

**GET
INVOLVED**

**GET
INSPIRED**

**GET
FESTIVE**



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION
**WINTER CONFERENCE
& TRADE SHOW**

February 4-6, 2026 | Columbus, OH

Registration

GET
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2026 OTA Winter Conference & Trade Show

Let the good times roll! It's time to celebrate community, connection, and the spirit of townships at the 2026 Winter Conference, taking place **February 4-6, 2026, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center**. This year's theme, "**Get Involved. Get Inspired. Get Festive.**" captures the energy and enthusiasm that defines Ohio's township leaders. With more than 100 educational workshops, dynamic speakers, numerous networking events, and one of the largest trade shows in the midwest for local governments, you'll find countless ways to engage, learn, and celebrate together.

Whether you are networking at **Casino Night** or connecting with legislators at the **Legislative Reception**, this year's conference promises to be as informative as it is fun. Earn your **Public Records Training** credit, fulfilling the state requirement for all elected officials, and take advantage of dozens of workshop sessions tailored to every township role - trustees, fiscal officers, administrators, and more. Don't miss out on the **County Officers Meeting**, where director candidates for the OTA Board will present their platforms. And if you are a first-time attendee, join the **Newbie Orientation** to learn about the conference, the benefit of your membership, and everything OTA has to offer, while mingling with OTA staff and board members.

We are bringing in great speakers for this year's conference (page 7). At the **General Session**, you'll hear from a Property Tax Panel made up of former legislator Bill Seitz, Representative David Thomas, and Chris Galloway, Lake County Auditor. And, at the **Luncheon**, we welcome professional speaker, Sam Glenn, for a unique presentation that will leave you inspired.

Lastly, we are bringing back the **One-Day Trade Show Pass**, so affiliates, associates, and non-members can experience the trade show without the commitment of pre-registering.

There is something for everyone at the 2026 OTA Winter Conference, so sign up today! Housing and parking information can be found on page 5. **Pre-registration is open from November 3, 2025, through January 9, 2026.**

No matter your role in your township, you will leave the conference inspired and ready to continue making a difference in your community.

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, February 4

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Registration |
| 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | Newbie Orientation |
| 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Workshops |
| 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Trade Show |
| 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. | Network With Vendors |
| 12:30 - 3:45 p.m. | Public Records Training |
| 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Workshops |
| 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. | Snack Break |
| 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. | Network With Vendors |
| 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. | OTA Legislative Reception |
| 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | County Officers Meeting With Dinner |

Thursday, February 5

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Registration |
| 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Trade Show |
| 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. | Networking With Vendors |
| 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. | General Session |
| 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Networking With Vendors |
| 11:10 a.m. - 12:50 p.m. | CLOUT Meeting & Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | Director Elections |
| 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Workshops |
| 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. | Snack Break |
| 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Workshops |
| 3:45 - 4:45 p.m. | Workshops |
| 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. | Casino Night |

Friday, February 6

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. | Coffee & Conversations 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. | Snack Break / Networking With Vendors |
| 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



LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Cost: \$40

As you enjoy a delicious plated lunch, you will hear from Sam Glenn, an award-winning speaker, best-selling author, and performance artist. Sam weaves his uplifting story into his remarks and is an expert at igniting personal and professional positivity. His *Motivated by Art* training fosters energy and engagement in the workplace to enrich the quality of performance.



CASINO NIGHT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Cost: \$50

Back again this year 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 does sell out each year.



LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Cost: \$25

Head to the Ohio Statehouse to advocate for Ohio's townships during the Legislative Reception. Join state legislators and their staff for an evening of lively conversations. This event is a chance to make connections and advocate for township initiatives. Sign up early as this event only happens every other year. Light appetizers will be served and a cash bar will be available. The OTA will provide buses to and from the Statehouse.



ONE-DAY TRADE SHOW PASS

DAILY PURCHASE

Cost: \$95

For those township employees and industry professionals who want to experience the OTA Winter Conference Trade Show, but cannot commit to the full event, we are again offering the One-Day Trade Show Pass. The pass is available for purchase on-site for \$95 and is perfect for township employees. Please note, the one-day pass is only available to affiliate, associate, and non-members, and can't be purchased by township trustees or fiscal officers. Conference workshops, recordings, or optional events are not available with this pass.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



NEWBIE ORIENTATION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
FREE

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



GENERAL SESSION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5
FREE

Join the OTA at the General Session, the annual meeting of the OTA. Hear from OTA President Scott Fabian and Executive Director Heidi M. Fought on the progress and future of the State Association, see which counties won our 2025 membership awards, and hear from a panel on property taxes, including former state legislator Bill Seitz, current Representative David Thomas, and Lake County Auditor, Chris Galloway. Active members will also vote on the four OTA officer positions. See page 7 for more information on the panel.



PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
FREE

The OTA hosts one of the required state trainings for township elected officials every other year. This year, we will host public records training. This free training is available for all attendees and satisfies the Revised Code requirement that all elected officials, trustees and fiscal officers, must have. Although free, a ticket is required to attend.



COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS WITH HEIDI

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
FREE

Join OTA Executive Director Heidi M. Fought for coffee and conversations on Friday morning. Start the final day of the conference with this great networking opportunity outside of the Union Station Ballroom. Director Fought will be mingling with members and answering questions throughout.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

When can I reserve my room?

