



News Release

March 5, 2010

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OTA Conference Moves to Convention Center

More than 1,700 township officials converged at the Columbus Convention Center Feb. 17-20, for the Ohio Township Association (OTA) Annual Winter Conference. Due to the November 2009 election of trustees, attendance numbers were higher than in recent years. Also, this was the first year the conference has been held at the Convention Center.

The four-day educational conference featured more than 50 workshops, ranging in topics from roads and cemeteries to zoning, legal updates and Ohio Ethics Law. Additionally, the conference highlighted a Trade Show with more than 100 vendors, including heavy equipment such as tractors and ambulances. Those in attendance had the opportunity to participate in tours of the Ohio Statehouse and mingle with state legislators at a Legislative Reception; and attend a Luncheon in which Craig Krenzel, former OSU quarterback, was the keynote speaker.

Active members of the OTA also had a chance to vote in Board of Director elections. The following individuals were named 2010-2011 officers: Greg Hanahan, German Township (Montgomery County), President; Tom Willsey, Ross Township (Butler County), First Vice President; Don Barzak, Johnston Township (Trumbull County), Second Vice President; and Connie Fink, Springfield Township (Muskingum County), Secretary-Treasurer. Similarly, the following were named directors to the Board: Shirlee Bostdorff, Plain Township (Wood County); Perry Brock, Fayette Township (Lawrence County); Tim Cassidy, Goshen Township (Champaign County); Deana Detwiler, Canaan Township (Morrow County); Roy Hollenbacher, Bath Township (Allen County); Ed Huff, Brown Township (Darke County); Ron Miller, Holmes Township (Crawford County); Darrell Shafer, Washington Township (Carroll County); Janie Spade, Austinburg Township (Ashtabula County); Dennis Tippie, Swanton Township (Lucas County); and Robert Wakefield, Green Township (Ross County). The above named join five returning directors.

The conference concluded with a Saturday morning General Session where co-chairs of the Ohio Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration Anita Lopez and Dan Troy addressed the audience. The Commission has been charged with studying local governments in Ohio. They will make recommendations to the General Assembly in July regarding how local governments can collaborate to save taxpayer money.

The 2011 Winter Conference will occur Feb. 9-11.

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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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