



Wednesday
JANUARY 29

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration (A 110/Hall A Lobby)

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Newbie Orientation (B 140-145)

Sponsored by JobsOhio

12:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Trade Show (Hall A)

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Networking with Vendors (Hall A)

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Educational Sessions (A-Pod, B-Pod, and Hyatt Regency)

Trustees

Handling Unexpected Disruptions to Township Operations (A 211-213)

When a key township official suddenly resigns or passes away, it can disrupt operations and create immediate leadership challenges. We will delve into strategies for handling unexpected vacancies, including succession planning, interim appointments, and effective transitions. Develop skills for maintaining stability and continuity in your township's services during times of sudden personnel changes.

Speaker: Julie Donnan, Brosius, Johnson and Griggs, LLC

Safety Services

How the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association Can Help Your Township Fire Chief (A 214-215)

The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association offers numerous resources to support township fire departments. This presentation details how the OFCA can assist your fire chief with training, operational guidance, and leadership development. Learn about the benefits of membership and how to access essential support.

Speaker: Joseph Kitchen, Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association

Roads

Alternative Paving Techniques (A 220-222)

This session will focus on the overlay, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of existing roadways. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the use of some non-traditional construction materials that are well-suited for the township roadway network, including cold mix paving and asphalt recycling. The attendees will leave this session understanding where and when to use the construction materials and methods to extend the monies the township has for pavement reconstruction.

Speaker: Bruce Wehr, Asphalt Materials, Inc.

Zoning

Township Zoning and Solar Facilities (B 130-132)

Ohio townships now have the authority to adopt zoning regulations for solar facilities under 50 MW. Attendees will uncover why a township may want to consider solar zoning regulations, then will address zoning approaches, procedures, and development standards for solar regulations.

Speakers: Peggy Hall, The Ohio State University
Eric Romich, The Ohio State University

Experienced Fiscal Officers

Legislative Updates Impacting Fiscal Duties (CPIM) (FIA) (Hyatt Regency - Franklin)

Recent legislative changes can have a big impact on township fiscal duties. New laws and regulations affect budgeting, financial reporting, and tax policies. Stay ahead of the curve by learning what's changed and how to adapt your processes accordingly.

Speaker: Torri Scholl, Auditor of State's Office
Alexis Davis, Auditor of State's Office

New(er) Fiscal Officers

Chart of Accounts: Knowing Which Fund to Use (CPIM) (FIA) (A 120-122)

Understanding the township's chart of accounts is crucial for proper financial management. Join us to learn how to allocate revenue and expenses to the correct funds, ensuring compliance with state laws and financial transparency. You'll leave with practical tips for avoiding common pitfalls in fund accounting.

Speaker: Lisa Woodford, Auditor of State's Office

Township Operations

The Anatomy of an Arbitration for Townships (CPIM) (FIA) (A 216)

For unionized townships, understanding how arbitration works and developing a workable strategy are both crucial to increasing your odds of success. Walk through various types of arbitrations, such as contract interpretation, past practice, termination, and gain tips on preparing your case and helpful language in the collective bargaining agreement to increase your odds of arbitration success.

Speaker: Brad Bennett, Bricker Graydon LLP

General Township

Getting Along to Better Serve Your Constituents (FIA) (A 123-125)

As Ohio's chief compliance officer, the Auditor of State's mission is to make government more efficient, effective, and transparent. To achieve this, it is essential that state and local officials work together seamlessly, maintaining checks and balances that protect taxpayer interests. This workshop, presented by the Auditor of State's Office, will provide an in-depth look at how government teams can enhance their collaboration and performance to serve Ohioans better.

Speaker: Dorinda Byers, Auditor of State's Office

General Township

Engaging With Your Legislators (A 113-115)

2025 marks the start of the 136th General Assembly (GA), which includes 29 new legislators. This session will review the OTA's 136th GA legislative priorities, hot button issues expected to be tackled by the GA this year, and ways YOU can engage your legislators to support township issues.

Speakers: Kyle A. Brooks, Ohio Township Association
Matt Whitehead, Governmental Policy Group

2:00 - 2:15 p.m.

Beverage Break (A-Pod)

Snacks and drinks provided free for all attendees.

Sponsored by Buyers Products Company

2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

Educational Sessions (A-Pod, B-Pod, and Hyatt Regency)

Trustees

Communication Techniques to Avoid Sunshine Law Violations (FIA) (A 211-213)

Ohio's Sunshine Laws require transparency in government meetings and communications, but compliance can be tricky. This session will offer practical strategies for communicating with the public while staying within the bounds of the law. Avoid common mistakes and ensure your township's meetings and records are accessible.

Speaker: Amy Blankenship, Bricker Graydon LLP

Safety Services

OH Emergency Medical Services Updates (A 214-215)

Keeping up with the latest changes in emergency medical services (EMS) is crucial for townships. Explore updates on new EMS regulations, equipment, and training requirements. Stay informed about how these changes impact your township's emergency response capabilities.

Speakers: Rob Wagoner, Ohio Department of Public Safety
Dan Swords, Ohio Department of Public Safety

Roads

Road Rights-of-Way: Township Responsibilities (A 220-222)

Understanding your township's rights and responsibilities regarding road rights-of-way is key to proper maintenance and development. Attendees will learn how to clarify the legal aspects of rights-of-way, including property disputes, road widening, and utility installations.

Speaker: Jeffrey Linkous, Clinton County Engineer

Zoning

Open Space Program (CPIM) (FIA) (B 130-132)

Since the 1990s, Ohio Revised Code 5705.19(HH) has empowered townships to preserve open space through dedicated real estate tax levies. Townships can leverage this law to acquire land and development easements, enhancing community green spaces and protecting valuable natural resources. Learn about the benefits, funding strategies, and long-term planning required to maintain open space for future generations.

Speaker: Bryn Bird, Granville Twp./Licking Co.

