

OCPOA Leadership Elections – November 6

OCPOA will hold its Board of Trustees and Executive Board elections during the Fourth Quarterly Membership Meeting on Friday, November 6, 2026, at The Ohioan Hotel and Event Center.

Members interested in becoming more involved in OCPOA leadership are encouraged to submit a brief bio and indicate the position they would like to be considered for.

Board of Trustees

- Two Common Pleas General Division Trustees
- Two Municipal Court Trustees
- Two Juvenile Court Trustees
- One Community Corrections Act (CCA) representative

Executive Board

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

OCPOA is also seeking a new Chair or Chair/Co-Chair team for the Membership, Networking and Communications Committee. This committee supports membership engagement and growth and coordinates the Trustee nomination process.

A special thank you to Ashley Richardson for her leadership and service as Committee Chair. We greatly appreciate the time and dedication she has given to OCPOA and its members.

Interested in serving? Submit your bio or committee interest to OCPOAmanager@gmail.com.

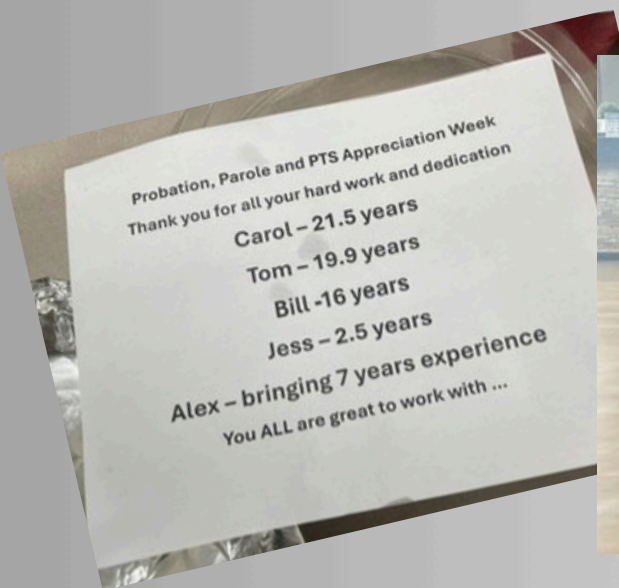
We encourage members to consider getting involved and look forward to seeing everyone on November 6!



Highland County Adult Probation celebrated Probation Appreciation week with recognition and a proclamation from the Commissioners, banana split ice cream sundaes, and treats for staff!



Mason Municipal Court's Probation Department shared donuts, a Court-wide luncheon and a competitive afternoon of bowling to show appreciation for the hard working Probation team!





Van Wert County recognized Probation Officers from Juvenile Court, Municipal Court, Common Pleas Court and Adult Parole Authority, alongside their County Commissioners and the Honorable Judge Burchfield.

Officers were presented a framed Proclamation honoring their dedication and commitment to the field!

Themed cookies were enjoyed by Butler County's Adult Probation Department
How fun are these?!





Lorain County Probation Department during the week (Employee Fun Fair/Carnival). Staff were able to attend the carnival in our program room 😊, play games and win small prizes. We also had popcorn & snow cones there! Lots of fun and a great stress reliever!

Member *milestones*

Clifford Skeen Award Winner - Defiance Municipal Court

Chief Probation Officer Brittany Beard shared the following regarding her recent win of the prestigious Cliff Skeen Award:

Receiving the Clifford Skeen Award is a tremendous honor for our department and, most importantly, a reflection of the dedication and commitment of our staff. We view this award not simply as an accomplishment, but as recognition of the teamwork, creativity, and willingness of our staff to continually look for better ways to serve the people we supervise and our community.

One of the practices that has made the greatest impact has been our focus on individualized supervision and connecting people with the resources they need to be successful. Rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach, we work to understand the individual circumstances, risks, needs, and strengths of each person we supervise.

When asked what advice she'd give to other probation departments looking for new ways to improve their practices, she shared: Our advice would be to remain open to change and to never assume that the way something has always been done is necessarily the best way to do it. Most importantly, recognize that meaningful change is a team effort. Give your staff the opportunity to contribute ideas, take ownership of new initiatives, and learn from both successes and setbacks.

New Member *Spotlight*

Meet Dustin Westhoven, Chief Probation Officer Paulding County Juvenile Court

Serving under Judge Harvey D. Hyman, who has been on the bench for the past two years, Chief Westhoven supervises approximately 40–50 youth ranging in age from 8 to 21, as well as 10 or fewer adults. His work encompasses delinquency cases, service coordination and case management, and a mentorship program he established in 2019.

From Corrections to Community-Based Work

Chief Westhoven began his career at the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio, where he spent five years as a correctional and transportation officer before becoming a probation officer in Paulding County. His career path has given him a unique perspective on working with justice-involved individuals and families.

Building Connections Beyond the Office

What makes Chief Westhoven particularly passionate about his work is the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with the families he serves.

“Making a connection with the families I work with and being a support for them is what I am most proud of.”

