



## 2024 Spring Newsletter

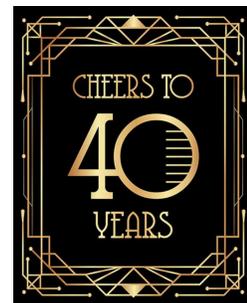
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## Cheers to 40 Years!

### 40th Annual Training Conference Recap

OHPELRA's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference (ATC), was held Sunday, January 28, through Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at a new location - the Hilton Polaris, in Columbus, OH. The theme, "Cheers to 40 Years" highlighted the 40th Anniversary of the OHPELRAATC.



Sunday's pre-conference workshop featured Barb Utrup, Senior Management Consultant with PRACDO, doing a deep dive into what recent research is telling us about leadership behaviors. The Sunday evening Opening Reception included NFL playoff games being shown while attendees networked with their peers and noshed on a bevy of barbecue cuisine!

Monday's program began with a warm welcome from our President, Matthew Clark, and National PELRA President Blaise Lamphier. This was followed by opening keynote speaker Mark Weaver, Esq., presenting on the important topic of Crisis Communications.

The conference itself was packed with a wide variety of sessions from OHPELRA sponsors and other informative speakers garnering great feedback from attendees who experienced another incredible Annual Training Conference.

OHPELRA celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a special toast and speech by one of its founding members Jonathan Downes, Esq. Our thanks to the 306 attendees,

including 82 first-timer attendees, for joining us for 3 days of education, networking and professional development!



## Annual Training Conference Award Winners



### Pacesetter Award

Jeffery D. Porter,  
Deputy County Administrator,  
Fairfield County



### Award of Excellence

Brooke Carnevale, Deputy  
Director of Human Resources,  
City of Columbus

Click [here](#) for full details of the award winners.

## 2024 ATC Winners!

In addition to the professional awards given out at this year's ATC, there were also educational opportunities given away to members, courtesy of OHPELRA. Here is a list of the winners:

#### National PELRA Webinar

- Aundrea Hicks, Montgomery County
- Ben Nolan, City of Gahanna

#### 2024 National PELRA ATC Registration

- Shelby Orr, Centerville

#### 2024 OHPELRA Fall Program Registration

- Jaime Smith - Montgomery County
- Lynn Miller - City of Westerville

#### 2025 OHPELRA ATC Registration

- Eugene Borders, Columbus Library



The 2024 OHPELRA ATC served as Dawn Huston's last on the OHPELRA Board of Directors. We would like to thank Dawn for her many years of service to the Board and the entire OHPELRA organization. As a former Board Vice President and President, Dawn has been a mentor and friend to so many. Dawn will continue as an OHPELRA member in her role as Deputy County Administrator/Director of Administrative Services in Delaware County. Thank you, Dawn!!



### ***OHPELRA Board Vacancy***

The OHPELRA Board of Directors seeks an active member to fill an at-large seat on the Board. Interested members must send a letter of interest, along with a completed questionnaire, to Vice President Ginger Yonak by emailing [gyonak@unioncountyohio.gov](mailto:gyonak@unioncountyohio.gov). The questionnaire can be found [here!](#)

### **New Member Orientation**

The OHPELRA Board will host a new member welcome orientation on Monday, April 1, at 3:00 p.m. Learn about the OHPELRA and NPELRA organizations and meet new colleagues and friends. A link to the webinar will be sent to all new members. If anyone has questions or would like more information, please contact Courtney Lower.



**National PELRA's  
Annual Training Conference  
April 7-10, 2024  
Savannah, Ga.  
Westin Hotel & Resort and Savannah  
Convention Center**

Click [here](#) to register.



OHPELRA | [ohpelra.org](http://ohpelra.org)



Ohio Public Employer Labor Relations Association | 209 E. State St., Columbus, OH 43215

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