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Commissioner

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Commissioner

Kevin Ritter, Washington County
Commissioner

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David Kern, Defiance County
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Donnie Willis, Jackson County
Commissioner

**A MESSAGE FROM CHERYL SUBLER
CCAO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio! As we reflect on this year, we are filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. Our association, uniting the efforts of county commissioners, county executives, and county council members across Ohio, has not only faced the challenges of the year but also harnessed opportunities for growth and innovation. This report highlights our collective achievements, showcases the initiatives undertaken, and sets the stage for continued progress.

The Association had several state budget bill priorities, and progress was made on multiple fronts. Because of champions in the Statehouse, \$75 million for jail construction and renovation was appropriated — unprecedentedly — in a state operating budget. This report describes that as well as our collective efforts on funding for broadband services, indigent defense reimbursement, the Local Government Fund, election administration, children services, healthy aging grants, and more!

The Association’s long-standing advocacy to be held-harmless when the state enacts tax reform and to have a seat at the table when county revenue streams are impacted came to fruition in the state budget. An expanded sales tax holiday in 2024 and possibly thereafter was included in the budget bill, coupled with instructions to tailor the length of the holiday so counties are reimbursed for lost sales tax revenue and Local Government Fund revenue. In addition, the Tax Commissioner, who determines the length of the sales tax holiday, is to consult the Association on the length of time of the holiday. Years of advocacy resulted in this surprising outcome.

CCAO President and Henry County Commissioner Glenn Miller worked to enhance and foster relationships with the DeWine-Husted Administration, particularly with cabinet directors, and with members of the General Assembly. He also established our Advocacy Task Force to continue important relationship building and sharing with lawmakers year-round, and not just during budget season.

Late this year the CCAO Service Corporation launched County Benefits+, a pioneering initiative aimed at

enhancing the lives of the county workforce. The program offers a range of premier voluntary supplemental benefits, and nearly a dozen counties already have signed up.

In addition, the Service Corporation continues to work with local governments on energy aggregation and efficiencies. It has entered into special arrangements with Huntington Bank to offer the new County P-Card Consortium that could add extra benefits to your county.

The Association continues to work to enhance offerings to county employees and their families through the Ohio County Employees Retirement Program.

Quality coverage and innovative support resulted in the number of counties in CORSA and CEBCO to be at an all-time high in 2023. Moreover, the partnership between CCAO, CORSA, and CEBCO is as strong as ever.

The CCAO Research & Educational Foundation has been reinvigorated. For the first time, five \$2,000 scholarships were awarded to high school seniors interested in public policy or public administration. We held a successful golf outing in conjunction with the Summer Symposium to raise funds for the Foundation and foster a spirit of community and generosity among all participants.

As we reflect on the remarkable achievements in 2023, it is clear the collective efforts of our members, including the CCAO Executive Committee and Board of Directors, along with our talented association staff have made this year outstanding!

Thank you for your dedication, passion, and leadership.

Together, we continue to build a stronger, more prosperous Ohio, guided by the shared vision and relentless spirit that define the County Commissioners Association of Ohio.





Even numbered years in the Ohio General Assembly bring with them a new set of legislators, priorities, and sometimes a change in leadership in the two chambers. While the CCAO policy team was hard at work educating new legislators on county government, the state's biennial operating budget (House Bill 33) was being finalized by Governor DeWine's administration. CCAO looked to build upon the great work that was accomplished in the previous General Assembly, and we entered the 135th General Assembly with several key priorities: full funding for indigent defense reimbursement for counties, as well as the creation of a state-run delivery option for indigent defense services, additional funding for county jail construction and renovation projects, and full restoration of the Local Government Fund (LGF).

