

# OCEA Register



## Upcoming Events:

- August 20-22, 2025—Basic Code Class—FULL
- Sept 26th —Fall Conf. in Moore
- Oct. 27-30, 2025—AACE Conf.
- November 5-7, 2025—Basic Code Class—FULL

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July 2025

## Please join us for the 2025 OCEA Fall Conference September 26th, in Moore at The Station

We hope to see many of you at the OCEA Fall Conference, on Friday, September 26th, at 700 S. Broadway Ave. at The Station. The City of Moore has offered to host the event and the Registration and Agenda will be available on the OCEA website soon. The Conference is free for OCEA Members there will be a \$50 fee for Non-members. Lunch will be provided for all attendee's.

Hotel arrangements can be independently made, but please ask for the Government rate when inquiring about a reservation. A list of area hotels will be made available with the Agenda. Bring a Door Prize!!



## OCEA Community Improvement Grant Update

Here is our completed project! The three photos show the OCEA funded SuperSack Recycle Bins. Each sack is a 3x3x3 unit and the bins make it super easy to inspect sack for any incorrectly placed items. In addition, the racks make the space look orderly and professional.

Thank you to the OCEA Board for approving our application! You have improved the health, safety and welfare of our community!

David Timmons  
City of Stroud



## From your President - Shawn Maverick Fritsche, City of Okmulgee



### The Great Wall of Okmulgee... (Sort of)

The year was 2012 A.D. Whispers began to be heard throughout the office of something on the wind. It started as flickering rumors and hearsay about a wall, "Oh it's just a stone here or there". Gradually more and more fuel was added to the news of this so-called "Wall" and it became a firestorm. Then the calls from citizens, the City Council, Mayor, etc....starting pouring in about a *"massive, unpermitted wall being built in the alley!"* News stations & the local paper was being called; the Governor was threatening to call in the National Guard.

Naturally, I stopped everything I was doing to focus solely on this potentially apocalyptic issue. Red tags/citations? Check. Camera? Check. Measuring tape? Double check. Prepared to shut down an unapproved mega-structure threatening alleyway harmony? Absolutely.

What did I find?

The beginnings of an impenetrable, towering barrier? No. A rampart, of cascading native stones and mortar? No.

What I found, was thirty or so small stones, neatly placed along the edge of the alley. More decorative than dominating. Less "fortress wall" and more, "someone was tired of people driving through their grass."

It turned out, one "well-meaning resident," and (I say that sarcastically) mistook the little landscaping touch for a full-on construction project. The kind that might block off access, change traffic flow, or spark international diplomacy. Another likely possibility, is that I was collateral damage in a war between neighbors.

This account is one of those cases that was exaggerated all the way around. Truthfully, in the spirit of things I might have also embellished a little in the description of how it happened. The truth remains that it was in fact, way over dramatized by the neighbors and the public.

For all those new to Code, we have a job to do; but keep in mind that the public will most always make it sound worse than it actually is. So keep calm and remember not all walls are walls. Sometimes they are just stones trying to mind their own business.

On another note, I want to thank our board members for all the hard work they do on a day to day basis for our association and membership. It is a great feeling to see such a great group of professionals who care so deeply about our association and all of you. If you ever need a question answered or just need to vent, we are all here for you. 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

I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer so far. Baseball, swimming holes, barbecues, and fire works make this one of my favorite times of the year!!!! I love getting to blow things up!!!! Basic Code Class is coming up soon. I am excited to get in there and teach; with Andy and the other great instructors, the new recruits who will be tomorrows Great Code Enforcement Officers. If you know someone who would be an asset to our profession, encourage them to get into the greatest field ever. We need more people to volunteer for the committees, especially the Safety Committee. OCEA is a big proponent of the national Code Enforcement Safety Foundation. If you have had any incident on the job, please report the incident. If you are not comfortable reporting it, then call me and I will get it logged in anonymously. This will help local, State, and Federal legislation get passed for the benefit of Code Enforcement Officers everywhere. I would like to remind everyone that I have a "ride-along-program" where you come to Prague and spend a couple of hours, 1/2 a day, or a full day working with me on exciting cases. I hope to see you at the Fall Conference coming up. I am including my cell # in the letter. You can call me anytime, with any question, Period. The only stupid question is the one not asked. Enjoy the rest of the Summer, and please be safe!!! Travis—405-473-1755



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

It's That Time Again!

