

ACCO County CROSSROADS

VOLUME 17
ISSUE 2

Editor: CJ Cook

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Felicity Johnson	Meetings/Events & Office Manager	405.516.5317
Casey W. Cook, Jr.	Graphic Artist/ Media Administrator	405.516.5308
Dale Frech	Safety & Loss Control	405.516.5307
Joe Koerner	Director of Law Enforcement and Detention Training	405.516.5313
Dusty Birdsong	Administrator, ACCO-SIG/ACCO-SIF	405.516.5318
Angie Priest	Admin Assistant/ Underwriting	405.516.5315
Denny Butler	Claims/Litigation Manager	405.516.5302
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Carson Bunce	Property Liability Adjuster	405.516.5324
Julie McGuffee	Work Comp Supervisor	405.516.5304
Sandy Beaver	Work Comp Adjuster	405.516.5301
Cheryl Widmar	Work Comp Adjuster	405.563.8978
Tammy Scott	Work Comp Adjuster	405.516.5323
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Kayley Rosemann	Claims Assistant	405.516.5326

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OCCEDB Staff Members

Randy Robinson	Executive Director	405.516.5319
Melinda Anoatubby	Transportation Programs Administrator	405.563.7714

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Legislative Wrap-Up

Author: Chris Schroder, ACCO Executive Director

The first session of the 59th Oklahoma Legislature has adjourned, on May 26th to be exact. The legislature passed the FY 2024 general appropriations budget bill but there is more to the story. The house and senate both agreed to open the “First Extraordinary Session of the 59th Legislature”, also known as special session. The special session will address appropriations for this and next year’s state budget. This gives legislators the ability to come back and override any vetoes which the Governor may use against the budget bills. The legislature has until June 30th to complete their work in special session.

The state budget for FY2024 is close to \$13 billion, which makes it the largest in state history. As everyone has seen, education was the hot topic this session dealing with school choice, teacher pay raises, and formula funding. The legislature passed a nearly \$600 million education package, that when included with other education funds, totals about one third of the state budget.

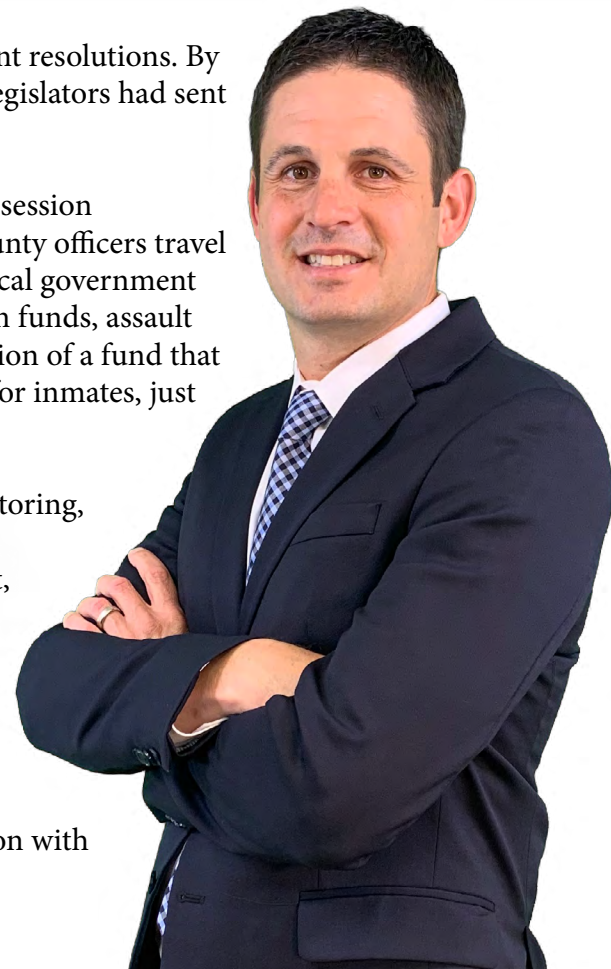
In other news, the legislature also continued allocating the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and has now appropriated over a billion dollars of ARPA funds. They also appropriated \$600 million to the newly created Legacy Capital Financing Revolving Fund, which will allow state agencies to borrow funds for capital improvements instead of seeking outside financing. Ten million dollars was also put into the Disaster Mitigation and Recovery Matching fund to help counties with projects due to disasters.

The session began with lawmakers filing more than 3,000 bills and joint resolutions. By the conclusion of session and with the special session bills included, legislators had sent Governor Stitt over 450 measures to consider.

There were several positives for county government at the capitol this session including; increased funding for 911 upgrades and operating cost, county officers travel allowance increase, maintained funding for REAP, the creation of a local government investment pool to allow local governments to increase their return on funds, assault and battery on a county official can now be deemed a felony, the creation of a fund that counties can utilize for substance abuse and mental health programs for inmates, just to name a few.

As always, there were also challenges that required considerable monitoring, time and effort by commissioners and staff. In any typical year, it is common to play more defense than offense. As part of this team effort, we successfully opposed several bills that were unfavorable for county government.

I want to extend a huge thank you to the legislative committee for the work they put in this year and to all county commissioners for a successful year. The ACCO district meetings, CED meetings, wake up Wednesday breakfasts, texting and calling, and the personal connection with your legislators is what it takes to be successful as a group.