Experienced Fiscal Officers

Investment Outlook: Today's Market & Investment Environment (CPIM) (FIA) (Hyatt Regency - Franklin)

RedTree Investment Group will provide information for decision-makers on investing funds in today's markets. Join a discussion on changes in the economic environment and its related changes in the fixed-income markets.

Speaker: Joe Violand, RedTree Investment Group

New(er) Fiscal Officers

UAN 101 (CPIM) (FIA) (A 120-122)

The Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) is a powerful tool for township fiscal officers. This introductory session will teach you the basic features and functions of the UAN system, from entering financial data to generating reports. Perfect for new users or those needing a refresher on this essential accounting platform.

Speaker: Alex Komorowski, Auditor of State's Office

Township Operations

Offering Employees a Deferred Comp Program (A 216)

A deferred compensation plan can be an attractive benefit for township employees. Examine how these programs work, their tax advantages, and how to implement one for your township. Offering competitive benefits is crucial for attracting and retaining skilled employees.

Speaker: Myra Bulls, Ohio Deferred Comp.

Parks & Cemeteries

Playground Safety (A 223-225)

Ensuring playgrounds are safe for children is a priority for any township. An overview of safety standards, inspections, and maintenance practices to prevent accidents and injuries will be shared. Whether you're planning a new playground or maintaining an existing one, learn how to create a safe and fun environment for kids.

Speakers: Eric Hinkle, Midstates Recreation
Taylor Jasiewicz, Midstates Recreation

General Township

Illegal Dumping (A 226)

Illegal dumping is unsightly and leads to environmental hazards and costly cleanup efforts. Discuss regulations that apply to illegal dumping in your township and possible strategies for preventing and addressing illegal dumping in your township, including enforcement, community engagement, and clean-up programs.

Speakers: Aaron Shear, Ohio EPA
Anne Gerhart, Ohio EPA



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**GET YOUR
HEADSHOT
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CONFERENCE!**

Thursday, January 30
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*In the Union Station
Ballroom Foyer*

**Sponsored by
National Grid
Renewables**

General Township

Required Resolutions for Townships (FIA) (A 123-125)

Township trustees must pass various resolutions to comply with state law, but knowing which ones are mandatory can be confusing. This session will outline the key resolutions in Title 5 that are required when utilizing those sections of the Ohio Revised Code. Ensure your township is legally compliant by understanding these essential resolutions.

Speakers: Heidi M. Fought, Ohio Township Association
Kyle A. Brooks, Ohio Township Association

General Township

The Role of the County Budget Commission in Setting Millage (CPIM) (FIA) (A 113-115)

With high property tax valuations impacting townships across Ohio, many budget commissions are reacting by scrutinizing fund balances and, in some cases, refusing to levy authorized millage. Explore how the county budget commission assesses millage rates, the implications of rising property values, and strategies for working with the commission to ensure your township receives adequate funding without accumulating excessive fund balances.

Speakers: Rebecca Princehorn, Bricker Graydon LLP
Michael Ringle, Bricker Graydon LLP

Leadership Academy

OTALA: Communicating and Working With Citizens (A 112)

This is a workshop about establishing more positive and effective relationships with all residents of your community. The workshop is built around the principles that should define the relationships between government and residents. The content of the session will be based upon best practices that are used in many locations around the state and nation to provide a framework for building effective relationships and engaging community residents with their government in very positive ways.

Speaker: Joe Lucente, The Ohio State University

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Educational Sessions (A-Pod, B-Pod, and Hyatt Regency)

Trustees

Large & Small Scale Community Solar (A 211-213)

Solar energy is becoming a viable option for both large and small townships. Learn about the benefits, costs, and implementation challenges of community solar projects.

Speaker: Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau

Safety Services

First Responder Wellness Resources (A 214-215)

First responders face significant stress and mental health challenges. Discuss strategies for supporting the well-being of your township's firefighters, EMS personnel, and police officers. Learn about available resources and programs to promote mental health and prevent burnout.

Speaker: Steven Click, Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services



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Local government leadership provides the foundation for building strong communities. At Encino Energy, we're fortunate to work closely with township trustees daily in the Ohio townships where we operate. Without your support, we couldn't accomplish our mission as an oil and natural gas acquisition company innovating for a more sustainable tomorrow. We're proud to be a Gold Sponsor of the OTA's 2025 Winter Conference. We will continue to do the right things for the right reasons while never losing sight of long-term focus and safety.

THANK



RESULTS



TRANSPARENCY



INNOVATION



OWNERSHIP



SUSTAINABILITY

YOU!



3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Educational Sessions (continued)

Roads

Vehicle Speed Limits on Township Roads: A Township's Role (A 220-222)

Setting and enforcing speed limits on township roads can prevent damage and improve safety. This session will explain how townships can establish appropriate limits, monitor compliance, and work with law enforcement to enforce regulations.

Speaker: Justin Yoh, Ohio Department of Transportation

Zoning

Composing a Complete Zoning Record (B 130-132)

Accurate zoning records are essential for defending township decisions. Attorneys from Brosius, Johnson & Griggs will teach you how to maintain a complete and comprehensive zoning record, from meeting minutes to documentation of public notices.

Speaker: Peter Griggs, Brosius, Johnson and Griggs, LLC

Experienced Fiscal Officers

Creative Funding Sources to Provide Requested Services (CPIM) (FIA) (Hyatt Regency - Franklin)

As demand for township services grows, so does the need for creative funding solutions. Explore grants, partnerships, and non-traditional funding sources that can help townships meet the needs of their communities. Leave with actionable ideas to enhance your township's financial stability.

Speaker: Ed Good, Mead Twp./Belmont Co.
Josh Gerth, Anderson Twp./Hamilton Co.

New(er) Fiscal Officers

Township Fiscal Officer Duties (CPIM) (FIA) (A 120-122)

Fiscal officers play a vital role in township operations, from budgeting to payroll management. This workshop will provide a comprehensive look at their responsibilities, including financial reporting, compliance with state laws, and ensuring the fiscal health of the township. Gain a deeper understanding of the essential functions that keep townships running smoothly.

