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ASSOCIATION** | Caring
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JOURNAL | **SEPTEMBER 2025**

Publication of the Ohio Cemetery Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Ohio Cemetery Association Members,
As we reflect on our recent gathering in Historic Youngstown, I am filled with immense gratitude for your enthusiastic participation and commitment to our association. It was truly inspiring to see so many of you come together in a city with such a rich legacy of industry and resilience. Your presence and engagement are the lifeblood of the OCA, and the conversations and connections made are what strengthen our collective mission to uphold the highest standards of cemetery care in Ohio. For that, I extend my sincerest thanks to each of you.

A special note of appreciation goes to our valued vendors. Your continued partnership and unwavering support are crucial to the success of our events and the resources we provide. Your innovative products and services help all of us serve our communities better, and we thank you for your ongoing dedication to the OCA.

Following the convention, I am thrilled to remind you all about the launch of our new and improved association website! We listened to your feedback and developed a platform that is more user-friendly, providing you with easier access to resources and information. We have also added a digital payment option to streamline membership renewals and event registrations. I encourage you to explore the new site and take advantage of these convenient features.

As the leaves begin to turn and we approach the final months of the year, it is also a timely opportunity to review your workers' compensation programs. The deadline for private employers to apply for the group rating program is the Monday before Thanksgiving (See attached article). The Ohio Cemetery Association continues to partner with Sedgwick, our third-party administrator, to help you navigate these important decisions. If you have any questions about your group rating or need assistance with your workers' compensation program, please do not hesitate to contact our dedicated team at Sedgwick and read the attached article.

Thank you again for making our time in Youngstown so memorable. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Sincerely, Scott J. Harmon President, Ohio Cemetery Association

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You're invited: To the upcoming OCA Fall Maintenance Seminar

We are excited to offer a time of Learning, Connection, and Hospitality at Preble Memory Gardens Cemetery.

This year, the OCA Fall Maintenance Seminar promises to be a highlight of our calendar, bringing together professionals and enthusiasts for a day brimming with inspiration and camaraderie.

The upcoming event is more than just a seminar, it's an experience. Our agenda is filled with engaging presentations from skilled speakers, each ready to share valuable insights on cemetery maintenance, industry trends, and innovative practices. Whether you're a seasoned expert or new to the field, you'll find something to spark your curiosity and elevate your work.

This seminar isn't just about listening, it's about doing. Attendees will have the opportunity to witness hands-on demonstrations, exploring the latest equipment and techniques that keep our cemeteries beautiful and well cared for throughout the changing seasons. These sessions are designed to be interactive, giving everyone a chance to ask questions, try new tools, and build confidence in their skills.

Beyond education, the OCA Fall Maintenance Seminar is a day to meet other fellow cemetery sextons, owners and managers. The day will be filled with laughter, networking, and the forging of new friendships. Take a break from your routine, exchange stories with colleagues, and discover fresh perspectives that can transform your approach.

No seminar is complete without good food, and this one is no exception. Our goal is to ensure everyone stays energized and satisfied as they enjoy the day's events. The staff at Preble Memory Gardens is not only proud to host this gathering but genuinely thrilled to welcome each and every guest. Their dedication to creating a welcoming atmosphere will be felt in every detail, making the experience comfortable and memorable for all.

Preble Memory Gardens serves as the perfect backdrop for our fall event. The staff's enthusiasm and commitment shine through their preparations, eager to make every attendee feel at home. As you arrive, expect to be greeted with smiles, and a genuine sense of belonging. Let's come together at the OCA Fall Maintenance Seminar to embrace these values—learning from one another, celebrating our shared purpose, and enjoying the warmth of community. We look forward to a fun-filled day, and we can't wait to welcome you to Preble Memory Gardens Cemetery. Register Now! See below for details and registration form.

Eshelle L. Bales

OCA Board Member



Invitation to the Ohio Cemetery Associations' Fall Maintenance Seminar

Join Us for a Day of Learning, Networking, and Community

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are delighted to invite you to the Ohio Cemetery Associations' Fall Maintenance event, scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2025. This year's gathering will take place at Preble Memory Gardens Cemetery, located at 3377 US Rte. 35 E., West Alexandria, Ohio 45381.

