



WINTER CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW
Columbus, Ohio | February 10-12, 2027

REGISTRATION



BUILT TO LAST

2027 OTA Winter Conference & Trade Show

Built on strong foundations and strengthened by generations of local leadership, Ohio's townships are **Built to Last**. Join us **February 10-12, 2027**, at the **Greater Columbus Convention Center** for the OTA Winter Conference & Trade Show, where township officials and employees from across Ohio will come together to connect and learn, helping them to prepare for the future.

This year's theme, "**Built to Last**," reflects the legacy, strength, resilience, and lasting impact of Ohio's townships. Just as great structures are built one piece at a time, strong townships are built through knowledgeable leaders, trusted partnerships, and a commitment to serving their communities.

With more than 60 educational workshops, engaging speakers, networking opportunities, and one of the largest trade shows in the Midwest for local governments, the Conference offers countless ways to strengthen your knowledge and make valuable connections. Workshop sessions are designed for every township role, including trustees, fiscal officers, administrators, and more.

Beyond the workshops, the Conference provides plenty of opportunities to connect with colleagues from across the state throughout the week. Network with state leaders at the **Legislative Reception** and with fellow attendees during **Casino Night**. Explore products and services from vendors throughout the **Trade Show**. Affiliates, Associates, and non-members can also experience the Trade Show without the commitment of pre-registering through the returning **One-Day Trade Show Pass**. Attendees can also earn their **Ethics** training credit, fulfilling the state requirement for fiscal officers, and CTA officers can participate in the **County Officers Meeting**.

First-time attendee? Make the **Newbie Orientation** one of your first stops. You'll learn how to navigate the Conference, discover the benefits and resources available through your OTA membership, and meet OTA staff and board members.

We are also bringing in outstanding speakers for this year's Conference (page 7). At the **General Session**, you'll hear from OTA President Ron Miller and Executive Director Kyle A. Brooks on the progress and future of the Association, as well as updates on state policy. At the **Luncheon**, we welcome former NFL running back, Ohio State Buckeye, and author Raymont Harris, who will share an engaging message about leadership and resilience, focusing on what you can control when the pressure is on.

For generations, township government has played an essential role in providing local services across Ohio. The 2027 Winter Conference & Trade Show celebrates that foundation while giving today's township leaders new tools and ideas, as well as opportunities to connect with others, as they continue building for what comes next.

Housing and parking information can be found on page 5.

Pre-registration is open from November 2, 2026, through January 8, 2027. Whatever your role in your township, we hope you will join us in Columbus and be part of something **Built to Last**.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Newbie Orientation
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Workshops
12:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Trade Show
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Network With Vendors
1:00 - 2:15 p.m.	Workshops
2:30 - 3:15 p.m.	Snack Break
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Network With Vendors
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Legislative Reception
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	County Officers Meeting & Dinner

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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 - 2:15 p.m.	Workshops
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Snack Break
3:15 - 4:30 p.m.	Workshops
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Networking With Vendors
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Casino Night

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Coffee With Kyle
7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Trade Show
8:30 - 9:45 a.m.	Workshops
9:45 - 10:15 a.m.	Snack Break
10:15 a.m.	OTARMA Meeting
10:15 - 11:30 a.m.	Workshops
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Last Chance to Network With Vendors
11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Luncheon
1:45 - 3:45 p.m.	Ethics Training

*Subject to change

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

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. Light appetizers will be served and a cash bar will be available. The OTA will provide buses to and from the Statehouse.

WEDNESDAY
February 10
COST:\$25



CASINO NIGHT

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!). Chips can be exchanged for raffle tickets at the end of the night. Get your tickets now, as this event does sell out each year.

THURSDAY
February 11
COST:\$50



LUNCHEON

As you enjoy a delicious plated lunch, hear from Raymont Harris, former NFL running back, Ohio State Buckeye, author, and founder of Elite Mindset & Performance. Drawing on his experiences on football and leadership, Raymont shares a practical message about performing under pressure and overcoming challenges. His approach encourages audiences to focus on what they can control and move forward with purpose. See page 7 for more.

FRIDAY
February 12
COST:\$40



ONE-DAY TRADE SHOW PASS

For those township employees and industry professionals who want to experience the Trade Show, but cannot commit to pre-registering, purchase the One-Day Trade Show Pass available on-site. 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.

DAILY PURCHASE
COST:\$100

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



NEWBIE ORIENTATION

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.

WEDNESDAY
February 10
FREE



GENERAL SESSION

Join the OTA at the General Session, which serves as the annual meeting of the OTA. Hear from OTA President Ron Miller and Executive Director Kyle A. Brooks on the progress and future of the Association, see which counties won the 2026 membership awards, and hear updates on state policy. See page 7 for more information.

THURSDAY
February 11
FREE



COFFEE WITH KYLE

Join Executive Director Kyle A. Brooks for coffee on Friday morning. Start the final day of the Conference with this great networking opportunity outside of the Union Station Ballroom. Director Brooks will be meeting with members and answering questions throughout.

FRIDAY
February 12
FREE



ETHICS TRAINING

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

FRIDAY
February 12
FREE

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

WHEN CAN I RESERVE MY ROOM?

The room blocks will open for vendors and attendees on Monday, November 2, at 10:00 a.m. You will receive the housing link in your confirmation email once you register.

HOW DO I BOOK MY HOTEL?