Speaker: Julie Donnan, Brosius, Johnson and Griggs, LLC

Township Operations

1, 2, or 3 Employees? HR Compliance Made Easy (A 216)

Townships often have limited HR resources but still need to comply with complex employment laws. Attendees will learn simplified HR compliance for townships, covering key areas like payroll, benefits, and labor laws.

Speaker: David Riepenhoff, Fishel, Downey, Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLC

Parks & Cemeteries

Utilizing the UAN Cemetery Module (CPIM) (FIA) (A 223-225)

The Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) includes a cemetery module to help townships manage burial records and finances. Get an in-depth look at how to use the module efficiently, from entering burial data to generating reports.

Speaker: John Morgan, Auditor of State's Office

General Township

Tree Maintenance: Responsibilities & Innovations (A 226)

Proper tree maintenance enhances community aesthetics and safety. Discuss the township's role in tree care, legal responsibilities, and innovative approaches to maintaining public trees.

Speaker: Peggy Hall, The Ohio State University
Ryan Grosser, The Davey Tree Expert Company

General Township

Repurposing Distressed Sites for Solar Development (A 123-125)

Explore how to turn these unused spaces into productive solar energy sites. Learn about the financial, environmental, and development considerations involved in repurposing land for solar projects.

Speaker: Kurt Prinic, CEP Renewals, LLC

General Township

The Unique Property and Liability Insurance Needs of Ohio Townships (A 113-115)

Townships have unique exposures that differ from private businesses. This session will explain specific ways to address those needs through strategic coverage solutions. It will also touch on the differences between traditional insurance and intergovernmental pooling.

Speaker: Thomas Welsh, Acrisure

Leadership Academy

OTALA: Conflict Management & Dispute Resolutions (A 112)

This is a workshop about the well-established principles and practices that are used to manage conflict and resolve disputes. The workshop is divided into four parts with each focusing on different dimensions of conflict management and dispute resolution. The workshop will focus on practical applications and examples of real situations that will help build a framework for each participant to use the skills developed in the workshop.

Speaker: Kyle White, The Ohio State University

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Conference Kickoff (Hall A)

Join trade show vendors and fellow attendees to kick off the Conference with networking and camaraderie. Enjoy the upbeat atmosphere with music from a DJ and participate in our interactive Trade Show Bingo game. Light appetizers will be served and a cash bar will be available. Don't miss the opportunity to connect and set the right path for a successful conference experience.

Sponsored by Trebel Energy

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

County Officer's Meeting & Dinner (Hyatt Regency - Union)

County officers will gather to discuss the county township association structure, leadership, and the upcoming year.

Sponsored by Strawser Construction

Did someone yell BINGO?

As you travel around the Trade Show visiting vendors, make sure to get a stamp from those on the bingo card for a chance to win prizes. Once you complete three bingos (any combination of down, across, or diagonal), submit your card at the Trade Show exit. Winners will be drawn during the snack breaks on Thursday and Friday.



Sponsored by
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Griggs, LLC

Thursday
JANUARY 30

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration (A 110/Hall A Lobby)

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Trade Show (Hall A)

8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Networking with Vendors (Hall A)

9:00 - 10:45 a.m.

General Session (Hall A)

Hear updates and achievements from the OTA in the General Session. You will also get to hear a keynote address from Dr. Kathy Gruver, where she will speak on actionable tools to reduce stress, improve communication, and foster true leadership.

Sponsored by NOPEC

- **Color Guard:** Madison Twp. Fire Department (Franklin Co.)
- **Invocation**
- **National Anthem:** Buckeye Blend
- **Welcome Address:** Speaker Matt Huffman
- **President's Address:** Scott Fabian
- **Executive Director's Address:** Heidi M. Fought
- **Recognition of OTALA Graduates**
- **Keynote Address:** Dr. Kathy Gruver
- **Recognition of County Membership Achievements**
- **Recognition of Old-Timers**
- **Door Prizes**

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Coalition of Large Urban Townships (CLOUT) Annual Meeting & Lunch (Hyatt Regency - Union)

All CLOUT members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting and luncheon that will include a legislative review, discussion, and networking opportunities.

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Educational Sessions (A-Pod, B-Pod, and Hyatt Regency)

Trustees

Levy Campaigns: Tips for Success at the Ballot (A 211-213)

Running a successful levy campaign requires careful planning and strategic communication. This session will guide you through creating an effective message, engaging voters, and ensuring your levy passes.

Speaker: Cody Rizzuto, Hometown Strategies



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- Generate significant revenue streams for your cemetery



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Safety Services

Obtaining Police Coverage in Your Township (A 214-215)

Many townships rely on external police departments or sheriffs for law enforcement services. Review the process of obtaining police coverage, negotiating contracts, and ensuring adequate protection for your community. Explore options for improving safety and law enforcement presence in your township.

Speaker: Greg Beck, Baker, Dublikar, Beck, Wiley & Mathews

Roads

Getting the Most Life Out of Your Gravel and Chip Seal Roads (A 220-222)

Maintaining gravel and chip seal roads can be challenging, but with the right techniques you can extend their life and reduce maintenance costs. Learn best practices for road grading, drainage, and resurfacing.

Speaker: Tim Herbst, Slurry Pavers, Inc.

Zoning

Following Zoning Protocol to Reduce Legal Action (B 130-132)

Proper zoning procedures can prevent costly legal battles. Highlight best practices for following zoning protocols, ensuring that township decisions are legally defensible.

Speaker: Tonya Rogers, Baker, Dublikar, Beck, Wiley & Mathews

All Fiscal Officers

UAN Update (CPIM) (FIA) (Hyatt Regency - Franklin)

This session will focus on the latest updates to the UAN system, including new features, reporting capabilities, and troubleshooting tips. Learn how to make the most of recent enhancements to streamline your township's financial management.

