

# The O·C·E·O·A Enforcer

The Newsletter of the Ohio Code Enforcement Officials Association

Fourth Quarter, 2004

## Maybe We Can Bribe Them!

By Don Tate, President

We have begged, cajoled, withheld attendance certificates, and appealed to your conscience, work ethic and sense of fairness. Still, many people attending our quarterly educational meetings choose to leave before the end of the meeting, sometimes right after lunch, significantly reducing our typical audience of 80 to 100. We understand scheduling conflicts occasionally require a few of you to leave early, but I believe that to be the exception. Is it worth 50 bucks to stick around?

The trustees and program planners try very hard to select interesting topics and speakers who have something important to say to you. Almost always, these people speak to us without any fee or reimbursement. We think they deserve your attention and consideration. Sometimes the last speaker, who is often as good and relevant as the first, looks out over an audience with more empty chairs than not. We keep our registration fees lower than most and include a lunch so it will be easier for people to attend and employers to justify a day of training away from the office. We meet in the Columbus area to minimize travel time, even for those living near the corners of the state. We try very hard to conclude the meeting by 3:00 p.m. to avoid Columbus' rush hour traffic. Couldn't everyone use an extra 50 bucks?

You are all responsible adults in responsible positions so it really isn't my place to lecture you on common courtesy and ethics. We appreciate your attendance at our educational meetings and want you to continue to join us, but please plan to be there for the entire program. Not only might you learn something useful, but it could be financially rewarding.

Speaking of ethics, the trustees are not above bribery if that's what it takes. Is it worth a chance to take home \$50 just by staying at the meeting until 3:00 p.m.? If it means only 10 leave early instead of 20 or 30 or 40 then we are ready to reach into our pockets and find some cash to pass under the table to one of you.

Each person attending the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting will receive a ticket with a number. We will draw a numbered ticket stub at 3:00 p.m. and award the first person with a matching number \$50 in cash. The catch is, you must be present at the time of the drawing to win! Who knows, if this works we might give away a car the next time.

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### “SPOTLIGHT on” Outdoor Storage

Trustee Melissa McMillon will be discussing some typical problems with outdoor storage and some of the procedures she uses to deal with the problem in her city.

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### OCEOA November 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda

The morning session will begin at

10:00a.m. with Mary Welsh, Asst., Prosecutor, for the City of Dayton. Ms Welsh is responsible for, among other things, prosecuting all of the Housing Citations and Housing Criminal Cases.

Many questions have been raised about municipalities abilities to have their Housing Inspectors issue citations much like a police officer issues a speeding citation. Dayton is one of the cities that allow their Housing Inspectors to issue such citations.

Mary will discuss with us what makes it possible for the Housing Inspectors in Dayton to issue such citations while so many other Cities are under the opinion that they cannot issue citations.

Mary has been with the City of Dayton since 1997. She serves as legal counsel to both the Housing Inspection Division and Nuisance Appeals Board.

Ms. Welsh is an alumnus of the University of Dayton with an under-graduate degree in Political Science and a Law Degree. She also has a paralegal degree from Sinclair College, Dayton, Ohio.

Before joining the City of Dayton Law Dept., Ms. Welsh gained extensive experience as a litigation

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### 2005 OCEOA Meeting Dates

- February 17 •
- May 19 •
- August 17 •
- November 17 •

All meetings will be held at the  
Ramada Plaza in Columbus

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Paralegal and judicial law clerk for tort cases. She has also volunteered frequently as a moot court judge. Ms. Welsh is licensed by both the Ohio and Federal bars.

At **11:00 a.m.** we will begin a panel discussion covering a wide variety of Legal Issues concerning Code Enforcement. At **1:00 p.m.** we will present some scenarios suggested by our members. And at **2:00 p.m.** we will open up the program for the panel members to answer questions.

The panel will consist of Ms. Welsh, Paul Goldberg, Law Director, City of Oregon, Nancy Ferguson, Magistrate, City of Bexley, as well as Mayor of New Albany, and David Eubank, Law Director, City of Kettering.

Paul Goldberg has been the Law Director for the City of Oregon, Ohio since 1997. Paul obtained a BS from Ohio University in 1969, an MA from the University of Toledo in 1972, and a JD from the University of Oregon in 1997.

Nancy I. Ferguson is an attorney and Magistrate for Mayor's Court in the City of Bexley. She was appointed to Council in the Village of New Albany in February of 1998 and was re-elected in 1999 and 2001. In November, 2003 she was elected Mayor of the Village of New Albany, Ohio. She also serves as Councils liaison to the New Albany Architectural Review Board.

Nancy Ferguson received a

Bachelor's degree from Ohio State University, a Masters degree from Xavier University and a Juris Doctorate degree from Capital University. She has served as a Magistrate in the Franklin County Municipal Court, the Delaware Municipal Court and several Mayor's Courts in the Central Ohio area.

David Eubank has been the Law Director for the City of Kettering, Ohio since 1997 and served as a City Attorney for the City of Beavercreek for 6 years. David received his Bachelors of Urban Planning, Masters of Public Administration and Juris Doctorate from the University of Dayton.

You can now download the meeting registration form and copies of the Enforcer by typing **meetings.oceoa.org** where you would normally enter a URL address. Notice you do **not** need to include a www, doing so will prevent you from reaching the files. Need help? Call 937-333-3916.

The Enforcer is published by the Ohio Code Enforcement Officials Association. Submissions to this publication are welcome and may be made to Denver Williams, City of Dayton, 371 W. Second Street, Room 324, Dayton, Ohio 45402 or faxed to 937-333-4294 or via e-mail at [Denver.Williams@ci.dayton.oh.us](mailto:Denver.Williams@ci.dayton.oh.us)

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