



**MML President
Mayor Randy Rhoads
Lee's Summit**

WHAT SPARKED YOUR INTEREST IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

There were a couple of factors. I had been involved in boards, commissions, and served as a city council member for a number of years. I worked as a mechanical engineer in the private sector, retiring in 2007. After retiring, I decided to run for mayor. I figured if I win, I'll gladly serve and if I lose, I'll play golf; clearly this was a "no lose" situation! Further, my wife fully supported me in this decision because her father had also served as mayor.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE TOUGHEST LESSON YOU HAVE LEARNED DURING YOUR CAREER IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

The wheels of government turn much slower than in the private sector. Actually, that is a good concept; since you are spending the electorate's money, issues should be thoroughly vetted before committing to use tax dollars.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN MISSOURI?

I suspect every community in Missouri has pressing needs that far outweigh available resources. That is a tremendous challenge further complicated by

City of Lee's Summit Mayor Randy Rhoads was elected as President of the Missouri Municipal League at the MML Annual Conference in September. He will serve a one-year term.

Mayor Rhoads will lead the MML Board of Directors in guiding MML policies and initiatives in 2016.

The Missouri Municipal League is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a President, Vice President, Active Past Presidents, 12 elected municipal officials and five appointed municipal officials; with at least one Board member from each Congressional District.

limitations or constraints placed on one's community by well-intentioned but limiting legislation or regulations from other governmental bodies.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST IMPORTANT GOAL THIS YEAR AS YOU SERVE AS MML'S PRESIDENT?

I have two goals: to promote and encourage meaningful discussions on the transportation challenges facing our State and to protect the ability for local governments to make the decisions that are best for their communities.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING SERVICE AS A LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN THEIR COMMUNITY?

Don't allow yourself to get discouraged if solutions to issues do not move as fast as you would like. Also, bear in mind that you are spending other people's money and your decisions will be analyzed and reviewed by constituents, not all of whom are supportive of you or your decisions. Further, base your decisions on your own thought processes and rationale, avoiding excessive influence from outside of the deliberative process or special interests. Ultimately, you are the one accountable for your decisions.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CITY TO SOMEONE WHO HAD NEVER VISITED?

Lee's Summit is one of Missouri's larger cities but with a small community feel. Recently, we retained an outside consultant to help "brand" Lee's Summit and, after interviews and surveys, determined that the appropriate tagline for our city was "Yours Truly".

WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

Probably my greatest interest is being a grandparent (I am a really good one). Also, I enjoy playing golf and supporting our sports teams.

WHERE WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO TRAVEL, AND WHY?

My short answer is YES. I find it is interesting to visit and see other parts of the world and, if nothing else, helps me fully appreciate home. □

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