



# Inside your OASWCDE

DECEMBER 2019

OASWCDE.ORG

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## Why Join your Association?

The Ohio Association of SWCD Employees seeks to strengthen local Districts through professional development and communication.

Why should you join the Association?

- The Association serves as the voice of District employees on multiple statewide committees and taskforces.
- Currently, we have approximately 200 members. Employee memberships are just \$15,

and Associate memberships are \$10 annually.

- Members have the opportunity to apply for continuing education scholarships and college scholarships for their kids.
- Although we hope you never need to utilize it, the Catastrophic Sick Leave Program is also available and is administered through the Association.
- Outstanding District professional and board member awards are given annually.

To join, please download a form from the website and send payment to: Kelly Crout, Butler SWCD, or you may pay in person at the 2020 partnership meeting in Columbus. Quite a few boards are sponsoring memberships for their employees, and if your board needs an invoice, please contact Kelly at:

[croutka@butlercountyohio.org](mailto:croutka@butlercountyohio.org).

*Happy Holidays!*



## It's Time for Nominations!

We are surrounded by amazing, creative, and dedicated coworkers and board volunteers. Please consider filling out a nomination form for the 2020 Outstanding Conservation District Professional and 2020 Outstanding Conservation District Board Member. What a tremendous way of saying "thank you" to one of these special individuals.

January 22, 2020 is the deadline for nominations.

This awards program was created in 1998 by the National Conservation District Employees Association to support professionalism of conservation district employees. The OASWCDE followed suit that same year.



Nominees must have been a District employee for three years or have four years of board service. Nominations may be submitted by employees, OASWCDE directors, boards, state conservation agencies, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts, and other associated conservation professionals.

Application forms can be found at [www.oaswcde.org](http://www.oaswcde.org).

Areas 1 and 5 will be holding elections for OASWCDE directors. If you want to throw your hat in the ring, please contact Nikki Hawk at 419-586-3289. Voting will take place at the February 23-25, 2020 partnership meeting in Columbus.

OASWCDE Directors

Area 1

Mike Libben, Ottawa  
Julie Lause, Wood

Area 2

Amy Roskilly, Cuyahoga  
Chad Stang, Huron

Area 3

Hannah Carpenter, Belmont  
Katie Day, Monroe

Area 4

Nikki Hawk, Mercer  
Kelly Crout, Butler

Area 5

Linda Pettit, Franklin  
Bonnie Dailey, Delaware

NCDEA Representative  
Irene Moore, Jefferson

Meetings are generally held via telephone conference on the third Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. We welcome your participation. Please call Nikki Hawk, 419-486-3289, for meeting confirmation and access code.

# 2019 Highlights

## Membership

Approximately 200 members

## Farm Science Review

The annual work day was held on September 10th. A crew of 20 weeded and mulched in preparation for the September event.

## Catastrophic Sick Leave Program

Three staff were the beneficiaries of the leave donated by OASWCDE members across Ohio. Thank you!

## Awards

- Becky Simpson, Ottawa SWCD, Outstanding

Conservation District Professional, \$100 and certificate

- Sue Cunningham, Delaware SWCD, Outstanding Conservation District Board Member, \$100 and certificate

## Sherry West Memorial Scholarship

Due to our positive financial standing, we were able to expand from one award to three \$500 scholarships.

Justin Bacon, The Ohio State University, \$500

Adam Crock, The Ohio State University, \$500

Sophie Devore, St. Catherine University, \$500

## Continuing Education Scholarship

Kristy Hawthorne, Licking SWCD, received \$300 to attend the national conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America held in Pittsburgh.



## Is Yours a Positive Workplace?

According to Ruth Mayhew, human resources author, a positive workplace “usually consists of employees who are fully engaged and willing to lend a hand to a coworker. A positive workplace also means both employees and their employer openly recognized the talents and contributions each team member brings to the work.”

Employee engagement, teamwork, recognition, and employer appreciation are important components of a positive workplace. How does your SWCD measure up?

<https://smallbusiness.chron.com/description-positive-workplace-11016.html>

<https://www.inc.com/entrepreneurs-organization/how-to-build-a-positive-work-environment-7-steps.html>



## 20/20 in 2020, February 23-25

Change is a constant in our lives. How do you keep up? Long lists of acronyms, upcoming farmer fertilizer certification, the rollout of H2Ohio, Senate Bill 2, new partnerships, revisions to the election process, Beehive, and more!

20/20 is a measure of visual acuity. What is the clarity of your vision for the future of

your organization and your personal development?

The 2020 partnership meeting is a fantastic opportunity to learn about the latest in the world of natural resources conservation. Not only will you take in information from first-



rate speakers, you will also have time to engage with your colleagues and participate in the roundtables.

Registration will be open soon. Don't miss this annual event. It's your chance to sharpen your skills and your vision!

Check out [www.ofswcd.org](http://www.ofswcd.org) for details.