

OCEA Register



Upcoming Events:

- August 20-22, 2025—Basic Code Class
- Sept 25th or Oct 2nd —Fall Conf. at MNTC
- Oct. 27-30, 2025—AACE Conf.
- November 5-7, 2025—Basic Code Class

Inside this issue:

- | | |
|------------------|-----|
| OCEA Conf. | I |
| Officer Articles | 2-6 |
| Jobs/OCEA info | 7 |

www.oceassociation.com

April 2025

The 2025 Spring Conference was a success!

We had 122 in attendance at the lovely Renaissance Tulsa Hotel & Conf. Center. Huge thank you to Jenny Bettinger & Andy Templeton from Sand Springs for being wonderful hosts and for all of the coordinating to make the event a success. Jenny is responsible for providing the yummy cookies to us on the first day and the goody bags from Sand Springs. The New OCEA Board took effect on April 1st. You will see articles from each Board member in this newsletter.

2024-2025 OCEA Board at the Banquet



Code Officer of the Year—
Cindy Gaddis, City of Blackwell
(pictured with her husband and
City Manager.)

OCEA Community Improvement Grant Winners

- Cherokee— Provide dumpsters for community wide clean-up effort
- Clinton— Install solar lighting in the park and purchase trash cans for the park
- Erick— Purchase 4 outdoor benches for the Veterans Memorial
- Leedey— Clean up and remove a burned structure
- Stroud— Purchase aluminum flagpole rods to improve a flag display on Route 66

From your President - Shawn Maverick Fritsche, City of Okmulgee



Fellow Members,

I hope you were able to attend the great conference we just completed at the Renaissance in Tulsa. It was wonderful seeing all of you and I hope you all took something from the classes or networking that will help you in your respective communities. I want to send out a big thank you to Jenny, Andy & the City of Sand Springs for hosting us and doing such a fantastic job on such short notice!

This is my first official newsletter as your President (Brian Henry did a fantastic job!) and I feel honored and blessed that you have allowed me this opportunity. I pray that I do a good job serving you and our board. It makes it a lot easier knowing that I am surrounded by an outstanding group of hardworking board members who have a passion and love for our membership as much as I do. I want to officially welcome Ranae on board, as she takes the reigns as Sergeant at Arms, I think she will do a wonderful job! I want to thank Sheridan for all his hard work and willingness to always do whatever was needed to get the job done. We will miss having him around and pray for continued success in his next adventure. A lot of shuffling has taken place amongst the board as Brian Henry is your new President Emeritus (Brian Henry did a fantastic job as President!), Travis Guess is your new 1st Vice President, Shane Barnard won his re-election for 2nd Vice President and Jessica Green has one more year left on her term as your 3rd Vice President. Also, "Our glue that holds it all together", Janita Hatley and Andy Templeton have been appointed as Secretary and Treasurer for the 25-26 term.

I am always here, as well as all of our board members, if you need anything, have a question, or just need to visit with someone who has been in your position. All of our board member contact information, as well as other OCEA related activities, are located on our website www.oceassociation.com.

Thank you for all you do to keep your communities safe and beautiful! It is an honor to serve this membership.

Shawn "Maverick" Fritsche

OCEA President

From your 1st VP—Travis Guess, City of Prague

Trash, Grass, and Weeds!!!! Oh My!!!! Yes, it is here and always too soon. With all of our other duties, this is just another way to run us ragged if we let it. If you find yourself overwhelmed or under performing call someone. Don't invent the wheel unless you think you have discovered a new species of *Hevea brasiliensis*!!!

We just finished the International Property Maintenance Class and I was so proud of all the students as they really paid attention and engaged in the discussions. A new version of the IPMC is underway and I guarantee it will blow the old one away so get your spot as soon as it's available. You don't want to miss out!!!

The Spring Conference was great!!! Thank a Board Member as this is a team effort and so much work goes into putting one together. I would like to thank the members for voting me in again. I do not take this lightly and I look forward to serving you with as much vigor and enthusiasm as I can muster. As always, thank you for all you do for your community. You all are professionals. Never forget that.



From your 2nd VP —Shane Barnard, City of Midwest City

Hello! I hope everyone that attended the OCEA spring conference had a great time, gained some networking options, and learned some useful information that can be utilized in both personal and professional settings. It has been an honor serving as your 2nd VP with Oklahoma Code Enforcement. Education is near and dear to my heart, the ability to learn new skills or to brush up on old skills to sharpen our mind is what sets us apart from animals.

