



Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 2-4, 2022—
Basic Code Class

October is National Code Compliance/Enforcement Month

October is National Code Compliance/Enforcement Month and we would like to hear from those of you that have received recognition for this. The City of Bartlesville shared this photo with us after their Code Officers were presented with a Proclamation declaring Oct. 10-14 as Code Enforcement week and received bulletproof vests to wear daily for protection. Supervisor Mike Wickham shared with me that he had frequent discussions with his Administration to support purchasing vests and did not let up until they were successful. Two of their Officers also went through Police training to carry pepper spray. Bartlesville shared they would like other cities/towns to support their Code Officers by protecting them with vests, so don't be shy and be persistent to protect you and your staff.



Code Enforcement Week

The City Council declared Oct. 10-14 "Code Enforcement Week" by proclamation during a meeting Monday. Bartlesville Code Enforcement personnel recently received bulletproof vests to wear on-duty. "It's an extra layer of protection to help ensure that our officers can more safely enforce the City's ordinances regarding nuisances, which include tall grass and weeds, trash and debris, inoperable vehicles, parking on the grass, dilapidated structures, and other neighborhood concerns," said Supervisor Mike Wickham. According to the Oklahoma Code Enforcement Association, in the past few years there has been a higher number of code enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

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OCEA 3rd Vice President

We are pleased to have received Candidate Forms from 6 very qualified OCEA members for the 3rd Vice President position on the OCEA Board. The Board had a hard time scoring and voting on the winner, which is Wayne McCasland from the City of Comanche! Wayne was recognized at the Fall Conference and took the Oath-of-Office. Thank you to the other 5 that submitted forms. Please consider OCEA Board positions in the future. We will be sending this same Candidate Form out to everyone in early 2023 for the 1st VP, 2nd VP, and Sgt-at Arms positions.



From your President—Maverick Fritsche, City of Okmulgee



Fellow Members,

I hope you all are doing well and enjoying some much needed Fall temperatures. It was good to see a lot of you at our Fall conference which was hosted in a beautiful facility in Enid Oklahoma. I hope it was an enjoyable and educational experience for everyone. Your board members are already hard at work preparing for the Spring Conference and will have announcements coming to you in the near future.

“A little food for thought”, Janita works very hard to provide you a newsletter multiple times a year. I think it would be wonderful if our membership could send her stories about your communities. Tell us what you are doing in your communities to engage or educate the public, programs you are involved in or developed or just give your city some “props” for supporting you (If they do). We love to hear positive stories and how each town or city does it different. It may spur someone to try it in their town or city. So share those stories, send some interesting pictures, or anything of interest you may want to put into the newsletter.

As always, we are 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



What a great Fall Conference!!! The weather was beautiful, the venue fantastic, and the speakers excellent!!! It was nice to see new faces as well as familiar ones. Hopefully the experience was informative as well as educational. A few take away key points in case you forgot from the first class , the Role of Law, was the 988 number for the suicide prevention hotline as well as how our law enforcement officers can assist in contentious situations. It is important to be on your toes for your safety as well as others around you. Second, Inoperable Vehicles and the importance of following due process as well as consulting your city attorney. Third, Medical Marijuana, and how dangerous they can be if you're not aware of the requirements for Life, Health, and Safety. FYI There is a book called “APPLYING THE CODES TO CANNABIS FACILITIES” which is a great reference with working on the facilities. Finally, The Ethics of a Code Enforcement Officer, and the importance of ALWAYS behaving in a manner that is above reproach in regards to your professional as well as personal life because they both walk hand in hand.

The national Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation has recently donated at least five vests to municipalities across Oklahoma. Recent recipients include Lawton, Lexington, and Midwest City. The association is in partnership with states such as Texas, California, and Utah. In addition, we have financial supporters such as the International Code Council and the Receivership Group. It is important to report any instances of threats or violence against any Code Official out there as it helps the organization affect Safety Legislation locally and on a federal level. As a final thought, balancing life and your career can be extremely challenging especially when you add in the holidays and extra curricular activities such as football, basketball, band, etc. Let's not forget its hunting season!! Duck Season?! Rabbit Season?! I think you get the point. So what about YOU!!! There's the demanding boss, the family who needs your attention, and any other obligations you've committed to and you, arms stretched out, hold both ends against the middle and you're just tired. In addition I know so many of you have been studying for ICC certifications which adds a whole other dynamic to your schedule. So what's the solution?! If I knew the answer to that, I would be living high on a mountain in Tibet somewhere waiting for your visit. What I can say is that we are all in this together and sometimes a simple call can alleviate that pressure by chatting with a colleague who understands. Who knows we may solve all the worlds problems in a five minute phone call. Once again I appreciate the opportunity to serve the you, the great members of the OCEA!!!

