

OCEA Register



Upcoming Events:

- Oct. 3, 2024—
OCEA Fall Conf.
- Oct. 22-25, 2024—
AAE Conf.
- Nov. 13-15, 2024—
Basic Code Class
(FULL)

www.oceassociation.com

September 2024

OCEA Scholarship Winners for the AACE Conference:

We received 13 applications from OCEA members wanting to attend the upcoming AACE Conference. We held a drawing at our August board meeting and these are the 5 names selected. They are now registered and ready to attend the conference.

Congrats!!

Lisa Settlemyre (Gore)

Brian Wood (Midwest City)

Jarrid Dupuis (Del City)

Steven Canary (Norman)

Scott Wintz (Chandler)

For those that are attending the AACE Conference, please join us at the OCEA reception on Wednesday evening, October 23rd.

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SPEND AN EVENING WITH THE

Oklahoma Code Enforcement Association

Please join us for an evening of Networking, Food, and Fun!

Light appetizers will be served throughout the event.
Each guest will receive 2 drink tickets upon arrival.
Additional drinks will be available at the cash bar.

Plaza Ballroom
October 23 | 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Oklahoma!
OKLAHOMA CITY

Contact Janita Hatley with Questions
Janita.Hatley@NormanOK.gov

From your President—Brian Henry, City of Perry

Hello fellow members of the OCEA,



I am proud to serve as your President for the 2024-2025 term. This is a duty I do not take lightly and also hope I do not mess this up lol. I also would like to encourage all of you well in advance, run for an office. This board is a great group of people and it is always enlightening to see how others function in their role in their community.

Thank goodness for the cool September breeze! I would like to remind you all though that this is only a season and the 'BER months are just around the bend.

My goals for this term are to get to know as many of you as I can. So, please take time to call or email if you have questions. The other is to aid in any way I can to help us grow as a body. I believe a lot of that growth is input from you all. We read all of the feedback you give us and take it seriously, as we serve you all. I have ideas in some areas that I hope will have a positive impact but truly we do rely on you to help us see things in a new way. I look forward to hearing from each of you and seeing you at the Fall conference!

From your 1st VP—Shawn Maverick Fritsche, City of Okmulgee

Hello Members and Colleagues,

I am praying you are managing well and are in good health. I was personally hoping all the grass would burn up here, but we were blessed with a bout of rain in August. With the rain and slightly cooler weather, the grass and weeds have begun growing again. Ohh well, it looks like we will be mowing until Halloween.

On another note, we have had many members over the years ask about the legislative process and what that entails. OCEA has been involved in multiple attempts at passing legislation; engaging in many parts of the legislative process. I have included a basic breakdown of the process and Oklahoma's basic timeline.

The Legislative Process in Oklahoma:

Introduction

A member of the chamber introduces a bill, which is then assigned a number and filed electronically.

Committee consideration

The bill is sent to a committee for study and recommendations. The committee may vote to send the bill to the full chamber for consideration, or it may vote to not pass the bill.

Chamber consideration

The bill is brought to the floor for a vote. If the bill passes, it moves to the other chamber.

Conference committee

The other chamber may amend the bill, and then the two chambers may send it to a conference committee for further amendments.

Governor's consideration

The bill is sent to the Governor for consideration. The Governor can sign the bill, veto it, or wait five days for it to go into effect.

Veto override

If the Governor vetoes the bill, the Legislature can override the veto with a two-thirds vote.

The Oklahoma Legislature is made up of two houses: The Oklahoma Senate and the Oklahoma House of Representatives. The regular session of the Oklahoma Legislature takes place from February through May. Usually by October we are working with Representatives and Senators on Bills to get drafted for the upcoming session. The drafting of Bills and Joint resolutions deadline is usually in December. This is a short version of the process, but I hope it gives some a better understanding. I hope you all have a wonderful Autumn season and I look forward to seeing you all in Chickasha in October.

Shawn "Maverick" Fritsche—OCEA 1st Vice President



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

Hello everyone!