Hotel reservations are handled by the Columbus Housing Bureau, and must be made at through the link provided by the OTA. 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 20, 2027. 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 9, 2027, can be made using the online reservation system or emailed to the Housing Bureau at Housing@ExperienceColumbus.com. To cancel your reservation after February 9, 2027, 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 rate ranges will vary.

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	PRICE	ADDITIONAL INFO.
Drury Plaza Hotel 88 E. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, Ohio	\$189	Adjoins the Convention Center. Complimentary breakfast.
Hampton Inn & Suites 501 N. High St. Columbus, Ohio	\$194	Across from the Convention Center. Convenient to breakout sessions and trade show. Complimentary breakfast.
Hilton 402 N. High St. Columbus, Ohio	\$208	Accessible to Hall A of the Convention Center via the skywalk.
Hyatt Regency 350 N. High St. Columbus, Ohio	\$199	Host hotel for the Conference and attached to the Convention Center.
Red Roof PLUS+ 111 E. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, Ohio	\$121	Complimentary breakfast.
Sonesta 33 E. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, Ohio	\$188	Accessible to the Convention Center via the skywalk.



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.

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.

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.

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.

FOOD DRIVE

Back for 2027 is the food drive! Bring your non-perishable food items to the registration area to help support Ohioans in need. Collect items at your CTA meeting, donate as a township, or individually. Every item counts, so empty out your pantries! Let's make a difference while we gather for another great conference!

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

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.

WORKSHOP PREVIEW

TRUSTEES

- » Economic Development Tools for Townships
- » Basics of Flooding and the Law
- » Where Township Money Comes From

EXPERIENCED FISCAL OFFICERS

- » Fiscal Officer Roundtable: Addressing Your Questions
- » The Investment Challenge: Rules, Rates, and Returns
- » Economic Impact for Townships in the Circular Economy

NEW(ER) FISCAL OFFICERS

- » State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program
- » UAN 101
- » Year End Timeline

CEMETERIES & PARKS

- » Documenting & Preserving Historic Cemeteries
- » Cemetery Grants & Preservation Funding
- » Parks Roundtable

ROADS

- » Modernizing Winter Operations
- » Which Road Gets Fixed Next and How?
- » Who Owns Which Ditch: Basic and Developments in Ditch Law

SAFETY SERVICES

- » Building Stronger Fire Services: Establishing a Peer Support Team
- » Sleep is Repair
- » Emergency Management Tabletop Exercise

TOWNSHIP OPERATIONS

- » Building a Fire Station: Do's & Do Not's
- » Township Facility Construction Options: Walls, Floors, Covers, and Grants
- » Navigating the Complex Statutory Framework of Township Terminations

ZONING

- » Planned vs. Straight Zoning Districts
- » Story Maps: A Place-Based Storytelling Tool
- » Zoning Law Update

GENERAL TOWNSHIP

- » Data Centers: The Data Ohio Townships Need to Know
- » Building Township Resilience
- » Environmental Enforcement: Tools for Illegal Dumping & Solid Waste

GENERAL SESSION THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

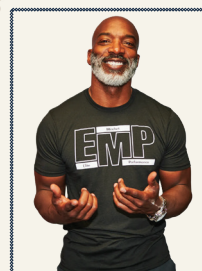
Start the second day of the Conference by joining township officials and employees from across Ohio for the General Session. This annual meeting provides an opportunity to hear important updates, recognize the work happening throughout the state, and look ahead at the issues that will continue to shape township government.

The General Session will feature updates on state policy and attendees will hear remarks from OTA Executive Director Kyle A. Brooks and OTA President Ron Miller on the Association and insight into the issues affecting townships across the state.

The General Session will also recognize the 2026 Membership Award recipients, graduates of the OTA Leadership Academy, and highlight the commitment of county township associations and members.

With important updates, the start of a new General Assembly, and a new gubernatorial administration, there will be plenty happening at the Statehouse in 2027. The General Session is a chance to come together as an Association and hear what these changes could mean for townships. Join us for the General Session to begin your second day of the Conference with a better understanding of what comes next.

LUNCHEON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12



Former NFL running back and Ohio State Buckeye **Raymont Harris** knows what it takes to perform when the pressure is high and the path forward is uncertain. An Ohio native and founder of Elite Mindset & Performance, Raymont draws on his journey from Lorain to Ohio State, the NFL, and more than 15 years working within Ohio State's athletic department to share lessons on leadership, resilience, and achieving at a high level.

During his keynote, **Control the Controllables**, Raymont challenges audiences to focus their energy on what matters most. Through personal stories, practical insights and lessons shaped by success and setbacks, he explores how mindset, adaptability, accountability, and effort can help leaders respond to challenges and keep moving forward.

In an ever-changing world, township officials and employees must adapt to new challenges while staying focused on serving their communities. Raymont's message offers an encouraging perspective on how to navigate change without losing sight of what matters most and focusing on what is within your control.



BUILT TO LAST

2027 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 or download a pdf of the form.**

ATTENDEE NAME _____

SPOUSE/GUEST _____

**Spouse/Guest cannot be a 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 8, 2027 (mailed registrations must be postmarked by this date). **All cancellations past this date are non-refundable.** On-site registration will be available for \$190 per registrant or \$100 for the one-day trade show pass.

REGISTRATION

		# OF TICKETS		TOTAL
OTA Member Registration*	\$140 per ticket	x		
Non-Member Registration*	\$190 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		
Ethics 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 ADDRESS

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