

OCEA Register



December 2013

Upcoming Events:

- January 22-24, 2014—Basic Code Class
- February 27th & 28th 2014—OCEA Spring Conference in Durant, OK

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OCEA Hosts the 24th Annual AACE Conference in OKC

OCEA hosted the 24th Annual AACE Conference in OKC at the Renaissance Hotel & Cox Convention Center. Nearly 200 people attended the conference with 31 states represented. Based on the post-conference surveys and from all the comments we received, the conference was a HUGE success. OCEA rolled out the red carpet for everyone on Monday evening with our 'Welcome Reception' to celebrate before kicking off the conference on Tuesday morning. The classes all week were very well attended and the information was very useful and interesting.

We would like to thank all of our proctors that did such a wonderful job monitoring all of the classes and stamping the attendance certificates. Here is a list of the proctors so the next time you see one please pat them on the back!

- Gary Arnold—Broken Arrow
- Paul Bighorse—Broken Arrow
- John Taylor—Yukon
- Sharon Hutson—Mustang
- Tom Geeslin—Blanchard
- Randy Farley—Idabel
- Joe Schier—Norman
- Jeff Wilson—Norman
- Teddy Boles—Purcell
- Donnie Moore—Ada



Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next AACE Conference in Rosemont, Illinois, October 27-31, 2014. This will be the 25th Anniversary Celebration so I'm sure there will be plenty of wonderful material/classes/events that you won't want to miss!! For more info check out the website at www.aace1.org



From your President—Marsha Sirmon, City of Edmond

You are all part of an outstanding professional organization, and I want to take this opportunity to give credit where credit is due. Much thanks to the members who attended the AACE Conference. I am proud that we were able to provide all the proctors for the classes, thank you Paul Bighorse, Gary Arnold, Joe Schier, John Taylor, Teddy Boles, Jeff Wilson, Sharon Hutson, Tom Geeslin, Donnie Moore and Randy Farley. Thank you for your service!

I wish to give special recognition to your Board Members, who worked as such a well – oiled machine to put together an awesome conference for our American Association. Terry Humphrey, Andy Templeton, David Timmons, Donnie Moore, Dana Greer, Barbara Burlingame, and Janita Hatley.

Barbara has served on the AACE Committee, and worked very hard to bring AACE to Oklahoma and was elected to the AACE Board as 3rd Vice President, Congratulations Barbara.

Dana, thank you for keeping a good grip on our purse strings!

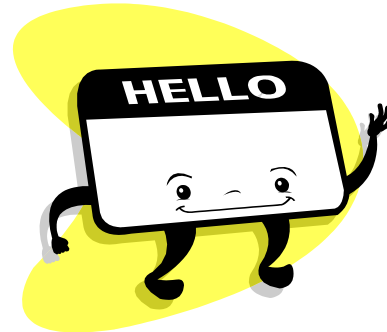
Janita, we could not have done it so well without your diligent work and special talents of organization. Thank you for working so closely with the Conference Committee, the Cox Convention Center, and the Renaissance Hotel to arrange the accommodations and schedules.

We should all be very proud of OCEA, as we are truly an outstanding organization. We have now been recognized as leaders in our field by our peers across the United States.

19th Annual OCEA Educational Spring Conference February 27 & 28, 2014

Mark your calendars and plan on attending the next OCEA conference, which will be in Durant, Oklahoma on February 27 & 28, 2014. We have a nice selection of classes for you to attend so be on the lookout for the registration info which will be emailed/mailed out to you within a few weeks. Two scholarships will be offered for the Spring Conference, which will pay for the conference and one night's stay at the hotel. All interested parties shall submit an essay of 500 words or less on "What Code Enforcement Means to Your Community". Essays must be submitted to the President no later than January 31, 2014, in order to be considered for the scholarship.

Submit Nominations by January 31, 2014 to:
Marsha Sirmon – OCEA President
City of Edmond
PO Box 2970
Edmond, OK 73083-2970
Marsha.sirmon@edmondok.com
FAX: (405)359-4707



MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!





From your 1st VP—David Timmons, City of Stroud

Last year the OCEA Board directed a steering committee to research the concept of CEU's and how they might apply to the OCEA membership. Findings of the steering committee were presented to the Board and included; what a CEU is, Who accredits the CEU, How many hours of training = one CEU hour, Do other State Code Associations require CEU's, What professions require CEU's and how can a CEU program be implemented.

The following information answers many of these questions :

CEU's for OCEA

What is a CEU?

A continuing education unit (CEU) or continuing education credit (CEC) is a measure used in continuing education programs, particularly those required in a licensed profession, in order for the professional to maintain the license.

Certain professions require that practitioners earn a specific number of CEU's per year to ensure that they are up-to-date with current practices in their field. Proof of credits earned is necessary in order to renew a license to practice. The number of credits varies by industry and state.

Examples of people who need CEU's or required yearly training, include: doctors, police, building inspectors, construction contractors, lawyers, CPA's, real estate agents, city clerks, court clerks, economic developers, financial advisors, teachers, interior designers/interior architects, lighting designers, architects, engineers, school administrators, educators, nurses, mental health professionals, and social workers.

Generally, a CEU is defined as ten hours of participation in a recognized continuing education program, with a qualified instruction and sponsorship. CEU records are widely used to provide evidence of completion of continuing education requirements mandated by certification bodies, professional societies, or governmental licensing boards. The records also provide employers with information on training pertinent to particular occupations. Many professions organize national or regional conferences to provide members with an opportunity to meet, network, and learn.

The term CEU is in the public domain. Any organization may award a traditional CEU without requiring any accreditation. With a traditional CEU an employer or other organization must decide on an individual basis whether to honor the CEU from a training provider.

