

# 2025 OPJOA Training Conference Recap

Ohio University Inn & Conference Center, Athens Ohio

August 5th – August 8th, 2025



Betsy Baringer, Director of Sales, of the Ohio University Inn provided an excellent establishment for the 63rd annual OPJOA conference. The hotel provided a fun atmosphere in an upscale setting. All guest rooms had been recently renovated and reflected the college spirit of the town.



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On Monday August 4th Board Members participated in our annual community day. This year the OPJOA spent an afternoon Assisting the Athens Sheriff's Office with their Ice Cream with a Cop Community Event. The event was held at their Richland Avenue Park and included out door games, bounce houses and the kids also got to check out all the different agency police vehicles. Deputy Jayson White from the Athens County Sheriff's Office issued children's ID cards for all the youth in attendance who were interested. The line was long and steady for much of the afternoon! The OPJOA supplied the ice cream treats which were enjoyed by over 300 attendees!! Representatives from the Athens County Sheriff's Department were also on hand to sell raffle tickets to support their Christmas Toys for Tots program, The OPJOA made a \$100.00 donation to help support the event.



Secretary/Treasurer Emeritus Stan Popp and Associate Director Kathy Christ worked the registration table welcoming attendees to the 2025 Conference. Deputy Jayson White from the Athens County Sheriff's Office greets attendees and makes opening announcements.

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This year's conference also featured four new fury four legged guests that absolutely loved all the extra special attention they received during the week!!



Blaze Amos and Carlie Hangartner, both from the Ohio School Safety Center gave presentations on the functions of the School Safety Center followed by an Ohio Threat Evaluation & Reporting Review.



Following Tuesday's classes and evening meal the 2025 OPJOA cornhole tournament was held where attendees were able to come together to network and enjoy an evening of socializing and relaxation while meeting new people.

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The Wednesday morning session was led off by Robert Meader from Objective Reasonable, Bob's presentation provided updates on Juvenile Law changes for 2025 as well as case law regarding Juvenile Arrest/Search & Seizure. Attendees earned 3 CPT credits during this class. Mr. Meader was very well received as the board has received requests and will be bring Bob back in the future when his schedule permits!!



During the Wednesday afternoon session, the Ohio School Safety Center returned, Joe Grecol, Doug Smith, gave presentations on developing an "Emergency After School Event Action Plan" and "Reunification"- being the process of reuniting students with their parents or guardians after the threat has passed.

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Thursday morning Dr. Monique Khumalo spoke to the attendees about Trends & Trauma in Youth. Dr. Khumalo is the owner of Youth Trauma & Justice Solutions, a consulting firm dedicated to assisting child-serving agencies in achieving trauma-responsive culture change and system reform. Dr. Khumalo has extensive experience & knowledge in how trauma affects our youth.



Thursday afternoon's sessions were by Amy Rogers and Katie Waclawski from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Amy's was on resources and tools in education to help attendees learn the strategies and available resources in combating youth drug abuse and create a safer environment in schools and home. Katie's dealt with current youth drug trends including how social media and gangs are also involved in the exploitation of youth. The final topic was "Hidden in Plain Site" presented by Tina Crockwell from Knox County Public Health and Andrea Rees 4-H educator for OSU in Knox County. During this presentation attendees walked through two pre-setup mock teenage bedrooms. The goal was for attendees to search through the room as a parent or investigator would to find all of the hidden places where contraband has been located in the past by youth. It was an eye opening experience even for all the experienced professions in attendance.

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Thursday evening attendees enjoyed a formal dinner and keynote speaker. Larry Turner from Save A Warrior spoke about his organization and how impactful the program can be for veterans. Board member Josh Timko attended this program in 2022. He spoke about how this program provided a life changing outlook for him and how it impacted his life both at home and at work.



This year's 2025 OPJOA Scholarship award winners were Kylie Timko and Ellyson Cole pictured above receiving her \$500.00 Scholarship award and Laptop Backpack donated by 4-Imprint from President April Teichmer during the banquet on Thursday evening.



President April Teichmer, recipient of last year's award presented Julius Ponder from the Painesville Police Department the "2025 Dennis (Denny) Dancak Memorial Friendship Award" during the banquet.

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## Ohio Police Juvenile Officers Association



The Denny Dancak Memorial Friendship Award is presented annually to a member who exemplifies the objects of the Ohio Police Juvenile Officers Association and does so with a friendly attitude toward all of those in attendance at the annual training conference as well as in his or her daily life.

### **OBJECTS OF THE OHIO POLICE JUVENILE OFFICERS'S ASSOCIATION**

(As identified in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association)

1. To encourage active participation in all matters that have to do with youth and youth's problems.
2. To uphold the principles of good government.
3. To assist in every honorable way, the furthering of the interests of its members; and to bring understanding, not only to those who engage in law but with the various youth-serving agencies with whom we have contact.
4. To cooperate with all youth-serving organizations, both lay and governmental, which have a common interest in youth and public welfare.
5. To encourage the application of the highest ethical standards of our profession, and to endeavor, by the exchange of ideas, to increase our efficiency within our respective organizations.
6. To strive for ever increasing stature for all Law Enforcement Officers that they may stand as living examples to youth.
7. To endeavor to afford full protection to all law-abiding citizens, to the end that the youth's best interests will be served.

**The first Denny Dancak Memorial Friendship Award was presented to Sergeant Jason Marvin of the Orange Village Police Department at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Training Conference held in Findlay, Ohio at the Hilton Garden Inn.**

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Secretary/Treasurer Emeritus Stan Popp gives the banquet dinner invocation, Pictured to the right is Stan Popp with the “The 2025 Board of Directors for the OPJOA”.



Attendee banquet photos along with Board members passing out raffle prizes to all the lucky raffle prize winners!!

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The conference ended on Friday with the final presentation by Jayson White from the Ashland County Sheriff's Office. The presentation, CRASE, Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events. This training provided strategies for individuals to protect themselves and reduce the dangers during an active shooter event.

The board of directors hopes to see everyone at the 2026 OPJOA Conference in Wooster Ohio at The Best Western Hotel & Conference Center!!