



Last week several of our Councilmembers and I attended the 2009 League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference along with other elected officials and management from nearly every other city in the state of Arizona. The conference takes place at a different city in Arizona every year and this year it took place in Oro Valley. Next year, Glendale will host its first ever League Conference at the Renaissance Hotel and Spa at Westgate.

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is an organization that aims to promote local self-government, municipal independence, and to provide professional and high quality assistance to the municipal governments in the State of Arizona. The League's primary focus is to represent the interests of cities and towns before the legislature. Each year the League maintains a strong presence at the Capitol and works hard to make sure that state legislation is in accordance with the best interest of League members. Beyond legislative representation, the League also provides technical and legal assistance, coordinates shared services, and produces high quality conference and educational events.

The League Annual Conference is very important for city leaders because it gives us an opportunity for us to meet and determine what our most important priorities are for the upcoming year, what to work toward and what to watch out for during the legislative session. It also gives city leaders an opportunity to meet with each other and share ideas, best practices and important information.

This year, there were many sessions that were devoted to the difficult economic situations that every city and town is currently facing. Seminar and discussion topics included *Working Together: Regional and Statewide Solutions*, *Managing City and Town Employee Costs*, *Budgeting for Elected Officials*, and *Reexamining How We Serve Our Citizens*, just to name a few. There was also valuable information shared related to transportation, transit, open meeting laws, public records, sustainability, stimulus funds, water issues and public-private partnerships.

Membership with the League of Arizona Cities and Towns allows Glendale to stay informed on key legislative issues and stay up-to-date on best practices for Arizona cities and towns. This relationship helps us deliver more effective service and stay informed on issues that will affect the quality of life for our residents.