Is anyone ready for winter to get here? This time of year, we are as busy as Fred the baker in the Dunkin Donut commercials from the 1980's. Those old enough to remember "time to make the donuts" can relate. The younger generation of Code Officers may need to search for "time to make the donuts" or click on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lYRurPB4WA0>

I try to find humor to get me through the growing season. With all the rain we have had it looks like we are going to have a long weed season. Be safe out there and drink lots of water because it's getting hot out there. Ill leave with a little ditty I came up with as a parody of I Fought the law, I hope it brings humor to everyone's day.

Respectively,  
Shane Barnard, CCEO  
Code Enforcement Officer IV—City of Midwest City  
2nd Vice President—Oklahoma Code Enforcement Association  
405-739-1013 / [sbarnard@midwestcityok.org](mailto:sbarnard@midwestcityok.org)

### I Fought the Lawn

Verse 1: Breakin' out the mower, sun is high—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won  
Blades are dull and the grass is dry—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won  
Crabgrass rising, weeds just laugh—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won  
I sweat and swear on the garden path—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won

Chorus: Yeah, I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—At this rate I'll never get done, I fought the lawn, and the lawn won

Verse 2: Gas ran out, had to push it slow—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—Blistered hands and my socks got green—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—Felt like war on that suburban scene I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—Bridge:

Lawn gnomes grin as I fight the fight—Dandelions dancing in the light—I gave my Sunday just for this... A tidy yard, domestic bliss?

Final Chorus: Yeah, I fought the lawn, and the lawn won—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won - Now I'm sunburned, sore, and done—I fought the lawn, and the lawn won.



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



**Hey friends! Jessica here!**

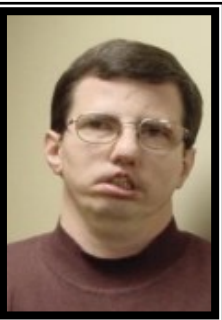
Wow—what a summer it's been! Between the heat and the nonstop mowing, it feels like the grass is growing faster than we can keep up with. I swear, every time I turn around, it's tall again! I know a lot of you are feeling the same way—this mowing season has been one for the books. And let's talk about this Oklahoma heat... whew! Make sure you're drinking plenty of water, taking breaks when you can, and looking out for one another. The temps are no joke, and staying safe and healthy is priority number one.

Also, just a friendly reminder: if you haven't gotten your membership sent in yet, please go ahead and take care of that soon. We want to make sure everyone's all set and in the loop for everything coming up. Take care of yourselves out there—physically and mentally—and don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything. We're all in this together, and I'm just a message away if you need a hand or even just want to chat.

Stay cool and stay safe!

—Jessica

## From your Treasurer—Andy Templeton, City of Sand Springs



It is going to be a long summer! With 25+ inches of rain this spring, the weed and grass growth is unrelenting. Our staff here in Sand Springs have done multiple grass sweeps only to be thwarted by deluges of rain. I've rarely seen such job security in my 25 years of doing code enforcement. In the day, wet summers were a bane of our city's existence. Our general fund operated (and still does) on 2% sales tax revenues. Those revenues were routinely supplemented by utility revenues to make ends meet. When it was too wet to sell water, we suffered a hiring drought, no raises and plenty of deferred maintenance. We were in a wet year when I came to work initially as trash superintendent. I can remember talking about the basics of our financial woes during a staff meeting. I quipped about the trash service not being able to afford trash bags for the office. The superintendent over wastewater topped that by saying they couldn't afford toilet paper down at the sewer plant.

Wet summers also took their toll on city vehicles. Our favorite expression was: "Drive it 'til it drops, then drive it some more." And air conditioning ... don't think about it. Employees suffered when doing strenuous work on hot days. Fortunately, changes in managerial philosophies and budgetary strategies brought far more stability to our funding. As we began investing in our community and inspiring economic growth, the citizens responded by voting for dedicated sales taxes and bond issues to relieve strain on the general fund. We no longer rely on dry summers to make ends meet. Also, a resolution adopted by City Council now enshrines annual employee raises even if it takes manipulating other parts of the budget to do so.