Our Fall Maintenance event promises a day filled with valuable opportunities for professional development, networking, and camaraderie. The program will include:

- **Vendor Demonstrations:** Engage with leading industry vendors and discover the latest tools, equipment, and innovations in cemetery operations and maintenance.
- **Featured Speakers:** Hear from knowledgeable speakers who will share insights on best practices, regulatory updates, and new trends in cemetery care.
- **Lunch:** Enjoy a complimentary lunch, a perfect time to connect and exchange ideas with peers from across Ohio.
- **Special Activities:** Experience a walk through the Cemeteries Conservational Green Burial Site that spans 7.2 acres.
- End the day with a chance to win a door prize.

Registration and a light breakfast will kick off this day at 8:30am, followed by vendor demonstrations, speaker presentations, and engaging discussions. The day will conclude with door prizes and a chance to network further with industry colleagues.

Whether you are a seasoned professional or new to cemetery management, the Fall Maintenance event offers something for everyone. We encourage you to join us for this special occasion—your participation strengthens our community and ensures continued excellence in cemetery care throughout Ohio.

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Preble Memory Gardens Cemetery at 937-839-4476.

We look forward to seeing you on October 2nd!

Warm regards,

Ohio Cemetery Association

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FALL MAINTENANCE

Preble Memory Gardens Cemetery
Thursday October 2, 2025

8:30 am – 9:00 am
Registration & light breakfast

9:00am – 9:15am
Welcome & Introductions

9:15am – 10:00am
Jones Lake Management

10:00am – 10:45am
Brubaker Grain & Chemical

10:45am – 11:15
Break w/ Suppliers

11:15am -12:15pm
Marker Installation

12:30pm – **LUNCH**
Visit w/ suppliers – Demos

1:30pm – 2:15pm
Green Burial Site Visit & Walk

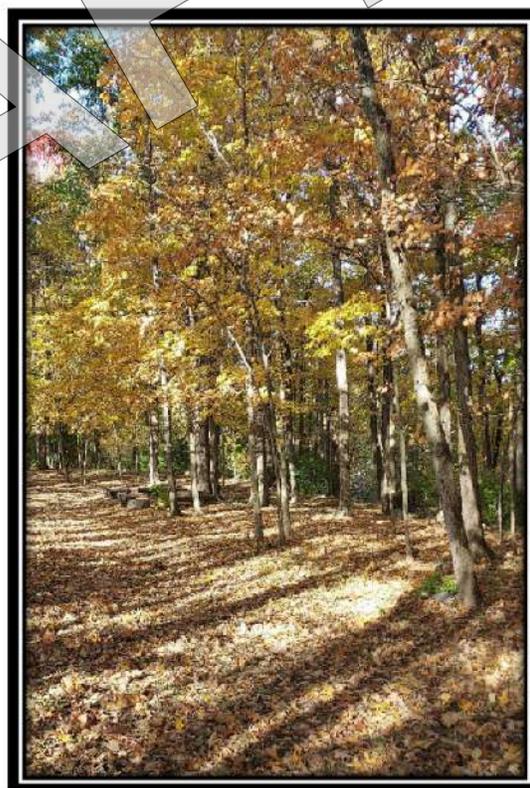
2:15pm- 2:45pm
Our Cemetery

3:00pm – Door Prizes
Conclusion

AGENDA

You can register by:

- Filling out the registration form & pay online
- RSVP to eshelle@pmgcem.com
- Register & pay at the door



Preble Memory Gardens Cemetery | 937-839-4476
3377 US Rte. 35 E. West Alexandria, Ohio 45381



FALL MAINTENANCE SEMINAR PREBLE MEMORY GARDENS CEMETERY



3377 US Route 35-E, West Alexandria, OH 45381

HOST - DEREK & ESHELLE BALES, OCA BOARD MEMBER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025

