

***OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS***

**PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS POLICY**

**I. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners to encourage members of the Board to participate in conferences and conventions sponsored by associations in which the Board has membership or that promote Ottawa County goals, member skills development, and/or recognition of Ottawa County. Members of the Board are particularly encouraged to attend the annual Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) and the annual National Association of Counties (NACo) conventions, and to participate in the committee work of those organizations to the extent that the committee work is relevant to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Ottawa County. Board members who so participate will be expected to take an active role and promote the County's interests.

**II. STATUTORY REFERENCES**

The Board of Commissioners may establish such rules and regulations regarding the business concerns of the County as the Board considers necessary and proper. See: MCL 46.11(m); 46.71, Act 156 of 1851, as amended.

**III. COUNTY LEGISLATIVE OR HISTORICAL REFERENCES**

Board of Commissioners Policy Adoption Date and Resolution Number: 06/11/91

Board of Commissioners Review Date and Resolution Number: 03/23/04

Name and Date of Last Committee Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Related Policies: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS POLICY**

### **PROCEDURE**

1. The Ottawa County Finance and Administration Committee shall annually recommend to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners a budget sufficient for the purposes of this policy.
2. For travel pursuant to this Policy within the contiguous 48 states, the County will pay or reimburse the conference fees (if any) and the reasonable and necessary transportation expenses of a Board member to attend the conferences, conventions and meetings of approved organizations and their committees. The County will also reimburse the reasonable and necessary food, lodging, and associated expenses of a Board member for attendance.
3. For travel pursuant to this Policy outside of the contiguous 48 states, the County will pay or reimburse the conference fees (if any) and will reimburse the reasonable and necessary food, lodging, and associated expenses of a Board member to attend the conferences, conventions, and meetings of approved organizations and their committees. The County will also pay the reasonable and necessary transportation expenses and the reasonable and necessary lodging expenses of a Board member to attend the conventions and meetings of approved organizations and their committees, up to the average cost of a Board member's air far transportation cost, as based upon a three (3) year history of such costs [i.e., the total air fare cost and lodging cost incurred by Board members over the previous three (3) calendar years divided by the total number of Board attendees = average reimbursement of air fare cost and average reimbursement of lodging cost]. Lodging costs will be calculated based upon cost per night of stay. Any excess air fare cost and similar excess costs for transportation expenses and any excess lodging costs incurred outside the contiguous 48 states must be paid by the attending Board member.
4. Board members will, orally or in writing, share information gathered through attendance at conferences and conventions.

### **REVIEW PERIOD**

The County Administrator will review this Policy at least once every two years, and will make recommendations for changes to the Planning & Policy Committee.