



2018 OCMA Winter Conference and ICMA Midwest Conference

All indications are that the 2018 OCMA Winter Conference and ICMA Midwest Conference was a success. Thanks to all who attended and supported OCMA in its endeavor to provide its members with excellent professional development and networking opportunities.

It was a number of “firsts” this year. OCMA collaborated with ICMA to host the ICMA Midwest Conference. This is a new format for ICMA, combining the regional conference with a state association conference. Another “first” was holding the conference at the Renaissance Hotel. Early indications are that, aside from the temperature, the facility was a winner.

The conference covered two and a half days, March 7-9. Conference registrations increased from last year and OCMA welcomed more than 14 first-time attendees.

Members of the Professional Development and Education (PDE) Committee, chaired by Don Buczek, began planning conference sessions and the keynote speaker soon after the 2017 conference. Committee members participated in conference calls with each other to finesse session topics, based on feedback from the 2017 conference survey. The PDE Committee also worked closely with ICMA to coordinate and schedule ICMA sessions at the conference, including the ICMA University Workshop. Thank you to all members of the Professional

Development and Education Committee who played a role in planning the conference.



In addition to welcoming new attendees, OCMA welcomed new sponsors this year. Eighteen sponsors

helped support the OCMA Winter Conference, six of which were first time sponsors. Thank you to the following sponsors for their support of OCMA:

Executive Level:

Honeywell

Tech City/Innovation Level:

Enterprise Fleet Management

CT Consultants

*POLCO**

Corporate Partner Level:

The Novak Consulting Group

*NOPEC**

GPD Group

*ZenCity**

*Spring City Electrical Manufacturing**

Corporate Sponsor Level:

Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd.

The Jefferson Health Group

*HORAN Associates**

Corporate Benefactor Level:

Buckeye Energy Brokers

Clemans Nelson & Associates

Management Partners

*Bradley Payne Advisors**

IBI Group

Zashin & Rich Co., LLP

**indicates first-year sponsor*

Sponsor exhibit tables enabled much interaction among sponsors and conference

attendees; feedback from sponsors was positive.

Also on the rise was the number of students in attendance. Students represented The Ohio



State University, Cleveland State University, Wright State University, Bowling Green State University, Muskingum University and Indiana University. OCMA hosted a Student Dinner on Wednesday evening to provide an opportunity for students to interact and network with OCMA and ICMA leadership in a smaller setting. Students and local government professionals commented on the positive impact of interacting and networking with the future workforce and practitioners. Many thanks to the student conference volunteers: Ethan Barnhardt, Alexandra Higl, Meghan Murray, and Ethan Thursby.

The 2018 OCMA Winter Conference and ICMA Midwest Conference kicked-off on Wednesday with the ICMA Nominating Committee meeting to interview and select the newest ICMA Midwest Vice President. Felicia Logan, ICMA Director of Leadership Development, facilitated



a session on public speaking, *Making What You Have to Say Meaningful and*

Memorable. The ICMA Leadership Meeting took place followed by a reception sponsored by ICMA-RC. Conference attendees were then free to discover Columbus and explore the many food establishments that Columbus is known for.

Thursday brought a full agenda of conference activities that lasted into the evening. Ron Holifield, Founder and CEO of Strategic Government Resources, presented attendees with his keynote address, *4th Dimension Leadership: A Radical Strategy for Creating an Authentic Servant Leadership Culture*. Mr. Holifield stressed that managers need to *develop* leaders, not train them and that it is important that a manager “brand” him/herself. Mr. Holifield stated that managers need to prepare their people and promote them; prepare people emotionally, not technically. He noted that 4th dimension of leadership is strategic leadership – how do we become who we aspire to become.



Following the keynote address, conference breakout sessions began. Attendees chose to attend sessions on topics such as practical applications of data and storytelling, coaching and economic development tools.

Lunch was next. Keith Valiquette of Honeywell shared comments, Patrick Titterington presented on the 2018 ICMA Annual Conference, September 23-26, in Baltimore, Maryland, and attendees viewed a video on public corruption in the city of Detroit. This video, provided by the FBI, served as a nice teaser for the FBI breakout session the following day.

