

OCEA Register



Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 4-6, 2013 - Basic Code Class
- Sept. 26, 2013 - Fall Conf. in Purcell
- Oct. 29-31, 2013—AACE Conf. in OKC hosted by OCEA

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July 2013

Fall Conference - McClain Co. Farm - Home Community Center—Purcell, OK

Join us for our free one-day Fall Conference on **Thursday, September 26, 2013** hosted by the City of Purcell. We have a very informative agenda lining up for the Conference and once again, OCEA will treat everyone to a delicious catered lunch on-site. Hotel reservations can be made independently at any location of your choice in Purcell or Norman. Watch for more info which will be sent out very soon & it will be posted on our website in the next few days.

Please bring one or more door prizes from your City that we can take to the AACE conference in October. We will still do a few door prizes at our Fall Conference, but since OCEA is responsible for all of the door prizes at the AACE Conference, we want to make sure and have plenty. If you bring them with you to Purcell, we will make sure they make it to OKC in October.

As soon as the registration form is emailed to you or posted online for the Fall Conference, send it in as soon as possible for seating & catering purposes. Any questions, please contact Janita Hatley or one of the other Officers.



McClain County Farm-Home Community Center
2101 Hardcastle Blvd. Purcell, OK 73080

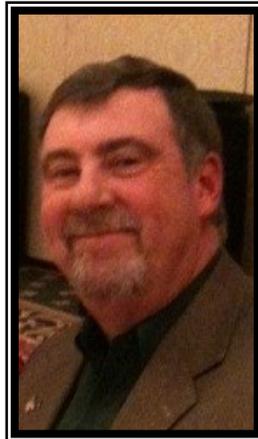


From your President—Marsha Sirmon, City of Edmond

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Terry Humphrey. Terry's 25 years of municipal service was recognized by the Oklahoma Municipal League on July 22nd during the Edmond City Council meeting. (See Photo on back page)
 Much thanks to Kelvin Winter for his hard work on the updated OCEA website and also on the new AACE website. They both look great Kelvin, thank you.
 I hope that you have all made plans for the OCEA Fall Conference on September 26, in Purcell ... remember it's FREE and we will provide lunch! Also, I would like to encourage you to get your AACE Conference registration in. There are many awesome classes scheduled, and this will be THE conference that will become the standard for the other states to meet!!!



**David Timmons—1st VP
City of Stroud**



**Terry Humphrey—2nd VP
City of Edmond**



**Andy Templeton—3rd VP
City of Sand Springs**



**Dana Greer—Treasurer
City of Frederick**



**Janita Hatley—Secretary
City of Norman**



**Barbara Burlingame—Sgt-at-Arms
City of Norman**

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE CONFERENCE by Andy Templeton , 3rd VP

There are some big conference doings in our neck of the woods this fall. Our annual OCEA fall conference will be held in Purcell Sept. 26th, and the AACE National Conference will be held in Oklahoma City the last week of October. There's no cost to attend the OCEA fall conference, and we're even going to pick up your lunch for you. The AACE conference carries a fee that is likely substantial for many small cities, but the benefits are well worth it.

Whether it's free or fee, I'd certainly encourage everyone to attend one or both of the conferences.

I've attended nearly all of the OCEA conferences over the last 17 years and have always come away with something useful for my daily work environment. In addition to the classes, the networking helps code officers learn how others deal with situations in their communities. The names and faces may change, but the violations are the same.

I learned too much at one of our conferences. Someone once told me if a citizen is giving you grief, you can solve that by saying, "looks like I need to get out the ticket book." I came back and enthusiastically tried that technique out ... on someone who apparently had a direct line to the city manager's office. Live and learn!

AACE conferences put code enforcement on a national stage, and networking occurs with people from all over the country. Again, the names and faces change, but the problems are the same. What works in Maryland, Colorado or Oregon can also work in Oklahoma. I've had the honor of attending numerous AACE conferences and have found them highly educational and inspirational. This year's conference will be no exception – and it's right in our own back yard!

You should make it a habit to attend conferences where and when you can. Progressive cities who want to enhance the quality of life for their citizens should support you. Even if budgets limit such support, come on your own dime if you can. The take-away personally and professionally is well worth the investment.

