

Testimonials

“Supporting EODA is a smart investment for our trade association. Its members and sponsors don’t just connect – they collaborate to strengthen the entire region. By bringing together public and private leaders from 16 counties each quarter, EODA creates a powerful forum for balanced dialogue. These meetings give me the opportunity to gain diverse perspectives and stay connected across a wide geographic footprint in one setting.”

– **Mike Chadsey, Director of External Affairs, Ohio Oil & Gas Association**

“EODA meetings host engaging speakers who provide relevant information on current topics impacting the region and provide designated networking time to share insights and strategies with colleagues from 16 counties. I always leave the meetings with valuable information and/or a new contact to help me serve my county and the region.”

– **Commissioner Mick Schumacher, Monroe County**

“EODA meetings typically have federal and/or state legislators, or their liaisons in attendance which provides an opportunity to discuss legislative matters without having to schedule a separate meeting. I always enjoy the annual meeting in April when the Excellence Awards are presented.”

– **Mayor Mark Mills, City of Coshocton**

“As an active member of EODA, I am part of a collective voice to make sure the economic development concerns of our region are heard. EODA also provides access to state and regional partners such as JobsOhio and OhioSE.”

– **Commissioner JP Dutton, Belmont County**

Leadership Team

Gwynn Stewart, President

Assistant Professor - Community Development
Ohio State University Extension - Noble County

Bill Arnett, Vice President

Executive Director
Cambridge-Guernsey County Community Improvement Corporation

Tiffany Swigert, Secretary

Executive Director
Coshocton County Port Authority

Jim Schoch, Executive Director & Treasurer



2025 Annual Report

*Providing a collective voice advocating for
economic growth in Eastern Ohio
for 35 years*



www.eoda.org

The Vision

The Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA) began with a vision 35 years ago by former Ohio Senator, Muskingum College President, and ODNR Director Sam Speck and Columbia Gas regional visionary Dale Hileman. EODA has been and continues to be a critical voice for its members and the region. The alliance convenes leaders across many public entities and private industries to collaborate, exchange ideas, and set the course for future regional economic growth. EODA members and sponsors work together to foster connections and advocate for long-term economic strength and opportunities in the region. EODA leadership and membership are actively involved in economic development activities on a daily basis.

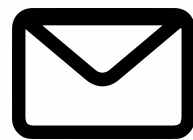
2025 Meetings

- **Winter Meeting:** Held on February 28th in Coshocton County, the Winter Meeting hosted over 70 attendees. The primary focus of this meeting was workforce development. A 5-member workforce development panel was moderated by Tiffany Swigert, Executive Director of the Coshocton Port Authority. Serving on the panel were Matt Colvin, Superintendent, Coshocton County Career Center; Jolinda Kistler, Human Resource Manager, McWane Ductile; Tasha Werry, Executive Director, Building Bridges to Careers (BB2C); J.C. Shively, Director of Business Development, Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corp.; and Amanda Sutphin, Regional Talent Coordinator, OhioSE. State Senator Brian Chavez (30th Senate District) and State Representative Mark Hiner (98th House District) were in attendance and provided updates on current issues in their respective districts. Dr. Vicki King-Maple, Executive Director, Ohio Mid-Eastern Government Association (OMEGA) and Chasity Schmelzenbach, Executive Director, Buckeye Hills Regional Council also provided updates on current projects and concerns in the counties they serve.

2025 By the Numbers



200
Members



500
Registered
Email Contacts



12
Sponsors



4 Meetings
375 Meeting
Attendees

- **Annual Meeting:** Nearly 150 members of EODA gathered for their 35th annual meeting at the Carlisle Inn to celebrate economic development excellence in the region. U.S. Congressman Troy Balderson (12th District) was the keynote speaker. Congressman Balderson provided an update on key legislative issues and activities impacting the region. Matt Abbott, President and CEO of Ohio Southeast Economic Development, provided members with updates on current economic development projects in the region. State Senator Al Landis (31st District) was in attendance to give comments and present commendations to award winners. Three **EODA Excellence Awards** were presented to businesses or organizations. The **Small Business Excellence Award** was presented to the **Southeastern Ohio Credit Union**. **Tourism Excellence Awards** were presented to the **Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD)** and **Skyline Resort**. A representative from the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio joined the meeting to announce grant awards from the Dale Hileman Legacy Fund and the Donald R. Myers Legacy Fund. Mr. Hileman was a founding member and director of EODA. Mr. Myers was a former, long-term president of EODA.
- **Summer Meeting:** This quarterly meeting was held at the new Apex Gaming and Event Center in Caldwell on July 25th. Over 60 members gathered to hear two fantastic presentations sharing information on the impact of tourism in the state. Sarah Wickham, State Tourism Director, was the keynote speaker. Director Wickham stated that tourism across the state attracts over 240 million visitors and generates \$57 billion in tourist spending annually. Sharon Strouse, Executive Director of the National Scenic Byways Foundation provided information on the non-profit organization dedicated to supporting, promoting, and strengthening scenic byways across the United States. After the meeting, Kyle Huck, owner of the Apex Gaming & Event Center, provided a tour of the venue that hosts multiple large-scale invitational gaming series events each year.
- **Fall Meeting:** Nearly 100 members of EODA gathered at the Muskingum County Conference and Welcome Center on November 21st to congratulate Jim Schoch, Executive Director, on his retirement. Mr. Schoch served as director since 2015. Prior to being EODA Executive Director, he was the treasurer and a long-term board member. Keynote speaker for the meeting was J.P. Nauseef, President & CEO of JobsOhio. Mr. Nauseef provided a comprehensive and exciting update on the development activities in Ohio. During the meeting, EODA's board of directors approved hiring Cindi Metz-McClung to begin serving as director on January 1, 2026. Ms. Metz-McClung has over 30 years of experience in economic development. She retired as the finance director for the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association in 2023.

Thank you to the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) for generously providing the printing of this report.