CBAO
COMMUNITY BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA
One Mission. Community Banks.®

Membership Benefits

Community Bankers Association of Oklahoma

One Mission. Community Banks.

A Passion to Keep You Competitive!

For community bank leaders across Oklahoma, CBAO delivers trusted advocacy, practical support, professional development, and connections that help community banks move forward. CBAO is Oklahoma's only banking association with membership limited to Oklahoma community banks and a Passion to Keep you Competitive!

Join a stronger network

Connect your bank to a respected voice at the Oklahoma State Capitol, a strong presence in Washington, DC, and resources built for community banking.

Built for decision-makers

From legal and regulatory support to leadership development, CBAO helps your bank stay informed, prepared, and connected.

Why community banks choose CBAO

Advocacy that moves community banking forward

Relationships that matter — Over 2/3 of CBAO member banks are state chartered institutions in Oklahoma. CBAO is grateful to have an excellent working relationship with Oklahoma Bank Commissioner Mick Thompson and his very professional staff. From legislative to regulatory issues, CBAO and the Banking Department have a shared vision of what is best for successful, profitable, safe, and sound community banks in Oklahoma.

At the Oklahoma State Capitol — CBAO provides a strong and respected voice for community banking. Its government relations team includes former State Representative Greg Platt, CBAO President & CEO Craig Buford, and committed volunteer leaders.

Trusted influence — Key legislative committee chairman regularly seek CBAO's position on banking-related legislation. That credibility helps CBAO advance community banking priorities and help other associations move their legislation forward.

In Washington, DC — CBAO works with its state community banking association counterparts and the Independent Community Banks of America (ICBA). Each year, a large number of CBAO member bankers hit the Hill and meet with the Oklahoma delegation.

Legal and regulatory support

CBAO member banks enjoy Legal and Regulatory Support from outstanding banking attorneys. General Counsel Paul Foster and attorney Carrie Foster, available at no cost to answer general state and federal legal/regulatory banking questions.

CBAO maintains strong relationships and open lines of communication with all banking regulators, including the Oklahoma State Banking Department, OCC, Federal Reserve, and FDIC, all of which actively participate in CBAO regulatory panels and outreach programs throughout the year.

Professional development that works for community banks

Professional development is a core benefit of CBAO membership. CBAO provides Quality Education, so you can remain experts in community banking and stay ahead of these changing times within our industry. Well-trained banking staff provides your customers better service, protects bank assets, and meets regulatory requirements.

High-quality training — Each opportunity is designed to provide convenient, high-quality training for bank employees.

Convenient learning — CBAO offers seminars, webinars, conferences, and its annual convention.

The Annual Convention: “the banking event”

The CBAO annual convention has truly become “the banking event” for Oklahoma community bankers. It brings together an exceptional community of bankers, spouses, guests, and industry supporters.

The convention attracts nationally known speakers, leading business professionals, and key political leaders. Everyone in the industry wants to be part of an event that showcases the strength, support, and pride of Oklahoma’s community bankers and what CBAO stands for.

Horizon Bankers: cultivating the next generation

CBAO invests in the future of community banking through its Horizon Bankers leadership group. The future of Oklahoma community banking depends on a new generation of progressive, energetic, community-minded, and well-informed bankers and supporters.

For career-aspiring community bankers — Horizon Bankers keeps on participants on the cutting edge of community banking.

Leadership in action — The program offers leadership training, networking opportunities, and quality education.

A clear purpose — Horizon Bankers cultivates, educates, and empowers future leaders for Oklahoma’s community bankers.

BANKSAVYY: practical insight for a changing industry

Through its monthly publication, BANKSAVYY, CBAO helps bankers stay on top of an environment changing faster than ever, driven by technological advances, new laws, evolving regulations, and shifting norms. Bankers today need quick access to reliable, practical information. BANKSAVYY is designed to meet that need, with timely, accurate updates that help bankers stay ahead of important developments.

The name is intentional: “savvy,” as defined by Webster’s dictionary, means having or showing perception, comprehension, or shrewdness, especially in practical matters—exactly the kind of insight this publication aims to deliver.

Partnerships and shared services that strengthen your bank

CBAO strengthens your bank through powerful partnerships and shared services. The association takes pride in its close working relationships with organizations in the community banking industry through both its Endorsed Partners and Associate Members.

Endorsed Partners and Industry Supporters —

CBAO member banks gain an excellent resource for bank products and services, saving valuable staff time on due diligence.

Your Oklahoma connection to ICBA

CBAO is the strategic partner in Oklahoma of the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA). Through CBAO, you’re connected to an expanded network of effective advocacy, education, and innovation built exclusively for community bankers.

By combining CBAO’s local insights and educational offerings with ICBA’s national resources, we’re able to deliver relevant, practical education that reflects the needs and priorities of community bankers across our state.

Ready to strengthen your bank’s voice and capabilities?

Join CBAO or learn more about how membership supports community banks across Oklahoma.

Contact Craig Buford, President and CEO, 405-833-9499