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Workplace Safety

Author: Leslie Osborne, Oklahoma Labor Commissioner

Workplace safety is one of the main goals and programs administered at the Oklahoma Department of Labor. Two of our divisions work on education and training in different sectors of the workplace, one for private businesses and the other for counties, municipalities, and schools across the state.

Our PEOSH division includes a Federal/State cooperative program that publishes estimates on non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses.

A few pertinent data points from the 2020 results:

***The highest incident rates were with employees in the 16-19 age group**

***Leading event of injury for women was exposure to harmful substances**

***Leading event of injury for men was overexertion and bodily reaction**

***Oklahoma occupational injuries were 5,000 in 20'**

***Oklahoma occupational fatalities varied from 73 to 91 deaths a year from 18'-21'**

***In a sign of our turbulent times, 9 of those deaths in 21' were due to assaults and violent acts**

***Public sector employees with 11 to 49 employees typically have one of the highest incident rates of all size classes**

Our OSHA on-site consultation program offers no-cost and confidential occupational safety and health services for small to medium sized businesses across the state. To locate the OSHA on-site program closest to you call 800-321-6742. At the Oklahoma Department of Labor, we have assembled a very diverse and knowledgeable group that can cover any industry. On-site consultations are separate from OSHA enforcement efforts from the Federal Department of Labor. During 2022 we made 727 consultations visits, identified 1,766 hazards, trained 15,858 employees onsite, and most importantly removed from hazard 71,905 workers who were at risk.

ACCO is a great partner organization that we enjoy working with. If any counties would like more information on what we provide in the way of free safety training please look at our website and contact us at the Oklahoma Department of Labor. We would be pleased to work with our great county employees across the state in any way possible. The work you do across all 77 counties is appreciated.



National Association of County Engineers, NACE

Author: Randy Robinson, OCCEDB Executive Director

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Northeast Region Vice President:

North Central Region Vice President:

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Past President:

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 Stephen McCall, P.E., P.S.; Champaign County, Ohio
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 Jeff Linkous, P.E., P.S.; Clinton County, Ohio
 Wayne Sandberg, P.E.; Washington County, Minnesota
 Matt Machado, P.E., L.S.; Santa Cruz County, California
 Rich Sanders, P.E.; Polk County, Minnesota
 Chris Champion, P.E.; Henry County, Alabama

Executive Director:

Conference Director:

Location:

Kevan Stone
 Staci Morgan
 Washington, D.C. (Same building as NACO)

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Oklahoma NACE Director:

Randy Robinson, P.E.

NACE National Conference

Orange Beach, Alabama

April 2023

Schedule

Sunday: NACE board meeting

Monday: Technical Sessions

Tuesday: Vendor Hall & Equipment Show

Wednesday: Technical Sessions

Thursday: NACE board meeting

Technical Sessions Tracks

- Safety
- Emergency Preparedness
- Unpaved Roads
- Structures and Environment
- Pavement Preservation

Conference Workshops attended:

- Permitting Requirements for Projects Impacting Waters of the U.S. (Section 404 permitting)
 - o Challenges for County Engineers
 - o Reinforced Concrete Boxes, RCB, stream bank mitigation
- Gravel – The Surfacing of Choice
 - o Material properties of gravel roads, gradations, thickness, best practices
- Safety Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
 - o IIJA new grant description and use
 - o Safety Action Plans & Implementation of Safety Projects
- Base Stabilization Options for Granular Roads and Pavements
 - o Various types, studying the use of waste plastics
- How Local Agencies can be Successful with Bridge Preservation
 - o National Center for Pavement Preservation, Michigan State University
 - o www.pavementpreservation.org
 - o New inspection standards affective March, 2028 submittals to FHWA following the new (March 2022) Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory (SNBI)
 - Oklahoma will comply by January 2025.
 - o LTBP InfoBridge – Long-Term Bridge Performance (LTBP) Program
 - National Bridge data and analysis
 - InfoPave, InfoMaterials, InfoTechnology
- Continuous Modulus Measurement for Unpaved Roadway Asset Management
 - o Using a steel drum roller that has sensors, Iowa has developed an algorithm to determine gravel road condition/strength.
 - o Seeking a grant to gather data on 18,000 miles of gravel roads. Iowa has over 66,000 miles of gravel roads.

Other Workshops:

- Updating Google Street Views
- Digitizing 100 Assets in 14 Days – A Use Case Overview
- Local Safety Projects
- Electric Vehicles
- Battling the Snow of a Lifetime
- Surviving the Flood
- We're on Fire
- Motor Grader Setup / Operation Training
- Culvert Rehabilitation without Excavation
- Bridge Bundling with Steel Press Brake-Formed Steel Tub Girders (PBTGS), Speed, Flexibility and Low Cost.
- So, You Want to Build a Bridge and Save Money DIY County Bridges in 6 Steps?
- Practical Approaches & Tools for the Design of Steel Bridges: Availability, Constructability, Resources
- Cool Findings on Hot Topics from the NCAT Pavement Test Track
- Cement-Based Pavement Solutions – Working with what You've Got
- Combination Treatments for Pavement Preservation
- BIO Oils Use in HMA Pavements
- Scrub Seal & Micro Surfacing
- Where does Pavement Recycling Fit into your Road Program?
- Filling in the Gaps on Crack Sealing at the NCAT Pavement Test Track

Vendors:

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 - o Pavement Road Inventory Conditions – Pavement Condition Assessment using Smartphone.
 - o Also collects your signs and assigns the MUTCD designation to them.
 - o <https://www.vaisala.com/en/products/road-asset-management>
- SealMaster – Liquid Road, Crack Sealing Equipment
- Cartegraph – Cartegraph One, Asset Management Software
- Diversified Computer Services – CIMS Software; Job Cost, Garage Shop, Workorder Management.

