



2025

OTA WINTER CONFERENCE

*Leading the
Way*

REGISTRATION

COLUMBUS, OHIO

Leading the Way

2025 OTA WINTER CONFERENCE

Get your gear ready - it's time to find a trail for your future! The 2025 OTA Winter Conference is fast approaching, and we are *Leading the Way* from **January 29-31, 2025**, at the **Greater Columbus Convention Center**. We will help guide you as we take you on an unforgettable journey with 100+ educational workshops, unmatched networking opportunities, and one of the largest trade shows in the midwest for local governments.

Ready to climb higher? Our conference has everything you expect and more! Elevate your experience at the exciting **Casino Night** and the **Conference Kickoff** - new for 2025. Get inspired at the **General Session** featuring expert speakers and OTA leaders, and don't miss the Friday Luncheon with keynote speaker Dave Carey, a Vietnam veteran and prisoner of war survivor.

For the first time, we are offering a **One-Day Trade Show Pass**, designed to make your conference experience more flexible and accessible. Whether you are a seasoned township official or employee, or new to the field, there is something at the OTA Winter Conference for everyone.

As we lead the way, are you ready to join us on the trail to success? Read on to discover what is in store, and how to register, for the 2025 OTA Winter Conference. Housing and parking information can be found on page 5, and pre-registration is now open (page 8), **running through January 10, 2025.**



Schedule of Events

Wednesday, January 29:

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Newbie Orientation
12:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Trade Show
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Network with Vendors
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Workshops
2:15 - 3:15 p.m.	Workshops
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Workshops
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Conference Kickoff (FREE)
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	County Officers Meeting

Thursday, January 30:

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Trade Show
8:00 - 8:45 a.m.	Networking with Vendors
9:00 - 10:45 a.m.	General Session
11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	CLOUT Meeting & Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Workshops
2:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Refreshment Break
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Ethics Training
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Workshops
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.	Workshops
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	CLOUT Workshop
6:30 - 10:00 p.m.	Casino Night

Friday, January 31:

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Coffee & Conversation with Heidi
7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Trade Show
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Workshops
9:30 - 10:15 a.m.	Refreshment Break/ Networking with Vendors
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.	Workshops
10:15 a.m.	OTARMA Meeting
11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Last Chance to Network with Vendors
11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Luncheon
1:45 - 2:45 p.m.	Workshops
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Workshops

Schedule is subject to change

Conference Highlights

Limited tickets available!

CONFERENCE KICKOFF Wednesday, January 29 Free

This year, we are launching a new event, the Conference Kickoff! Held Wednesday evening, this event is open to all attendees and held inside the Trade Show Hall from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Kickoff the conference early with a great networking opportunity. Light appetizers will be served and a cash bar will be available.

LUNCHEON Friday, January 31 \$40

As you enjoy a delicious plated lunch, you will hear from Dave Carey, a Vietnam veteran who survived as a prisoner of war for five and a half years. Dave shares powerful lessons on resilience, the strength of the human spirit, and the importance of choice in overcoming adversity. See page 7 for more information on our luncheon speaker.

CASINO NIGHT Thursday, January 30 \$50

Returning for 2025 is an attendee favorite, Casino Night! The evening will kick off with a buffet of heavy appetizers and drinks while you settle in and mingle with your fellow OTA members. Then, you can show off your gambling skills at poker, blackjack, and more (with play money, of course!). Get your tickets now, as this event sells out every year!

ONE-DAY TRADE SHOW PASS \$90

For the first time ever, we're offering a special One-Day Trade Show Pass for attendees who want to experience the excitement of the OTA Winter Conference Trade Show without committing to the full event! At just \$90, this **on-site purchase** is perfect for township employees and industry professionals with limited time. Please note, the one-day pass is available only to affiliate, associate, and non-members, and cannot be purchased by township trustees or fiscal officers. This pass doesn't include conference workshops, session recordings, or optional events.

Conference Highlights

GENERAL SESSION **Thursday, January 30** **FREE**

Join the OTA at the General Session. Hear from the OTA President Scott Fabian and Executive Director Heidi M. Fought on the progress and future of the association. See which counties won our 2024 membership awards, and wrap up the session with a dynamic presentation from Kathy Gruver, who inspires personal and professional growth. See page 7 for more information on Kathy.

NEWBIE ORIENTATION **Wednesday, January 29** **FREE**

The Newbie Orientation is tailored to our first-time attendees, where they will mingle with OTA staff and board members. There will also be a presentation about the conference, the benefits of their membership, and everything the OTA has to offer. Beverages and snacks are included at the event.