See you this fall!

We Need Proctors for the upcoming AACE Conference

Proctors are needed in the General Session on the first day of the AACE conference and on both days of the break-out sessions. Each day that you are a proctor is basically a free day at the AACE conference. You will only have to pay for lunch on the days you proctor and for the banquet on Wednesday night, should you choose to go. Please contact Janita Hatley for more info on this. Call 405-366-5318, 405-623-8009 or email me at Janita.hatley@normanok.gov.

AACE Web Page News

By: Kelvin Winter, AACE Webmaster

This article is rather lengthy, but I believe it is important to provide the recent history of our website as a foundation of understanding the events that have occurred in the past year. Approximately one year ago, AACE terminated its contract with the management company it was using. The unintended consequence was that we also lost our website domain name, aace1.com, because the management company registered our domain in their name rather than in the name of AACE. Our web hosting company, Affiniscap, was physically located in Austin, TX, which is also where our Sergeant-At-Arms, Matthew Christianson works. As a result, Matthew was tasked with resolving our domain name issue as well as all the problems it created on our web page. Affiniscap was very helpful and assisted Matthew in obtaining a new domain name, aace1.org, which we are now using, as well as assisting him with the subsequent web page issues. What you may not know is the problems the forced domain change caused to our web site. Most of the links on the site were no longer working because the management company had been using the full domain name for the links on the site. Had the management company used relative links (like all other reputable companies do), then it would not have mattered that the domain name changed. This appears to have been done that way purposefully, so that we would be forced to pay an exorbitant price to buy our old domain name back. Even now, if you look up our old domain name, it is available for the small sum of \$18,000.00.

In addition to all of the other duties required of the Sergeant-At-Arms, Matthew Christianson was also tasked with repairing the website following the domain name change. Matthew spent many hours working on the website, correcting links and making it functional again. Due to the fact that the previous management company was also paid to maintain the website, it was now necessary to try to hire a vendor to take over those duties, or seek a volunteer within the membership of AACE who was able and willing to take on the task.

As you may recall, pleas for help with the AACE webpage was sent out to the membership via emails, and was also published in the AACE newsletter a few times. At the time, I was in a master's degree program and was unable to volunteer due to the time constraints involved with working full-time and attending school full-time for an advanced degree. After a few months of seeing the numerous requests for a webmaster, I deduced that no one had yet volunteered. Finally, I contacted AACE and explained that I was willing to volunteer to help with the webpage, but I would not be able to start until October because my education track would not be completed until the end of September. Since I was the only volunteer, I was appointed to be the webmaster for AACE and started working on the web page in the middle of October.

The first few months as webmaster was spent finishing the reparation of the problems with the links on the website that Matthew did not have the time to complete, which were mostly in the lesser used portions of our site. Following that was cleaning up the website and improving the looks of the content on our web pages. The worst part was the backend of the site, which is hidden from view by the user, consisting of hundreds of files and pages that were not organized in any reasonable fashion, many of which were no longer in use. A large portion of this was organized and some was deleted, but it was a monumental task that was very time intensive and seemed insurmountable in its totality.

AACE has wanted to change the design of our website to something better and more modern, but the change costs thousands of dollars because you have to use one of their templates for the design and it has to be customized for the organization, then all of the information has to be transferred, thus is an expensive process that AACE could not afford at this time. This change had become a long range goal of the organization, but remained on the back burner due to the cost, time and effort required.

In December, Affiniscap announced that it was merging with another web hosting company out of Florida, called YourMembership. A few weeks later, Affiniscap announced that they were going to use the templates from YourMembership for all of Affiniscap's clients, which meant that all websites hosted by Affiniscap would need to transition to a new YourMembership template. This meant that we were being forced to change our website to a new template, and since it was a result of the merger and outside of our control, we were basically going to receive a free, new design for our website. Wow! This was a godsend since we have wanted to do this anyway for quite some time, and now we were being given the opportunity to do it for free, instead of paying thousands of dollars to accomplish this endeavor. However, our good fortune meant that I would be required to spend much more time and effort on this process than I knew about when I started volunteer position back in October, but the finished product will be well worth the effort.