Speaker: Bob Walter, Auditor of State's Office
Loren Henthorne, Auditor of State's Office

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Educational Sessions (continued)

Township Operations

Navigating Ohio's Prevailing Wage Law (CPIM) (FIA) (A 216)

Ohio's prevailing wage laws can be tricky for township projects, especially when contracting out services. Join to define the legal requirements, reporting obligations, and best practices for ensuring compliance. Avoid fines and legal issues by staying up to date on prevailing wage rules.

Speaker: David Riepenhoff, Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLC

Parks & Cemeteries

Enhancing Township Green Spaces: Trends and Techniques (A 223-225)

Explore the latest trends in landscaping, community gardens, and creating multipurpose green spaces that serve diverse community needs, from fitness trails to pollinator gardens.

Speakers: Lisa Campbell, Plain Twp./Stark Co.
Rob Steinberg, Plain Twp./Stark Co.

General Township

DORAs 101 (A 226)

Designated Outdoor Refreshment Areas (DORAs) allow alcohol consumption in public spaces under specific regulations. Explore how townships can establish DORAs, the legal considerations involved, and how they can boost local economic development.

Speaker: Dr. Kenzie Johnston, The Ohio State University

General Township

Limited Home Rule Government: What, Why, & How (A 123-125)

Limited Home Rule offers townships more authority in certain areas, but it's not for everyone. This session will explain what Limited Home Rule is, the pros and cons, and how to implement it if your township qualifies.

Speaker: John Albers, Albers and Albers

General Township

OP&F and OPERS Update (CPIM) (FIA) (A 113-115)

Pension plans like OP&F (Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund) and OPERS (Ohio Public Employees Retirement System) are critical for township employees. Gain notable updates for township employers.

Speakers: Abby Chaffin, OPERS
Jamie Miles, Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund

Leadership Academy

OTALA: General Workshop (A 112)

This basic course is designed to provide participants with an overview of the basic issues, expectations and practices associated with serving in public office. Learn principles and practices for improving your tenure and service.

Speaker: CPMRA

2:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Snack Break (Hall A)

Snacks provided free for attendees.

Sponsored by Encino Energy

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Educational Sessions (A-Pod and B-Pod)

Trustees

The Public's Rights at Public Meetings and on Social Media (A 211-213)

Public participation in government is essential, but it can also lead to disruptions if not managed properly. Let's define the public's rights during meetings and on social media and how townships can balance transparency with order. Develop policies that protect both free speech and the integrity of township operations.

Speaker: Brodi Conover, Bricker Graydon LLP

Safety Services

The Pros and Cons of Forming a Fire District (A 214-215)

Forming a fire district can streamline services and reduce costs, but it's not without challenges. Explore the pros and cons of establishing a fire district, including financial, legal, and operational considerations.

Speaker: David Comstock, Ohio Fire & EMS Law

Roads

OUPS: Protecting the Township From Digging Utility Lines (A 220-222)

Digging near utility lines can lead to dangerous accidents and costly repairs. This session will explain the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) process and how townships can prevent digging-related incidents and avoid liability.

Speaker: Chuck Green, OUPS

Zoning

Successfully Recruiting BZA & ZC Members: How to Get Them to Say YES! (B 130-132)

Recruiting members for your Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and Zoning Commission (ZC) can be tough. Obtain strategies for attracting qualified candidates, engaging your community, and ensuring a smooth appointment process.

Speaker: Jennifer Huber, Brosius, Johnson and Griggs, LLC

Township Operations

Preparing Employees to Drive Township Vehicles (A 216)

Township employees often need to drive official vehicles, but are they properly trained and prepared? Review the legal and safety requirements for township vehicle use, including CDL requirements, defensive driving, and vehicle maintenance.

Speaker: Kim Arnold, KLA Risk Consulting

Parks and Cemeteries

Park Grants Available to Townships (CPIM) (FIA) (A 223- 225)

Funding for township parks can be hard to come by, but there are several grant opportunities available. Attendees will get an overview of state and federal grants for parks and tips for applying maximizing funding.

Speaker: Melissa Moser, Ohio Department of Natural Resources



2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Educational Sessions (continued)

General Township

Leading Your Community Through Social Media (A 226)

In today's digital age, social media is a powerful tool for building, leading, and growing communities. This interactive workshop will teach you how to effectively harness social media platforms to engage your community, inspire meaningful conversations, and drive positive change. Participants will learn key strategies for content creation, audience engagement, and brand building across various social media platforms.

Speaker: Ilona Seaman, iPanda Designs LLC

General Township

Tools Townships Can Use to Spur Economic Development (A 123-125)

Economic development is vital for township growth and sustainability. Learn about tools and strategies, such as tax incentives, public-private partnerships, and grant programs, to attract businesses and investments.

Speaker: John Albers, Albers and Albers

General Township

Utilizing the Provisions of HB 315 (A 113-115)

This session will dive into House Bill 315, focusing on its provisions and potential impact on townships. Learn how this legislation could affect your township's governance, operations, or finances. Stay informed about how to prepare for upcoming changes.

Speaker: Kyle A. Brooks, Ohio Township Association

Leadership Academy

OTALA: Intergovernmental Relations (A 112)

This is a workshop about the principles and practices that can provide a framework for structuring working relationships between and among local governments. The workshop will explore Ohio law pertaining to opportunities and limitations for intergovernmental agreements and cooperative arrangements. The workshop will draw heavily from the positive and negative experiences of others who have engaged in cooperative agreements with other governments.