Education plays a critical role in enhancing the effectiveness of code enforcement by providing officers with the knowledge and skills they need to perform their duties with confidence and precision. Here's how:

1. **Legal and Technical Expertise:** Education ensures that officers are well-versed in codes, ordinances, and regulations, as well as legal procedures. This helps them interpret and apply laws accurately while minimizing errors.
2. **Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking:** Educational programs often emphasize analytical skills, enabling officers to assess complex situations, identify violations, and devise practical solutions.
3. **Communication and Interpersonal Skills:** Dealing with property owners, tenants, and the public requires clear and respectful communication. Education fosters these soft skills, which are crucial for resolving conflicts and gaining compliance.
4. **Professionalism and Credibility:** Well-educated officers project professionalism, earning trust and respect from the community. This strengthens relationships and encourages voluntary compliance with codes.
5. **Adaptability and Continuous Improvement:** With laws and technologies constantly evolving, education equips officers to stay updated and adapt to new challenges, including innovations in construction and property maintenance.
6. **Teaching and Leadership:** For officers who lead training sessions or manage teams, education provides the foundation to mentor others effectively and contributes to the development of the profession.

In essence, education empowers code enforcement officers to uphold community standards while fostering collaboration and respect within the communities they serve. Again, I want to express my gratitude for the ability to serve the last 2 years and for having faith in me to serve another term as the OCEA 2nd VP. I look forward to doing my best to uphold the professionalism of the OCEA organization. If I can help in any way please contact me at my office at 405-739-1013.



From your 3rd VP—Jessica Green, City of Chickasha



Hello Everyone,

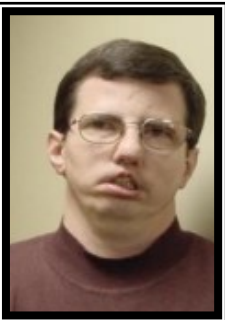
I'm excited that winter is finally behind us —which means it's time for my favorite season: grass season! I hope you're all doing well and staying healthy.

If you haven't had a chance to submit your membership yet, please do so as soon as possible. I also wanted to highlight our *Chickasha Cares* program. Through this, we've been able to donate paint and supplies to people who qualify. We've already donated over 300 gallons of paint and supplies to those in need.

In addition to that, we recently helped a nonprofit organization that purchased six run-down houses. They needed help with demolition, so we were able to provide four roll-off dumpsters for the project. This not only helped clear the houses but also made the neighborhood a lot safer.

If there's anything you need, feel free to reach out! Stay safe, everyone.

From your Treasurer—Andy Templeton, City of Sand Springs



As treasurer, I was pleased to see a good turnout of attendees for the Spring Conference. The revenues from your conference fees go a significant way toward paying the bills. As I reported during the business meeting, our conferences lose money by design. We try to keep our fees low so attendees from communities of all sizes can have a quality experience and grow themselves with learning opportunities. Your membership dues and class fees offset those conference expenses and enable our outreach programs such as Community Improvement Grants to flourish. We also have a beneficial scholarship partnership with OMAG that I hope will continue for years to come.

That being said, rising costs make the beneficial balance I described more of a financial challenge to manage each year. The Board and I are committed to continuing the model of excellent value for a reasonable cost – with perhaps a few tweaks forthcoming to preserve our financial integrity. As treasurer and a long-time board member, I am truly grateful to the membership for its consistent support of our Association and its endeavors.

I'll conclude by changing hats to my employment with the City of Sand Springs. We were the host city for this year's conference, and it was a wonderful experience watching you all learn and network. Our elected officials and senior management are very supportive of code enforcement education and outreach, and my gratitude runs deep. It also runs very deep for Jenny Bettinger, our office administrator, who took the lead on the conference's logistics, made up the themed banquet table centerpieces, baked cookies and filled goodie bags for everyone. She even came up with some cool door prizes!

From your Secretary—Janita Hatley, City of Norman



It was a pleasure to see many of you at the Spring Conference in Tulsa. We had Committee sign up sheets at the conference, so if you were not able to attend or you failed to sign up for a Committee, and you are interested, please let me know. We have Education, Membership and Legislative Committee's. You should have heard or will soon be hearing from the Committee Chairs to begin the work—Education Chair is Shane Barnard, Membership Chair is Jessica Green and Legislative Chair is Travis Guess.