His mentorship approach has helped transform the relationship between youth, families and the court from one that can feel adversarial into a more collaborative effort. Whether they are hiking, fishing or working out at the gym, Chief Westhoven has found that youth are often more willing to open up about their challenges outside the traditional office setting. While that connection can also be one of the most challenging parts of the job—sharing in the highs and lows of the families he serves—he believes the relationships are well worth the investment.

Looking Ahead

As a new member of the association, Chief Westhoven is most looking forward to learning from other professionals, sharing strategies and discovering new ways to support youth and families in his community.

Welcome to the association, Chief Westhoven! We’re glad to have you with us.

What's coming up?

2026:

November 5-6, 2026: Quarterly Training & Membership Meeting
The Ohioan Hotel and Conference Center

Looking Ahead to 2027:

May 6-7, 2027: Quarterly Training & Membership Meeting:
The Ohioan Hotel and Conference Center

June 24-25, 2027: Line Officer Training at Hilton Easton

November 4-5, 2027: Quarterly Training & Membership Meeting:
The Ohioan Hotel and Conference Center

SAVE THE DATE: 2027 OCPOA Annual Line Officer Conference

**June 24-25, 2027
Hilton Columbus at Easton**

Interested in joining the Line Officer Training Committee? Please email JTice@ccclerk.org or OCPOAmanager@gmail.com



ENHANCE YOUR IMPACT: JOIN AN OCPOA COMMITTEE!

We're seeking passionate members to contribute to our mission by joining one of our dynamic committees:

- **Education and Training Committee:** Shape and deliver programs that elevate our profession. Keep current on new trends and educational needs of the membership.
- **Finance Committee:** Oversee and guide the financial health of our organization. Review and assess the annual budget and resource allocation.
- **Legislative Advocacy Committee:** Champion policies that support our community and profession. Stay engaged with new legislation and support its successful implementation.
- **Membership and Networking Committee:** Foster connections and expand our professional network. Develop strategies to improve service delivery to new and current members.



[READ MORE](#)

Your expertise and enthusiasm are vital to our success. By participating, you'll gain valuable experience, collaborate with peers, and make a meaningful difference in our field.



CALLING ALL MEMBERS:

Do you have a story, insight, or newsworthy information about staff retention in probation? We want to hear from you!

Share your experiences, successes, or challenges to help highlight this important topic. 

 Send your submissions to
OCPOAmanager@gmail.com.

Welcome New Members

Holly Hoover, Senior Probation Officer
Ottawa County Juvenile Court

Caleb Hutchison, Chief Supervision Officer
Jackson County Juvenile Court

Courtney Burnett, Chief of Probation
Wayne County Common Pleas Court

Kristin Kaplanis, Chief of Probation
Canton Municipal Court

Jackie Carroll, Chief of Probation
Ottawa County Common Pleas Court

Brian Jamison, Chief of Probation
Barberton Municipal Court

Taylor Shelton, Chief of Probation
Montgomery County Municipal Court

William Lehr, Chief of Probation
Ottawa County Municipal Court

NEW CHIEF ROUNDTABLES

**ARE YOU A CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER WITH LESS THAN 2
YEARS IN YOUR ROLE?**

Our New Chief Roundtables pair mentor Chief Probation Officers with Chiefs new to their role, to troubleshoot common challenges unique to the position and to answer questions in a supportive and welcoming atmosphere. Reach out to OCPOAmanager@gmail.com to learn more.

2026 OCPOA Board Members			
Position	Name	Court	Email
President	Carlos Walker	Montgomery County Adult Probation Dept	carlos.walker@montcourt.oh.gov
Vice President	Angela Mustard	Mason Municipal Court Probation Dept	amustard@masoncourtoh.gov
Secretary	Jeremy Simpson	Mahoning County Probation Dept	jsimpson@ccaworks.org
Treasurer	Elyssa Dailey	Greene County Adult Probation	elyssa.dailey@greencountyohio.gov
Common Pleas Court Trustee			
Common Pleas Court Trustee	Ashley Richardson	Lucas County Adult Probation Dept	arichardson@co.lucas.oh.us
Municipal Court Trustee			
Municipal Court Trustee	Elisha Zerman	Franklin County Municipal Court	elisha.zerman@franklincountymunicipalcourt.org
Juvenile Court Trustee	Jeff Cunningham	Portage County Juvenile Court	jcunningham@portageco.com
Juvenile Court Trustee	Michelle Breitigan	Allen County Juvenile Court	mbreitigan@allencountyohio.com
CCA Trustee	Kylee Uran	Bryan Municipal Court Probation	kuran@cityofbryan.com
Active Past President (Honorary Trustee)	Scott Fulton	Licking County Adult Court Services	sfulton@lcounty.com
Active Past President (Honorary Trustee)	Tom Stotts	Marion Municipal Court Probation Dept	tstotts@marionmunicipalcourt.org
Active Past President (Honorary Trustee)	Veronica Perry	Medina County Adult Probation Dept	vperry@medinacountyprobation.org
Active Past President (Honorary Trustee)	Juli Tice	Columbiana County Municipal Court	jtice@ccclerk.org