Speaker: CPMRA

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

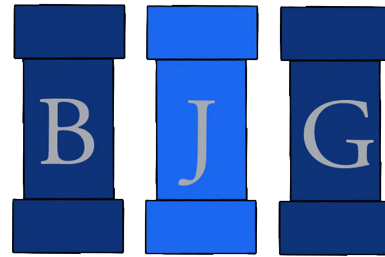
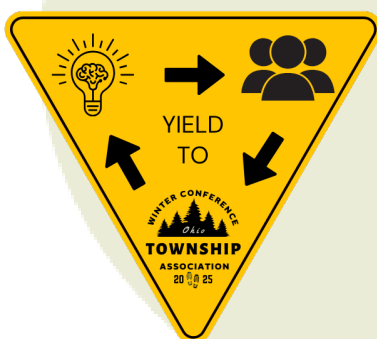
Educational Session (Hyatt Regency - Franklin)

Fiscal Officers

Ohio Ethics Law (FIA)

This high-energy, interactive course provides timely information regarding the Ohio Ethics Commission and about restrictions in the Ohio Ethics Law and related statutes that pertain to all public-sector employees and private-sector parties who are regulated or do business with public offices. With relevant examples and references to past ethics investigations, attendees will be well-equipped to better understand and comply with the Ohio Ethics Law.

Speaker: Susan Willeke, Ohio Ethics Commission



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3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Educational Sessions (A-Pod, B-Pod, and Hyatt Regency)

Trustees

Let's Make a Deal: Collective Bargaining for Townships (CPIM) (FIA) (A 211-213)

Understanding collective bargaining is crucial if you work in a unionized setting. This session will review the process, impasse procedures, and typical strategies. It will also provide an overview of what is happening at the bargaining table in the current environment and an update on recent SERB decisions.

Speaker: Brad Bennett, Bricker Graydon LLP

Safety Services

State Fire Marshal Updates (A 214-215)

The State Fire Marshal's office will cover recent changes in fire code, grant opportunities, and fire prevention programs. Learn how your township can enhance fire safety and effectively collaborate with state agencies to protect your community.

Speaker: Kevin Reardon, Division of State Fire Marshal

Roads

Work Zone Safety (A 220-222)

Ensuring safety in work zones is critical for township employees and the public. Learn best practices for setting up and managing safe work zones on township roads, including signage, traffic control, and worker training.

Speaker: Gary Browning, Ohio LTAP Center

Zoning

Agricultural Land Preservation (B 130-132)

Preserving farmland is essential for many townships, but it can be a challenge in the face of development pressures. Explore tools and strategies to protect agricultural lands, including zoning techniques, agricultural conservation easements, and state programs.

Speaker: Amanda Bennett, Ohio Department of Agriculture

Township Operations

Containing Healthcare Costs (A 216)

Healthcare costs can be a significant burden for townships. Review strategies to contain healthcare expenses while providing quality coverage for employees. Learn about alternative insurance plans, wellness programs, and cost-sharing techniques to reduce your township's healthcare spending.

Speakers: Michelle Crockett, Acrisure
Dan Brown, CareFactor

Parks & Cemeteries

Cemetery Landscape Maintenance & Management (A 223-225)

Proper cemetery maintenance is essential for honoring the past and keeping township properties looking their best. Let's go over best practices for landscaping, headstone care, and general upkeep. Learn how to create a long-term maintenance plan that balances aesthetics and cost.

Speaker: Josh Chilcote, The Davey Tree Expert Company

General Township

JobsOhio Update (CPIM) (FIA) (A 226)

JobsOhio is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to driving economic development in Ohio. Discover how townships can collaborate with JobsOhio to attract new businesses, create jobs, and enhance economic growth.

Speaker: Darnita Bradley, JobsOhio

General Township

Campaigning Beyond the Campaign (A 123-125)

In this discussion, we will be exploring what it takes to run an effective campaign. From fundraising, brand building, data, and targeted marketing, we will dive into the do's and don'ts of running an effective local campaign. Additionally, explore campaigning after the campaign, including continuing your personal brand, public engagement, and communications with a focus on implementing your agenda and building a culture of trust in your community.

Speaker: Cody Rizzuto, Hometown Strategies

General Township

Adult-Use Marijuana & Hemp: Updates and Impacts for Townships (A 113-115)

As Ohio moves forward with legalized adult-use marijuana and an expanded hemp industry, townships must navigate evolving regulations, zoning concerns, and community impacts. Review the implications for local governments, see an overview of recent legislative changes, and explore best practices for crafting policy.

Speaker: John Oberle, IceMiller LLP

Leadership Academy

OTALA: Communicating & Working With the Media (A 112)

This is a workshop about developing effective working relationships with the media representatives and organizations that cover your meetings. The workshop will focus on the basic principles and practices that will provide a framework for improving your media relations skills. Topics include understanding the media, preparing the media for your meetings, preparing yourself, and developing effective media relations.

Speaker: CPMRA

5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

Amazon Prime Business Accounts Free for Your Township (Hyatt Regency - Franklin)

Discover how your township can receive free Business Prime and additional discounts on thousands of products on Amazon Business. Offered exclusively by the OTA Service Corp., this workshop will showcase real-world savings examples and provide insights into line of credit, benefits, and more. Don't miss this opportunity to maximize your township's purchasing power!

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

CLOUT Workshop: HR Potpourri and Jeopardy (Hyatt Regency - Union)

Learn about the odds and ends of human resources and employment law that every township official should know. Presented in a Jeopardy-game style format, players and the audience will take away practical suggestions for their townships on a variety of topics such as workplace investigation, discipline, workers' compensation, ADA, FMLA, and more.

Speaker: Stacy V. Pollock, Pollock Law

6:30 - 10:00 p.m.



Casino Night (Hyatt Regency Ballroom)

Back again, join your fellow attendees for an evening of casino games and fun. Event includes appetizers and drinks. Prizes will be awarded. *This is a ticketed event.*

Sponsored by Acrisure





7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Conversations with Heidi
(Union Station Ballroom Foyer, GCCC)

Grab some breakfast with the OTA Executive Director, Heidi M. Fought, in the Trade Show! Free for all attendees.

