

# OCEA Register



[www.oceassociation.com](http://www.oceassociation.com)

March 2022

## Upcoming Events:

- March 31/April 1, 2022—OCEA Spring Conf.
- April 7-8, 2022— Prop. Maint. Class
- Aug. 10-12, 2022— Basic Code Class

## 2022 Spring Educational Conference



Conference Location: NCED Hotel & Conference Center

Thurs. March 31/Fri. April 1, 2022

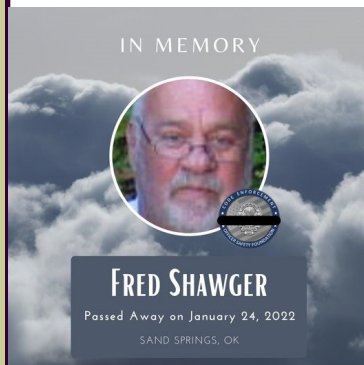
2801 E. Highway 9, Norman, OK

The 26th Annual OCEA Spring Conference is right around the corner. There are over 100 members that are already registered to attend! We have an interesting line-up of speakers and classes for you. Visit our website for registration info and the Conference Agenda.

Candidate information will be shared in a separate email to help you prepare for who to vote for during the Election during our Business Meeting on Thursday. You will also be voting on some OCEA Bylaw amendments.

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We lost 3 of our own this year. Pray for the families and friends of these fellow Code Officers. Donnie Moore from Ada had served on the OCEA Board and was a Code Officer for over 12 years. Joe Schier from Norman taught our Property Maintenance classes and was a Code Officer for nearly 17 years. Fred Shawger had served as a Code Officer for Sand Springs from 1997-2011 and was retired. This has been a tough start to 2022. There will be a Moment of Silence for them at the Conf. We are thankful for the opportunity we had to know, learn from and serve with these fine gentlemen. May they all Rest in Peace.



## From your President—Felix Nance, City of Hominy

Our Spring Conference is right around the corner. The plans are made, the speakers lined up, all that remains is for you to register and attend. And yes, we are gathering in person! Both OCEA and our convention hotel will exercise appropriate health and safety protocols to do everything possible to keep our members safe.

Kevin McCullough, Law Enforcement Specialist from OMAG will help us to put work on hold and relax. For those that haven't heard Kevin speak before, let me tell you he can be both funny and thought provoking. Michael Freeman, a Criminal Investigator with OK DEQ will be presenting an introduction to environmental crime. I took this class last year and found it eye opening and informative. There are tools in the toolbox that I didn't even know I had, and you may not either.

By popular request, Tim Sun, Vice-President of the Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation will be presenting on Officer Safety. Many of our members have asked for this type of training and OCEA is proud to be able to respond to our members requests.

But wait, there is MORE! Your Board of Directors will be presenting several proposed changes to our organization by-laws. A brief synopsis of the proposed amendments is available on the OCEA website, And last, but certainly not least, we will be awarding the Code Officer of the Year award at the banquet on Thursday evening. I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference.

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

Greetings to all fellow OCEA members,

I hope you all are doing well and look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Spring conference. I would like to remind everyone that you are required to have 4 hours of CEU's each fiscal (July 1-June 30) year to be in good standing with your membership. There are many opportunities to get those CEU's throughout the year, not just from OCEA. We have a list that is not all-inclusive on our website [www.oceassociation.com](http://www.oceassociation.com) to give you some ideas.

I would also like to remind everyone of our upcoming Basic Code Classes and the Property Maintenance Class that will be held this year at Moore-Norman Technology center. Our two remaining Basic Code Classes will be held August 10-12 and November 2-4. Our Property Maintenance Class will be held April 7-8. All of OCEA's training is ICC certified and thanks to OMAG you will have the opportunity to earn Cleet CEU credits as well.