8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

SPEAKERS/SUPPLIER PRODUCTS & SERVICES/EQUIPMENT DEMOS

CEMETERY NAME _____

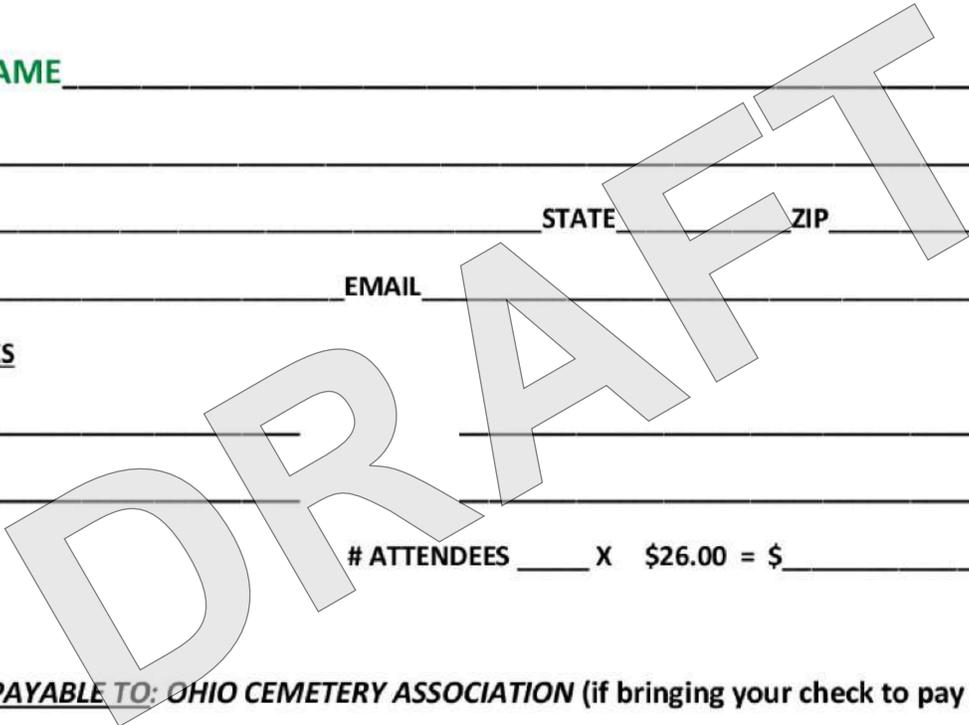
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

ATTENDEE NAMES

ATTENDEES _____ **X \$26.00 = \$** _____



MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: OHIO CEMETERY ASSOCIATION (if bringing your check to pay at the door)

REGISTRATION FORM & PAYMENT TO: <https://square.link/u/ygdoU5vE>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Marilyn Brandt, OCA Secretary @ ocabrandt@gmail.com

or Eshelle Bales, Fall Maintenance Host @ eshelle@pmqcem.com or (937) 839-4476

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER ONLINE





2025 OCA Convention informative and fun!

Elaine Russell
 Walnut Grove and Flint Union Cemeteries
 Worthington, Ohio
www.worthingtoncemetery.com

It seems like just yesterday that I moved from a job in the private sector to one with a government-owned cemetery. Unlike many of you, my life's dream was definitely *not* to work at a cemetery! No, I simply needed a job...and fast. An acquaintance at the engineering firm which had laid me off was a member of the advisory committee for Walnut Grove and Flint Union Cemeteries, and suggested I apply for an open position there. I had no idea what working at a cemetery meant, but the kind-hearted and dedicated woman, who was retiring and whose position I was assuming, taught me how to manage the cemetery funds and introduced me to the level of care I'd be providing to our public. In 25 years I've grown from basic clerk duties of keeping accurate cemetery and financial records and administering payroll, to managing multi-million dollar cemetery expansion and development projects, the purchase, rehabilitation, and the federal registry of a house, on cemetery property, that was a station on the Underground Railroad, and other visionary and far-reaching endeavors. All while continuing the day-to-day operations and care for our public.

Early on in my career I began attending OCA (previously the OACS&O) conventions. I was warmly welcomed and befriended by more kind-hearted and dedicated cemeterians and vendors, both new and long-timers in the cemetery business. I attended wonderful sessions and talked with people who willingly shared their passion for the industry. Over the years, I've learned about cemetery planning, digitization of records, websites, sales, memorialization, and many other topics.

This year's convention was no different! The convention started with an evening gathering with great food and drinks and a time to meet with the dedicated group of vendors who not only provide much-needed services to the cemetery industry, but who, through their business sponsorships, help make the conventions possible. Vendors ranged from tree experts, various types of memorialization, records and website development, equipment, and cemetery planning and architecture.