As OCEA treasurer, I've watched our organization grow from humble financial beginnings to one that funds a wide range of beneficial opportunities for code officers and their communities. We sometimes have wet summer moments, but our revenues remain very stable and allow us to consistently expand our reach. We owe a lot to our board members over the years for good managerial philosophies, but we owe our deepest gratitude to you, our members, for your continuing financial support of OCEA and its missions.



### From your Secretary—Janita Hatley, City of Norman



I know that everyone is ridiculously busy like we are here in Norman. Aside from my duties with the City of Norman, I have been working with the City of Moore for planning our OCEA Fall Conference on Sept. 26th at The Station event center in Moore. The agenda will be posted soon on the website and registration will be available online. Remember that by attending the Fall Conference you can obtain the full amount of CEU's needed for the year.

I am also working with my AACE Membership Committee, while I am wrapping up my term as the 3rd Vice President of AACE. I hope many of you are making plans to attend the AACE Conference in St. Louis, Missouri the last week of October. Remember that I am here to answer any question you have about AACE. I am pleased to report that AACE has over 3,600 members! Be on the lookout for the electronic ballot soon and plan to log in to your AACE account and participate in the online AACE election.

The Spring Conference is scheduled for March 26/27, 2026 at the Sequoyah State Park Lodge. Last week the media was reporting a cancellation with the catering company for all State Parks. So, we will keep an eye on that and if we have to change the conference location, we will notify everyone ASAP.

I am pleased to continue serving as the Secretary of OCEA and working alongside my fabulous friends and OCEA Officers. I have been involved with OCEA since my first conference in 1995 and have served on the board since 1999. It is always great to hear other states marvel at how AWESOME we are in OK and how our Association works well together.

Stay safe and stay tuned for more info from me.

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



Hello OCEA Colleagues,

I have entered this HGW season by engaging out in the field more than I ever have. My routine changed drastically in May and I am now utilizing my Code and Property Maintenance Certifications each and every day. I am so grateful for the OCEA training and group of mentors that make themselves available to help and answer questions. I have had tremendous support and encouragement as I navigate my way through Code Enforcement field work. Thank You to all! I am always open to hearing about your tricks to the trade.

I have appreciated talking to the public and developing a working relationship with the citizens. Hoping to develop credibility and earn their trust and respect. The rain has definitely caused some mowing issues and it has been busy staying "on top" of the HGW. June 5<sup>th</sup> I was able to participate in my first OCEA Board Meeting. It validated what great people lead this organization. They work hard to provide the education, conferences and information to support all of us. I am grateful to serve this Board and excited to work on my first project. I would like to take a moment to thank my mentor Brian Henry. Brian was my main encouragement and strongest supporter to reach my career goals. He believed in me when I doubted myself. He is special to my heart and I have to say "I learned, from one of the best!"

I hope all of you are well and appreciate the hard work that each of you do. Let's get through this season and look forward to fall and the OCEA fall conference. Feel free to reach out to me if ever I can be of help to any of you.

Ranae Gorman Sgt-at-Arms

## From your President Emeritus—Brian Henry, Town of Ringwood



### **Rain, Rain, Go Away... But Until Then, Keep Mowing!**

Let's be honest—this summer has felt more like a monsoon season than anything else. If you've found yourself staring out the window, muttering "Rain, rain, go away..." under your breath (or shouting it into the void), you're not alone. And yes, we know what you're really thinking: "If the rain would just stop, maybe the grass would too!" Wishful thinking, but we feel you.

Despite the soggy chaos, we hope you're finding little sparks of joy in the madness. Summer can sometimes feel like a slow drift from one season to the next, punctuated only by the occasional lawn notice and the eternal struggle of convincing Dave down the block to mow his yard. But here's the thing: what you do matters. Seriously. When you drive through a neighborhood that used to be the "before" photo in a makeover show, and now you see trimmed lawns, fresh paint, and a little more pride in every corner—that's not an accident. That's you. Your work, your persistence, your presence. It's hard to measure, but it's deeply felt.