Sponsored by Ricart to Business

7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Registration (A 110/Hall A Lobby)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Trade Show (Hall A)

8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Networking with Vendors (Hall A)

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Educational Sessions (A-Pod, B-Pod, and Hyatt Regency)

Trustees

Getting Along to Better Serve Your Constituents (repeat)
(FIA) (A 211-213)

As Ohio's chief compliance officer, the Auditor of State's mission is to make government more efficient, effective, and transparent. To achieve this, it is essential that state and local officials work together seamlessly, maintaining checks and balances that protect taxpayer interests. This workshop, presented by the Auditor of State's Office, will provide an in-depth look at how government teams can enhance their collaboration and performance to serve Ohioans better.

Speaker: Dorinda Byers, Auditor of State's Office

Safety Services

How the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association Can Help Your Township Fire Chief (repeat) (A 214-215)

The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association offers numerous resources to support township fire departments. This presentation details how the OFCA can assist your fire chief with training, operational guidance, and leadership development. Learn about the benefits of membership and how to access essential support.

Speaker: Joseph Kitchen, Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association

Roads

Alternative Paving Techniques (repeat) (A 220-222)

This session will focus on the overlay, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of existing roadways. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the use of some non-traditional construction materials that are well-suited for the township roadway network, including cold mix paving and asphalt recycling. The attendees will leave this session understanding where and when to use the construction materials and methods to extend the monies the township has for pavement reconstruction.

Speaker: Bruce Wehr, Asphalt Materials, Inc.

Zoning

Zoning Law Update (B 130-132)

Come review and discuss recent zoning court cases, laws, and other regulations that could affect your township.

Speaker: Jennifer Huber, Brosius, Johnson, and Griggs, LLC

Experienced Fiscal Officers

Giving a Kick-Butt Financial Presentation (CPIM) (FIA)
(Hyatt Regency - Franklin)

Presenting complex financial data to trustees, residents, or stakeholders can be challenging. This workshop will teach you how to simplify data, create compelling visuals, and deliver clear, impactful presentations. Enhance your public speaking skills and confidently communicate your township's financial status.

Speaker: Andrea Weaver, Union County Auditor

New(er) Fiscal Officers

Resolution vs. Motion (FIA) (A 120-122)

Does this decision need to be made by motion or resolution? What are the proper procedures for taking action in an open meeting? Review the differences between a resolution and a motion, when to use each, and other proper procedures for township meetings.

Speaker: Ben Yoder, Bricker Graydon LLP

Township Operations

1, 2, or 3 Employees? HR Compliance Made Easy (repeat)
(A 216)

Townships often have limited HR resources but still need to comply with complex employment laws. Attendees will learn simplified HR compliance for townships, covering key areas like payroll, benefits, and labor laws.

Speaker: David Riepenhoff, Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLC

Parks & Cemeteries

Indigent Burials: Working With Funeral Homes (A 223-225)

Townships are legally obligated to provide burial services for indigent residents. Learn the legal requirements and how to work with funeral homes to provide respectful, cost-effective services.

Speakers: Tom Spring, Spring Law, LLC
Rick Day, Day Funeral Service
Rae Anderson, Day Funeral Service



General Township

Recruiting Future Township Leaders (A 226)

Succession planning is critical to the long-term success of any township. Obtain strategies for identifying, mentoring, and recruiting the next generation of township leaders. Learn how to engage your community and inspire future trustees, fiscal officers, and zoning officials.

Speakers: Jonathan Hofstetter, Wayne County Commissioner
Mike Dittoe, Chief of Staff, Speaker Matt Huffman

General Township

Tools Townships Can Use to Spur Economic Development

(repeat) (CPIM) (FIA) (A 123-125)

Economic development is vital for township growth and sustainability. Learn about tools and strategies, such as tax incentives, public-private partnerships, and grant programs, to attract businesses and investments.

Speaker: John Albers, Albers and Albers

General Township

The Role of the County Budget Commission in Setting Millage *(repeat) (CPIM) (FIA) (A 113-115)*

With high property tax valuations impacting townships across Ohio, many budget commissions are reacting by scrutinizing fund balances and, in some cases, refusing to levy authorized millage. Explore how the county budget commission assesses millage rates, the implications of rising property values, and strategies for working with the commission to ensure your township receives adequate funding without accumulating excessive fund balances.

Speakers: Rebecca Princehorn, Bricker Graydon LLP
Michael Ringle, Bricker Graydon LLP

Leadership Academy

OTALA: Communicating & Working With the Media

(repeat) (A 112)

This is a workshop about developing effective working relationships with the media representatives and organizations that cover your meetings. The workshop will focus on the basic principles and practices that will provide a framework for improving your media relations skills. Topics include understanding the media, preparing the media for your meetings, preparing yourself, and developing effective media relations.

Speaker: CPMRA

9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Snack Break/Networking with Vendors (Hall A)

Snacks will be provided inside the Trade Show Hall.

Sponsored by OTA Service Corp.

10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Educational Sessions (A-Pod, B-Pod, and Hyatt Regency)

Trustees

Handling Unexpected Disruptions to Township Operations *(repeat) (A 211-213)*

When a key township official suddenly resigns or passes away, it can disrupt operations and create immediate leadership challenges. We will delve into strategies for handling unexpected vacancies, including succession planning, interim appointments, and effective transitions. Develop skills for maintaining stability and continuity in your township's services during times of sudden personnel changes.

Speaker: Julie Donnan, Brosius, Johnson, and Griggs, LLC

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Trustees

The Pros and Cons of Forming a Fire District *(repeat) (A 214-215)*

Forming a fire district can streamline services and reduce costs, but it's not without challenges. Explore the pros and cons of establishing a fire district, including financial, legal, and operational considerations.

