



OSCA NEWS

Ohio State Coroners
Association

Spring 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Darren C. Adams, DO

Scioto County Coroner

OSCA's Board has continued to hold our regular meetings via Zoom due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions. Although we are not in person yet, I would like to personally thank each of them for their involvement and continued efforts to serve OSCA and its members.

The Education Committee has been working hard to plan the 2021 OSCA Annual Education Conference which is scheduled to be held October 21—23 at the Embassy Suites in Dublin.

Until we can “meet” in person, we are pleased to offer you two virtual training sessions. Open Records/Sunshine Law Training for Elected Officials on Thursday, May 6 from 1:00—4:30 pm ET and OSCA COVID Mass Fatality Planning Update on Friday, May 7 from 9:00—11:00 am ET. Please consider staying online after the session on May 7 until 12:00 pm, or as your schedule permits, so that we can answer questions together and “network” online.

BREAKING NEWS: The Ohio House of Representatives passed Sub HB 110 (Biennium State Budget) last week which included a continuation of the Ohio Department of Health's Toxicology Screening Fund. The Fund will be replenished with \$1 million per year to “reimburse county coroners in which the coroner has performed toxicology screenings on victims of a drug overdose.” Your OSCA staff will continue to work diligently to ensure this funding provision remains in the Senate version, Final version and does not get vetoed by the Governor.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at our OSCA office at office@osca.net.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president,

Darren C. Adams, DO

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Ohio State Coroners Association

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Phone: 614/262-OSCA
(262-6722)

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ohiocoroners.org

UPDATES FROM OSCA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



David P. Corey, MBA

OSCA Executive Director

In this issue of OSCA News we are looking forward to providing you with relevant information and quick updates on a few important items: OSCA Education and Regional Meetings and helpful links and resources. As always, we hope that you will reach out to us with any questions, concerns or needs that your office may have. Thank you.

OSCA EDUCATION UPDATE

As previously announced, OSCA's Education Conference has been postponed to October 21—23, 2021 at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, OH. Please note, registration details for the October conference will be provided at a later date.

However, in the interim, we have scheduled two important Virtual Sessions during the original May 6—8, 2021 OSCA Conference dates.

In conjunction with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, we have scheduled the state mandated 3-hour **"Open Records/Sunshine Law Training for Elected Officials" on Thursday, May 6 from 1:00—4:30 pm ET**. As you know, each Ohio Elected Official **MUST** attend this 3-hour session during their 4-year term of office (each term), so we usually try to schedule this "off your plate" during your first year in office, and want to keep to that timetable for you.

Second, we have scheduled an **OSCA COVID Mass Fatality Planning Update on Friday, May 7 from 9:00—11:00 am ET**. OSCA will be applying for 2 hours of CME credit for this training session. Directly following the COVID Mass Fatality session OSCA's Board Members and Staff will remain online until noon for a Question & Answer session. We encourage you to participate as we "network" online. You can also submit your questions to the OSCA office at office@osca.net prior to our networking session if there are specific topics that you would like to discuss.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

- You **MUST** register in advance for each training session.
- You **MUST** register for each training session separately as each will have its own meeting link.
- Registration is available for all coroners and their staff.
- Registration links are below.

Open Records/Sunshine Law Training for Elected Officials May 6, 2021 from 1:00—4:30 pm ET

Please note this training session is scheduled through the Ohio Attorney General's Office so OSCA will be unable to assist with registration issues should they arise.

To register to for this event please click on the following link: [Sunshine Laws Training Schedule - Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost](#).

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UPDATES FROM OSCA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (continued)

- Scroll down and select the May 6 session and click "Register Now". Please note that directly above the "Register Now" button there are links to download the Sunshine Laws Manual, Training Agenda and PowerPoint. They are on the Registration page as well.
- On Registration page, click "Register". You will need to enter your first/last name, email address, city/state/zip and mailing address.
- Once you click "Submit" you will receive a registration confirmation email which contains information about joining the event.

OSCA COVID Mass Fatality Planning Update on Friday, May 7 from 9:00—11:00 am ET

Please note this training session is scheduled through OSCA and it is NOT the same link as the Open Records training session.

To register to for this event please click on the following link: [OSCA COVID Mass Fatality Planning Update](#)

- On the registration page you will need to enter your first/last name, email address, phone, position and county.
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing meeting information and the link for joining the meeting.

If you have questions, please contact OSCA at office@osca.net. and we look forward to "seeing" you in May.

REGIONAL MEETING UPDATE

The Central Region held their regional meeting on Saturday, March 27 from 9:00—12:00 pm at the Union County Health Department. The meeting was presented by David T. Applegate II, MD, Union County Coroner and Mr. James E. Fish, Union County Coroner's Office ABMDI Certified Investigator. Topics discussed were: current legislative issues affecting Ohio's County Coroners; how ODMAP (Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program) can help your community and help you work with partnering agencies; different ways to identify decedents; and resources available to help with decedent identification: FBI, ICE, BCI and Internet. There were 18 participants in the meeting.