Past Conferences Attended:

2013: Des Moines, Iowa
 2014: Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 2015: Daytona Beach, Florida
 2016: Tacoma, Washington
 2019: Wichita, Kansas

Future Meetings:

2024: Palm Springs, California
 2025: Chicago, Illinois
 2026: Dallas, Texas
 2027: Toronto, Canada








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Ensuring Safety and Security: The Vital Role of Checks in County Detention Facilities

Author: Joe Koerner, ACCO Director of Law Enforcement and Detention Training

County detention facilities play a crucial role in society by housing individuals awaiting trial or serving sentences. It is essential for these institutions to prioritize safety and security measures to protect both inmates and staff members. One of the fundamental components of maintaining a secure environment is through rigorous security and safety checks. These checks serve as a critical deterrent against contraband, violence, and unauthorized activities within the facility. In this article, we explore the importance of security and safety checks in county detention facilities and their contribution to a safer, more controlled environment.

1. Preventing the Introduction of Contraband:

One of the primary objectives of security checks in county detention facilities is to prevent the introduction of contraband. Weapons, drugs, cell phones, and other prohibited items pose significant risks to the safety and order of the facility. Thorough searches of individuals, their personal belongings, and even incoming mail and packages help to detect and confiscate such contraband. By diligently conducting security checks, these facilities ensure that inmates and staff members are not exposed to unnecessary dangers.

2. Mitigating Violence and Conflicts:

Security and safety checks are essential tools in mitigating violence and conflicts within county detention facilities. Inmates may engage in fights or acts of aggression, endangering not only themselves but also other detainees and staff members. Regular searches, both scheduled and unscheduled, help identify potential threats, such as hidden weapons or brewing tensions between inmates. By promptly addressing these issues through appropriate interventions, the facility can maintain order and reduce the likelihood of violent incidents.

3. Enhancing Staff Safety:

County detention facility staff members face inherent risks as they work in close proximity to potentially volatile individuals. Security checks are crucial in ensuring the safety of staff members by minimizing the potential harm they may face. Comprehensive searches help to identify any concealed weapons or other dangerous items that may pose a threat to the safety of the staff. Additionally, security measures like metal detectors and surveillance systems provide an added layer of protection, creating a safer working environment for the personnel.

4. Maintaining Inmate Discipline and Rehabilitation:

A well-maintained and secure detention facility is essential for promoting inmate discipline and rehabilitation. By enforcing rigorous security and safety checks, the facility communicates a message of accountability and discourages misconduct. The knowledge that any attempts to violate rules or smuggle contraband will be detected acts as a deterrent, encouraging inmates to comply with regulations. Furthermore, these checks help to prevent criminal activities within the facility, providing a conducive environment for rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.

5. Compliance with Legal and Ethical Standards:

County detention facilities are required to adhere to legal and ethical standards to ensure the protection of human rights and the fair treatment of inmates. Security and safety checks contribute to this compliance by upholding transparency and accountability. Regular checks demonstrate that the facility is taking proactive measures to maintain safety, while also ensuring that no individual is subjected to unnecessary harm or unjust treatment.

The importance of security and safety checks in county detention facilities cannot be overstated. These measures play a vital role in preventing the introduction of contraband, mitigating violence, protecting staff members, maintaining inmate discipline, and ensuring compliance with legal and ethical standards. By implementing robust security protocols, detention facilities create an environment that prioritizes the safety and well-being of both inmates and staff. Ultimately, these checks contribute to the overall effectiveness of the facility in achieving its core objectives of justice, rehabilitation, and public safety.



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Welcome Julie McGuffee

Author: Julie McGuffee, Workers' Compensation Supervisor

Hi everyone. My name is Julie McGuffee and I've been the current Worker's Compensation Supervisor for ACCO Claims since January 2023. I graduated from the University of Oklahoma and have worked in the Insurance and Risk Management industry for over 35 years. Throughout my career, I have developed a deep understanding of insurance processes, risk assessment, and claim management, with the desire to ensure efficient operations and effective outcomes. It's my goal and the goal of our Workers Compensation Department, to service our Counties by offering any assistance with all issues related to their Worker's Compensation claims.

Outside of my professional life, I find great joy in my personal relationships and interests. I've been happily married to my husband, Mark, for 35 years. He's been a source of strength and inspiration to me throughout our marriage. Together, we have been blessed with two amazing children. Our son, Jonathan, and our daughter Anna Cate are our greatest accomplishments. We also have a 17-year-old rescue dog, Buddy and two "grand puppies" Lucy and Theo, who bring lots of excitement and craziness to the McGuffee household! Simply put, family holds a special place in my heart, and I prioritize nurturing it.

In my leisure time, I like to indulge in a variety of hobbies and activities that enrich my life. I enjoy traveling, cooking up new recipes, gardening, watching OU football, OU Girls Softball or just spending time with my family. I believe in the importance of a well-rounded lifestyle, balancing both work and personal interests in fostering a fulfilling and meaningful life.

I'm so excited to be a part of the ACCO family and look forward to meeting everyone.

