

April 8, 2026

Ohio Prep Sports Media Association Update

Hello OPSMA Members and welcome to several new members! Please see below for details on the upcoming annual member meeting and additional items.

OPSWA Spring Member Meeting May 5

This year's annual OPSMA member meeting will be **Tuesday, May 5**, at the OHSAA office in Columbus (4080 Roselea Place), **starting at 10:30 AM**. Please RSVP to Tim Stried by May 1 so we get a head count for lunch.

The meeting will include:

- Discussion Topics
 - o Financial update; football notebooks; all-district teams participation; award voting proposal; All-Ohio plaque proposal (third party); award announcement timing (two areas); ID badges; Hall of Fame
- Contest Results Announced
- Lunch Provided by OHSAA
- Comments and Q&A with OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute
- Officer Elections (see next note)
- Comments and Suggestions

OPSWA Officer Elections on May 5

This year's member meeting will include voting for officers for a two-year term. If you would like to be included on the ballot at this year's meeting, please send your bio information (about 200 words) to Tim Stried by May 1. Attendees will complete a paper ballot during the meeting. The ballot will also be emailed to the membership on May 5 for a brief voting window via email.

OPSWA Officers

In April 2024, OPSMA members voted four members to serve as officers for a two-year term.

President: Eric Frantz, MaxPreps.com

Vice President: John Kampf, Willoughby News Herald

Vice President: Tom Wilson, Lancaster Eagle-Gazette

Vice President: Jake Furr, Mansfield News Journal

Please don't hesitate to reach out to the officers with any OPSMA suggestions or issues. OPSMA officers select the Hall of Fame (anyone can nominate potential honorees), vote for All-Ohio teams (with the district chairmen), determine any changes to OPSMA procedures, etc.

Annual Writing and Photography Contest

Entries are now being judged for the annual OPSMA writing and photography contest. The contest included articles and photos about Ohio high school sports published in print or online between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025. The cost is \$20 per person to enter the contest.

There are three divisions in the writing contest: Division 1 (10 largest newspapers in Ohio and all online-only media outlets), Division 2 (all other newspapers that publish more than once per week), and

Division 3 (weekly and monthly newspapers and specialty publications). There is one division with two categories for the photography contest: action photo and portrait photo.

Contest Home: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/contests>

Regarding the contest, whether or not you want to win an award, please consider entering, as it is currently the only source of revenue for the OPSMA. Also, we always need OPSMA members to serve as judges. Please see below for details.

Call for Contest Judges

The annual contest doesn't work without OPSMA members serving as judges! The contest is judged by OPSMA members in late February and March. Any OPSMA member interested in being a judge should notify Tim Stried. Every category has at least two judges, with the final results being the average score of the two judges.

OPSMA Members Encouraged to Join All-District Voting Process

Since 2017, the OPSMA has coordinated the All-District and All-Ohio teams in football and basketball. All OPSMA members are encouraged to be a part of the selection process for the all-district teams in football and basketball. The All-Ohio teams are based on the work and nominations of the district committees. Please contact your district chairperson to be a part of the process.

Northeast Lakes: Matt Goul, Cleveland.com

Northeast Inland: Chris Beaven and Josh Weir, Canton Repository

Northwest: Mark Hazelwood, Norwalk Reflector

Southeast: Paul Boggs, Ironton Tribune

East: Sam Blackburn, Zanesville Times-Recorder

Central: Steve Blackledge, PressProsMagazine.com (retired from Columbus Dispatch)

Southwest: Greg Shoemaker, TriStateFootball.com; Jeff Gilbert, Dayton Daily News

Football and Basketball Participation

Thank you to all members who submitted content for the OPSMA weekly football notebook, and thanks to Jake Furr, OPSMA Vice President, for compiling them for Tuesday release. Thank you to the district chairs for coordinating the football and basketball all-district teams and for submitting your nominees for the All-Ohio teams. That group also determined the list of finalists for the Ohio Mr. Football and Ms./Mr. Basketball Awards. The OPSMA membership is encouraged to participate in the meetings for the all-district teams.

New OPSMA ID Badges Available

The OHSAA will mail a batch of ID badges that were ordered this past spring and summer by OPSMA members. The OHSAA produces ID badges for OPSMA members at no cost that can include the member's photo and their media outlet logo. Any OPSWA member who wants a new ID badge with the new OPSMA logo can email their headshot and media outlet logo to Saige Arnhold at sarnhold@ohsaa.org.

Hall of Fame

The 2026 induction class for the OPSMA Hall of Fame was announced in February and honored during halftime of a boys basketball state championship game. The class included Denny McPherson from the Marion Star, Dan Messerschmidt from the Bucyrus Telegraph-Forum and Crawford County Now, and Tom Puskar from the Ashland Times-Gazette and Mansfield News Journal.

The OPSMA inducted its first Hall of Fame class in 1983. The complete list is posted at:
<https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/HOF>

OPSWA Membership List

Please check the district membership lists, and if you are aware of any edits, please email Tim Stried at tstried@ohsaa.org. The membership lists are posted at:
<https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/membership>. The goal is that OPSMA members utilize the list to communicate with other members for such things as exchanging information on out-of-area opponents, facility details, etc.

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