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS **WITH HEIDI** **Friday, January 31** **FREE**

Formerly Fritters with Fought, join OTA's Executive Director, Heidi M. Fought, for coffee and conversations on Friday morning. Enjoy the final day of conference with this great networking opportunity, and a way to get to know our Executive Director. Taking place outside the Union Station Ballroom, Director Fought will be mingling with members and answering questions throughout.

ETHICS TRAINING **Thursday, January 30** **FREE**

Pursuant to R.C. §507.12, all fiscal officers must have two hours of ethics training each term in office as part of continuing education. This class - provided by the Ohio Ethics Commission - will satisfy that requirement. Space is limited.

More workshops
on Wednesday,
January 29,
and Thursday,
January 30!

Hotel Accommodations

When can I reserve my room?

The room blocks will open on Wednesday, November 1, at 10:00 a.m.

How do I book my hotel?

Hotel reservations are handled by the Columbus Housing Bureau, and must be made at ohiotownships.org. Once registered for a hotel room, you will receive an initial confirmation email from the housing bureau.

What is the deadline to get special room rates?

The hotel reservation cut off date is January 10, 2025. After this date, availability may be limited and room rates are subject to change.

What if I need to change or cancel my reservation?

Changes and cancellations prior to January 28, 2025, can be made using the online reservation system or emailed to the Housing Bureau at Housing@ExperienceColumbus.com. To cancel your reservation after January 28, 2025, contact your hotel directly. You may be charged a fee. "No shows" will be billed for one room night.

Who do I go to with hotel booking questions?

Please contact Michael Zaky at 614-863-0045 or zaky@ohiotownships.org.



Parking Information

Are you driving into town for only one day of the conference? Please find parking information below for ease of travel. The map will be included in the January/February issue of *Ohio Township News* magazine. Standard rates range from \$15-\$20 per day.

Ohio Center Garage
400 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Goodale Garage
70 E. Goodale Street
Columbus, OH 43215

South Garage
50 E. Nationwide Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43215

North Surface Lot
50 E. Goodale Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Vine Garage
37 Vine Street
Columbus, OH 43215

East Surface Lot
80 E. Nationwide Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43215

Hotel Options

Hotel	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Drury Plaza Hotel 88 E. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, Ohio	\$184	\$184	N/A	N/A
Hampton Inn & Suites 501 N. High St. Columbus, Ohio	\$184	\$184	N/A	N/A
Hilton 402 N. High St. Columbus, Ohio	\$195	\$195	\$195	\$195
Hyatt Regency 350 N. High St. Columbus, Ohio	\$188	\$188	\$188	\$188
Red Roof PLUS+ 111 E. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, Ohio	\$119	\$119	N/A	N/A
Sonesta 33 E. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, Ohio	\$179	\$179	N/A	N/A

Conference Information

Conference App

The conference app is the easiest way to find the full schedule of events broken down by day, workshop handouts, the trade show map, and an interactive vendor list. Keep an eye out for more information and a tutorial in the coming weeks.

Spouses/Guests

Spouses and guests may attend the workshops and Trade Show for a fee of \$30 per person. Please indicate on the registration form that they will be attending. If your spouse is a township official or employee, they must register separately.

Spouses and guests are also invited to purchase tickets to optional events.

Handouts

The OTA will continue to provide handouts in each session. A "Handouts" table will be available throughout the conference where leftovers can be found. Additionally, all note pages and handouts will be linked on the OTA website and the conference app.

Food

Meals are generally not provided throughout the conference, except at optional events, which may require a ticket.

You are more than welcome to pack your own snacks. Several close food options are available and there are also numerous restaurants within walking distance of the Convention Center.

Continuing Education

The OTA works with the Treasurer of State's office to certify classes for Certified Public Investment Management (CPIM) training.

Additionally, the OTA works with the Auditor of State's office to certify training to meet Fiscal Officer Integrity Act requirements.

Stay tuned for more details.

Trade Show

More than 150 vendors participate in the trade show, ranging from truck and tractor dealers to state agencies, printing services, and playground companies.

A valid conference registration is required to enter the Trade Show hall.

Workshop Preview

Each year, we offer valuable and timely workshops to best serve attendees. With workshops covering a broad range of topics and tracks, you will have a hard time picking which workshop to attend. Below is a **preview** of what you can look forward to at the 2025 Winter Conference!

New(er) Fiscal Officers:

- » Chart of Accounts: Knowing Which Fund to Use
- » Township Fiscal Officer Duties
- » Records Retention: Where to Begin!