Julie McGuffee
Workers' Compensation Supervisor
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FUTURE CONFERENCE DATES FOR 2023, 2024, & 2025

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(Fall 23 Room Block Opens 7/31/23 at 8:00 AM)

ACCO Fall Conference 2023, November 1st & 2nd , 2023

(Spring 24 Room Block Opens 11/6/2023 at 8:00 AM)

2024 • 2024 • 2024

ACCO Spring Conference 2024, March 27th & 28th, 2024

(Summer 24 Room Block Opens 4/1/24 at 8:00 AM)

ACCO Summer Conference 2024, July 31st & August 1st , 2024

(Fall 24 Room Block Opens 8/5/24 at 8:00 AM)

ACCO Fall Conference 2024, November 13th & 14th, 2024

(Spring 25 Room Block Opens 11/18/24 at 8:00 AM)

2025 • 2025 • 2025

ACCO Spring Conference 2025, April 2nd & 3rd, 2025

(Summer 25 Room Block Opens 4/7/25)

ACCO Summer Conference 2025, July 30st & July 31st, 2025

(Fall 25 Room Block Opens 8/4.25)

ACCO Fall Conference 2025, October 29th & 30th, 2025

(Spring 26 Room Block Opens "TBA")

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact

Felicity "Felix" Johnson

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Elk City Auction

Author: Melinda Anoatubby, OCCEDB Transportation Programs Administrator

March 2023 Elk City Auction sales were a record high of \$8,877,925.00. OCCEDB received 2% of the sales to disburse back out to all 8 CED's in the amount of \$177,558.50.

Here is the breakdown:

	TOTAL SALES	2%	Private sales /8	CED Deposits
PRIVATE SALES	\$ 2,700,800.00	\$ 54,016.00	\$ 6,752.00	
CED 1	\$ 299,350.00	\$ 5,987.00	\$ 6,752.00	\$ 12,739.00
CED 2	\$ -		\$ 6,752.00	\$ 6,752.00
CED 3	\$ 597,460.00	\$ 11,949.20	\$ 6,752.00	\$ 18,701.20
CED 4	\$ 746,510.00	\$ 14,930.20	\$ 6,752.00	\$ 21,682.20
CED 5	\$ 1,713,000.00	\$ 34,260.00	\$ 6,752.00	\$ 41,012.00
CED 6	\$ 578,700.00	\$ 11,574.00	\$ 6,752.00	\$ 18,326.00
CED 7	\$ 891,785.00	\$ 17,835.70	\$ 6,752.00	\$ 24,587.70
CED 8	\$ 1,350,320.00	\$ 27,006.40	\$ 6,752.00	\$ 33,758.40
	\$ 8,877,925.00	\$ 177,558.50	\$ 54,016.00	\$ 177,558.50

2024 Solid Waste Program

The 2023 Solid Waste program is coming to an end and the 2024 Solid Waste Program is just now kicking off. Once DEQ and OCCEDB renew the 2024 contract, OCCEDB will notify the participating counties via mail and email on awards. The list will of awardees will also be posted on OCCEDB website <https://www.occedb.org/solid-waste-program.html>

OCCEDB administers and awards funding for counties that apply for:

- **Chippers**
- **Chainsaws**
- **Dump Roll Off's/Illegal Dumping**
- **Trash Cop Program**

Stay tuned, we may have a new funding source available for "Storm Debris" cleanup.





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4-H'ers ready to surf the waves of success

MEDIA CONTACT: Gail Ellis | Agricultural Communications Services | 405-744-9152 | gail.ellis@okstate.edu

This year marks the 102nd time Oklahoma 4-H'ers have converged on the campus of Oklahoma State University for State 4-H Roundup. While 4-H Roundup has been steeped in tradition for more than a century, this event has changed and evolved to continue to meet the needs of club members.

State 4-H Roundup will take place July 26-28 and this year's theme is Surfing the Waves of Success in 4-H.

Cathy Allen, 4-H curriculum coordinator at the state 4-H office at OSU, said the 2023 agenda combines traditional 4-H Roundup activities with new offerings.

"Duds to Dazzle, an upcycling/recycling contest, garnered lots of interest in its inaugural appearance last year, so it's back on the schedule this year," Allen said. "We'll also host the State 4-H Food Showdown, and the winning team will compete on the national level at the Texas State Fair later this year."

Other activities and contests include FCS Skill-a-thon, Job Readiness, Livestock Quiz Bowl, Clover Bowl, tractor contest, communications contest, 4-H Has Talent and more. Club members will also have the opportunity to take part in various educational workshops and listen to motivational speakers Melvin Adams and Loka Pandaya.

In addition, Roundup delegates can participate in various tours around campus and Stillwater. Tours include OSU College of Veterinary Medicine, the Cleo L. Craig Child Development Lab, Kicker, OSU's Fire Protection and Safety Training, The Botanic Garden at OSU, university athletics facilities and Insect Adventure.

Dances are a highlight for many club members, but for those who aren't into bustin' a move on the dance floor, they can visit the new E-sports arena in the Student Union. This high-end computer lab features gaming computers with appropriate games that will be available to 4-H'ers.

"E-sports is a way for youth to compete using video games and has become quite popular," said Kelly Wardlaw, assistant OSU Extension specialist for STEM activities. "Competition has long been a part of the 4-H culture, and this provides yet another outlet for our youth."

Also available during the dance will be bingo and a hypnotist.