This year's sessions included:

- **Davey Tree** representatives gave a presentation about the value, assets, and liabilities of trees.
- **John Herzig, with Famous Endings**, shared his passion for documenting and providing a place for memorialization of individuals who have impacted many lives.
- **Andy Sawan-Sedgwick of Sedgwick Claims Management Services** spoke about claims review/evaluations and safety issues.
- **Dan Bird of Clearpoint Federal Bank & Trust** spoke about investment strategies for cemeteries.
- **Ohio Department of Commerce** representatives provided an update on the Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission.
- **Tim Long, Legal Counsel for the OCA**, provided his regular and informative Legislative Update on issues concerning cemeteries.

Field Day was hosted by the **Tod Homestead Cemetery**. Their gracious hospitality included a wonderful luncheon and an opportunity to visit with field day vendors demonstrating large equipment, tree and pond services, and many others. There was also time provided to tour the beautifully manicured and well-kept Tod Homestead Cemetery grounds.

At the traditional **Tuesday evening banquet**, there was an opportunity to meet with vendors and visit with old and meet some new friends. We all then went to the **Past Time Arcade** for a fun outing.

So if you didn't join us this year—or if you did—put the OCA Convention on your calendar and in your budget for next year! Bring your entire staff. You'll be warmly welcomed! Be sure to look me up and say hello to this old-timer who would love to connect with you. We can learn something new, hear about current innovations in the industry, share some great food, have some laughs, meet other old-timers like me, and those who are new to the industry.

Together, with assistance and support from the OCA, we're dedicated, as my cemetery's vision states, to *providing places that are respectful of the passing of life as well as its continuation, a peaceful environment in which persons may grieve, meditate and be renewed, and a staff that provides high-quality cemetery services.*

SAVE THE DATE!

Ohio Cemetery Association Convention
August 3-5, 2026



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Lithopolis
CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Lithopolis Cemetery Association (LCA) is one of Fairfield County's oldest cemeteries. Though the cemetery was officially founded in 1830, the first burial on what is now Lithopolis Cemetery grounds took place in 1819. Here, we are a family. Nearly every person associated with LCA as a board member, employee or contractor has a connection with the cemetery, so we take everything we do personally and it shows. At Lithopolis Cemetery, we firmly believe that people don't buy *WHAT* we do, they buy *WHY* we do it.

We are not about sales here. We are about creating an environment where people feel at ease, understood and respected when planning an eternal resting place for loved ones or themselves. Our office and ground personnel go the extra mile because we understand the pain of losing someone and we want to make this time in your life as uncomplicated as possible. For 195 years, many people in this, and surrounding communities, have thought that we are pretty special. LCA is located at the intersection of Lithopolis and Cedar Hill roads. Our address is Canal Winchester, but our hearts live in the community of Lithopolis.



A large and very important part of our family are veterans. We proudly care for the resting places of over 600 brave soldiers, including one Medal of Honor recipient. A drive through our cemetery will show the special attention paid to these brave souls. We house a special section dedicated to veterans and each veteran across the entire cemetery has a US flag planted in their honor.

Nestled in a serene corner of the cemetery is our Chapel Mausoleum. Built in 1996, the Chapel Mausoleum is a magnificent home for memorials to special people in our lives. From the moment you first enter, you will appreciate the sense of light, space and hope. The Chapel

Mausoleum is more than a place to find solace and comfort. It is more than a place to reflect on what made a loved one so special. It is a place to remember those who have given us so much...and where future generations can pay tribute to their forebearers. With its marbled walls, vaulted, skylighted ceiling and carpeted seating area, the Chapel Mausoleum is more than just a resting place; it's home.



In addition to this and many family mausoleums, LCA still lovingly cares for our original Mausoleum. This stately, timeless facility is home to some of our areas founding families. It's finely chiseled marble-front crypts, marble floors and exquisite stained-glass windows are a beautiful representation of the cemetery's historical presence.



Lithopolis Cemetery prides itself on quality services. We offer beautifully designed monuments and memorials, traditional grave plots, cremation plots, crypts, niches, urns, caskets and vaults. We pride ourselves in having every imaginable option from the finest family estates to the most modest of arrangements, or from creative customized life celebrations to understated but dignified funerals or cremation services. Whatever your choices, you will find enormous value in our options.

