



News Release

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OTA Summer Conference Goes Out With a Bang

The Holy Smoke Event Center, Valley Gem Sternwheeler, Middleton Legacy Dollhouse Museum and Marietta Brewing Co.—all of these sites were enjoyed by attendees and spouses during this year's OTA Summer Conference in Marietta, Ohio, July 29 - Aug. 1.

With approximately 250 registered guests and 25 trade show vendors, the last summer conference was deemed a success. An opening and closing General Session took place on Thursday, July 30 and Saturday, Aug. 1, respectively. Motivational speaker Bob Walsh was a crowd pleaser with his recited poems and "Values to Live By." Additionally, state legislators, including Senator Jimmy Stewart, Representative Jennifer Garrison, Representative Mark Okey, Representative Troy Balderson and Representative Debbie Phillips, spoke to attendees on a number of issues, particularly the recent budget.

Educational workshops, topics ranging from Basics of Roadway Design, Alternatives in the Absence of Zoning and Getting Involved in the 2010 Census, took place on Thursday and Friday.

Dick Wallace, trustee in Marion County, was the sole Leadership Academy graduate at this year's event. The Ohio Township Association Leadership Academy (OTALA) was created in 2003 to provide education to elected officials, township staff, employees and appointed individuals. The program offers courses designed to enhance the leadership and decision making skills of those involved in township government. In order to complete the Academy, participants must submit a registration form, attend the General Workshop, participate in six of ten elective courses and take part in the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) Annual Conference. All requirements must be met within three years of beginning the program.

Please mark your calendars for the 2010 Winter Conference taking place in Columbus, Feb. 17 - 20.

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The Ohio Township Association is a statewide organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of township government in Ohio. The Association was founded on June 28, 1928, and is organized in 87 Ohio counties. The Association has more than 5,200 active members, made up of trustees and fiscal officers from Ohio's 1,308 townships, and more than 3,000 associate members.

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