The Legislation being filed this year to go through is overwhelming to say the least. Just like with every other year Legislators are trying to get their respective bills filed and heard. The result is thousands of bills being filed and having to sift through them. With a combined effort from our membership, I hope we will be able to stay on top of anything that may affect our profession. OCEA currently has two active bills that are trying to promote safety for us all. House Bill 1134 from the previous session did not die on the floor last year and has currently passed out of the safety committee in the Senate and sent to Appropriations Committee. This bill makes it a felony to attack a municipal or county code official who is in the lawful performance of their duties on the second offense. Senate Bill 1295 has currently been read on the floor and referred to the Public Safety Committee. It has yet to be scheduled to be heard. This bill will make it a felony on the first offense on an attack.

Our OCEA board is here to serve and represent all of you. Feel free to contact any of us if you have questions or need assistance. Our contact information is on the OCEA website. Thank you for all you do to keep your communities safe and beautiful.

Shawn "Maverick" Fritsche OCEA 1st Vice President

## From your 2nd VP—Travis Guess, City of Prague

Hello to my fellow colleagues. I hope this new year finds everyone in good spirits and health. I would welcome all of the new Code Enforcement Officers into the field. This is not for everyone. For those who work hard and educate yourself in the profession, you will find reward in what you accomplish day by day.

As your 2nd VP in charge of education I am excited to announce that along with all of the great training that you will have an opportunity to receive at this year's Spring Conference, we are going to have Tim Sun teach "Officer Safety" on Friday. The course is designed to engage students regarding the potential dangers of the Code Enforcement profession. It will cover basic situational awareness, de-escalation, communication, pre-attack indicators, discussion regarding self-defense principles, protective defensive equipment and so much more. As a founding board member of the "Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation" I am excited for the OCEA members to receive this much needed training. I am also working on a National Flag Color for Code Enforcement Officers. At this very moment voting is in motion right now from Officers all the across the nation and I want Oklahoma officers to be engaged in this. Please go to [codeofficersafety.org](http://codeofficersafety.org) and vote.

Don't forget the IPMC classes that we offer as well as a ride-along with me. See you in the Spring.

Travis D. Guess Code Enforcement Officer/Building Official— [tguess@cityofpragueok.org](mailto:tguess@cityofpragueok.org)  
(405)567-2270



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

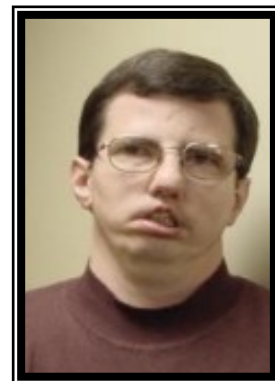
Hope everyone is surviving winter's last vestiges well. By now my abatement contractor is sharpening up his mower blades in anticipation of grass season. As for me, I'm ready to trade the browns, grays and occasional whites of winter for some greens of spring!

Our finances are fine, and you'll see a summary of them at the annual conference in a few weeks. As always, you can request a copy of our full financials. We are very fortunate to have an excellent financial posture as a state code enforcement organization. Our annual membership fee and spring conference fee are low when compared to similar organizations and offer great value. Likewise, our class fees are very affordable even for smaller communities. Our Board emphasizes that OCEA is an organization for all communities in Oklahoma, not just larger communities with larger budgets.

We manage this in a broadening expense environment primarily from utilizing volunteer instructors in our code classes. I'm appreciative of my city for allowing me the time to come teach and share my code enforcement experiences with you. The other instructors have similar fortunes with their cities. You as past students benefit from having instructors who live and breathe code enforcement in Oklahoma every day, and our instructor pool is drawn from communities large and small to give you that personal relationship whether your community is less than 100 or greater than 100,000 in population.

We pass the savings of volunteer instructors on to you and add to our revenues in volume. Most code classes average 25 to 35 students. All that incremental funding from tuition adds up and enables us to keep your OCEA expenses low while providing you with quality service and programs.

I'll close with a wintry reminder that hopefully you can save for next year and beyond. Snow hides a lot of things – so watch where you walk. I was working a matter with our police department which put me on one side of a sidewalk with the suspects on the other. When I returned to my vehicle, it didn't take long to realize the white stuff was hiding mounds of brown stuff left by the household dog. ... Boy am I ready for the greens of spring!



