

Board Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2026



President Gary Hite called the meeting to order at 7:34pm. The Board meeting took place virtually.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Alan Binger, Cory D'Amico, Amy Galehouse, Jeff Greig, Gary Hite, Bev Keener, Roger Koch, and James Stribny.

Absent: Joel Berry and Matt Perdulla.

Also Attending: Executive Director, Valerie Graham.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

President Hite called for motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2026, OCTA board meeting. Jeff Greig motioned to approve; Roger Koch seconded the motion. Motion approved.

TREASURER REPORT:

Alan Binger presented the Treasurer's report. Mr. Binger provided a detailed account breakdown of all accounts. The overview is as follows; Community Bank CD \$11,775.92; National City Checking 3131 \$31,799.57; National City Savings 294 \$24,771.63; Edward Jones account \$12,030.27 for a total of \$80,378.22. Fund balances of Operating Fund \$40,529.30; Operation Evergreen \$11,989.55; Research Fund \$10,587.85; Scholarship Fund \$4745.00; and Scholarship Endowment \$12,527.22.

- **Operating Fund Balance:** \$40,528
 - Up approximately \$5,500 from December 31.
 - Approximately \$500 ahead of the same period last year.
- **Operation Evergreen Fund:** \$11,989
 - Approximately \$7,000 higher than in the same period last year.
- **Endowment Fund:** Approximately \$12,951 after recent CD interest was added.
- Winter Meeting revenue and membership timing contributed to stronger financial performance.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Current membership: **124 members** as of April 30.
- Down from 131 members at the same time last year but tracking slightly ahead of where the association stood at the same point in 2025.

Winter Meeting Results

- Revenue: \$10,505
- Expenses: \$6,266
- Net Profit: **\$4,238**
- Meeting room rental expenses: \$750.

Bev Keener moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Amy Galehouse seconded the motion. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS-

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scholarship Committee:

Roger Koch reported the following:

- Four scholarship applications were received.
- Review committee scheduled to meet on May 19 to select the recipient.
- Roger recused himself from judging due to an applicant connection.

Internet Presence/Website Committee:

Chairperson Alan Binger reported the following.

Website Updates

- February meeting minutes posted.
- Hall of Fame page updated.
- Board page updated with new directors.
- Winter Meeting information to be added.

Social Media

Recent posts included:

- Scholarship promotion.
- Summer Meeting save-the-date announcement.
- Hall of Fame recognition.

Operation Evergreen:

Chairperson Amy Galehouse reported the following:

- Donation of approximately **90 shipping boxes** from Dave Herbert.

- ODA is working with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and other partners regarding assistance with tree shipment logistics.
- Board expressed appreciation for Amy's leadership of Operation Evergreen.

Meeting/Education Committee:

Winter Meeting:

- Board reviewed possible venues.
- Current preferred date: **February 20, 2027.**
- Quest Conference Center remains the most economical option after comparison pricing from several alternate venues.
- Additional venue options will continue to be explored.

Summer Meeting:

Agenda

- Recertification credits planned.
- Educational roundtables and demonstrations under development.
- Vendor participation and educational content continue to be finalized.

Registration Fees

Jeff Greig motioned to increase the summer meeting registration fees by \$5. Second by Roger Koch. Motion carried.

- Increase Summer Meeting registration fees by **\$5 per person** across all adult registration categories.
- Children's fees remain unchanged.

Vendor Fees

Jeff Greig motioned the following:

- Increase vendor fee from **\$200 to \$225.**
- Includes meals for two representatives.
- Additional representatives charged **\$75 each.** Second by Alan Binger. Motion carried.

Scholarship Fundraiser to be held at summer meeting at Feisley's

- Board discussed conducting a basket raffle/Chinese auction during the Summer Meeting.
- Board members agreed to donate items. Jeff will coordinate and distribute information.

Future Summer Meeting Locations

- 2027 Summer Meeting planned for **Hidden Pines** (June 25-26, 2027).
- Additional interest has been expressed from farms in Lawrence County and other locations for future meetings.
- Board will continue evaluating regional rotation opportunities.

Finance Committee:

Chairperson Alan Binger had nothing else to report.

State Fair Committee:

Updates

- Christmas Tree Contest scheduled for **July 27**.
- Activities moving into the new Agriculture Building.
- ODA display will feature Christmas tree production and farm information.
- Christmas tree wreath-making demonstration planned for **July 31 at 4:00 PM**.

State Fair Display Budget

Jeff Greig motioned the following:

- Authorize up to **\$1,000** for display materials and supplies for the Ohio State Fair exhibit. Second by Roger Koch. Motion carried.

Additional Discussion

- Consideration of educational displays, operation evergreen materials, tree production information, maps, and interactive exhibits.
- Members agreed to research stand and display needs.

Hall of Fame Committee:

Chairperson Joel Berry was absent, so no report was provided.

New Grower Sessions:

- Discussion held regarding hosting one or more new grower educational sessions around the state.
- Multiple farms expressed willingness to host.

Board agreed these programs are valuable for member recruitment and support

Real Christmas Tree Board Nominations

- Discussion held regarding nomination opportunities following a board vacancy.
- Potential candidates were discussed.
- No formal nomination action taken during the meeting.

Additional Business

Ohio 250 Celebration

- ODA requested commodity groups provide promotional items for Ohio's 250th anniversary activities in Washington, D.C.
- Board discussed the proposal and expressed concerns about return on investment.
- No action taken.

Next Meeting:

Monday, August 17, 2026, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Adjourn

Roger Koch motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Greig seconded the motion.

8:43pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Keener

Secretary