### **Looking Ahead: Fall Conference Fun**

We're already looking forward to the upcoming fall conference! It's always a highlight to see your faces, hear your stories, and celebrate the wins—big and small. You might not realize it, but your success could be the exact encouragement someone else needs to keep pushing forward in their own community.

So mark your calendars, bring your best stories, and prepare yourself for a hug from Travis. (He doesn't believe in personal space, and honestly, we've all just accepted it.)

Until then, keep doing what you do best. Rain or shine, you're making a difference.

### **A Quiet Life, Loud Impact**

As we wrap up, I want to share a verse that's been a personal guidepost for me—words from the Apostle Paul: "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands... so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody." (1 Thessalonians 4:11–12) It's a reminder that steady, humble work—done with care and consistency—can have a powerful impact. You may not always see the results right away, but your efforts are shaping communities, inspiring others, and building something meaningful. Let that be an encouragement to you, as it has been for me.

## From your Legislative Liaison—Ivan Smith, City of Edmond



Greetings Colleagues,

I hope all is well in your world, wherever that may be. Things around here in Edmond are crazy busy right now. It seems like things are happening at warp speed, and I can barely keep up. I'm not just talking about Code cases either. We have a new Mayor, two new Council members (verdict still out on all of them), I have a new boss (so far so good), departments being shuffled around as preparations are being made to relocate into a new City Hall (long overdue), and I have a new rookie on staff now (he hasn't quit yet).

For those interested, I will elaborate on the new Mayor and Council members next time we see one another in person (plausible deniability), perhaps the Fall Conference over a few adult beverages or something like that. That way I will have had a little more time to really feel them out. I can say that some things will be different, and I will leave it at that for now. The new boss thing, well I think I'll survive. Those of you that have been in the trenches for a while may actually remember her father. Christy Batterson is the daughter of Bill Fitzgerald. Bill was a long-time code officer here in Edmond and the former supervisor that hired me. While opinions may vary on Bill, he really did have a heart (as gruff as he sometimes came off) and truly cared about promoting code enforcement for the betterment of the community. Christy didn't fall far from that tree. She is the Director of Housing and Community Development and spends most of her day (when she isn't defending Code's actions to the governing body) championing the improvement of living conditions for residents of Edmond. The best thing about her is she understands what we do and has our back!!!

Me and my team aren't going to get space in the BRAND-NEW City Hall, but we did get moved (holy hassle) to a newer building than we were in. Truth is a little distance from my office to the principal's office is not a bad thing. The new guy on the team is not an increase to my staff (Heaven Forbid) but is assuming Marsha's spot. Marsha finally decided to call it quits after 26 (long) years. GOOD FOR HER!!! I hope to be able to do the same someday. Reach out to her on face book and send her a congratulations, she deserves it. Her replacement, Jake Strothers got initiated properly one his first day. He got to overhear a call between a "model citizen" and one of the other officers here in the office about a letter that they received. The profanity would have made a Sailor blush, but he came back the next morning!!!! WOW!!!! That's the latest around here. I look forward to hearing what's going on in your world next time I see you. Until then as always be safe and God Bless.



### 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.**

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## Job Openings in Oklahoma

- City of Del City has a Code Officer I position open. \$19—\$24.79 per hr. —[Click Here](#)
- City of Tulsa has several different positions open. [Click Here](#) to visit their website.
- City of OKC has several different positions open. [Click Here](#) to visit their website.
- City of Coweta has a Code Compliance Officer and Building Official position open. [Click Here](#) for more info.

Share your Job Openings with Janita and we will share them here and can also send an email blast.

### OCEA Updates:

If you received an OCEA Community Improvement Grant, don't forget to send me your completed photos and info for reimbursement and for sharing with all of OCEA.

2026 OCEA Class Dates will be available soon and posted on the website.

OCEA website is currently under renovation with the updates completed soon.

AACE Code Officer Check-In Dates: September 23—December 16. Visit [www.aace1.org](http://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](mailto: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



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