



UTAH ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS

## *Membership Benefits and Services*

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### **Membership Services**

Being informed and trained on new and changing statutory and regulatory provisions is critical to the successful governance of any district. *In recent years, many new statutory requirements have been enacted that apply to districts. All districts are now required to post meeting agendas on the Utah Public Notice Website in order to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. New changes in the procurement law are now effective. Additional transparency requirements will soon apply to all districts, including districts with budgets under \$1M. **How can district boards and management stay informed and trained on the ever-increasing requirements of government service? UASD provides resources, information channels and training that will help you to stay in compliance!***

There is an ever-increasing need for comprehensive governance and compliance training for local districts and special service districts. State statutes governing districts require training of board members and management relating to a variety of issues, including the Open Meetings Law and GRAMA requirements. The *Pocket Guide for Board Members* provides answers to key issues. It serves as an important resource, and is available to board members and management of UASD members.

An understanding of changes to the Ethics Law is most important, particularly in light of penalties for violation of Ethics and Open Meetings laws.

The employment of best management practices has been and continues to be a focus of legislators, as well as the Legislative Auditor General. The training provided by the UASD addresses these important issues and fulfills the training requirements enumerated in statute.

### ***Membership Services and Benefits include:***

- Board Member training
- Model personnel policies and procedures
- Website members-only section
- Resource library
- Social Media communications
- Problem solving assistance
- Public relations assistance
- Procurement policy templates
- Bylaws templates
- Useful online resources
- Q & A resource
- UASD Pocket Guide for Board Members
- Video resources for public education

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## **Legislative Services & Governmental Relations**

The UASD is the only voice on Capitol Hill that is actively representing and fighting for all Utah districts, regardless of the services provided, or their affiliation with other organizations.

The UASD reviews and monitors every bill that is introduced into legislation for its potential impact upon Utah's districts. This represents a continual effort throughout the year, including the full-time legislative session as well as the interim legislative session. Any bills requiring action are quickly brought to the attention of the UASD Legislative Committee and Board of Directors in order to determine the Association's position on each respective issue. Through electronic communications, the UASD informs its members of new and immediate issues and needs. These bills then become the focus of Association lobbying efforts to achieve an outcome favorable to districts.

The UASD is involved in collaborative efforts with all local government service providers, including the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, the Water Coalition, Rural Water, Utah Water Users, and many others. These relationships create an effective consortium in addressing common issues faced by districts and other government entities.

### **Legislative Services and Governmental Relations include:**

#### **UASD Legislative Services**

- Actively represents and promotes the interests of districts before the legislature
- Initiates, drafts and affirmatively moves district legislation through the legislative process
- Provides direct access to the Legislature
- Provides constant monitoring of the legislative process
- Monitors state rule-making activities
- Develops of and participates in many coalitions and relationships
- Informs and functions as a resource for Legislators regarding districts
- Coordinates with affiliated organizations
- Provides comprehensive weekly legislative updates during the general legislative session
- Provides daily emails during legislative session re: new bills affecting districts, etc.
- Provides representation and updates as needed during the interim legislative session
- Provides education and training on new statutory requirements
- Makes available UASD Pocket Guide for Legislators about districts

#### **Governmental Relations**

- Is a liaison with State agencies
- Actively develop and maintains open communications
- Provides advocacy with State departments
- Provides assistance with constituent affairs and interests
- Provides information and education on audit issues
- Provides referrals for funding sources
- Provides representation for districts on various state boards, i.e. procurement, privatization, water, sewer, transparency etc.