

# 2026 NCAMC Summer Conference Schedule

## Wednesday, August 19, 2026

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

### ***Athenian Leadership Dialogue: The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace: Empowering Organizations by Encouraging People***

Facilitated by Camilla G. Pitman, MMC, PLS

***Azalea Room (154H)- City Hall/Skyline Center***

**(NOTE:** The Athenian Leadership Dialogue session is an Optional Educational Opportunity, and registration for this session is NOT included with the Conference registration)

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Conference Registration Opens | ***River Concourse***

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Networking with sponsors | ***River Concourse***

## Thursday, August 20, 2026

7:30 AM

Registration Opens/Exhibit Hall Open | ***River Concourse***

7:45 – 8:45 AM

Breakfast on Your Own

8:45 – 9:00 AM

### **Welcome/Announcements**

***Grand Ballroom***

9:00 – 10:30 AM

### **Working with Advisory Boards and Commissions**

**Dr. John Stephens, Angie Lord, and Allen Coleman |**

***Grand Ballroom***

How can local governments get the most out of Advisory Boards? What practices yield positive results for the organization as well as a positive experience for citizen volunteers? One of the most common and substantive ways citizen participation in local government occurs is through service on appointed advisory boards. While some Advisory Boards are statutorily mandated, most are created at the discretion of governing boards in order to provide community input for various local government functions.

10:30 – 11:00 AM

Sponsored Networking Break | ***River Concourse***

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

## **Local Governments in the North Carolina Constitutions**

**Kayla Leonard** | *Grand Ballroom*

Local governments have been around since before North Carolina became a state, so we should definitely have it all figured out by now, right? Unfortunately, it's not that simple. In this session, we will look at how the role of local government has changed with each iteration of the State Constitution from 1776 to 1971, and when records came into play.

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Sponsored Networking Lunch | *Riverfront Grand Ballroom*

1:30 – 2:30 PM

## **Contracts: A Municipal Perspective**

**Baxter Wells** | *Grand Ballroom*

Cities and towns enter into contracts on a regular basis for everything from janitorial supplies to building a new town hall. This session will explore how to identify important terms in a contract, when a contract is formed, and how to work with your town attorney to negotiate the best terms for the city.

2:30 – 3:00 PM

Sponsored Networking Break/Visit Sponsors | *River Concourse*

3:00 – 4:00 PM

## **Regionalization: Working with Your Neighbors**

**Baxter Wells** | *Grand Ballroom*

State statutes give towns a wide latitude to work with other local governments to provide services to their residents. This session will discuss examples of how those relationships work, and the legal pathways forward if your town wants to combine forces with its neighbors.

4:00 – 5:00 PM

## **Political Communication**

**Dr. Jennifer Brubaker** | *Grand Ballroom*

In age of communication, how does a public servant process all facets of communication from all stakeholders? Can forms of communication be perceived differently between staff and elected officials? This session will highlight the political communication process and its role with municipal clerks.

5:00 PM

Adjournment

5:00 – 9:00 PM

Dinner on Your Own

## **Friday, August 21, 2026**

7:30 AM

Registration Opens | *River Concourse*

Exhibit Hall Opens | *River Concourse*

Silent Auction Begins

7:30 – 8:30 AM

Breakfast on Your Own

8:30 – 8:45 AM

### **Welcome/Announcements**

*Grand Ballroom*

8:45 – 9:45 AM

### **Navigating Federal Issues and Strategic Advocacy**

**Lezlie Mozingo** | *Grand Ballroom*

Federal policy decisions and congressional advocacy continue to shape local government operations, funding opportunities, and long-term planning efforts. This session will provide a broad overview of current activity at the federal level, with a particular focus on actions and priorities of North Carolina's congressional delegation and why those developments matter to local governments. Attendees will also hear practical advocacy tips and best practices for engaging with federal representatives and strengthening applications for competitive federal grant opportunities.

9:45 – 10:00 AM

Sponsored Networking Break/Visit Sponsors | *River Concourse*

10:00 AM – 11:00 PM

### **Navigating Difficult Conversations**

**Dr. Kimalee Dickerson** | *Grand Ballroom*

Navigating difficult conversations is a core leadership skill. Healthy conflict gives us an opportunity to express our ideas and learn more about others' perspectives so we can come up with solutions that last. Working through conflict can make us stronger, more resilient, and more accepting. This session will give Clerks skills that will affect positive changes in your workplace and community.

11:00 – 11:15 AM

Sponsored Networking Break/Visit Sponsors | *River Concourse*

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

### **Secretary of State for North Carolina Elaine Marshall**

**Elaine F. Marshall** | *Grand Ballroom*

North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall and her staff provide an overview of the operations of her office and its programs.

