



## Bucks County Association of Township Officials

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BCATO 116th Annual Convention, Northampton Valley Country Club,  
Richboro, Bucks County, PA

## BCATO Broadcast March 2024

### 2024 BCATO 116th Annual Convention

A hearty "thank you" to everyone who joined us for the 116th Annual BCATO Convention and our sponsors for their support. Supervisor Stephanie Shortall, New Britain Township, was elected to serve on the BCATO Executive Board. **Fire Chief Tim Brewer**, Upper Makefield Fire Company, presented a chilling summary of the extreme weather event of July 2023 that resulted in the tragic loss of life and emergency operations that followed. It was *valuable* material for everyone serving in local government. The panel discussion that followed Chief Brewer's presentation allowed our tenured former local officials serving or having served in higher office to share the lessons they learned in local government that continue to guide them today. We are grateful for our esteemed panel that included **Gov. Mark Schweiker**, **State Senator Steve Santarsiero (PA-10)**, and **State Senator Frank Farry (PA-6)**. Catch the highlights of the Annual Convention [here](#).



*Newly elected BCATO  
Board Member,  
Stephanie Shortall, New  
Britain Township.*



## Bucks County News

At the BCATO Annual Convention, Diane Marseglia, Chair of the Bucks County Commissioners, along with commissioners Bob Harvie and Gene DiGirolamo, provided updates on county-wide initiatives. They shared that plans for a stabilization center in partnership with Doylestown Hospital and Lenape Valley Foundation were approved by Doylestown Township, for which they expressed appreciation. This center will aid families and individuals struggling with behavioral health challenges such as mental illness, drug & alcohol use, or intellectual disabilities. The Commissioners reiterated their commitment to meeting the wide range of needs and services that Bucks County residents expect, including 911 services, planning for the county's future, and providing attainable housing for young families and the workforce.

Commissioner Marseglia shared statistics regarding the newly implemented Co Responder programs. Since December 2020, the Human Services Co-Responder Program has served **1585** individuals and made **5,444 contacts** (in person, phone, collateral contacts with family and providers, etc.) with these individuals and eliminated police action. 68% of all calls to police, when an arrest was possible and a Co-Responder was also called to a scene, an arrest was not made, and individuals were diverted from jail. Ambulance squads are validating the importance, as they frequently respond to mental health calls with police and now the co-responders can step in. Although the program started in Bensalem, many law enforcement agencies across the county have instituted co-responder programs and others are in the process.

## PSATS



PSATS Educational Conference and Exhibit Show April 14- 17. Join us for lunch on Monday and Tuesday at the BCATO Hospitality Suite, Hershey Lodge, Room 1467. See you there!

### Our Executive Board

**Maggie Rash, President**  
Supervisor, Buckingham Township  
**Dave Nyman, 1st Vice President**  
Supervisor, East Rockhill Township  
**Ruth Schemm, 2nd Vice President**  
Supervisor, Warrington Twp.



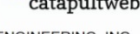
Dick Weaver, Treasurer  
Auditor, Newtown Township  
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