The OSCA office has not been notified about any other Regional Meetings scheduled to date.

If you would like to schedule a Virtual Regional Meeting in the morning of May 6 or the afternoon of May 7 during OSCA's Virtual Training Days, please contact the OSCA office so we may assist you.

2020—2021 Regional Directors:

- Central Region: Anahi Ortiz, MD (Franklin County Coroner)
- Northeast Region: David Kennedy, MD (Mahoning County Coroner)
- Northwest Region: Douglas Hess, MD (Wood County Coroner)
- Southeast Region: VACANT (Nominations being accepted)
- Southwest Region: Lakshmi Sammarco, MD (Hamilton County Coroner)

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UPDATES FROM OSCA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (continued)

OSCA MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

The 2021 OSCA Membership Dues Notices were sent in early January and we are pleased to report that 81 OSCA Members have paid their 2021 dues as of April 27. Dues reminders were sent in early April.

Changes to the OSCA Membership Directory

Madison County—New Email Address

James Kaehr, MD

E-mail: drkaehr@co.madison.oh.us

Morrow County—New Mailing and Email Address

Matthew A. Hintz, MD

619 W. Marion Rd., Room 110

Mt. Gilead, OH 43338

Phone: 419/949-2690

E-mail: coroner@co.morrow.oh.us

**HAS YOUR OFFICE'S CONTACT
INFORMATION CHANGED?**

Please send us an update—office@osca.net

NEW OSCA EMAIL ADDRESS

You may have noticed that we've started using a new OSCA email address office@osca.net for OSCA communications. Please update your address book accordingly. Thank you.

**Save the
Dates**

May 6, 2021 (VIRTUAL)
**Open Records/Sunshine Law
Training for Elected Officials**
1:00—4:30 pm ET

May 7, 2021 (VIRTUAL)
OSCA Q & A and Networking
11:00—12:00 pm ET

May 7, 2021 (VIRTUAL)
**OSCA COVID Mass Fatality
Planning Update**
9:00—11:00 am ET

October 21—23, 2021
Annual Education Conference
Embassy Suites, Dublin

WELCOME 2021 NEW CORONERS

Jason A. Stienecker, DO—Auglaize County

209 S. Blackhoof St., Suite 201

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Phone: 419/739-6540

E-mail: coroner@auglaizecounty.org

John J. Racciato, MD—Defiance County

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Defiance, OH 43512

Phone: 419/782-4761

E-mail: coroner@defiance-county.com

Leon Miller, MD—Holmes County

981 Wooster St.

Millersburg, OH 44654

Phone: 330/674-9700

E-mail: drlmiller@pomerenehospital.org

Frank P. Miller, MD—Lorain County

5 South Main St., Suite 304

Oberlin, OH 44074

Phone: 440/774-7300

E-mail: coronerloraincounty@hotmail.com

David T. Applegate II, MD—Ottawa (and Union) County

315 Madison St., Rm 108

Port Clinton, OH 43452

Phone: 419/732-7372

E-mail: dapplegate@unioncountyohio.gov

Ronald Rusnak, MD—Stark County

4500 Atlantic Blvd., NE

Canton, OH 44705

Phone: 330/451-1366

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Douglas Virostko, MD—Coshocton County

349 Main St.

Coshocton, OH 43812

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E-mail: douglasvirostko@coshoctoncounty.net

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Seth Vensil, MD—Muskingum County

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Zanesville, OH 43701

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James Williams, MD, PhD—Sandusky County

622 Croghan St.

Fremont, OH 43420

Phone: 419/334-6100

E-mail: jwilliams@co.sandusky.oh.us

Lawrence D'Amico, MD—Trumbull County

2931 Youngstown Rd. SE

Warren, OH 44484

Phone: 330/675-2516

E-mail: cbdamico@co.trumbull.oh.us

HELPFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

SIGNING DEATH CERTIFICATES BY AN ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

If your office needs a copy of the State Medical Board of Ohio policy statement regarding the signing of death certificates by the attending physician please contact the OSCA office so that we may assist you.

If your office has been having ongoing issues, the following link will give you the ability to file an anonymous complaint with the State Medical Board of Ohio either online or by phone:

<https://med.ohio.gov/Regulation/File-a-Complaint>.

FEMA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COVID-19 RELATED FUNERAL EXPENSES

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Congress authorized FEMA to provide financial assistance to individuals who incurred COVID-19-related funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.

Complete program details are available on the FEMA website.

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

In addition, NAME members should anticipate receiving calls from families about why COVID-19 was not listed on a death certificate and potentially receiving calls from clinicians about amending a death certificate.

