

10th Annual Women's Legacy Conference  
**Thursday, May 13 and Friday, May 14, 2021**

## THURSDAY, MAY 13

- 11:30a** Welcome and Business Meeting (Live)
- 12:00p** Keynote - Future by Women with Rebecca Ryan (Webinar)
- 1:00p** Break
- 1:15p** Zen and Leadership by Rebecca Ryan (Webinar)
- 2:15p** Content is King (Webinar)
  - Jennie Vana, Director of Media Services, City of Des Plaines
- 3:15p** Running in Heels (Webinar)
  - Carol Sente, Former IL Representative
  - Cathy Adduci, Village President, River Forest
  - Elizabeth Davies, Village Trustee, Grayslake

## FRIDAY, MAY 14

- 8:30a** Coffee and Chat - Social Hour (Live)
- 9:00a** Ins and Outs of Data (Webinar)
  - Cory Poris-Plasch - POLCO
  - Michael Kumbera, Assistant Village Manager, Village of Algonquin
- 10:00a** Succession Planning (Webinar)
  - Johanna L. Nyden, AICP, Community Development Director, City of Evanston
- 11:00a** Closing Keynote - "You Got This" by Lelia Gowland (Live)
  - Live! Interactive Activity - Video On! Bring a snack!

**Register Online @ [Legacyprojectnow.org](https://Legacyprojectnow.org)**

# KEYNOTE BY REBECCA RYAN

## FUTURE X WOMEN

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In this opening keynote, we'll take a long view of where the current women's movement is going and talk about the value of slowing down for greatest impact. Futurist, economist, and Buddhist Rebecca Ryan will share observations about what to expect as we navigate the sometimes-charged and changing dynamics around gender in the workplace, in politics, and in the economy. She'll share why we're at a tipping point for gender equality at work, the future of the #MeToo movement, and why women should run for public office. Bonus: a moment of mindfulness.

Addresses ICMA Practice Areas 3 (Equity and Inclusion) and 5 (Personal Resiliency and Development)

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## Zen & Leadership

### Session Description

Many organizations host mindfulness programs for employees to improve employee well-being, decrease stress, and improve morale. But what can Zen and meditation do for those of us in the bosses' chair?

Rebecca Ryan is an ordained Zen priest, meditation instructor, and Zen Leadership instructor.

This workshop is for participants who get so caught up in the past or future that they are not fully experiencing the present. You will learn a different way to relate to the world, with greater awareness.

### Learning Objectives

- Learn how to sit zazen: what do you do with your body, your hands, your breath... and your always-moving mind!
- Practice two short, silent meditations
- Learn two invisible Zen "flips" that will help you in difficult leadership situations

### Speaker

Rebecca Ryan

### Moderator

Mysi Hall, GovHR USA

Address ICMA Practice Areas (4) Staff Effectiveness; (5) Personal Resiliency and Development; (6) Strategic Leadership, Initiative, Risk-Taking, Vision, Creativity, Innovation and Continuous Improvement Presentation Skills

# THURSDAY SESSIONS

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## Content is (still) king! How to catch and hold your audience's attention in the sea of competing content

**Session Description** What makes for a great presentation, social media post, video, podcast or blog? It's the content! Think about what makes your thumb stop scrolling on your social media feed - it's a cool picture, video or infographic. Now think about what pulls you in – it's a personal story, useful information or a call to action. Great content grabs the audience's attention and holds it. Drawing on her two decades of communications experience, Jennie Vana, will share specific strategies—humor, relevance, authenticity, digestibility to name a few—for creating compelling content that informs and engages audiences.

**Learning Objectives**

- Learn specific strategies to create engaging content that reaches and resonates with your audience
- See examples of compelling content from savvy local governments and borrow/steal and adapt for your organization.

**Speaker** Jennie Vana Director of Media Services, City of Des Plaines

**Moderator** Tammy Wierciak,, Metro Strategies

Addresses ICMA Practice Area (14) Communication and Information Sharing

## Running in Heels - How Women Lead in Elected Office

**Session Description** In this session we will hear from women who have served in elected positions. They will share their experience, challenges and wisdom about leadership from their unique perspective. Join us to hear powerful stories of successful women in public service.

**Learning Objectives**

- How to better manage and survive in a male dominated organization.
- Tips for navigating and thriving in a political environment.
- Lean what it takes to run and hold public office.

**Panel Speakers** Former Illinois Representative Carol Sente,  
Village President, Village of River Forest, Cathy Adduci  
Village Trustee, Village of Grayslake, Elizabeth Davies

**Moderator** Kathy Thake, Village of Niles

Addresses Practice Areas: (5) Personal Resiliency and Development, (6) Strategic Leadership, Initiative, Risk-Taking, Vision, Creativity, Innovation and Continuous Improvement.



# FRIDAY SESSIONS

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## Succession Planning and Re-evaluating Positions - Being Nimble with Employee Expectations

**Session Description** Succession planning is a critical issue for all organizations. Even though women in our departments want to grow and continue to move up the ladder, it can be difficult to convince employees to make that leap. But, often the difficulty in convincing employees stems from our lack of creativity and (perhaps) stubbornness in keeping positions and expectations the same as they've always been. In this session, we'll talk about how to encourage women to take on leadership roles by re-evaluating our positions and accurately identifying what is truly important about the work. By being nimble and more imaginative on how work gets done, we can give our employees greater opportunities to move up in our organizations and solidify our organizations' future success. As employees, how can we better manage supervisor and management's expectations to facilitate advancement that fits our career and personal goals.

### Learning Objectives

- Explore ways to encourage women to take on leadership roles in your organization.
- Learn to reevaluate positions to maximize opportunity for employee growth.
- Learn how to self-advocate for new ways to advance in an organization.

**Speaker** Johanna L. Nyden, AICP, Community Development Director of Evanston Illinois

Addresses ICMA Practice Areas (4) Staff Effectiveness, Diversity, Human Resource Management

## The Ins and Outs of Using Data

**Session Description** The public sector has been moving toward making data driven decisions. We collect data in every department and for every program, but how do we use that data to improve internal operations and engage with our residents?

### Learning Objectives

- Learn how village officials have used data to improve internal operations in key departments.
- Learn about how you can use data to engage your residents and get input from the broader community, not just the vocal few.

**Speakers** Michael Kumbera, Assistant Village Manager, Village of Algonquin  
Cory Poris-Plasch, POLCO/NRC

Addresses ICMA Practice Areas (2) Community Engagement; (10) Service Delivery; and (11) Technological Literacy.

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## KEYNOTE BY LELIA GOWLAND



### LIVE! Interactive Session

### You Got This: How to Get Ahead with Grace and Authenticity

How do you want to feel about your career? Whether you're looking to get that next promotion or to feel more fulfilled in your current gig, Lelia offers tangible strategies to make the shift. Part planning session, part group therapy, you'll leave with personally applicable tools you can implement right away.

Addresses ICMA Practice Area 5 (Personal Resiliency and Development)