In an effort to familiarize 4-H'ers with what OSU offers academically, the various academic departments will set up informational booths at Pete's Luau. Youth can learn about the different colleges at OSU and various degrees offered.

In keeping with tradition, the state 4-H record book and scholarship winners, along with National Congress delegates, Blue Award Group and the new Oklahoma 4-H Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized at the Honor Night Banquet. Club members will walk away with more than \$100,000 in scholarships thanks to the generosity of many donors.

The culmination of the 102nd State 4-H Roundup will be the announcement of the 2023-2024 state officer team.

All 4-H Roundup delegates receive a t-shirt with the logo printed on it. For those who wish to purchase other merchandise with the logo, such as a long-sleeve t-shirt or cap, orders can be placed with Stillwater Screen Printing. All items will be shipped directly to the 4-H'er. Order forms will be released in July.

For more information about 4-H Roundup, contact the OSU Extension county office.

Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions. For more information, visit <https://eeo.okstate.edu>.

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Welcome Carson Bunce

Author: Carson Bunce, Property & Liability Adjuster

My name is Carson Bunce. I am a property and liability adjuster for the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma, County Claims Division. I handle the property and liability claims that get sent to us. I have been in insurance for 7 months and have been with ACCO for a relatively short time.

While I am new to ACCO, I have been loving it so far. It has been a great opportunity for me and I am fortunate enough to have found my career at the age of 21. Whether it is a pot hole claim, equipment, or an accident, it is always something new. Thank you to ACCO for welcoming me in, and I look forward to working with all of the counties of Oklahoma.

Carson Bunce

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SUMMER SAFETY Conference

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday July 26th, 2023

6:30am	Exhibit Hall Early Set Up	OK "F-J"
7:30am	Registration Opens Breakfast Sandwiches Sponsored by: South 99	East Lobby
7:30am	Exhibit Hall Opens	OK "F-J"
9:00am	ODOT CAB Meeting	Sooner A & B
9:45am	County Engineers Meeting	Boomer A & B
10:00am	ACCO Ladies	PDR - 1

10:00am	Educational Session	Oklahoma "E"
	<i>Leslie Osborn Oklahoma Labor Commissioner</i>	

11:30am	Fajita Luncheon Sponsored by: ADS Pipe, 'bidadoo, Coastal Energy, Cummins Equipment, Dolese, EST, P & K Equipment, Shuttera, Warren CAT, Welch State Bank	NE Parking Area
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1:30pm	General Session	Oklahoma "E"
	<i>ACCO President Commissioner Jim Rogers, Sequoyah Co.</i>	
	Invocation	
	National Anthem, Clancy Davis	
	<i>Darry Stacy, Executive Director of CLEET</i>	
	<i>Lance Terry, State of Oklahoma 9-1-1 Coordinator</i>	
	<i>Colonel Patrick F. Mays, Chief of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol</i>	
	<i>State Auditor Cindy Byrd</i>	
	<i>Representative Josh Cantrell</i>	
	<i>Chris Schroder, ACCO Executive Director</i>	

After General Session	District Meetings	
	District #1	Oklahoma "E"
	District #2	Oklahoma "A"
	District #3	University "A"
	District #4	University "B"
	District #5	Oklahoma "C"
	District #6	Northpark
	District #7	Noble
	District #8	Oklahoma "B"

4:30pm Registration Closes

5:30pm Exhibit Hall Closes

5:45pm Evening Buffet N. Conference Hallway

7:30pm - 11:30pm Clancy Davis and Band OK "A,B,C"

Thursday July 27th, 2023

7:30am	Registration Opens	East Lobby
7:30am	Exhibit Hall Opens	OK "F-J"
7:30am	Visit with your Vendors	OK "F-J"
8:30am	ACCO Board Meeting	University "C"
8:30am	SIG/SIF Board Meeting	University "C"

10:00am	Safety Presentation	OK "E"
	It Won't Happen To Me	
	<i>The Ramifications of Everyday Decisions</i>	

11:30am	OCCEDB Board Meeting	University "C"
---------	----------------------	----------------

11:30am Registration Closes

11:30am Exhibit Hall Closes
Teardown

11:30am	Pulled Pork Sandwich Luncheon Sponsored by Standley Systems	NE Parking Area
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12:30pm-3:30pm	ACCO Family Carnival & Safety Day	OK "A-D"
	*Carnival Games & Inflatables	
	*Caricature Artist, Lawrence Grech	
	*Mona Lisa Face Painting	
	*Photobooth	
	*Adult Games	
	- Pitstop Challenge	Sooner "A & B"
	- Putt-Putt Challenge	
	Health Booths & Massage Therapy	Boomer "A & B"

4:30pm Cook Off Judging OK "E-J"

4:45pm 20th Annual Safety Picnic & Cook Off OK "E-J"
Road Scholars Awards - OSU

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Welcome Ryan Gonzales

Author: Ryan Gonzales, Work Comp Adjuster

Hello, my name is Andrew Ryan Gonzales. I am the County Claim's Department's newest adjuster for Workers Compensation. I have worked in one capacity or another in the field of healthcare for over 20 years and hope my experience will be valuable in the years to come, assisting in the care of the hardworking men and women who work for the counties of Oklahoma.

Ryan Gonzales

Work Comp Adjuster
County Claims of Oklahoma
Direct Line 405-516-5305
Email ryang@okacco.com



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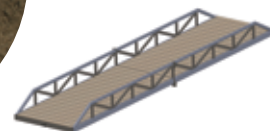
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What You Gain by Engaging in Your National Association

Author: Kim Hall, NACo

It is not about always knowing the answers. It is about knowing where to get them.

