



Education Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 8, 2026  
Teams Meeting  
10:00AM

**Members Present:** Scott Stewart (Delaware County), James DeChant (Knox County), Amy Seward (Knox County), Jeff Klein (Wood County), Lisa Kuelling (Sandusky County), Helen Norris (Logan County), Cassidy Freeman (Mercer County), Kristy Fryman (Shelby County), and Ethan Raby (Green County).

**Opening**

- Scott Stewart called meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**Winter Conference**

- Reviewed conference evaluations.

**Spring Conference**

- Thursday, March 19, 2026 at the Byxbe Center in Delaware.
- Call for Presentations received:
  - T. Warstler/M. Sweeney: Can't Make This Stuff Up...Oh Yes, AI Can!
  - S. Van Kopp: The New Reality of Public Assistance Eligibility: The Divergence in outcomes Between FEMA Appeals and CBCA Arbitrations
  - A. Seward: Building Stronger Response Teams Through Practical Team-Building in Emergency Management
  - R. Shackelford: Legislative Stuff
- Put out another call for presentation with January 30, 2026 deadline and then make decisions in February.
- Cost – changed by EMAO Finance Committee / Executive Committee
  - \$125 EMAO Member Early-bird / \$150 EMAO Regular Fee
  - \$150 Non-member Early-bird Fee / \$175 Non-member Regular Fee
- Adding vendor show
  - Michelle said she has a few confirmed and will be re-advertising
- Draft Agenda (will finalize at the next meeting):
  - 0900 - 0930 Registration
  - 0930 - 0945 Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Remarks from President, OCEM Awards
  - 0945 - 1045 Presentation #1
  - 1045 - 1100 Break
  - 1100 - 1200 Presentation #2
  - 1200 - 1315 Lunch (provided)
  - 1315 - 1415 Presentation #3
  - 1415 - 1430 Break

- 1430 - 1530      Presentation #4
- 1530              Closing Remarks

## **Coffee Talks**

- First one for 2026: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 10:00AM - AAR Process from the Logan County Tornado.
- We are still looking for a committee member to head Coffee Talks as subcommittee. Helen stated she would like to lead this but would need someone else to assist.

## **Strategic Planning Session**

- Reviewed 2026 Education Committee Membership List (attached)
- Discussed Chair and Vice-Chair. Motion made by James DeChant to open nominations and nominate Scott Stewart as Chair and Jason Troyer as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Lisa Kuelling. Motion passed with no opposition.
- Strengths
  - Conferences have been positively received by EMAO members (areas that we can control).
  - Everyone carries a load on the committee. Makes it a lighter lift.
  - Important to share evaluations.
  - Like the in person meeting to select presentations for Winter Conference.
  - Added new members (also from different sectors).
  - Great group that is dedication to our cause.
  - Coffee Talks
- Areas to Improve
  - Explore fundraising options.
    - Possible t-shirts (have them pre-order it so we don't lose money). Then use that money for other items to sale.
  - Disconnect between Education Committee and Executive Committee.
- Possible topics to investigate
  - Leadership Symposium
  - Mentorship Program

## **Open Discussion**

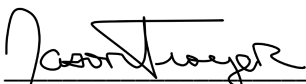
- Helen will be selling her sound system so that will not be available as back up for future conferences.

## **Conference Reminders**

- 2026 EMAO Spring Conference (Thursday, March 19, 2026 at the Byxbe Center in Delaware)
- 2026 OEMA Spring Conference (Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 9:00AM via Teams).

**Next Education Committee Meeting – Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 10:00AM via Teams.**

With no other business, Scott Stewart adjourned the meeting at 10:52 AM.



Respectfully Submitted by Jason Troyer, Holmes County EMA