Experienced Fiscal Officers:

- » Legislative Updates Impacting Fiscal Duties
- » No HR Department? Responsibilities of the Fiscal Officer with HR
- » Creative Funding Sources to Provide Requested Services

Trustees:

- » How to Handle Unexpected Disruptions to Township Operations
- » Communication Techniques to Avoid Sunshine Law Violations
- » Let's Make a Deal: Collective Bargaining for Townships

Zoning/ Planning:

- » Agricultural Land Preservation
- » Using Drones for Township Services
- » Following Protocol to Reduce Legal Action

Safety Services:

- » How the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association Can Help Your Township Fire Chief
- » Mental Health and First Responder Wellness
- » Obtaining Police Coverage in Your Township

Roads:

- » Work Zone Safety
- » Road Rights-of-Way: Township Responsibilities
- » Alternative Paving Techniques

Township Operations:

- » The Anatomy of an Arbitration for Townships
- » Offering Employees a Deferred Comp Program
- » Navigating Ohio's Prevailing Wage Law

*A complete listing of workshops will be in the December edition of *Grassroots Clippings*, and the January/February issue of *Ohio Township News*.

General Session Speaker DR. KATHY GRUVER



Dr. Kathy Gruver is an internationally recognized speaker, award-winning author, and ACC-certified coach known for her dynamic presentations that inspire personal and professional growth. With a PhD in Natural Health, she has authored eight books, won 12 awards, and delivered talks on four continents. Kathy's expertise spans stress reduction, communication enhancement, leadership development, and team-building.

Dr. Gruver developed a stress reduction program for the U.S. military and studied mind/body medicine at Harvard's Benson-Henry Institute. She has been featured in major outlets like *Time*, *CNN*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and has appeared on over 250 media platforms, including *NPR*, *Dr. Phil*, and *CBS Radio*. She is also the co-host of *The Fire and Earth Podcast* and the host of the national TV series *The Alternative Medicine Cabinet*.

Don't miss out on Dr. Kathy Gruver's powerful session on Thursday, January 30, at the General Session where she will share actionable tools for reducing stress, improving communication, and fostering true leadership. Walk away feeling empowered and equipped to make impactful changes in both your personal and professional life!

Luncheon Speaker DAVE CAREY



Dave Carey is an acclaimed motivational speaker, consultant, coach, and author known for delivering hope, wisdom, and inspiration. Drawing on his extraordinary experience as a POW for five and a half years during the Vietnam War, Dave shares powerful lessons on resilience, the strength of the human spirit, and the importance of choice in overcoming adversity.

For over 20 years, Carey has inspired organizations like IBM, Apple, Starbucks, and more with customized keynotes that address their unique challenges and reinforce their core values. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and retired Navy Captain, Carey's military honors include the Legion of Merit, five Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart. He continues to offer real, entertaining, and motivational messages that inspire both professional and personal growth.

Get a ticket to the Luncheon, held Friday, January 31, to hear this heroic speaker and learn along with your fellow township officials.



Leading the Way

2025 OTA WINTER CONFERENCE

Please use a separate form for each registrant. Registration will not be processed without payment.
You may also register online at ohiotownships.org.

ATTENDEE NAME _____

SPOUSE/GUEST _____

*Spouse/Guest cannot be township official or employee

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

TOWNSHIP _____ COUNTY _____

TOWNSHIP POSITION Trustee Fiscal Officer Other _____ I am a first time conference attendee
 If yes, do you plan to attend the Newbie Orientation (pg. 5)?

FOR HEADCOUNT PURPOSES, CHECK ALL THE DAYS YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING: Wednesday Thursday Friday

Pre-registration deadline is Friday, January 10, 2025 (mailed registrations must be postmarked by this date).
All cancellations past this date are non-refundable. On-site registration will be available for \$180 per registrant or \$90 for the one-day trade show pass.

Registration

		# OF TICKETS	TOTAL
OTA Member Registration*	\$130 per ticket	x	
Non-Member Registration*	\$180 per ticket	x	
Spouse/Guest Attendance Fee	\$30 per ticket	x	
Casino Night	\$50 per ticket	x	
Luncheon	\$40 per ticket	x	
TOTAL			

*Active membership in the OTA is on an individual, not township, basis and is limited to trustees and fiscal officers. Affiliate Membership is available for all township employees. Associate Membership is open to any person or company interested in township government. All types of membership are eligible for the registration discount. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Kelli Bailey at 614-863-0045 or bailey@ohiotownships.org.

Payment Information

Check Credit Card

CREDIT CARD NO. _____

EXPIRATION _____ CSC _____ ZIP CODE _____

NAME & BILLING (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CREDIT CARD RECEIPT _____

PLEASE RETURN TO:
6500 Taylor Road, Suite A
Blacklick, Ohio 43004
Fax: 614-863-9751

You will receive a confirmation via email.

QUESTIONS?
Contact Michael Zaky:
614-863-0045
zaky@ohiotownships.org