Enter Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma and NACo. As a member of ACCO, you gain access to statewide leaders, best practices, reports and other resources. Through NACo, you gain access to thousands of your peers nationwide, federal policy advocacy, proven practices, in-depth research and other expansive resources. Through NACo conferences, webinars and events, you receive opportunities to hear from and interact with experts and federal decision-makers on a variety of issues that directly impact counties and our residents.

NACo provides timely, fact-based and easy-to-digest information you can count on: news and analysis on federal legislation and regulations, federal grant information, issues impacting counties and more. This information saves you and your county time and effort, allowing you to pursue solutions quickly and directly. We cover dozens of issues relevant to county governments, including infrastructure, agriculture, broadband, public health, economic competitiveness, justice and public safety, and more. County members determine the legislative priorities NACo pursues before the U.S. Congress, executive agencies and federal courts. A few highlights of NACo's 2023 focus areas include:

- Ensuring county priorities in the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization
- Boosting advanced broadband deployment and accessibility while preserving local decision-making
- Promoting health reforms by addressing the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy and the passage of mental health, substance use and criminal justice reform legislation
- Staving off unfunded mandates and safeguarding local decision-making in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other federal rulemaking, and
- Maintaining election integrity and strengthening election worker safety.

In addition to our federal policy advocacy, NACo provides countless tools to support America's counties.

Especially with all that we have faced over recent years, NACo helps our workforce by ensuring county employees have the resources they need for their mental health. We launched a special initiative to support the mental health of our 3.6 million county employees nationwide.

In partnership with the National Council on Mental Wellbeing, we unveiled our Mental Health First Aid program. This first-of-its-kind effort helps county employees identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among our peers, friends and colleagues.

This new, powerful offering can be a tremendous resource to enhance mental health and wellbeing. To learn more, visit NACo.org.

NACo.org/MHFA.

NACo also supports the county workforce through the High Performance Leadership Academy and Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy.

With a robust curriculum developed with Fortune 1000 executives, public sector leaders, world-renowned academics and thought leaders, including the late General Colin Powell, this 12-week, online program equips participants with practical tools to build cohesive teams, improve communications, manage change, and ultimately achieve results for our residents.

Since its inception in 2018, more than 8,000 county officials from 1,800 counties have enrolled, including 57 graduates from 25 Oklahoma counties. We encourage all counties to participate. More information can be found at NACo.org/skills.

America's counties are home to 16.5 million veterans, including over 300,000 veterans who reside in Oklahoma. County Veteran Service Officers help veterans access a wide range of federal benefits and are deeply invested in veterans' health and well-being. Counties often assist with pension and disability benefits, housing, employment and education, and mental health services that treat trauma and prevent suicide.

In the week leading up to Veterans Day, the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers invite all Oklahoma counties to participate in Operation Green Light for Veterans. We encourage you to illuminate county government buildings in green November 6-12.

Now in its second year, Operation Green Light is designed to raise awareness about the unique challenges veterans face and the resources available to assist them and their families at the county, state, and federal levels.

In addition to lighting county buildings, states, municipalities, residents, businesses and community organizations are also encouraged to participate.

To support counties in serving more veterans, especially in underserved and under-resourced rural areas, Operation Green Light will be an opportunity to urge our federal lawmakers to pass the bipartisan Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach (CVSO) Act.

For more information, please visit NACo.org/OperationGreenLight.

We recently launched an effort designed to assist state associations and counties in leveraging opioid settlement dollars.

NACo's Opioid Solutions Center is a comprehensive web-based information hub that empowers local leaders to invest resources in effective treatment, recovery, prevention and other public health practices that can save lives and address the underlying causes of substance use disorder.

In addition to partnering with state associations, we have

assembled a noteworthy national-level partnership with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the National Association of Attorneys General and an esteemed collection of academic advisors.

We encourage you to visit our robust center at NACo.org/opioids.

How can you help elevate the voice of Oklahoma counties and stay abreast of the resources and tools available from NACo?

You can start with any of these simple steps:

1. **Lend your voice to a NACo committee** – For one hour a month, you can elevate your county's issues, address challenges and learn about best and promising practices through NACo's 30 plus committees, caucuses and task forces. Currently, 36 individuals from 18 unique Oklahoma counties participate on a NACo committee. Learn more and apply by visiting NACo.org/GetInvolved.
2. **Show Up** – NACo's Legislative and Annual Conferences are the best ways to network with peers who are facing similar issues and hear from federal agency leaders and experts. Register today for our 2023 Annual Conference, July 21-24, in Travis County, Texas NACo.org/Annual.
3. **Sign up** – NACo webinars assist you by navigating topic-specific issues or providing vital updates on topics that matter to counties. Can't make the live webinar? You have 24/7 access our on-demand pre-recorded sessions. Learn more about our virtual events at NACo.org/Education.

4. **Access** – Find reports on topics ranging from agriculture, veterans affairs, health and so much more. NACo.org/reports

5. **Register** – Equip frontline county government professionals with practical leadership skills through NACo's online 12-week High Performance Leadership Academy or Cybersecurity Leadership Academy. NACo.org/skills

Just as ACCO represents Oklahoma's 77 counties in Oklahoma City, NACo represents all 3,069 counties in our nation's capital. Thanks to a strong relationship between ACCO and NACo, 55 counties in Oklahoma are members of NACo. We appreciate your membership and welcome the opportunity to speak with those who may consider joining.