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



Greetings fellow OCEA members,

We were very surprised at just how many Community Improvement Grant Applications we received! 90 Communities submitted applications! We will soon have the 10 winners selected, and I will notify all applicants of our decision. Thank you for responding so eagerly!

We are looking for a location to hold our Fall Conf. and need a room large enough for up to 150 people to sit classroom style. If anyone is interested in helping to sponsor this, let me know! Our 2023 Spring Conference will possibly be held at one of our beautiful State Parks.

Do you have suggestions for our newsletter? Do you have conference session ideas? Please call or email me and let's chat.

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## From your 3rd VP—Doug Moore, City of Wagoner



Greetings fellow members,

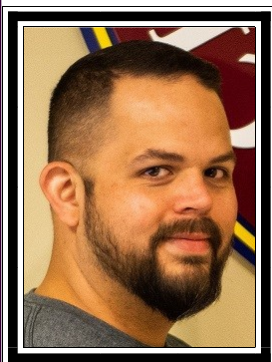
I hope that everyone is staying healthy and safe. I know that this has been a tough year for many of us. As we move forward, I would like to hear from you to hear your ideas on how we can improve our association. I would also like to know if you would be interested in being a part of a member/peer matchup program. Over the course of my career, I have found it to be helpful to be able to talk over difficult cases or to be able to bounce ideas off of someone that understand code enforcement or and maybe has dealt with a similar problem. Even though we may work in different size communities or even on opposite sides of the state, many of the issues that we deal with are the same.

If you would like to be partnered with another member or have any ideas my email is [cityplanner@wagonerok.org](mailto:cityplanner@wagonerok.org) or you can call my mobile number at 918-894-3694.

Thanks,  
Doug

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



Anyone else tired of the winter/ spring mix-up? Well, the warm days of spring are right around the corner which means a few things. Terrible pop songs on the radio, mowing season, sinus issues, and the spring conference is almost here. Don't forget to spring forward this weekend (insert boos here). I want to take a second to say, I am grateful for every person who puts on the uniform of code enforcement officer and clocks in to work on Monday. It hardly bares saying this but most days this is a thankless career, but you are making a difference in your community! Be proud of that. That is not a one-time statement, every lawn we abate this summer or inoperable vehicle towed is a contribution to your community's well-being. We should be able to hold our head high through the insults and sweet little terms of endearment we receive from certain citizens, because we know we are essential.

I would like to express why it is important that we represent ourselves in a manner worthy of our various titles. If you do not think of yourself as a professional no one else will either. Now I do not mean misplaced arrogance, I mean having pride in what we do. I cannot tell you the number of times I have received eye rolls when I state my profession, but like they say my title is Code Enforcement Officer because Full Time Multitasking Ninja is not an actual job title. It my most fervent desire to see this career field treated with the respect it deserves, but that starts with you and I. In closing, here are a few words of wisdom for every code officer to remember for the upcoming months/ years ahead: Breathe easy, Walk tall, Hold your head up high, and like Kenny Rogers said you got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away and know when to run. If that song is not about this profession, I do not know what is.

Thank you for all that you do, Brian Henry - OCEA SGT-AT-ARMS



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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, May 5, 2022, 3 pm CST

Thursday, August 4, 2022, 3 pm CST

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. Early bird registration deadline is May 29th. Visit [www.aace1.org](http://www.aace1.org) for more details.
- ◆ Before/After Competition— Submit before/after photos by July 15th and a description of a project you completed in your community and if you are selected the winner, you might just get a free registration to the AACE Conference. Submit entries to Craig Salzman at [salzmandc@billingsmt.gov](mailto:salzmandc@billingsmt.gov)
- ◆ Interested in running for AACE Office? 1st VP and Sgt-at-Arms positions will be on the ballot. More info will come out later this year, so keep this in mind. There are many opportunities to serve on several AACE Committee's which is a great place to start and let your voices be heard.

*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



**OMAG**



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*The Unified Voice of Oklahoma Cities and Towns*