You can learn more from NAME and details can be found at:

<https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210324/fema-help-pay-funeral-costs-covid-19-related-deaths>

NEW HAMILTON COUNTY CORONERS'S OFFICE AND CRIME LABORATORY BUILDING

The Hamilton County Coroner's Office will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony of the New Hamilton County Coroner's Office and Crime Laboratory Building on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

Hamilton County Coroner's Office and Crime Laboratory
4477 Carver Woods Drive
Blue Ash, OH 45242

There is limited space due to COVID-19 restrictions, but you may contact Andrea Hatten at andrea.hatten@hamilton-co.org for more details.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES NEEDED



OSCA NEWS is our official publication. It provides a forum for Ohio's Coroners and their staff to communicate their findings, interests and concerns. Every coroner office is invited and encouraged to submit interesting and educational articles. Please contact OSCA at office@osca.net or 614/262-6722 to submit content for a future issue of OSCA News.

OSCA-PAC UPDATE

Since we did not have the Annual Meeting in 2020, we were unable to solicit funds in order to assist our government relations efforts during the final months of the 133rd General Assembly and the 134th General Assembly which began on January 1, 2021. Please consider making a donation and remember that no corporate checks may be accepted, only personal checks.

OSCA-PAC 2020 and 2021 Roll of Honor

We are pleased to report as of April 27, 2021, the following individuals have made contributions to OSCA's Political Action Committee in 2020 and 2021 and were placed on the 2020 and 2021 OSCA-PAC Roll of Honor:

Mandal B. Haas, MD (Carroll)

Douglas Virostko, MD (Coshocton)

Kent Harshbarger, MD JD MBA (Montgomery)

L. Brian Varney, MD (Fairfield)

Daniel Whitely, MD (Gallia)

John M. Urbancic, MD (Geauga)

Timothy Kathman, MD (Greenville)

Jeffrey Harwood, MD (Huron)

Mark E. Davis, MD (Marion)

Jeffrey Cameron, MD (Tuscarawas)

David T. Applegate, MD (Union)

Timothy Heinrichs, MD (Mercer)

Joseph M. Kuhn, DO (Paulding)

Kenneth Leopold, MD (Washington)

Douglas W. Hess, MD (Wood)

George S. Wilson, DO (Columbiana)

Frank P. Miller, MD

R. Alan Spencer, DO

The only source of income for OSCA-PAC is from your personal contributions. We encourage you to take time today to join with your colleagues in supporting your OSCA-PAC by sending your donation via personal check or money order (corporate checks are not legal under Ohio law). If you have questions please contact the OSCA office or any OSCA officer or director.

PLEASE CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TODAY



OSCA-PAC 2021 Contribution Form

Circle One:	President	Chairman	Pace Setter	Associate	Other
	\$500	\$250	\$100	\$50	

Please Type or Print:

Name: _____

County: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

Return with your personal check to: OSCA-PAC
3757 Indianola Ave.
Columbus, OH 43214-3753

Ohio Law Prohibits the acceptance of Corporate Checks

Thank You

OSCA'S MISSION

- To provide a professional organization for Ohio's 88 Coroners. (Coroners being those licensed physicians who investigate sudden and/or suspicious deaths and perform autopsies in connection therewith as well as those licensed physicians who investigate such death but do not perform autopsies.)
- To discuss various administrative, professional, ethical, et. al, matters affecting Coroners.
- To establish a continuing education curriculum, to sponsor educational seminars and to exchange professional experiences.
- To consider and encourage methods of improving and promoting the office of Coroner.
- To further programs that enable the general public and other public officials

The OSCA leadership team is comprised of veteran industry professionals with the desire to advance the coroner's offices of Ohio through the dissemination of professional news, ideas and events.

OSCA's leadership represents the industry in a professional and courteous manner, whether its in the Statehouse or in public. The leadership team changes on a yearly basis. This year's team is proud to serve the members of OSCA.

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Save the Dates

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COVID Mass Fatality Update
Q&A and Networking (11:00—12:00 pm)

October 21—23, 2021

Annual Education Conference
Embassy Suites, Dublin

OFFICERS

Darren C. Adams, DO
President

Kevin L. Park, MD
Vice President

Thomas P. Gilson, MD
Secretary

David T. Applegate II, MD
Treasurer

Amy S. Jolliff, MD
Board Chair

DIRECTORS

Scott Jarvis, MD

Mark Komar, MD

Benjamin Mack, MD

Lisa Mannix, MD

Carl Ortman, MD

Russell L. Uptegrove, MD

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David P. Corey, MBA
Executive Director

Kent Harshbarger,
MD, JD, MBA
Chief Forensic Officer

Steve Stienecker
OSCA Training Coordinator

Stephanie Ortega
OSCA Staff