Due to certain CEU providers not adhering to high standards, and the lack of standards for specific fields, there is sometimes a distrust of the value of a CEU, and accrediting organizations have been created to standardize what a CEU means. Of these, the International Association for Continuing Education & Training (IACET) offers the accrediting process for CEU's.

Code Enforcement Associations that use CEU's -

California, Texas, Alabama, Maryland, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Nebraska.

With the above in mind, the OCEA Board has adopted the following plan.

The OCEA CEU plan:

The OCEA will be the accrediting agency.

Required number of hours and designated time frame is still undergoing research and discussion amongst the Steering Committee and the OCEA Board.

One hour of instruction = One hour of CEU.

Will recognize and accept continuing education training from other organizations if the training activity can be applied to the field of Code Enforcement.

The following are examples of categories that may be submitted for OCEA CEU's but the list is not all inclusive as Code Enforcement requires a wide range of skills and techniques

Zoning	Zoning Ordinance	Sign Regulations
Home Occupations	Housing Codes	City Ordinances
Building Abatement	Nuisance Violations	Abandoned Vehicles
Junk Vehicles	Health Ordinances	Basic Processes of Law
Professional Development	Supervisor Training	Management training
Legislation	Legal updates	Evidence Analysis
Electric Const.	Plumbing Const.	HVAC Const.
Building Construction	Emergency Management	Public Safety
First Responder	Incident Management	Recycling Programs
Veterinary Forensics	Community Outreach	Citations and Testifying
Abnormal Psychology	Various CLEET training	Public Health
Community Planning	Self Defense	Brownfield rehabilitation
Verbal Self Defense	Leadership Development	Flood Plain Management
Stormwater Manager	Firewise Community	Time Management
Computer Office Skills	Office Budgeting	Human Resources
Environmental Safety	Interpersonal Communications	
Interacting with the Public		

The CEU is a documented certification that the recipient of the CEU has furthered their professional knowledge and skills and is striving to become more proficient in their chosen profession. Continuing Education is a process that professionals follow and the implementation of a CEU program for the OCEA will demonstrate that we are professionals.

This will be voted on by the Membership during the Business Meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at the Spring conference. You must be a current Member of OCEA to vote on this. If you have specific questions please email David Timmons at dtimmons@cityofstroud.com.



From your 2nd VP—Terry Humphrey, City of Edmond

EDUCATION

As our organization continues to move forward and promote professionalism to the position of code enforcement in Oklahoma we must look at continually educating ourselves on current laws and ordinances. We must be vigilant to stress the importance of our jobs within our communities as code enforcement is an in house community development tool. This is done thru demonstrating the best attitude and performance of our duties every day. It is also demonstrated in making the effort to learn all we can about what we do. This can be done thru education conferences, tech class, or in house training.

Please take advantage of any and all opportunities to improve yourself and the code enforcement profession. Look forward to helping where we can,



From your 3rd VP—Andy Templeton, City of Sand Springs

Here is a “tail” of code chicanery. I had received numerous complaints about high grass at a foreclosed house in a modest but nice neighborhood. It only took a few glances from my windshield to assign it for abatement.

By the time the notice process had run its course, we had received enough rain to make Noah nervous. The grass had responded in kind, and the property was now a jungle. I snapped off some photos and assigned it to my abatement contractor. Amid the rain forest was a dog house. My contractor looked at the property and called me with an unusual situation.

He asked if I had looked in the dog house – which I hadn’t – and then told me there appeared to be a dead dog in there. I supervise Animal Control and am not afraid of occasionally doing myself what I ask of others. My experience with picking up dead dogs was limited. I once had to remove a dead dog from someone’s flower bed. It was 15 degrees out and it was like removing a concrete block. Somehow, I knew this task would be a little more unpleasant.

I sheepishly waded through the weeds with shovel, trash bag and rubber gloves in hand. I spied what looked like a large dog in the doghouse. It was time to get it over with. I reached in the doghouse with the shovel hoping a poke would not create an even messier situation. As I drew the shovel toward me, the fur rolled over to reveal ... an overstuffed teddy bear.

I gladly donned my gloves and made quick work of removing Mr. Bear. I was all smiles, and I’m sure the people being foreclosed had grins as they put it there figuring someone would approach it with dread.



*If you haven't already done so, 'tis the season to renew your OCEA membership!
(Current memberships expire Dec. 31)*

Oklahoma Code Enforcement Association
201 NE 23rd St
Oklahoma City OK 74105

Some photos from the AACE Conference



Barbara being sworn in as 3rd VP of AACE



Some OCEA folks with Sherri from TX on the last day—enjoying a walk thru Bricktown



Marsha & Janita having fun at the AACE Banquet



Paul had a special title for the conf. Did you know he is a Doc?



Kelvin receiving the AACE Distinguished Service Award



Enjoying some steaks at Cattlemen's Steakhouse

Edmond gang at the AACE Banquet



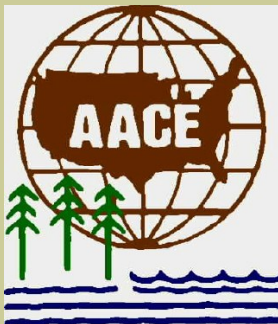


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OCEA Offers Understanding and Perspective to Code Issues

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.



Do you recognize the lady on the left?? It is our very own Ms. Dana Greer, from Frederick, Oklahoma!! She is in a performing group called "The Bouffants"! Maybe we could get them to come perform for OCEA!!

Announcements/Updates

- 2014 OCEA Spring Conference will be hosted by City of Durant Feb. 27 & 28, 2014.
- 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!
- Remember to bring Door Prizes from your Cities/Towns for the upcoming OCEA Conference in February!
- Don't hesitate to contact any of the Officers if you have any questions or issues—we are here for you!