Three more breakout sessions were scheduled after lunch on Thursday with topics ranging from strategies to inspire a healthy governance

culture, how communities can prepare to compete for jobs and economic growth and strategies for funding capital projects.

Conference attendees were gathered as a group once again for the ICMA University Workshop: *Leading Courageously in Challenging Times*.

Marc Ott, ICMA Executive Director, led this workshop to help attendees determine



when to lead and when to follow the lead of others. Felicia Logan facilitated the workshop. Valerie Lemmie, Director of Exploratory Research for the Charles F. Kettering Foundation and William Froehlich, Associate Director, Dividend Community Projects, @TrustDCP, served as thought leaders regarding turning community divisiveness into action and public managers learning to achieve results *with* citizens, not providing public services *to* citizens. David Johnstone, ICMA President, and Michelle Crandall, Assistant City Manager, Dublin, Ohio, rounded out the workshop.

Nancy Lange, ICMA-RC, provided retirement consultative services for individuals who requested them. Survey feedback indicates that this is a beneficial service to conference attendees. Thank you, Nancy.

After a full day of information gathering, it was



time to relax. Conference attendees enjoyed the evening reception, sponsored by The Jefferson Health Plan,

complete with heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages. James Herring, Director, opened the

reception with brief remarks. This reception provided the perfect venue for great networking, great food and great conversation among all conference attendees, be they students, individuals new to the profession, seasoned practitioners, community colleagues or those enjoying retirement.

While attendees were enjoying the reception, Dan Ralley, Chair of the Membership Services Committee, and Kenneth Wilson, Vice-Chair, kicked-off the 2018 OCMA Annual Awards program. One award was bestowed upon a recipient this year:

- **Delaware Community Center YMCA – Intergovernmental Cooperation**



Upon accepting the award, Tom Homan, City Manager of Delaware, addressed the audience with brief remarks. Congratulations to the OCMA award winner!

Once again, Thursday evening provided a bonus networking event sponsored by Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) and Strategic Government Resources at Pins Mechanical Company. This event was open to anyone interested in local government and provided hors

d'oeuvres and



refreshments. The event was very well attended and encouraged networking and interaction among students, young leaders and seasoned practitioners. Thanks go out to Stacy Schweikhart, Community Information Manager,

City of Kettering, and OCMA Next Generation Committee Chair, for organizing this event.

First on the agenda for Friday was the 2018 OCMA Business Meeting. The OCMA Board shared information on current financials, committee reports, ICMA 2022 fundraising efforts, student chapter updates, and secretariat contract discussions. Stacy Schweikhart reported on the 2017 OCMA Membership Survey and Tom Carroll introduced the OCMA Annual Report.



The recommended slate of 2018-2019 OCMA Officers was approved by members. Sheryl Long, City Administrator of North College Hill, was newly elected to the OCMA Board.

Conference attendees dispersed once again for additional breakout sessions. Topics included the culture of the legislature and building grassroots relationships, the rise of opiate use, fleet management, the FBI's role in public corruption investigations, the economics of citizen engagement and how to fill the talent gap.



Lunch followed with an ICMA update presented by Patrick Klein, ICMA Regional Vice President, and Cheryl Hilvert, ICMA Midwest Regional Director. Cory Poris-Plasch, Central Regional Director and Membership Director for Alliance for Innovation conducted a give-away for the Transforming Local Government conference. Kristin Gopman, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Centerville, was the lucky winner.

At the close of the conference, the ICMA 2022 Host Committee, chaired by Charlotte Colley and Tom Homan, presented an update and made a call for volunteers to help make this a world-class, wildly successful conference. If you are interested in helping out, please email Charlotte at ccolley@newconcord-oh.gov, Tom Homan at rthoman@delawareohio.net or Margaret Lombardo at Lombardo.103@gmail.com.

Wayne Davis closed the conference by thanking the OCMA sponsors and those in attendance. The Ohio City/County Management Association sends a big thank you to Wayne Davis as he concludes his term as OCMA President. Thank you, Wayne, for all of your time, hard work and efforts on behalf of OCMA.

Thank you to conference attendees who have completed the conference evaluation. Ratings, suggestions and comments can only help make the OCMA conference better in the future. Constructive and positive feedback is welcomed. The goal is to provide the best conference possible to members, sponsors and the local government community. We hope to see you next year!