The room blocks will open for vendors and attendees on Monday, November 3, 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 9, 2026. 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 February 3, 2026, can be made using the online reservation system or emailed to the Housing Bureau at Housing@ExperienceColumbus.com. To cancel your reservation after February 3, 2026, 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 the 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 | \$189 | \$189 | N/A | N/A |
| Hilton* 402 N. High St. Columbus, Ohio | \$195 | \$195 | \$195 | \$195 |
| Hyatt Regency* 350 N. High St. Columbus, Ohio | \$193 | \$193 | \$193 | \$193 |
| Red Roof PLUS+ 111 E. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, Ohio | \$119 | \$119 | N/A | N/A |
| Sonesta* 33 E. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, Ohio | \$183 | \$183 | N/A | N/A |

* = Hotel is connected to the Greater Columbus Convention Center



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.

Meals are 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, including food vendors in the Convention Center and Trade Show hall. There are also numerous restaurants within walking distance of the Convention Center.

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.

FOOD

CONTINUING EDU.

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.

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.

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.

HANDOUTS

JOIN THE OTA IN GIVING BACK!

The OTA is hosting a Canned Food Drive during the 2026 Winter Conference! Bring your non-perishable food items to the registration area to help support Ohioans in need. Every item counts, so empty out your pantries. Let's make a difference while we gather for another great conference!





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 workshops to attend. Below is a preview of what you can look forward to at the 2026 Winter Conference!

NEW(ER) FISCAL OFFICERS

- ◊ Fiscal Officer 101: Essential Duties and Responsibilities
- ◊ Understanding the Ohio Revised Code for Fiscal Officers
- ◊ Collaborating with Trustees on Financial Matters

EXPERIENCED FISCAL OFFICERS

- ◊ Fulfilling Fiscal Responsibility Through Reserve Planning
- ◊ Digitizing Township Financial Records
- ◊ Hidden Costs, Future Gains: Modernizing Township ERP

NEW(ER) TRUSTEES

- ◊ Policies Every Township Board Needs to Know
- ◊ The Role of the OTA
- ◊ Effective Governance for Township Trustees

TRUSTEES

- ◊ Fostering Civic Engagement in Your Township
- ◊ Preventing Fraud & Mismanagement in Township Finances
- ◊ Voted Levies and Inside Millage: Navigating the Evolving Legal Landscape

ZONING/PLANNING

- ◊ Eyes in the Sky: Leveraging Drones for Township Zoning
- ◊ Managing Short-Term Rentals in Township Zoning
- ◊ Strategies for Cleaning Up Nuisance Properties

SAFETY SERVICES

- ◊ Trustee Oversight of Fire and EMS Services
- ◊ Fostering Township Disaster Resiliency by Collaborating With Local Emergency Management Programs
- ◊ Fire Service Grants for Dummies

ROADS

- ◊ Winter Maintenance Best Practices: Doing More with Less
- ◊ Benefits of Road Department Software
- ◊ Cracks, Cameras, and Capital Plans: The New Language of Pavement Intelligence

TOWNSHIP OPERATIONS

- ◊ Decoding Township Employee Accommodation Requests
- ◊ Effective Workplace Investigations
- ◊ Building a Better Workplace: Culture Enhancement and Expectation Management

PARKS AND CEMETERIES

- ◊ Working with Funeral Homes on Indigent Burials
- ◊ Parks and Recreation: Enhancing Community Spaces
- ◊ Roundtable Discussions

GENERAL TOWNSHIP

- ◊ Ohio's New Local Cybersecurity Program Law
- ◊ Procurement of Architects, Engineers, and Contractors: A Primer for Beginners
- ◊ ADU Strategies for Ohio's Evolving Communities

General Session



You won't want to miss out on this year's General Session! Join us for an engaging panel discussion on one of the most talked-about issues, property taxes. Hear diverse insights from former state legislator **Bill Seitz**, Representative **David Thomas**, and Lake County Auditor **Chris Galloway** as they share their perspectives on challenges and the future outlook of Ohio's property tax system. This dynamic discussion will offer valuable context for townships navigating the evolving fiscal landscape.

Luncheon



Make sure to purchase your ticket for the Luncheon held on Friday, February 6, 2026. During lunch, you'll hear from **Sam Glenn**, an award-winning speaker, best-selling author, and performance artist.

Sam uses his uplifting story into his topics and is an expert at igniting personal and professional positivity. The purpose of his program is to recharge, rekindle, and inspire levels of optimism, purpose, engagement, resilience, and teamwork. He does this by using Motivated by Art training to foster energy and engagement in the workplace to enrich the quality of performance. You won't want to miss out on this presentation!



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2026 OTA Winter Conference & Trade Show

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*

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

TOWNSHIP _____ COUNTY _____

TOWNSHIP POSITION: Trustee Fiscal Officer Other _____

I am a first time conference attendee (Make sure to register for the Newbie Orientation below!)

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

Pre-registration deadline is Friday, January 9, 2026 (mailed registrations must be postmarked by this date). **All cancellations past this date are non-refundable.**
On-site registration will be available for \$185 per registrant or \$95 for the one-day trade show pass.

Registration

| | | # OF TICKETS | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| OTA Member Registration* | \$135 per ticket | x | |
| Non-Member Registration* | \$185 per ticket | x | |
| Spouse/Guest Attendance Fee | \$30 per ticket | x | |
| Legislative Reception | \$25 per ticket | x | |
| Casino Night | \$50 per ticket | x | |
| Luncheon | \$40 per ticket | x | |
| Newbie Orientation | FREE | x | |
| Public Records Training | FREE | x | |
| | | | TOTAL |

*If you are unsure about your membership status, please contact Kelli Bailey at bailey@ohiotownships.org or 614-863-0045.

Payment Information Check Credit Card

CREDIT CARD NO. _____

EXPIRATION _____ CSC _____ ZIP CODE _____

NAME & BILLING

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