Speaker: David Comstock, Ohio Fire & EMS Law

Roads

Road Rights-of-Way: Township Responsibilities *(repeat) (A 220-222)*

Understanding your township's rights and responsibilities regarding road rights-of-way is key to proper maintenance and development. Attendees will learn how to clarify the legal aspects of rights-of-way, including property disputes, road widening, and utility installations.

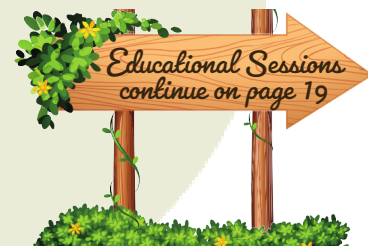
Speaker: Jeremiah Upp, Fairfield Co.

Zoning

Zoning Roundtable (B 130-132)

Join us for an interactive and informative discussion designed for township zoning officials and personnel. This session provides a unique opportunity to connect with peers, exchange insights, and explore solutions to common challenges in zoning administration and enforcement.

Speaker: Eric Snowden, Jerome Twp./Union Co.



10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Educational Sessions (continued)

Experienced Fiscal Officers

Investment Outlook: Today's Market & Investment Environment (repeat) (CPIM) (FIA) (Hyatt Regency - Franklin)

RedTree Investment Group will provide information for decision-makers on investing funds in today's markets. Join a discussion on changes in the economic environment and its related changes in the fixed-income markets.

Speaker: Joe Violand, RedTree Investment Group

New(er) Fiscal Officers

Records Retention: Where to Begin! (CPIM) (FIA) (A 120-122)

Managing township records can be daunting, but proper retention is key to staying compliant with Ohio's public records laws. This session will guide you through the creation and implementation of a records retention policy. Learn how to organize, store, and dispose of records in a way that meets legal requirements and simplifies township operations.

Speakers: Josie Stults, Swancreek Twp./Fulton Co.
Dianne Valentine, Dover Twp./Fulton Co.

Township Operations

Navigating Ohio's Prevailing Wage Law (repeat) (CPIM) (FIA) (A 216)

Ohio's prevailing wage laws can be tricky for township projects, especially when contracting out services. Join to define the legal requirements, reporting obligations, and best practices for ensuring compliance. Avoid fines and legal issues by staying up to date on prevailing wage rules.

Speaker: David Riepenhoff, Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLC

Parks & Cemeteries

How to Properly Clean and Repair Headstones (A 223-225)

Maintaining township cemeteries includes the careful cleaning and resetting of headstones to preserve their historical value. Follow step-by-step instructions for cleaning headstones safely, preventing damage, and restoring older stones to their original condition.

Speaker: Steve Hanson, Windsor Twp./Morgan Co.

General Township

Illegal Dumping (repeat) (A 226)

Illegal dumping is unsightly and leads to environmental hazards and costly cleanup efforts. Discuss regulations that apply to illegal dumping in your township and possible strategies for preventing and addressing illegal dumping in your township, including enforcement, community engagement, and clean-up programs.

Speakers: Aaron Shear, Ohio EPA
Anne Gerhart, Ohio EPA

General Township

Limited Home Rule Government: What, Why, & How (repeat) (A 123-125)

Limited Home Rule offers townships more authority in certain areas, but it's not for everyone. This session will explain what Limited Home Rule is, the pros and cons, and how to implement it if your township qualifies.

Speaker: John Albers, Albers & Albers

General Township

Engaging With Your Legislators (repeat) (A 113-115)

2025 marks the start of the 136th General Assembly (GA), which includes 29 new legislators. This session will review the OTA's 136th GA legislative priorities, hot button issues expected to be tackled by the GA this year, and ways YOU can engage your legislators to support township issues.

Speakers: Kyle A. Brooks, Ohio Township Association
Matt Whitehead, Governmental Policy Group

Leadership Academy

OTALA: Communicating and Working With Citizens (repeat) (A 112)

This is a workshop about establishing more positive and effective relationships with all residents of your community. The workshop is built around the principles that should define the relationships between government and residents. The content of the session will be based upon best practices that are used in many locations around the state and nation to provide a framework for building effective relationships and engaging community residents with their government in very positive ways.

Speaker: Joe Lucente, The Ohio State University

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The best way to stay informed and navigate the 2025 OTA Winter Conference is right at your fingertips with our conference app! Packed with tools to enhance your experience, the app provides instant access to our vendors, workshops, handouts, and more.

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Already have the app from last year? Make sure you are up-to-date! Open the app and tap the "refresh" button in the side menu to ensure you are running the latest version.

Don't miss out - **download the app today** and get ready to make the most of your conference experience!



Proud to support Ohio's economic development



10:15 a.m.

OTARMA Meeting (A 210)
Open to all OTARMA members.

11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Last Chance to Network with Vendors (Hall A)

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 

Luncheon (Union Station Ballroom - GCCC)
You will hear from Dave Carey, a Vietnam veteran who survived as a prisoner of war for five and a half years. The 2024 OTA scholarship winners will also be recognized. *This is a ticketed event.*
Sponsored by OTARMA

1:45 - 2:45 p.m.

Educational Sessions (A-Pod, B-Pod, and Hyatt Regency)

Trustees

Communication Techniques to Avoid Sunshine Law Violations (repeat) (FIA) (A 211-213)
Ohio's Sunshine Laws require transparency in government meetings and communications, but compliance can be tricky. This session will offer practical strategies for communicating with the public while staying within the bounds of the law. Avoid common mistakes and ensure your township's meetings and records are accessible.
Speaker: Greg Peltz, Bricker Graydon LLP

Safety Services

First Responder Wellness Resources (repeat) (A 214-215)
First responders face significant stress and mental health challenges. Discuss strategies for supporting the well-being of your township's firefighters, EMS personnel, and police officers. Learn about available resources and programs to promote mental health and prevent burnout.
Speaker: Steven Click, Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Roads

Work Zone Safety (repeat) (A 220-222)
Ensuring safety in work zones is critical for township employees and the public. Learn best practices for setting up and managing safe work zones on township roads, including signage, traffic control, and worker training.
Speaker: Gary Browning, Ohio LTAP Center