All that said, you will need to know how to find us. You can find us online on our web site at www.lithopoliscemetery.org, email us at lithopoliscemetery@gmail.com, call us at 614-837-4535 or visit our office Monday through Friday from 10:00am until 3:00pm at 4365 Cedar Hill Road NW, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110. And one last way to find us; during the week of October 5 through October 11, 2025 we will be at our booth in the Art Hall building at the Fairfield County Fair.



Helping 1,000+ cemeteries



CIMS cemetery software helps you keep track of burial records, maps, and maintenance tasks all in one secure, easy-to-use system. Since their first client in 1998, CIMS has been making cemetery management simple with intuitive mapping, secure record-keeping, and cloud-based access. With three different versions of the software and optional add-on features, CIMS offers versatile and customizable software options for every cemetery's budget.

As CIMS Customer Success Specialist, Caitlyn Joy attends tradeshows and conferences to raise awareness of the benefits of cloud-based cemetery software. When she's not traveling for work, she provides online demonstrations of the CIMS software and detailed price quotes for cemeteries looking to implement CIMS. Caitlyn brings her six years as a cemetery employee and assistant manager, as well as her passion for death care and service, to every conversation.

Caitlyn Joy | Customer Success Specialist
CIMS Cemetery Software | a product of *Ramaker*
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TREE DOCTOR TIPS

Proper Tree and Shrub Planting

WHAT:

Trees and shrubs add beauty and value to any setting. They clean our air, provide cooling shade, help reduce energy costs, and offer food for and shelter to wildlife. Spending time in woods and parks makes us happy and helps alleviate stress.

Unfortunately, many new trees and shrubs die because they aren't planted correctly. Planting at the proper depth, watering, fertilizing and mulching properly, are critical to their survival and help ensure a healthy life.

WHY:

Improper planting can kill trees and shrubs or cause long-term side effects that are difficult to correct. To grow vigorously, plant roots need warmth and sufficient amounts of water and oxygen. Without them, plants can fail to thrive and may decline or die.

Given proper care, plants will develop strong root systems and adapt to their new soil and surroundings. A tree service professional can help you find the right tree or shrub for your location, recommend the best time to plant it and help you give it a good start.

HOW:

Plant your new tree or shrub as soon as possible, or keep its soil moist and temporarily put it in a cool, shaded spot. Before you dig, check with your utility companies to make sure there are no pipes or wires around. Many states require this.

Handle trees and shrubs by their root balls or pots, not their trunks or branches. Planting the root flare too deep

is the biggest mistake in planting trees and shrubs. The root flare is the point where the trunk flares out and joins the roots. The root flare should be visible at ground level. You may have to remove some soil to see it.

Dig a saucer-shaped hole as deep as the root ball and one to two times as wide. If the plant is balled in burlap, remove the twine, and upper portion of wire cage.

Slide potted plants out of their containers and cut off any dead or decaying roots. If the roots are tangled, make a few vertical cuts in the sides of the root ball and an x-shaped cut in the bottom to loosen them.

Put the plant in the hole, keeping the root flare at or just above the ground. Refill the hole with the soil you removed and gently firm it down to eliminate air pockets, watering as you go.

Mulch with two to three inches of organic material, but don't let it touch the trunk. Fertilize using a slow-release fertilizer. Prune only as needed.



A



B

FIGURE A. CHOOSING THE PROPER LOCATION FOR THE SPECIES CHOSEN WILL HELP TO ENSURE THE NEW PLANTING THRIVES.

FIGURE B. PROPERLY MULCH 2 TO 3 INCHES DEEP, KEEPING MULCH AWAY FROM THE TRUNK AND ROOT FLARE.

The scientists at **The Davey Institute Research and Diagnostic Laboratories** support our arborists and technicians in diagnosing and prescribing based on the latest arboricultural science. For specific treatment and application details, your arborist may consult The Davey Institute's Plant Health Care Treatment Guide.

Scan the QR code to learn more about insects and diseases that may impact your property.



THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

In High School, our football coach Mr. Spoerl stressed the importance of being a lifelong learner. He would tell the freshman football team that our lifetime education didn't cease when we left Carroll HS. And when I completed my Master degree I thought that I was completely finished with my education, never having to read another book for work---- How shortsighted was that thought! Upon entering the cemetery industry I realized that there was so much that I needed to learn and I found myself taking every opportunity with the Catholic Cemetery Conference, ICCFA and OCA to grow professionally.

