



## Spring is in the Air



Spring is in the air, bringing new energy, fresh opportunities, and exciting happenings for our association!

After a successful ATC in February, the OHPELRA Board is thrilled to kick off another great year, with renewed focus and passion to help us continue building a stronger, more vibrant chapter. We were pleased to welcome 337 attendees with 47 of those being first timers. A special thank you to our speakers who helped make the ATC a true success. We are grateful for your contributions and the time you dedicated to sharing your insights with the OHPELRA community. We also want to thank the ATC Events Committee and Ambassadors for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the event ran smoothly.

With growing membership, engaged sponsors, and a continued commitment to providing high quality training, professional development, and networking opportunities, we're set for an incredible season ahead. As we embrace this time for renewal, let's continue to support each other, share knowledge, and make meaningful connections. We're grateful for your involvement and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Please feel free to reach out to the OHPELRA Board if you have questions about our association or if there's an HR/LR need we can help you meet. Here's to another season of growth, collaboration, and success!

Warmly,  
Ginger Yonak  
OHPELRA President

## Meet the OHPELRA Board

Your annual OHPELRA events, quarterly newsletters, and collective voice in pertinent bills proposed by State Legislature.... Who is behind it all?

Meet the OHPELRA Board of Directors! Together, it is our pleasure to provide you with opportunities to interact with your peers and stay current on all aspects of human resources and labor relations in the public sector.



**Ginger Yonak**  
President



**Joel DiMare**  
Vice President



**Barb Phillips**  
Treasurer



**Courtney Lower**  
Secretary  
NPELRA Board Member



**Matthew Clark**  
Immediate Past President



**Miranda Vollmer**  
Conference  
Coordinator



**Aunie Cordle**  
NPELRA Board Member



**Kristen Treadway**  
Board Member



**Todd Hunter**  
Board Member



**Alysha Martin**  
Board Member



**Nicole Smith**  
Board Member



**Brandon Davis**  
Board Member

## New Member Virtual Orientation



If you're new to OHPELRA, please join the OHPELRA Board for a virtual **New Member Orientation** on **Monday, April 28** from **3-3:30 p.m.** This is an informal meet 'n greet, where we can say hello and talk about membership perks. You'll also be able to ask questions and find out more about our association. New members will also receive an email invitation, and the link below will take you to a flyer about this special event.

[Click here for to view the meeting invitation.](#)

## 10 Mistakes Ohio Employers Make when Managing Workers' Compensation (and how to avoid them)

*Dustin Napier, Account Executive, Sedgwick MCO and Kelly Lowry, Account Executive, Sedgwick*



Managing workers' compensation can be daunting for employers, given

the intricacies of Ohio's system. A recent webinar with Sedgwick and Sedgwick Managed Care Ohio highlighted 10 common mistakes employers make when managing their programs, and how to avoid them.

Check out the 10 issues featured below, then visit the Sedgwick MCO [video library](#) to access the full webinar and other expert conversations to help support your workforce.

[Click here to continue reading the full article.](#)



**NATIONAL  
PELRA**  
2025 Annual Training Conference  
2025 Annual Training Conference

**Pre-and-Post Conference  
Sessions Remain Available**

**Waitlist Registration Now Open**

If you registered for the National PELRA Annual Training Conference, we can't wait to see you there!

Due to overwhelming interest in this event, conference registration is now *Waitlist Only*. *Guest passes as well as Pre-and-Post Conference sessions remain available.* Click [HERE](#) for more information about the National ATC.

In addition to the typical conference line-up, we will be planning a special networking event just for Ohio attendees. Be on the lookout for details as we get closer to June.

# RACHEL SHAW IS COMING TO OHIO!



Don't miss out on Rachel's exclusive Ohio focused 2-day Training on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Rachel has literally written the book on industry best practices in the area of ADA. With more than 20-years of executive-level HR experience, Rachel is recognized nationwide as a leader in helping employers manage their most challenging disability-related personnel matters. With this training, she offers a 2-day experience tailored to best prepare you to tackle this work expertly.

## LOCATION

### OHIO UNIVERSITY

Dublin Integrated Education Center

6805 Bobcat Way / Suite 230 /  
Dublin, Ohio 43016

## PRICE

Members \$500

Non-members \$600

## HOTEL INFORMATION

DoubleTree by Hilton Columbus Dublin,  
600 Metro Place North Dublin, Ohio 43017 USA  
\$109/night | September 22 & 23



Space is filling up! Click [here](#) to register.

## First Amendment Rights Associated with a Public Official's Block Button

By Mason Mackovjak with Zashin and Rich



Earlier this year, the nation's highest court clarified how a public official may use social media when interacting with the public. In its March 15<sup>th</sup> decision arising from cases out of Michigan and California, the Supreme Court ruled that a public official who has the power to speak on the behalf of the state and is actually exercising that power, can be held liable for violating the First Amendment rights of those the public official

has blocked, so long as the public official is speaking on matters relating to their official duties on their personal social media accounts.

This decision was recently made in *Lindke v. Freed*, a Michigan case about whether the city manager of Port Huron, Michigan James Freed violated the First Amendment rights of Kevin Lindke when Freed blocked Lindke from viewing Freed's Facebook page. Lindke had been critical of Freed's handling of Covid-19 within the city and made his displeasure known by way of commenting on Freed's page. Once blocked, Lindke was no longer able to comment on Freed's page.

[Click here to continue reading the full article.](#)



## Recharge and Reset

As HR/LR professionals, we're always focused on supporting others, but just as spring brings renewal and growth, it is important for us to also focus on our own well-being. A thriving workplace

starts with thriving leaders, so take a moment to recharge and reset!

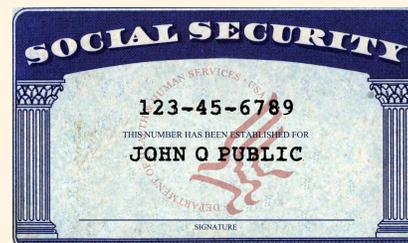
### Easy Ways to Embrace the Season of Renewal:

1. **Take Short Breaks:** step outside for fresh air or take a quick walk
2. **Declutter:** "spring clean" your workspace and workflows to reset priorities
3. **Connect with Peers:** look for ways to collaborate or share ideas with fellow HR/LR professionals
4. **Prioritize Self-Care:** incorporate small wellness habits into your day like stretching or staying hydrated
5. **Reconnect with Your Why:** reflect on what inspired you to become an HR/LR professional and try to reignite that passion

Take time to reset by viewing this 5-minute spring meditation video.  
[Click here to view the video.](#)

## Updated SSA-1945 Form

The Social Security Administration has released an updated version of Form SSA-1945, the Statement Concerning Your Employment in a Job Not Covered by Social Security, due to the passage of the Social Security Fairness Act (SSFA).



Earlier versions of SSA-1945 discussed the effect of the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset on an employee's potential future benefits. The SSFA eliminated the reduction of benefits for individuals entitled to certain pensions from work not covered by Social Security, starting January 2024.

However, it did not remove the requirement for state and local government employers to provide a statement to employees hired January 1, 2005, or later in jobs not covered by Social Security. This new version explains to an employee that non-covered earnings will not be used to determine eligibility to or calculate the amount of potential future benefits.

[Click here for the updated form.](#)

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