Outlined above is just a sampling of what NACo has to offer. Please take a few minutes to explore our website at NACo.org and discover the treasure trove of tools and resources you have at your fingertips.

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Federal Highway Bill Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, IIJA Bridge Investment Program, BIP, Grant

Author: Randy Robinson, OCCEDB Executive Director

The Federal Highway Bill consists of several grant opportunities, one being the Bridge Investment Program. The Circuit Engineering District 8 board decided to hire a consultant firm, Garver, to assist in submitting a grant application for FY 2023 federal funding last year. This application cost the CED approximately \$70,000. Federal Highway Administration, FHWA, announced back in April that they have awarded CED 8, 11.5 million dollars that would help replace 7 rural bridges in Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher, Major, Noble and Woods counties. These bridges were already within the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges, CIRB, 5-year construction plan. This funding will reduce the amount of the state's CIRB funds required at these projects.

All of BIP project awards can be found here, <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/bip/bridgegrants2022/> .

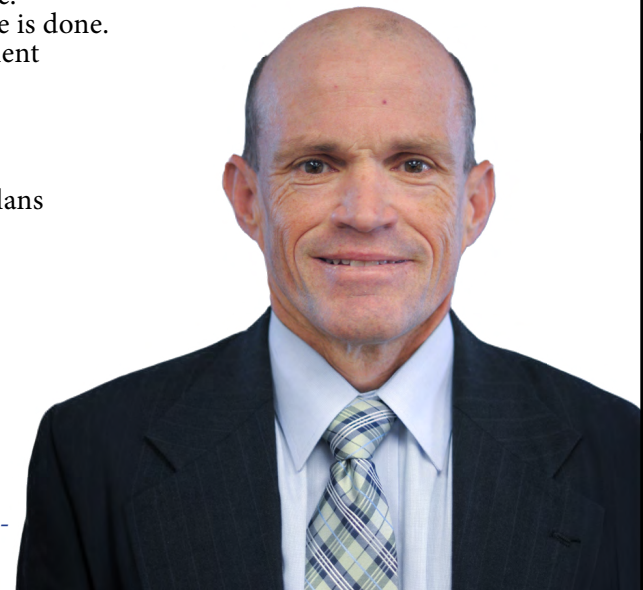
Some of the information CED 8 had to provide Garver for the application consisted of:

- Detour Lengths and maps for each bridge if it is closed.
- Estimated length and amount of traffic detoured due to current bridge load posting.
- 30 year Maintenance Costs for the existing bridge and a new bridge.
- Estimated time of bridge closure if no construction or maintenance is done.
- Construction Schedules for each bridge, broke down for each element (abutment, piers, beams, etc.)
- Construction estimates for each bridge.
- Construction estimates if bike lanes are added to each bridge.
- Typical Sections for each roadway type and for each bridge type.
- Plans for each bridge ranging from R/W Plans to not having any plans ready for some.
- Pictures of each bridge.
- ADT of each bridge.

CED 8's application information can be found here, <https://ced8bip.transportationplanroom.com/> .

Congratulations to CED 8's Board and staff for the effort and time they dedicated in developing this application.

https://transportationplanroom01.blob.core.windows.net/uploads/566bde2a-f939-4760-89ee-c956958792d2-Application_Narrative.pdf



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NBI 19993, Woods County



I-Beam Span Bridge on County Road N2740 over Unnamed Creek, Kingfisher County
NBI # 16731
Built 1966
Sufficiency Rating - 47.8
(Functionally Obsolete)

NBI 16731, Kingfisher County



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6. **Depreciation**—Let someone else take the hit, Not your tax payer
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8. **Balanced budget**—More buying power due to lower initial cost
9. **Diversified fleet**—Ability to own more specialized equipment
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Safety Really Does Pay

Author: Dale Frech, ACCO Safety Director

CompSource Mutual provides Workers Compensation Coverage through the ACCO Self Insured Fund (ACCO SIF) for 73 of the 77 counties in Oklahoma. CompSource Mutual recently informed ACCO staff that due to the member counties having a good year in the fiscal year 2020, we will be getting a "Safety Group Loss Performance Incentive" to be distributed back to the members. According to the coverage contract with CompSource, the performance incentives will be distributed back to the members based on their loss ratios for the year being recognized. We will not know exactly how much it will be until they report it to us after the end of the current policy period (June 30th). This incentive is based on the performance of the whole ACCO SIF member group as a whole. This incentive recognizes not only did we have fewer injured employees, the injuries we had were also less severe.

CompSource Mutual informed us in the same meeting they were distributing a dividend back to members for positive performance of CompSource Mutual as a whole. We were also informed the 2024 ACCO SIF workers compensation rates were being reduced for counties due to this positive performance.

Between these three positive occurrences, member counties, due to effective risk management efforts, will see a savings of over a million dollars this year.

We have stated many times your risk management efforts mattered, not only in reducing your employees being injured, but in the rates you pay. This distribution is just one more example where the counties that reduce their losses received a larger share of the CompSource distribution. Kudos to the county safety directors and all county personnel for their efforts in their safety program.

