



Community Bankers Association of Ohio Opens Registration for Their 43rd Annual Convention & Trade Show

- Loretta J. Mester, President & CEO, [Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland](#), scheduled Keynote
- [ICBA](#)'s Vice Chairman, Preston L. Kennedy, scheduled to speak
- CBAO will honor 2017 Chairman, Mickey Schwarzbek at Paul Brown Stadium
- Convention registration now open for all community bankers in Ohio

Columbus, OH, June 19, 2017 – [Community Bankers Association of Ohio \(CBAO\)](#) announced today that registration is open for their 2017 Annual Convention & Trade Show, hosted at The Westin in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1974, CBAO hosted its inaugural convention to bring together the community bankers of Ohio and the vendors who serve them. Now in its 43rd year, CBAO's Annual Convention is the cornerstone for community banking in Ohio.

Robert Palmer, President & Chief Executive Officer of CBAO described this year's convention theme, *Community Banks – the ♥ of Ohio's Banking Industry*, "Our theme promotes the commitment and devotion of Ohio's community banks to serve and support their communities – to be their foundation, their heart."

"Community banking professionals from across Ohio and neighboring regions come together for great networking, content they can bring back to their institutions, and a chance to explore new vendor opportunities through our trade show," explained Aza Bittinger, Jr., CBAO's senior vice president.

Mr. Bittinger continued, "We are especially excited about the content we have been working on for the convention. Our community bank teams have so much to focus on, we wanted to create comprehensive content for human resources, marketing, IT, compliance, lending, operations, retail, and executive management teams addressing their top priorities and industry hot topics."

On the agenda this year are in-demand education sessions including digital marketing, understanding millennials, succession planning, leadership and crisis management, compliance, cybersecurity, M&A, and more.

Additionally, CBAO is pleased to welcome, Loretta J. Mester, as a keynote speaker at the convention this year. As president and chief executive officer of the [Federal Reserve Bank](#)



[of Cleveland](#), Dr. Mester participates in the formulation of U.S. monetary policy, and oversees 950 employees in Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh who conduct economic research, supervise banking institutions, and provide payment services to commercial banks and the U.S. government. She assumed her role as president and CEO in June 2014. Ms. Mester's Keynote is scheduled for Wednesday, August 2, at 11:00 a.m.

Also, scheduled as a Keynote is [Independent Community Bankers of America® \(ICBA\)](#)'s Vice Chairman, Preston L. Kennedy, who will address industry hot topics with attendees.

CBAO will honor 2017 CBAO Chairman and President & Chief Executive Officer of [Sherwood State Bank](#), Mickey Schwarzbek, during the association's annual Chairman's Banquet on Wednesday, August 2 at Paul Brown Stadium. This is Mr. Schwarzbek's 17th time attending the Annual Convention.

"Early in my career, I attended the CBAO Annual Convention and found value in networking with colleagues within the industry," said Mr. Schwarzbek. "I was able to connect with future mentors, and create a support network for myself as a young bank executive. As CBAO's 2017 Chairman, my focus has been on engagement. We need to come together to advocate for our industry, and create a network of support for the next generation of community bankers"

In addition to the Chairman's Banquet, attendees can take part in community banking celebration activities including a silent auction, casino night, annual golf outing, and more. Registration is now open and available through the [convention website](#). Press badges are available and can be requested through Marketing & Special Events Coordinator, Kelly Phillips, at ksphillips@cbao.com.

About CBAO

Community Bankers Association of Ohio (CBAO) is organized to establish and maintain an informed network of independent community banks in the state of Ohio that will have the influence and commitment to effectively serve, protect and promote the interests of its members.

For Media Inquiries

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