



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

HEIDI M. FOUGHT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
6500 TAYLOR ROAD, SUITE A
BLACKLICK, OH 43004
PHONE: 614-863-0045 • FAX: 614-863-9751

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7/19/23

Township Trustee, Administrator and Parks Director Graduate OTA Leadership Academy 2.0

(Plain Township), Ohio – Scott Haws-Trustee, Lisa Campbell-Administrator and Rob Steinberg-Parks Director from Plain Township in Stark County, were recognized as three of 17 graduates of the Ohio Township Association Leadership Academy (OTALA) 2.0. This advanced program is created exclusively for Ohio township officials looking to further their leadership skills in their communities and have completed the OTALA 1.0 classes. Haws, Campbell, and Steinberg were part of the inaugural class dedicated to honing the critical skills necessary to support the needs of the township and shift focus from day-to-day managing to long-term strategic approaches to their positions.

This collaborative and interactive program consists of in-class and online courses totaling 34 hours over 13 months. The final session concluded with each student presenting their final projects in person at the OTA office. Once completed, all graduates were presented with their certificates of graduation.

The original OTALA program was created in 2001 with the Ohio State University's Office of Community Development and Miami University's Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs (CPMRA). Program participants must complete at least six of the ten approved training courses and a federal component. Over 500 OTA members have completed the program. OTALA 2.0 was launched in 2022 in partnership with OSU and CPMRA. It aims to help township officials lead with vision, inspiration, and authenticity and will have its second class begin in September 2023.

-30-

The Ohio Township Association is a statewide organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of township government in Ohio. The OTA was founded on June 28, 1928 and is organized in 87 Ohio counties.

OTA has more than 5,200 active members, made up of trustees and fiscal officers from Ohio's 1,308 townships, and more than 4,000 associate members.