From your 2nd VP—Ivan Smith, City of Edmond

Greetings Colleagues,

I can only hope that you all are as excited as I am about the chill in the air. Not only are we finally going to get a break from what has seemed like a formidably hot summer, but it's all the other things that Fall brings as well. For me Fall is all about the five (5) F's. Ironically five starts with an f too. In no particular order those F's are Festivals, Food, Family, Friends and Football. I know that for many of you football would have been the first thing on the list and that's why I stated that this is in no particular order.

There is a festival or something to celebrate for everyone this time of year. Whether it's Halloween, October Fest, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas or whatever else that brings you together with family and/or friends to enjoy feast and fellowship with one another, JUST DO IT! It's easy to forget just how many blessings that we do have in our lives. That's why when we get a chance to celebrate, we would be foolish not to embrace the opportunity.

It's ok to forget about work for a while and find the time to focus on the other things in life. If you stop and think about it, the truth is our lives are about as short as a growing season in the grand scheme of things. That season never seems to end when we are caught-up in the day-to-day riggers of just getting through it. However, it does end as will our lives eventually. Don't forsake the fact that for some of us that season is shorter than others.



From your Treasurer—Andy Templeton, City of Sand Springs

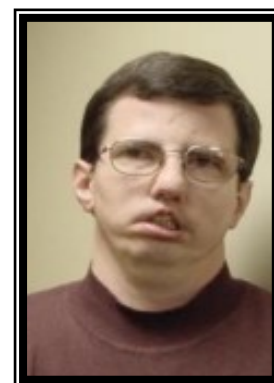
As OCEA Treasurer, I am pleased to report that OCEA closed out its first quarter with a very stable and sustainable bank balance. Financial records are always open to OCEA members whenever you want to see them. Just reach out to me via e-mail, and I will attach the most current statement of accounts for you.

While gathered recently with a bunch of fellow employees in the break room, the conversation turned to from whence we have come technologically. I talked about how OCEA was doing away with fax number requests on membership application and other forms. Somewhere in there, I remarked that I saw the last fax machine in our city hall leave on a dinosaur's back.

It gave me pause to reflect on my technological time in the newspaper business during the 1980s. We had word processing long before the rest of the world, but our work was stored on 8" floppy disks. We frequently had to run "updates" to clear space – usually interrupting deadline time. The backshop had paste-up tables where pages were laid out by hand. There were also several photomechanical typesetters that looked like large refrigerators. The process of getting typed words into print was arduous. One day, however, a white bread box thing called an Apple Laser Writer II showed up. All those huge machines went to the scrap yard. The 8" floppy disks and paste-up tables weren't far behind.

For most of my time there, we awaited the day's mail to get our bevy of news releases. Then one day, this thing that made funky noises and spit out news releases by telephone showed up – a fax. It seemed like a novelty at the time, but soon everyone had a fax number to go with their phone number. Then came the internet and e-mails. In code enforcement, we could do what used to take hours in mere seconds. Cell phones, digital cameras, tablets and laptops greatly reduced our time in the office resolving cases and printing notices. Somewhere in all the scanning and mouse clicking, the fax got lost.

Our world now moves at warp speed - no more funky fax noises and paper grinding through the machine a page at a time. When you look at from whence we've come, it's a wonderful technical world out there!





From your Sgt-at-Arms—Brian Henry, City of Perry

Thank you for all who attended the fall conference. It was a blast getting to meet so many of you and see some of the new faces in the OCEA.

I would also like to thank the City of Enid for hosting us and providing the amazing facility!

Everyone stay safe and enjoy the upcoming holidays.

From your Past President—Felix Nance, City of Hominy

GO WEST YOUNG MAN!

At least it was for most of us, Enid was the site where over 100 of your fellow Code Enforcement professionals gathered for our Fall Conference at the Stride Event Center. What a wonderful facility and what hospitality. If you missed this conference, I encourage you to join us for our Spring Conference. Keep watching as the details for this conference are still being worked out.

Lt. Cary Bryant from the Norman Police Department gave the morning presentation about the role of Law Enforcement and Code Enforcement as they relate to mental health. Oklahoma used to be a leader in mental health treatment in the Nation, but sadly, funding cuts have dropped us to 46th in the Nation.

That said, many of the individuals we deal with have mental health and or physical health issues that prevent them from adequately maintaining their property, and a healthy lifestyle. Sometimes it is difficult to determine the why, and what we can do to help those in need. I would encourage each of you to build a good social network within your community, if one doesn't already exist. A little help or being able to connect people may be the catalyst to solving a problem. Speaking of that, that network goes for you too! We like our brothers in law enforcement and other responders see things daily that can't be unseen. Don't bottle this up inside, it's not healthy for you, or the public you deal with.

Until next time, Stay Safe!



We welcome Wayne McCasland to the OCEA Board as the 3rd Vice President. His duties will be to preside over Membership and work to grow our association and be a support person for our current members. Wayne was awarded the Oklahoma Code Officer of the Year back at our 2018 Spring Conference after being nominated by his City Manager.