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Sponsored Networking Luncheon | *Riverfront Grand Ballroom*

1:00 – 2:30 PM

**Keynote Session: Government Leadership Lessons From H-O-L-L-Y-W-O-O-D!**

Andy Masters | *Grand Ballroom*

Andy Masters creatively uses the magical imagery of Hollywood to help busy leaders RECRUIT, DEVELOP, and EMPOWER their organizations in a POSITIVE work culture—while reducing turnover and defeating the staffing crisis. That’s right, ENTERTAIN and INSPIRE your audiences with actual license-protected scenes from movies such as The Devil Wears Prada, Apollo 13, The Iron Lady—and even Office Space and X-Men. This unique program also cites the latest research from Harvard Business Review, Deloitte, and Glassdoor to provoke REAL organizational change from every attendee.

2:30 – 2:45 PM

Sponsored Networking Break/Visit Sponsors | *River Concourse*

2:45 – 4:15 PM

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4:15 – 5:15 PM

Sponsor Reception | *River Concourse*

5:30 PM

Sponsors break down; Dinner on Your Own

6:00 – 10:00 PM

**River Cruise (Optional)**

Dinner Included

**Saturday, August 22, 2026**

7:30 – 8:30 AM

Silent Auction Opens & Final Bids

7:30 – 8:30 AM

Breakfast on Your Own

8:30 – 10:00 AM

Annual Business Meeting | *Grand Ballroom*

10:00 – 10:15 AM

Sponsored Networking Break | *River Concourse*

10:15 AM – 11:15 PM

## **Clerking in the Age of AI**

**Kristina Wilson** | *Grand Ballroom*

This session will explore the use of AI in the clerk profession, particularly in regard to drafting minutes. The session will review different types of generative AI, discuss the legal implications, and weigh the pros and cons of AI use as a clerk.

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

## **Clerk Panel**

**Jennifer Ayre, Michael O’Dell, Connie Snyder, and Penny Spicer-Sidbury** | *Grand Ballroom*

A panel of experienced clerks from across North Carolina, representing communities ranging from small towns to some of the largest cities, will offer insight into the unique role of the only statutorily required position in local government. This year’s session will be driven by questions from YOU. Attendees were invited to submit questions during conference registration, and additional questions may be submitted throughout the conference during Thursday and Friday sessions using the onsite question box.

12:15 PM

Adjournment

12:30 – 1:00 PM

## **Orientation for Association Governing Body**

### **Membership**

*Grand Ballroom*

This 30-minute session is for those clerks interested in serving the NCAMC as an officer or district director. A brief overview of expectations will be shared by the Past Presidents Committee.

6:00 – 10:00 PM

## **2026/2027 Investiture of Officers and Directors &**

### **Banquet**

*Grand Ballroom*

*Agenda is Subject to Change Without Notice*



## Scheduled Presenters:

**Dr. Jennifer Brubaker** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, where she has taught since 2006, as well as the host of the podcast “Reframing Me.” Her primary teaching areas are family communication, integrated marketing communication and political communication. In addition, she serves as the coordinator of the journalism minor program. Jennifer authored the 2020 book "Celebrity and the American Political Process," which takes a look at the intersection between media and politics through the lens of celebrity involvement in the political process. After 20 years in academia, Jen added Public Scholar to her bio in 2022, bringing her scholarly research in family communication out of the classroom and into the podcast “Reframing Me,” which discusses both the evolution of parenting and family communication and the rediscovery of a woman’s self, as her children become teenagers. Dr. Brubaker earned a Ph.D. in communication studies at Kent State University, an M.A. in journalism & mass communication and a B.A. in business marketing & economics at The Ohio State University. Prior to UNCW, she taught at The Ohio State University, Kent State University and the University of Toledo. Originally from Ohio, Jen lives in Wilmington, NC, with her husband, three teenaged children, four dogs, cat and a menagerie of small animals. She loves spending time with her family, traveling and all things fitness, sports and wellness.

**Dr. Kimalee Dickerson** is an assistant professor of public leadership at the School of Government. She is an expert on public leadership, leadership development, and improving organizational culture within the public sector. Dickerson joined the School of Government faculty in 2021. In her role, she works with North Carolina’s appointed and elected public officials and with graduate students in the School’s Master of Public Administration program. Dickerson focuses on inclusive leadership in public organizations, facilitates team retreats, conducts research on organizational culture, and provides leadership training and coaching for public officials interested in individual and organizational change. She is the faculty lead on two flagship courses: Fundamental Supervisory Practices and Advanced Supervisory Practices. She also teaches one-day courses such as Navigate Difficult Conversations and Build an Equitable Organization, which she has customized for local government and attorney clients. Dickerson also serves as the lead faculty member for the School’s Engaging Women of Color program, a one-day conference for public officials. Previously, Dickerson worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Virginia. Before that, she served as a law clerk and an attorney for several government organizations. She earned a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia School of Education and Human Development and a J.D. from the UNC School of Law.