How is everyone? Tired of tall weeds and grass? Well, the growing season is all most over!

Our latest Basic Code Class in August was a great class. This class was very engaged and participated by asking some great questions. We added 33 certified code officers to our ranks! If you are one of those 33 let me, say congratulations. You are now a certified code officer and a member of OCEA so, welcome to the family!

I am very excited for the upcoming AACE conference and hope to see Oklahoma show up. We also have our fall conference in Chickasha October 3rd, followed by the spring conference at Quartz Mountain State Park.

That is about all I have right now, but I want to leave you with a trivia question with a prize attached for the first OCEA member to answer via email.

What is the earliest known written building code? The first email I get with the correct name of the book, the date it is believed to be written into law, and an example of the language of the written code that would be considered what we know as building code today. Email me at sbarnard@midwestcityok.org with The History of Code in the subject line.

Winner will receive an OCEA Challenge Coin. The key is the winner must attend one of the next three conferences to receive the coin. This includes AACE.

Shane Barnard, CCEO—Code Enforcement Officer IV—City of Midwest City—2nd Vice President—Oklahoma Code Enforcement Association—405-739-1013



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

Dear Friends,

Greetings from your 3rd Vice President! I hope everyone is managing the tail end of mowing season as we head into fall. It's always a busy time dealing with overgrown properties, but hopefully, we can all take a breather as grass growth slows down. Here in Chickasha, it's been quite the summer, and I know many of you have faced similar challenges.

Looking forward to catching up with you all in October—whether in Chickasha or at the AACE conference in Oklahoma City. Be sure to stop by our booth if you're attending!

In addition to my role as 3rd VP, I also serve as a Marketing Representative for the Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation. I wanted to share some important information about the Code Officer Safety Specialist course. This 15-hour training is a fantastic resource for anyone in our field. We're also seeking Angel Donors to help support code officers who need bullet proof vests.

A Few Reminders:

- OCEA Membership Renewals: I'll be sending out renewal information soon, so please keep an eye on your inbox.
- Upcoming Basic Code Class: In November, we're hosting another Basic Code class. If you know anyone new to code enforcement, please encourage them to join the wait list!

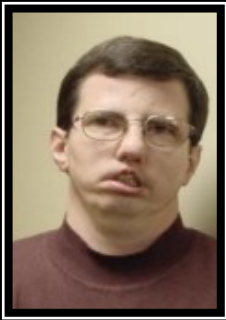
Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Best regards,

Jessica Green
3rd Vice President, OCEA
Marketing Representative, Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation



From your Treasurer—Andy Templeton, City of Sand



Hello from your OCEA Treasurer. We have plenty of events coming up this fall which I'm sure other officers are sharing with you in this newsletter. My job is to make sure the bills get paid for them. Our fall conference is free of charge to OCEA members, and we annually draw 120 to 150 attendees. Some years, OCEA officers make endless pots of coffee and fill coolers full of water and soft drinks. I usually start my day at the doughnut shop buying 12 dozen or more doughnuts. Lunch is a catered affair with plenty of good food. One thing we've learned over the years is OCEA folks like to eat well. The bill for all this can easily exceed \$3,000 – and that's if the host city finds us a place without charge. It is money well spent in my book. Many of our members come from smaller communities with populations barely in the hundreds. Their municipalities often cannot afford to send them to conferences that require a fee. Our fall conference gives everyone an opportunity to stay in touch with fellow code officers and learn some of the critical trends in the profession. I hope to see many of you at our upcoming fall conference in Chickasha – and lunch is still on us! A big thank you to the City of Chickasha for providing some of the other amenities that make our conferences both filling and fulfilling. May we meet again at the end of October in Oklahoma City for the AACE National Conference. This is a big deal and right in everybody's back yard. Our budget for this is \$30,000 and includes scholarship awards to several OCEA members, a booth to tout OCEA to a national audience, resources for officers working the event, and an evening reception to show how Oklahoma puts on a friendly spread. We are well respected among state code enforcement associations and have one of the largest membership enrollments in AACE thanks to the pass-thru program which annually provides OCEA members with a companion AACE membership. I'd conclude with a big thank you for your continuing support of our organization and its missions. You are what inspires us as officers to reach for even higher goals and make greater investments in our profession and the communities that benefit for our endeavors.