There was a recent newspaper article in the Duncan Banner about Wayne's position on our Board and his City Manager, Chuck Ralls was quoted saying - "Wayne has been a vital part of the Comanche staff for several years," Ralls said. "Since coming to Comanche, he has been recognized as the Oklahoma code enforcement officer of the year and the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Law Enforcement Officer of the year. I greatly appreciate the positive exposure he brings to Comanche and I'm glad to share him and his knowledge with other communities across our great state."

From your Secretary—Janita Hatley, City of Norman



Greetings fellow OCEA members,

OCEA had a great turnout of 108 folks in Enid for the Fall conference! We had not had a Fall conference since 2019!! I have to admit, I felt a bit rusty with all of it, but the OCEA Board discussed really updating our policies and registration forms to make things easier on you and on us! No more faxing in registrations anymore! We are working on our Spring conference, and it will most likely be on March 30/31 in OKC at a Hotel/Conference Center. Details will be sent later on that. Do you have ideas/suggestions for future conferences or comments about the recent Fall Conference? If so, please email me and I will share this info with the Board at our next Board meeting.

Our classes are set for 2023 and we have decided to change the start time for each day to 8:30am in order to help get thru the material more efficiently. The November 2022 class is full but the dates for 2023 are Feb. 8-10, Aug. 23-25 and Nov. 1-3. The Property Maintenance class will be April 13/14. Email me your registration forms ASAP to be placed on the list for the classes you wish to attend next year.

Reminder that Our 10 Community Improvement Grant Winners announced at our Spring Conference are: Carter—Fletcher—Geronimo—Hominy—Kansas—Laverne—Lexington—McAlester—Okmulgee—Shidler. If you have not yet submitted your info to me about your completed grant project, please do so soon. We have to close these out prior to the end of 2022. We will offer the grant opportunity again in 2023, but it will only be open to OCEA members from now on.

Look on OCEA's website for job opportunities across the State. Also check our Facebook page for job announcements and other interesting posts. Stay safe out there and I hope to see more of you at the Spring Conference!! Contact with me any questions!

Retirement/Departure News:

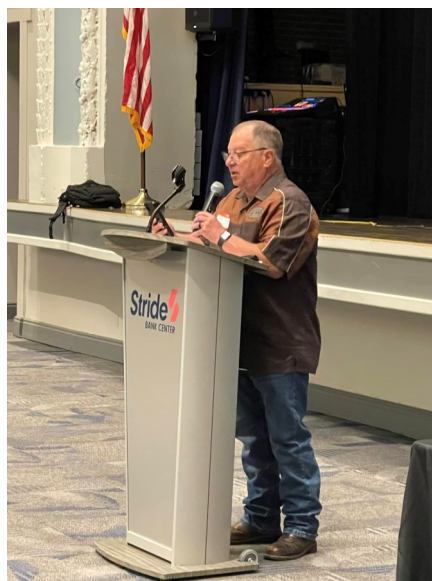
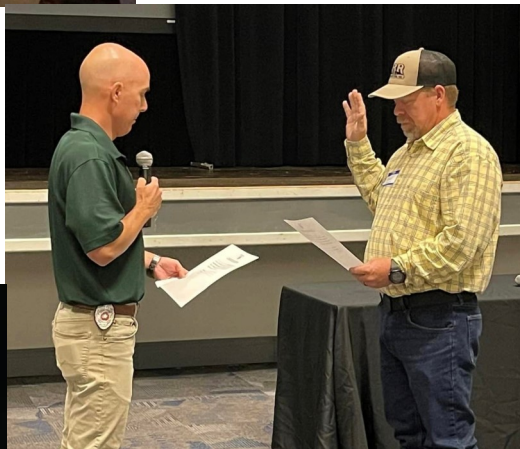


Barbara Burlingame, City of Norman is retiring after 25 years (plus 4 years worked earlier on) and her last day in the office is Oct. 14th. She has served in the past on the OCEA Board as 3rd VP, 1st VP and President and has been active in helping teach our Code Certification Classes. Barbara was in the very first OCEA certification class held in 1998 at EOC Technology Center.

She has been serving on the AACE Board for several years now and is finishing her term as AACE President. We wish you all the best Barbara and hope to see you at our events in the future. Feel free to email Janita kind words & well wishes to Barb and we will pass them along to her.

*Send in your Retirement News to Janita to share with the rest of the OCEA members.

OCEA Fall Conference Photos





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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



AACE—American Association of Code Enforcement

- ◆ AACE is doing several national check-ins to ensure we are providing our members the best possible service. We learn so much from these check-ins and have enjoyed networking during these video calls.

The dates are listed below:

Thursday, November 10, 2022, 3 pm CST

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81482403579#success>

- ◆ 33rd Annual AACE Conference—October 18-20, 2022 in Atlanta, GA. Visit www.aace1.org for more details.

Don't forget that OMAG offers scholarships for all of OCEA's Basic Code Certification Classes and to our Conferences. Please contact Kevin McCullough to learn more at -

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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



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AACE
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