Zoning

Successfully Recruiting BZA & ZC Members: How to Get Them to Say YES! (repeat) (B 130-132)
Recruiting members for your Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and Zoning Commission (ZC) can be tough. Obtain strategies for attracting qualified candidates, engaging your community, and ensuring a smooth appointment process.
Speaker: Jennifer Huber, Brosius, Johnson, and Griggs, LLC

Experienced Fiscal Officers

Creative Funding Sources to Provide Requested Services (repeat) (CPIM) (FIA) (Hyatt Regency - Franklin)
As demand for township services grows, so does the need for creative funding solutions. Explore grants, partnerships, and non-traditional funding sources that can help townships meet the needs of their communities. Leave with actionable ideas to enhance your township's financial stability.
Speakers: Ed Good, Mead Twp./Belmont Co.
Josh Gerth, Anderson Twp./Hamilton Co.

New(er) Fiscal Officers

Understanding Certificate of Revenues and Tax Receipts (CPIM) (FIA) (A 120-122)
Townships rely heavily on accurate projections of revenue for budgeting and planning. This session will explain the Certificate of Estimated Revenues and how it relates to tax receipts. Leave with skills to interpret, track, and report revenue data to ensure sound fiscal management.
Speaker: James McCoy, Auditor of State's Office

Township Operations

Offering Employees a Deferred Comp Program (repeat) (A 216)
A deferred compensation plan can be an attractive benefit for township employees. Examine how these programs work, their tax advantages, and how to implement one for your township. Offering competitive benefits is crucial for attracting and retaining skilled employees.
Speaker: Myra Bulls, Ohio Deferred Comp.

Parks & Cemeteries

Cost-Effective Ways to Level and Reset Markers (A 223-225)
Township cemeteries often require regular maintenance, including the leveling of markers. Explore cost-effective methods for maintaining cemetery grounds and headstones.
Speaker: Steve Hanson, Windsor Twp./Morgan Co.

General Township

Shaping a Preservation Program at the Township Level (A 226)

Join the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to discuss how HB 315 will allow townships to shape a preservation program to preserve their important historic heritage. Learn more about the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the opportunities available to townships with increased interest in historic preservation.

Speaker: Nathan Bevil, Ohio History Connection

General Township

How Your Township Can Mitigate Damage and When to File a Claim (A 123-125)

This session will cover how to assess and mitigate damage, file insurance claims, and recover from loss. Learn best practices for protecting township assets and responding to emergencies.

Speaker: Brad Tucker, PERSO

General Township

OP&F and OPERS Update (repeat) (CPIM) (FIA) (A 113-115)

Pension plans like OP&F (Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund) and OPERS (Ohio Public Employees Retirement System) are critical for township employees. Gain notable updates for township employers.

Speakers: Ruth Morrison, OPERS
Jamie Miles, Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund

Leadership Academy

OTALA: Conflict Management & Dispute Resolutions (repeat) (A 112)

This is a workshop about the well-established principles and practices that are used to manage conflict and resolve disputes. The workshop is divided into four parts with each focusing on different dimensions of conflict management and dispute resolution. The workshop will focus on practical applications and examples of real situations that will help build a framework for each participant to use the skills developed in the workshop.

Speaker: Kyle White, The Ohio State University

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Educational Sessions (A-Pod, B-Pod, and Hyatt Regency)

Roads

Getting the Most Life Out of Your Gravel and Chip Seal Roads (repeat) (A 220-222)

Maintaining gravel and chip seal roads can be challenging, but with the right techniques you can extend their life and reduce maintenance costs. Learn best practices for road grading, drainage, and resurfacing.

Speaker: Tim Herbst, Slurry Pavers, Inc.

Zoning

Composing a Complete Zoning Record (repeat) (B 130-132)

Accurate zoning records are essential for defending township decisions. Attorneys from Brosius, Johnson & Griggs will teach you how to maintain a complete and comprehensive zoning record, from meeting minutes to documentation of public notices.

Speaker: Peter Griggs, Brosius, Johnson and Griggs, LLC

Experienced Fiscal Officers

Legislative Updates Impacting Fiscal Duties (repeat) (CPIM) (FIA) (Hyatt Regency - Franklin)

Recent legislative changes can have a big impact on township fiscal duties. New laws and regulations affect budgeting, financial reporting, and tax policies. Stay ahead of the curve by learning what's changed and how to adapt your processes accordingly.

Speaker: Torri Scholl, Auditor of State's Office
Alexis Davis, Auditor of State's Office

New(er) Fiscal Officers

Township Fiscal Officer Duties (repeat) (CPIM) (FIA) (A 120-122)

Fiscal officers play a vital role in township operations, from budgeting to payroll management. This workshop will provide a comprehensive look at their responsibilities, including financial reporting, compliance with state laws, and ensuring the fiscal health of the township. Gain a deeper understanding of the essential functions that keep townships running smoothly.

Speaker: Julie Donnan, Brosius, Johnson and Griggs, LLC

General Township

Required Resolutions for Townships (repeat) (FIA) (A 123-125)

Township trustees must pass various resolutions to comply with state law, but knowing which ones are mandatory can be confusing. This session will outline the key resolutions in Title 5 that are required when utilizing those sections of the Ohio Revised Code. Ensure your township is legally compliant by understanding these essential resolutions.

Speakers: Heidi M. Fought, Ohio Township Association
Kyle A. Brooks, Ohio Township Association

General Township

Adult-Use Marijuana & Hemp: Updates and Impacts for Townships (repeat) (A 113-115)

As Ohio moves forward with legalized adult-use marijuana and an expanded hemp industry, townships must navigate evolving regulations, zoning concerns, and community impacts. Review the implications for local governments, see an overview of recent legislative changes, and explore best practices for crafting policy.

Speaker: John Oberle, IceMiller LLP

