative for Rural Energy.

New Mexico Counties (NMC) Board of Directors. Elected to represent Los Alamos County in 2025 and that term will expire at the end of 2026. Entire board meets roughly quarterly. We vote to support or oppose legislation prior to and during the State Legislature sessions. Other meetings presentations on topics of interest to NMC and approve recommendations on changes to NM State Law. There are also affiliate groups for County elected officials (Commissioners, Clerks, Assessors, Sheriffs, Treasurers) and some non-elected (e.g., Managers, Attorneys). We had a Board meeting May 1 in Torrence County and the annual conference coming in June 15-18 in McKinley County. At the May 1 Board meeting we had an update on the 30-day Legislative session (lots of action on medical, including medical malpractice reform), discussion about needing reform to the NM Civil Rights Act reform, voted to replace Luna County as the host for the 2027 annual conference, voted to accept FY2025 audit (NMC is a low risk auditee), voted to approve the FY2027 budget (no change to fees, fairly flat expenses, BERNco is leaving the NM CIA), and discussed a Civil Rights Act related police shooting case. Line up for the annual conference is 2027 Eddy County, 2028 Lea County, and 2029 Lincoln County.

New Mexico Counties Insurance Authority (NM CIA) Board. Appointed to represent Los Alamos County in 2023. One annual meeting for the full board annually. Los Alamos County gets its worker's compensation insurance through NM CIA. See the webpage for more information (<https://nmcountyinsuranceauthority.org/>).

New Mexico Municipal League Self-Insurers Fund Board of Trustees (NMML SIF BOT). Elected to Board in 2019. This Board meets roughly quarterly and reviews/adopts updates to policy, receives information on the SIF initiatives, approves financials and rate schedules. I had conflicts that prevented me attending the Board of Trustees retreat and meeting April 28-30. I was able to attend the NLC-RISC (Risk Information Sharing

Consortium) Trustee Conference May 13-15. Some highlights of the 2026 Trustee Conference are provided below. We get most of our insurance through the SIF. Los Alamos County was one of the founding members of the SIF. More information is available on their webpage (<https://nmml.org/161/Insurance>); meetings of the Trustees are public, and information packages can be found on the calendar.

NLC-RISC 2026 Trustees Conference

(<https://site.pheedloop.com/event/risctrustees/home>)

The annual NLC-RISC Trustees Conference provides an opportunity for pool executives and governing board members, also known as trustees, to learn about emerging trends impacting pooling organizations. The conference presents workshops, programs, and resources designed to help trustees fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities to the pool and execute the mission of their organization. This conference offers great opportunities to network with fellow trustees from across the country.

Here are the highlights from sessions I attended:

“The Power of AND” Keynote Speaker, Van Johnson, Mayor of Savannah, City of Savannah

Mayor Johnson always emphasizes AND solutions like Growth AND Preservation, Safety AND Justice, Tradition AND Innovation. Do not fall into OR solutions.

Federal Legislative and Legal Update

Supreme Court 2024- 25 Term Case Highlights: Trump v. Casa (universal injunction); Barnes v. Felix (law enforcement / Fourth Amendment); Bauer v. Marks (qualified immunity)

Supreme Court 2025- 26 Term Highlights: Law Enforcement Cases; Pung v. Isabella County (property tax foreclosure)

Emerging Issues: Automated License Plate Readers (“ALPR”); Cases against cities in Virginia and California; Criminal cases against individuals/law enforcement officers for misuse; Lawsuits over wrongful incarceration; Local governments sued over missteps in investigations/prosecutions years ago; Negligent hiring

Follow these links for NLC resources:

<https://www.nlc.org/resource/federal-budget-tracker/>

<https://www.nlc.org/resource/presidential-actions-summary-impact-to-local-governments/#EATracker>

Addressing the Mental Health Struggles of First Responders

The session examined the real challenges first responders face and highlight practical mitigation strategies grounded in a proactive, prevention-focused approach. The session also discussed Serve Strong, the NLC–RISC platform designed to connect first responders and their family members with accessible, tailored mental health and wellness resources.

<https://risc.nlc.org/servestrong/>

Skills for Disagreeing Better - Lessons from Braver Angels

Braver Angels is “leading the nation’s largest cross-partisan, volunteer-led movement to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic.” First, aim to listen and understand. Second, connect then share own perspective.

<https://braverangels.org/>

Fatigue - The Hidden Risks

Modern society is dependent on first responders providing services 24/7, despite mounting evidence for negative physical and mental health outcomes from sleep displacement due to shift work. This talk reviewed short- and long-term health consequences of sleep displacement and circadian misalignment due to shift work. The impact of sleep loss on cognitive function, decision making, and the ability of the first responder to process stress was discussed. Evidence from multiple studies testing strategies to mitigate the effects of fatigue and promote sleep health was presented.

From Risk to Resilience: Practical Strategies to Address Fatigue in Public Safety Organizations

While awareness of fatigue risk in public safety continues to grow, many municipal leaders face challenges when translating that awareness into actionable and politically feasible policy changes. Building on the themes introduced in the previous session, this session focused on practical, evidence-based strategies for mitigating fatigue risk within public safety organizations. Existing approaches to scheduling, overtime management, and fatigue countermeasures, including how existing policies—such as seniority-based overtime—can unintentionally increase organizational risk and liability.

Money, Employees, and Lives: How Workplace Behavior Impacts Safety

Workplace violence and incivility are rising threats with serious consequences for employee well-being, organizational productivity, and safety. According to OSHA, workplace violence includes threats, harassment, and physical assaults, with 740 fatalities reported in 2023 alone. Law enforcement and public sector positions are ranked as high-

risk professions in this category. The SHRM Civility Index reveals that U.S. businesses lose over \$2.7 billion daily due to incivility—through reduced productivity and absenteeism. These figures exclude hidden costs such as increased healthcare and workers' compensation claims, legal expenses, property damage, and the erosion of workplace culture.