

pensation to public officials for attending meetings of such organizations but, as is pointed out in the opinion referred to above, it cannot be said as a matter of law that when public officials, in the exercise of a sound discretion and in the absence of an abuse of that discretion determine it to be in the public interest to meet in organizations with other officials for the discussion of problems attendant upon, and the discussion of methods pertaining to the duties of their respective offices, they should not be paid the legal compensation fixed by law for the performance of their public duties; and it cannot be said as a matter of law, in my opinion, that they are not performing "service in the business of" the subdivision which they represent, if in their discretion they determine that the public interest is served by such action. Of course, the discretion of officials in this respect, as well as any other, may be abused and carried beyond reasonable demands, but it cannot be said in my opinion, that the holding of a meeting once a year, and attendance at that meeting by township trustees for the purposes mentioned amounts to an abuse of discretion.

I am therefore of the opinion in specific answer to your question that in the absence of an apparent abuse of discretion or the evidence of bad faith in a particular case it cannot be said as a matter of law that it is unlawful for township trustees after determining the need and propriety of attending the annual meeting of the State Association of Township Trustees and Clerks held in Columbus, for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to the duties of township trustees in carrying out their powers with respect to the performing of their official duties as trustees, to credit themselves with the time expended in attending such a meeting as being "service in the business of the township" for which they are entitled to per diem compensation in accordance with Section 3294, General Code.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. BRICKER,
Attorney General.

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APPROVAL—BONDS OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT, CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO,
\$50,000.00.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, January 31, 1936.

Retirement Board, State Teachers' Retirement System, Columbus, Ohio.