From your Secretary—Janita Hatley, City of Norman

This year has flown by and I am super excited about our October events! I can tell you that the AACE Board is impressed with how many Oklahoman's have registered to attend the Conference in OK! They had to close out registration once we reached 360 attendee's due to the size of the conference room capacities. There is a wait list you can be listed on, if you were late in registering. The reception that OCEA is hosting on Oct. 23rd from 6:30-8:30pm will be a wonderful evening of networking with new and old friends. OCEA will have a large presence at the AACE Conference and I can't wait to show them our warm Oklahoma hospitality.



Our OCEA Membership has continued to grow and we are now at over 480 members! As Jessica mentioned, you will soon be receiving Member renewal info with the online link to complete the process.

The OMAG scholarship form has been updated and is available on our website. OMAG offers scholarships for their Member Cities for educational training events hosted by OCEA.

Our 2025 Spring Conference will be March 27-28, 2025 at Quartz Mountain State Park. Tim Sun, from California and from CEOSF will come back to spend a day with us and teach an energetic class on Officer Safety! Jessica is organizing a Corn-Hole Tournament and we will share details closer to conference time. If you have specific class or dietary requests, please contact me ASAP.

Remember that if you received the OCEA Community Improvement Grant this year, you need to complete the project and submit your documentation to me for reimbursement before Dec. 31st!

We will have the 2025 OCEA class dates finalized soon and will post them on the OCEA website.

Keep up the great work in your Communities and never hesitate to contact me with any questions!
Sincerely, Janita

From your Sgt-at-Arms—Sheridan Lowery, City of OKC



As high grass and weed season winds down, the focus of code enforcement shifts to addressing a broader array of issues with diligence and consistency. While the influx of vegetation-related complaints has slowed, it's crucial to remain vigilant in enforcing other property maintenance standards, such as junk and debris, abandoned vehicles, and exterior building maintenance.

This is the time to thoroughly inspect properties, ensuring ongoing compliance with local ordinances and resolving lingering cases. Maintaining strong communication with property owners, offering guidance, and adhering to established procedures call allow for proactive action, improving neighborhood aesthetics and safety year-round, even in the absence of seasonal demands.

By addressing these other significant issues now, we can make the next grass and weed season a little easier, as properties should already be in better condition.

From your President Emeritus—Travis Guess, City of Prague



Mowing Season is almost over and Conference Season is here!!!! Our free conference is in Chickasha and then we have AACE coming to OKC. I hope everyone has the chance to take advantage of the great educational as well as the networking opportunities at both of these events.

I have quite a few ride-along's scheduled, but I always have room for more so if you're wanting to do one just give me a call and we will make it happen.

As a board member of the Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation I would like to welcome Jessica Green and Brian Keith Henry as Regional Representatives. In addition, I was voted in by the board as VP of the foundation. The CEOSF offers training to help keep Code Officers safe. It addresses officer safety and awareness. The foundation also offers scholarships and bullet proof vests for Code Officers. You can find more info at www.codeofficersafety.org.



OKLAHOMA CODE ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

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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

Purcell has an opening for a Code Enforcement Officer/Building Official - This is still open! — <https://www.purcellok.gov/135/Employment-Opportunities>

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

OCEA Updates:

OCEA Membership Dues have been extended to the end of 2024, after our Bylaw amendment passed at the Spring Conference, which amended our fiscal year. We will now be operating under a calendar year of January 1—December 31.

Member renewal info will be shared this fall to begin the process.

Be thinking ahead of who you would like to nominate for OCEA Awards.

If you are interested in joining the OCEA Board, make plans to submit a Candidate form just after January 1st. The election will take place at the 2025 Spring Conference at Quartz Mountain.

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



AACE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CODE ENFORCEMENT