

2026 MPELRA WINTER CONFERENCE

In-Person *and* Virtual Attendance Available!

See the next page of the brochure for registration details. *Members, register by January 23, 2026, to take advantage of the **early bird rate!***



Conference Agenda

8:15 – 8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

- Jenn Worthington, MPELRA President, and
Roxanne Bonner, NPELRA President

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Back to the Basics – Investigations, Train the Trainer. Investigations can be time-consuming, intimidating, and very complex. This session will review procedural requirements and best practices for workplace investigations, with a focus on how to prepare your organization to conduct investigations from a consistent, process-oriented approach. Presenters Alison Kelly and Ben Reber will review the critical components of effective investigations and provide tools to help you and your staff approach investigations with confidence and efficiency. *Ben Reber & Alison Kelly*

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Role Play investigations

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Annual Business Meeting

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Becoming an Employer of Choice in the New World of Work – and Why It Matters: As the pandemic fades, one truth is clear: the world of

work has changed. Employees and job seekers are rethinking where, how, and why they work—posing unique challenges for the public sector.

Governments are expected to deliver more with fewer resources, while citizens demand faster, more responsive service. New research shows that effective HR practices are the key: they not only improve government performance but also directly boost residents' satisfaction with local services and overall quality of life. *Bob Lavigna*

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Break (with chocolate-covered bacon)

3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Head on: Never Waste a Good Crisis. The phased closure of the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Stillwater is a complex undertaking involving a myriad of partners including state and local officials, family and advocates, incarcerated persons, and an array of public sector labor unions. Matt Begansky, Labor Relations Manager from the Minnesota Department of Corrections, will present on how the department approached the legislative directive to close the facility and how leaning into the hard conversations with unions made all the difference.

4:45 p.m.

Networking

Creekside Lounge

Thank you for coming! Safe travels!



Future MPELRA Conferences

2026 Conferences

2026 NPELRA Annual Training Conference –
April 19-22 - Charlotte, NC

2026 MPELRA Summer Conference – August 5-7
– Wood Lake Meeting Center, Rochester

2027 Conferences

2027 MPELRA Winter Conference – February 4
– Crowne Plaza, Plymouth

2027 NPELRA Annual Training Conference –
April 11-14 - Fort Worth, TX

2027 MPELRA Summer Conference – August 11-13
– Breezy Point Inn, Breezy Point

2028 Conferences

2028 MPELRA Winter Conference – February 3
– Crowne Plaza, Plymouth

2028 NPELRA Annual Training Conference –
April 9-12 - San Diego, CA

2028 MPELRA Summer Conference – August 2-4
– Treasure Island, Welch

REGISTRATION

Please note that we have moved to electronic payment only. If you have any problem with your conference registration, please contact National PELRA at 858-299-3150 or at educate@npelra.org.

Pricing:

Member Early Bird – register by Jan. 23, 2026: \$150

Registration Costs for non-members: \$200

No registrations will be allowed after January 30, 2026

If you are a non-member, please consider

joining! Contact customerservice@npelra.org to become a member.

Registration Link [here](#).

Registration Deadline: Please register as soon as possible for planning purposes. The deadline to be sure you will receive the invitation and link for the session on time is January 30, 2026.

Cancellation Policy: Any cancellations made after January 28th, 2026, will not receive a refund. Reservations made after the deadline are non-refundable.

LODGING

Make your own lodging arrangements by calling the Crowne Plaza at 1-763-559-6600 and noting your MPELRA attendance. Reserved lodging is limited; the MPELRA room block will be released on Jan. 14, 2026.

The lodging rate is \$140 per night, plus tax. Cancellation fees may apply.

REMINDERS

MPELRA will no longer provide printed presentation materials for in-person attendees. All registrants will receive electronic copies of the materials before the conference. If you prefer a printed version, please plan to print your copy in advance.