After attending numerous webinars by YourMembership, the work began on the new website. The most important decision was choosing the template for our organization. This is where my recent academic endeavors really paid off, because I had researched and learned the most recent business technology trends, and as a result, knew that we really needed a mobile-friendly website because desktop and even laptop computers are trending out and people are increasingly using tablets and smartphones as the primary means for browsing the web. With this in mind, I recommended to the AACE Board that we use what YourMembership referred to as a flex template. The Board agreed and the new web page will be mobile-friendly when viewed in the landscape position, which means that you will not have to increase the size of our web page when viewed in the landscape position on your smartphone or tablet.

As of this writing, the new AACE website is not yet showing up at our domain, but was transitioned by the IT department at Affiniscape this morning (July 19, 2013) and should be up and running within the next 24 hours. The new site has many new features and is very social network friendly. Each committee, and the AACE Board, will have their own pages within our site in which they can accomplish their tasks and goals. These group pages allow the sharing of files as well as forums and blogs that are live, in real time for communication purposes. Each group will also have their own calendar for scheduling group projects or meetings, etc. Additionally, the new website will also provide the following benefits:

- Member registration and dues acceptability
- Member directory and profiles
- Events and conferences
- Social networking
- Forums
- Blogs
- Wiki and collaboration
- News and Press
- Donation capability
- Career Center
- Online voting, surveys, and quizzes
- Member rewards

As you can see, there are many more benefits than we previously had and I look forward to this transition and the new look as well as functionality of the new website. The good news is that this increase in benefits and the improved look and design is not costing us any more than we were paying previously. There were a couple of enhanced designs that we implemented which cost extra, but these were just initial outlay fees that are not recurring in nature, and were agreed upon and approved by the AACE Board. These two features consisted of the sponsor carousel at the bottom and the custom slideshow of code violations with replaceable text, both of which appear on the new home page.

I hope you enjoy the exciting new changes to the AACE website. Please spread the word around to other code officers and use this tool to help increase our membership. The value of your membership with AACE has just increased tremendously because of this new, positive change, so please take advantage of it and share the information with your respective state code organizations. There will be some issues that will need to be resolved after this transition occurs, which is expected and inherent with this kind of technological change, so please let me or Roy know about any logon issues, broken links, or any other issues you may have and we will do our best to get it corrected as soon as possible. Roy may be reached at info@aace1.org or with other means of contact as listed on the website, and I may be reached at kelvin.winter@normanok.gov.

AACE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Professional Certification program to assist in building your career.
- Nationwide Membership Directory provides coast-to-coast contacts.
- Subscription to "The New Prospective", the Association's newsletter to keep you informed on the latest code enforcement issues.
- Annual Educational Conference with affordable registration fees provide education/training and networking opportunities.
- Information on state conferences and state training programs.
- Annual election of officers.
- A forum for professional contacts. We welcome and encourage active participation in the organization.

MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS

We are offering some specials for new first-time members. Two new members can join for the price of one, or an individual membership for \$50.00. Upon renewal, prices will revert to the normal price. See [membership special brochure](#) for details.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

• Active Member \$75.00

Eligibility: Actively involved in the field of code enforcement and/or regulation of health and safety. Enjoys voting rights, quarterly newsletters and convention registration discounts.

• Associate Member \$75.00

Eligibility: Not actively involved in the field of code enforcement and/or regulation. Enjoys quarterly newsletters and convention registration discounts.

[Join AACE](#)

<http://www.aace1.org/>



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ENFORCEMENT
ASSOCIATION

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OCEA Offers Understanding and Perspective to Code Issues

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.



Terry Humphrey receiving award from City of Edmond Mayor for his 25 years of service to the City.

Announcements/Updates

- 2014 OCEA Spring Conference will be held in Durant, OK— dates & further info are still in the works.
- Have any interesting stories, Code Enforcement tales, photos you want to share with the rest of the OCEA Group?? If so, please email them to Janita or any of the other Officers so we can get them in the next newsletter!
- Door prizes are needed in a major way for the AACE Conference in October, so please help OCEA out by contributing. As mentioned on the front page, you can bring the AACE door prize with you to our Fall Conference and we will load them all up and make sure they make it to OKC.
- Don't hesitate to contact any of the Officers if you have any questions or issues—we are here for you!