Fast forward five years and I had graduated from the CCC's School of Leadership and Management Excellence and received my CCCE in 2022. This past Spring I was promoted to Executive Director of Calvary Cemetery in Dayton OH. Finally, I was finished with my education, or so I thought. Shortly thereafter, I was asked to instruct at the CCC's school at Notre Dame and I was terrified! Who am I to instruct cemetery leaders from throughout the United States and Canada? However, I accepted the challenge and presented the following courses: Cemetery Architecture and Design: Past, Present and Future, and, Community Based Marketing: It's a Win, Win!, each course being 3 hours in length.

This provided me the opportunity to continue to learn as I prepared my courses; spending so much time to prepare all the while learning a new position at work. When the days finally arrived, I was still super nervous. However, as the class time went by, I found myself struggling to complete the instruction in 3 hours; I had so much to share with my fellow ceterierians! The discussions that followed class time provided me another opportunity to learn from cemetery leaders. Overall, the experience was very rewarding and confirmed Mr. Spoerl's challenge to us high school freshmen to continue to be lifelong learners.

As we prepare to attend the annual OCA conference in Youngstown, I would encourage everybody to network and share their personal stories. Each members lived experiences as ceterierians shared with OCA members only makes us stronger and better able to respond to the challenges facing our industry! There is so much cemetery wisdom present when we gather together for a convention. Never in a million years did I ever think that a very shy, introverted ceterierian from Dayton OH would be asked to share my experiences on a national stage after only a decade in the industry. Ohio in particular is a bright shining light among our industry; as I spoke with individuals at Notre Dame they were surprised to find out that Ohio has two statewide associations for networking, the Ohio Cemetery Association and Catholic Cemeteries of Ohio. We are truly blessed as a state and I would encourage everyone to get involved with our state organizations so that we can continue to grow. See you all in Youngstown for the OCA Convention!

Ohio BWC launches new SUPR program

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) is making changes to enhance its efforts in addressing substance abuse among the state's workforce. The new program, known as the Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Program (SUPR), combines the Drug-Free Safety Program (DFSP), DFSP Safety Grants and the Substance Use Recovery and Workplace Safety Program. This single program helps to address workplace misuse of alcohol and other drugs. The goal is to help state-fund employers prevent work-related injuries and illnesses by combining drug free efforts into an employer's safety program.

The changes to the program took effect for private employers on July 1, 2025 and will take effect for public employers on January 1st, 2026.

Some highlights of the changes include:

- Most program participants will automatically be eligible for reimbursement grants.
- Expenses eligible for reimbursement have been expanded to include substance use assessments for employers with "second chance" policies.
- Enrollment has moved to year-round with the ability to earn a pro rata bonus.
- The requirement to file the Safety Management Self-Assessment (SH-26) has been eliminated.
- The requirement to file the Safety Action Plan (DFSP-5) has been eliminated.
- The requirement to file the online Accident Report (DFSP-1) will be required for lost-time claims only.
- An online portal is being developed to report on program requirement completion and request reimbursement of activities in one place.

As with many BWC programs, employers must meet certain eligibility requirements. To participate in SUPR, employers must:

- Be current on all BWC premium payments.
- Be in an "active" policy status (not lapsed or inactive).
- Have reported actual payroll and paid any premiums due for the previous year.
- Have no more than 40 days of lapsed workers' compensation coverage in the last 12 months (Advanced and Basic Levels).

Employers electing to participate in the program have four program levels to choose from:

- **Advanced** – 7% bonus on premium payments.
- **Basic** – 4% bonus on premium payments.
- **Comparable** – Allows employers to be included on the list of approved state construction contractors.
- **SUPR Reimbursement only** – Eligible employers can request reimbursement of up to \$5,000 for costs associated with developing or reviewing a drug-free workplace policy, employee and supervisor training, drug and alcohol testing and substance use assessments.

Program requirements vary by level of participation, so employers will need to provide the requirements as outlined by the BWC based on the participation level they select. Program Requirements include:

- Written policy
- Employee education
- Supervisor training
- Drug and alcohol testing
- Annual report
- Employee assistance
- Accident analysis
- Online accident reporting

As an example, if you choose to participate in the Basic, you will only be required to complete specific program requirements. However, if you choose Advanced you will need to complete Basic requirements in addition to other requirements.