If you have ideas for future conferences—locations, topics, speakers, etc. please share those ideas with me. We are working to bring Vendors in for the Spring Conferences to spice things up.

The Fall Conference details are starting to come together and we will hold this one-day event at the Moore-Norman Technology Center, where we hold our classes. The possible dates are Sept 26th or Oct 2nd. More info will be shared very soon.

The OCEA website will soon be revamped and facilitated by our friends at OML. Be looking for those improvements.

We still have access to the OCEA online store (link on website). If you have trouble with this, or have questions, please reach out to me.

The spring showers are starting to get old around here and I know that the explosion of tall grass cases will soon be the only thing we will be able to think about or focus on. Stay safe out there and remember the Code of Ethics and always be professional Code Officers in your Communities.

From your Sgt-at-Arms—Ranae Gorman, City of Perry



Greetings to all OCEA members, Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Sergeant-At-Arms (trying to fill the shoes of Sheridan is no small task). I wish him much happiness in his retirement and "Thank" him for his support .

As I read the OCEA Bylaws, I realize the importance of serving and take my position seriously. I hope to contribute high energy, good ideas and provide a strong network with all members. I have had a wonderful group of supporters and role models since joining the OCEA. Because of their support and encouragement, I have succeeded in obtaining my Permit Tech Certification, Zoning Inspector through the ICC and have successfully gone through both the Code Compliance Certification and Property Maintenance with the OCEA.

I have always been amazed of how caring and open each Board member has always been to provide support and education when needed. Thank You !

With all this being said, I am ready to "jump-in" and get started. Here is to a great year ahead.



From your President Emeritus—Brian Henry, City of Perry

Hello Membership!

I am really just busting out the greatest hits at this point and saying the same to you as president emeritus as I did as president. Thank you for allowing me to serve you all for the last year. I got the opportunity to meet several of you and thoroughly enjoyed it, except that strange guy from Prague. I also got to sit at the table and learn from the other board members and just absorb the knowledge they each have gained from being in code enforcement for a collective 300 years. These are some of the greatest people I have ever met and we are all in great shape in their hands.

I do hope some of you will consider running for board seats in the future, it is a great opportunity to serve and to network. I also would highly encourage you all to give us all of the constructive comments you can. We do read each of the comment sheets after class and conferences. This greatly helps us know how we can better serve you.

Those things said, tall grass season is upon us and everyone is going to be getting into the routine pretty soon. I just want to remind each of you as we enter the high stress season of spring/summer that you are important to your community. They may not see your hard work but I can promise you they enjoy the fruits of your labor. I was told recently that we are the first line of community & economic development. Truer words have never spoken.

So, as I leave you with that, I would like to impart the wisdom of the greatest poet in American history, Steve Perry (google him).

"Don't Stop Believing"

-Steve Perry



OKLAHOMA CODE ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

201 NE 23rd St.
OKC, OK 73105

Phone: 800-324-6651
Local : 405-528-7515

www.oceassociation.com

Founded in 1994, the Oklahoma Code Enforcement Association is dedicated to the study and advancement of Code Enforcement activities at the local, county and state levels. Its membership represents both large cities and small towns that have an interest in enhancing neighborhood and community health, safety, welfare and aesthetics.

Like us on Facebook



Job Openings in Oklahoma

City of Coweta has a Code Compliance Officer position open. The job closes 5-31-25.

City of Collinsville has a Building Inspector/Code Enf. Officer position open

City of Tulsa has a Neighborhood Inspector II open.

Send me your job listings and we can share with OCEA members!

OCEA Updates:

Remember to apply for OMAG Scholarship for upcoming OCEA Classes. Info on OCEA website.

AACE Code Officer Check-In Dates: June 24—September 23—December 16. Visit www.aace1.org for more info prior to each check-in.

Tidbits from Janita:

Please send me photos, funny or interesting stories from some case that you've worked, or a Before/After from a case that you've worked and I will add them to the newsletter. Our members would really enjoy seeing things from fellow OCEA members across the State.

You can email your newsletter submissions to me at Janita.hatley@normanok.gov and you can call me at (405)623-8009 or in my office at (405) 366-5318.

Thankful for our Partners/Friends



OMAG



AACE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

**OKLAHOMA
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE**

The Unified Voice of Oklahoma Cities and Towns