Dale Frech

ACCO Safety Director

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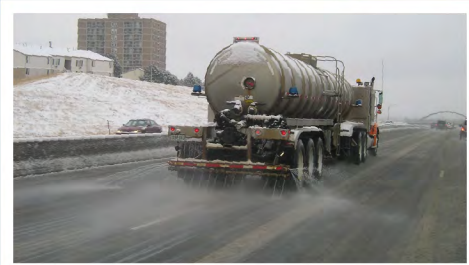
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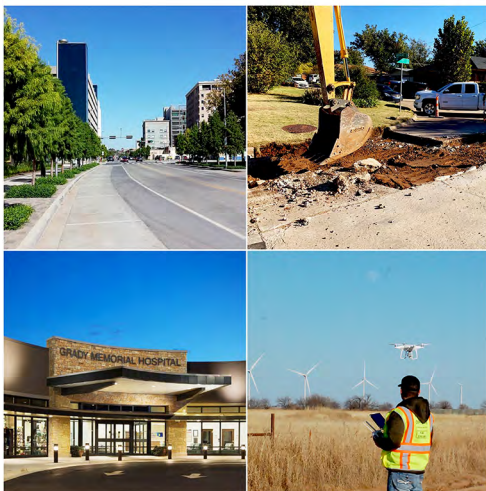


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Volunteers critical to OSU Extension mission

MEDIA CONTACT: Trisha Gedon, OSU



STILLWATER, Okla. – Volunteers are a vital part of any organization to accomplish the group's goals. Oklahoma State University Extension is no exception.

Thanks to knowledgeable experts in areas including youth development, community service, agriculture, healthy living and more, these specialists share that information with Oklahoma citizens. But, to kick it up a notch, thousands of volunteers associated with various OSU Extension programs also take that information and share it with even more state residents. This week is National Volunteer Week, so it's a good time to recognize these groups and highlight some ways they positively impact all Oklahomans.

Oklahoma Master Gardeners and 4-H Youth Development, two OSU Extension programs, along with Oklahoma Home and Community Education, an organization that partners with OSU Extension, all have volunteers who are doing amazing things around the state.

Why do people volunteer? Jayme McTague, a 4-H volunteer leader in Pontotoc County, said her involvement in 4-H inspired her to become an adult volunteer.

"I'm a 4-H alumna, and my parents were my leaders. I had such a positive experience as a 4-H'er that I knew it was something I wanted for my own kids," McTague said. "It's the best organization in the country. I had so many amazing opportunities due to my involvement – winning trips to Denver and Washington, D.C. and attending State 4-H Roundup – I wanted to give my kids and other kids those same opportunities."

OHCE

Oklahoma Home and Community Education is a statewide, county-based organization whose members seek to develop leadership skills and strengthen families in their respective communities. OHCE members work with county OSU Extension educators to identify issues facing their local communities and use research-based information from specialists at OSU to help solve those problems.

Suzette Barta, community engagement coordinator for OSU's College of Education and Human Sciences – Extension, Engagement and Continuing Education, said OHCE members are driven to volunteer.

"People are motivated to action because they feel a desire within themselves to do something. This is called internal motivation," Barta said. "We do things within our communities, our counties and the state because we know they make a difference to the residents. We're also motivated by friendship, affiliation, and yes, even fun."

With 2,720 OHCE members across the state, they committed more than 106,000 hours of volunteer service in their communities, valued at nearly \$3.2 million. These volunteers raised over \$603,000 last year for a variety of projects, including community improvement and educational scholarships.

Master Gardeners

In 2022, the Extension Master Gardeners trained 323 new volunteers to bring their total statewide volunteer numbers to 1,049 from 23 counties, with almost 76,000 hours of volunteer service.

David Hillock, OSU Extension consumer horticulturist and statewide Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program coordinator, said the interest in environment and home gardening continues to grow every year, prompting numerous gardening and landscape questions.

"The service from the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program has proven to be a highly popular means of extending the knowledge of OSU Extension to the residents of Oklahoma," Hillock said. "These volunteers have been involved in workshops, demonstration gardens, fairs, home and garden shows, farmers markets and elementary school programs, to name a few."

This group has also donated more than 5,850 pounds of produce to local food pantries/kitchens, shelters and other organizations. This is a significant increase from the year before due to a small farm the Tulsa County Master Gardeners created to serve as a hands-on teaching tool and to help serve residents of Tulsa County.

Oklahoma 4-H

The Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development program, which is available in all 77 counties, relies on its volunteers to carry out the mission of helping Oklahoma youth, families and communities reach their full potential. 4-H is the youth segment of OSU Extension and provides hands-on learning and leadership opportunities in more than 60 project areas for club members.

The program has 1,051 certified volunteers and many more episodic volunteers who serve as club leaders, project leaders and general volunteers, said Karla Knoepfli, OSU Extension associate specialist in the state 4-H office.

"While we have 4-H educators in all counties, our volunteers are the backbone of our organization," Knoepfli said. "Our volunteers help us foster healthy youth-adult partnerships and positive youth development. 4-H values service to others and our volunteers play a key role modeling that behavior for our 4-H members. Through their willingness to share their time and talents, they continue to make the best better."

National Volunteer Week, established in 1974, is celebrated annually in April and places a spotlight on inspiring individuals whose invaluable seeds of kindness through volunteering are bettering their communities and beyond.

OSU Extension uses research-based information to help all Oklahomans solve local issues and concerns, promote leadership and manage resources wisely throughout the state's 77 counties. Most information is available at little to no cost.

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