If you would like to learn more about the changes to the program, go to [Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Program](#) or if you would like to enroll in the (SUPR) Program go to [Substance Use Prevention and Recovery \(SUPR\) Program](#).

This is just one of the great opportunities the state of Ohio offers for employers, but there are other grant programs designed to help employers reduce injuries and illnesses in the workplace, as well. Click on the link to go to the [BWC's Safety Grant Programs](#).

If you would like to know more about Sedgwick's safety services or would like to schedule a confidential consultation, please contact Andy Sawan at andrew.sawan@sedgwick.com or 330.819.4728.



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Role of the Industrial Commission

The Ohio workers' compensation process can sometimes feel overwhelming, especially when there is a need to contest a claim before the Ohio Industrial Commission (IC).

The State of Ohio charges the IC with the responsibility of resolving disputes that may arise between the parties of a workers' compensation claim. Those parties are the injured worker, the employer and the administrator (Bureau of Workers' Compensation).

The IC schedules an informal conference, referred to as a "hearing", whenever one of the above noted parties files an appeal to a decision issued by the Bureau or if one of the parties to the claim files a motion requesting consideration of a specific action. Most hearings are scheduled within 45 days of the appeal/motion being submitted to the IC.

There are three levels to the IC hearing process –

- Level 1 is the District Level
- Level 2 is the Staff Level
- Level 3 is the Commission level

Once an issue is referred to the IC for scheduling the IC will send notices to all parties of the claim advising of the date and time of the scheduled hearing.

At Sedgwick, your hearing will be assigned to a Sedgwick Hearing Consultant who will review the claim file and attend the hearing. As the employer, you are always encouraged to attend any hearing where your testimony may impact the decision. Your Sedgwick Hearing Consultant can participate in a pre-hearing phone call with you to review the claim file information and their plan for the presentation to the IC hearing officer. Because the IC offers a call in option for all hearings you are able to attend the hearing without leaving your office.

It is important to remember that all hearings are scheduled for 20 minutes and that each party present for the hearing is allotted a portion of that time for their presentation. Any documentation that you wish to be considered that is relative to the scheduled issue should be submitted to the IC claim file and all other parties well ahead of the hearing date. This allows the hearing officer the opportunity to review the pertinent information beforehand and formulate any specific questions he or she may have relative to the information.

If you have any questions, contact our Sedgwick program manager, Rejeana Woolum-Napier, at (614)359-2403 or rejeana.woolum-napier@sedgwick.com.

Bureau of Workers Compensation – Safety Intervention Grant

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) reopened the Safety Intervention Grant (SIG) on July 1, 2025 and is accepting new applications. This is great news for employers who are looking for funding to purchase equipment to help reduce or eliminate workplace injuries or illnesses. All applicants must submit a new application as previous ones will not carry over. Additionally, applicants are required to obtain three vendor quotes or one quote with a sole source justification for the proposed intervention.

The SIG is available to any Ohio private or public employer covered by the State Insurance Fund. Recipients are eligible for a 3-1 matching grant, up to a maximum grant award of \$40,000 for each three-year eligibility cycle. As an example, the program will give your organization \$3 for every \$1 you contribute. Employers must work with an assigned BWC grant coordinator throughout the process and will be required to submit a one-year case study, one year after the implementation date for the intervention.

The BWC's website contains a timeline of events and detailed information on program requirements, including:

- What to know before you apply
- SIG eligibility requirements
- After you apply
- Reporting and documentation requirements
- Application timeline

Visit the BWC's SIG website here: [Safety Intervention Grant](#)

Employers should contact the BWC prior to purchasing any equipment, however, the BWC has come up with a list of "Fast Track Grants". Fast Track Grants are those in which the task(s) are high risk, and it is highly likely the intervention will have a significant impact on eliminating injuries in the future. Some of the "Fast Track Grant Equipment" includes:

- Bathing systems
- Conduit bending equipment
- Floor cleaning equipment
- Fume extractors for welding
- Lift gates
- Lift tables
- Patient lifting devices
- Shrink wrap equipment

Keep in mind there is equipment that is not covered by the SIG Program. The complete list can be found here [Unapproved Items for the SIG Program](#). Some of the items include:

- Anti-fatigue mats
- Automated external defibrillators (AED's)
- Certain food industry items
- Equipment intended to meet minimum OSHA requirements
- Passive safety/security devices
- PPE, back belts and wrist splints
- Sitting and/or standing workstation equipment
- Training and training simulators
- Vehicle lifts

In addition to the SIG, employers can also apply for other Safety Grant Programs such as:

- Body Armor Grant
- Firefighter Exposure to Environmental Elements Grants Program
- School Safety and Security Grant (SSSG)
- Workplace Wellness Grant Program

All of the grant programs can be found at <https://info.bwc.ohio.gov/for-employers/safety-services/safety-grants/safety-grants>. The BWC allows for employers to participate in the SIG program concurrently with any combination of BWC's Safety Grant Programs, which is great news! If you decide to apply, you will need to arrange for a BWC safety field consultant (safety consultant, ergonomist or industrial hygienist) to assist with the grant application. To start, you can:

- Request a meeting with your safety field consultant by filling out the Online Request Form, or
- Call 1-800-644-6292 and request a consultation.

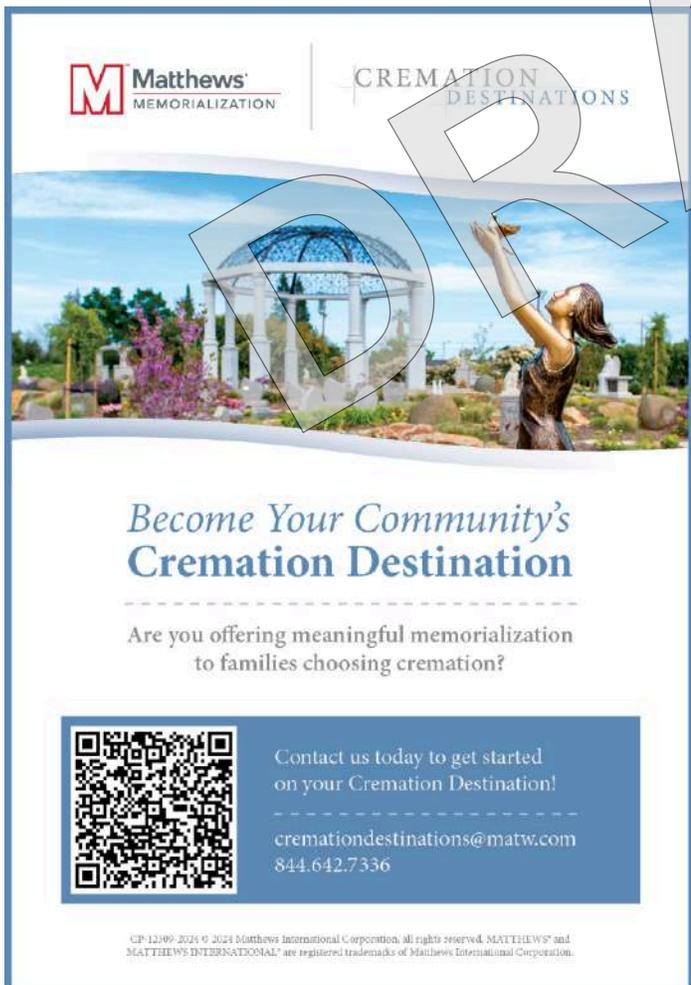
So, if you are looking to improve safety in your workplace and reduce injuries and illnesses, take advantage of this great opportunity from the state of Ohio!

Complimentary Workers' Compensation Quote from Sedgwick

This is the time of year when you undoubtedly receive multiple phone calls, emails and hardcopy mail promoting workers' compensation programs.

Our endorsed partner, [Sedgwick](#), helps members save significantly on workers' compensation premiums and provides valuable advice to our members who are navigating Ohio's workers' compensation system. Sedgwick's clients annually save \$160 million in workers' compensation premium through their Group Rating and Group Retrospective Rating Programs. Sedgwick not only offers the savings but expert guidance of **all** areas of worker' compensation including claims management as well as other cost containment programs.

If you are not participating in this member benefit, you can request a no-cost, no-obligation analysis of your potential savings. Please contact your Sedgwick program manager Rejeana Woolum-Napier at Rejeana.woolum-napier@sedgwick.com or phone (614)359-2403.



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