**Kayla Leonard** is the Essential Records Analyst with the State Archives of North Carolina. She previously worked in museums and archives in North Carolina, London, and Washington, D.C. She holds a B.A. in History and English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.A. in Museum Studies from George Washington University.

**Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall** is the first woman ever elected to a statewide, executive branch office in North Carolina. Secretary Marshall was a member of the NC State Senate before rising to statewide office. She holds a B.S. in Home Economics from the University of Maryland and a law degree from Campbell University. She has received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Campbell University, Lees-McRae College, Meredith College and the Republic of Moldova Testemitanu State University of Medicine. Her work experiences include teaching Home Economics in the public school and community college systems, co-ownership of a book and gift store, establishing an interior decorating business, and the private practice of law. Secretary Marshall has been very active in many civic groups in the areas of child welfare, women's issues, and agriculture and small-town economic development. Since becoming Secretary of State, she has received numerous state and national awards for leadership in technology, government innovation, and women's leadership.

**Andy Masters** is an award-winning author and international speaker who has written 5 books, earned 4 degrees, and presented over 1,000+ entertaining and impactful programs for 250,000+ attendees. He has been featured on many major media outlets — including LifeTime Television, PBS, Investor’s Business Daily, and Leadership Excellence magazine. Andy has earned the prestigious “CSP” award/designation of the National Speakers Association (NSA), the highest international recognition for professional speakers, in which less than 10% of over 5,000+ speakers worldwide have achieved. Andy is based in Orlando, Florida, and served as President of the NSA-Central Florida Chapter — representing 125+ authors, speakers, and experts in the region. Andy’s professional career included working for two high-profile performance improvement and marketing services firms, where his clients included Lexus, Honda, Nestle-Purina, and Anheuser Busch. Andy escaped the corporate world just in time to preserve his sanity, as he followed his passion for speaking, consulting, and entrepreneurship.

**Lezlie Mozingo** is the Owner and CEO of Strategics Consulting. She has represented public entities, including cities, counties, and regional councils of government, in Washington, D.C. for nearly 35 years, specializing in helping clients identify and secure federal funding. Known for her ability to devise and implement highly successful federal strategies, Leslie is also a frequent speaker and writer for local government publications, where she shares her expertise on federal issues, effective lobbying best practices, and how to be more competitive when pursuing federal grants. Leslie began her career in 1988 as a legislative assistant for U.S. Representative E. Clay Shaw, Jr. (FL). Prior to launching Strategics in 2013, Leslie was a partner in a boutique federal lobbying firm where she was employed for more than 20 years and took on additional leadership roles, such as Marketing Director and Executive Committee, in addition to lobbying for her portfolio of clients from all over the nation. Leslie has a bachelor's degree in business from The University of Alabama and a Master of Business Administration in marketing, summa cum laude, from The American University, where she was a Bryce Harlow Scholar.

**Dr. John Stephens** is an associate professor of public administration and government at the School of Government. He is an expert on citizen participation and civic involvement, civic technology, collaboration, dispute resolution, facilitation, and mediation of public disputes. He joined the School of Government in 1996. Previously, he was research director for the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management. His publications include *Guidebook to Public Dispute Resolution in North Carolina* and *Public Management Bulletin: Using a Mediator in Public Disputes*. Stephens is co-author of *Reaching for Higher Ground: Tools for Powerful Groups and Communities* and *School Funding Disputes: Mediate, Don't Litigate*. He serves on the steering committee of the University Network for Collaborative Governance. He earned a bachelor's degree from Earlham College, a master's degree in philosophy from The City University, London, and a Ph.D. from the Jimmy and Roslyn Carter School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University.

**Baxter Wells** was born and raised in North Carolina. He graduated from NC State and spent a few years in law enforcement in Fayetteville and Durham. After attending NC Central University for law school, Baxter moved back to Raleigh and clerked for Justice Morgan of the North Carolina Supreme Court. Following the clerkship, Baxter joined the Raleigh City Attorney's office where he handled real estate matters and IT contracts, and assisted the City's Parks and Recreation department. Now Baxter works for the NC League of Municipalities as Assistant General Counsel, where he focuses on appellate advocacy, in-house contract advising, and member services.

**Kristina Wilson** joined the School of Government in September 2021. Her work focuses on local government structure and authority, board procedures, and public records and transparency issues. Wilson earned her J.D. *cum laude* from Wake Forest University School of Law where she was a published member and executive online editor of the *Wake Forest Law Review*. Wilson earned undergraduate degrees in English and Spanish *cum laude* from Georgetown University. She is a member of the North Carolina State Bar.