As a result of the advocacy efforts of the CCAO membership and policy team, we were able to make progress on each of our budget priorities including:

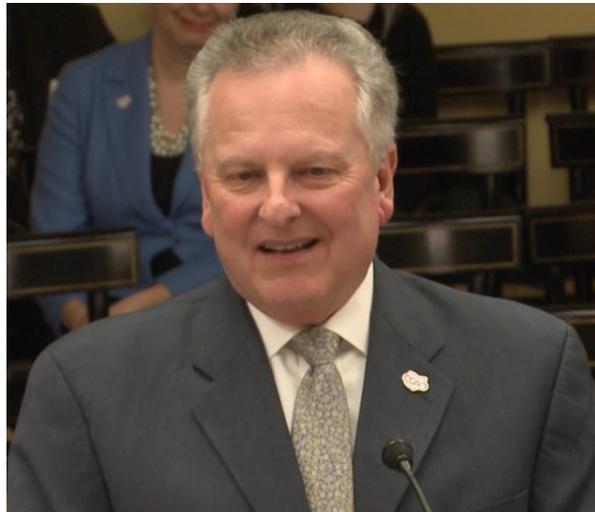
Indigent Defense: Counties will receive an additional \$67 million dollars in reimbursements over the biennium, which is expected to result in an 85% reimbursement rate. House Bill 150 from the 134th General Assembly included a Task Force to Study Indigent Defense, and CCAO is actively working to incorporate our priorities into the task force's final recommendations.

County Jail Construction and Renovation: The budget included \$75 million in FY 2024 for county jail construction and renovation projects – the first time a state operating budget has ever included funding for this purpose.

Local Government Fund: The percentage of state general fund tax revenue distributed through the LGF increased from 1.66% to 1.70%, the first statutory increase in a decade. Additionally, CCAO worked with other local government partners to secure a needed reform to the

LGF distribution formula, allowing county undivided LGFs to receive a minimum of \$850,000, rather than the lesser of \$750,000 or their 2013 allocation.

Counties received a variety of support for infrastructure and economic development needs including \$175 million in each year for brownfield site remediation, \$150 million in FY 2024 dedicated to build-ing demolition and site revitalization, and \$124 million in FY 2024 to improve water and sewer quality. HB 33 also included \$135 million to help connect more Ohioans to vital broadband services. In the human services space, counties received



President Miller testifying on the state operating budget.

an additional \$60 million over the biennium for county child welfare placement costs and \$40 million in one-time ARPA funded healthy aging grants to help older Ohioans age in place. The legislature appropriated funds to cover the cost of the August special election as well. Additionally, HB 33 saw the competitive bidding threshold raised for the first time in over a decade and counties were given the authority to utilize credit cards to broadly purchase goods and services.

One of the priorities for the General Assembly during this budget cycle was tax relief, and one of the main provisions included an expansion of the annual sales tax holiday. Under HB 33, the items subject to the annual "back to school" sales tax holiday were expanded to generally include any tangible good under \$500, with the exception of automobiles and watercraft. Furthermore, the length of the holiday will be extended, but the exact number of days for the holiday is yet to be determined. However, unlike the previous "back-to-school" sales tax holiday, the legislature chose to provide full reimbursement to counties, the LGF, and other entities receiving sales tax revenue and appropriated \$750 million in surplus GRF to do so in 2024. It has been a long-standing request of CCAO that, if sales tax exemptions are enacted, the state should hold counties harmless for the

lost revenue associated with the exemption.

The debate around property tax continued throughout the year. The Ohio House of Representatives began the conversation with the introduction of House Bill 1. HB 1 proposed sweeping changes to property and income taxes in the state, that would ultimately reduce revenue generated by property tax at the local level. As a result, CCAO and other local government groups publicly opposed the bill.

During the budget process, many counties began to see exponential increases in property tax valuations based on home sales during the last year. The General Assembly tried to address this issue in the budget by requiring the triennial updates to valuations be an average of the previous three years of home sales. However, that language was removed in the budget and was later introduced in the form of House Bill 187. The legislature included language in the budget that created a Property Tax Study Committee

made up of legislators with the goal of taking a deeper look at property taxes in the state. The work of that committee is ongoing, and CCAO will be actively participating in that committee and monitoring the status of HB 187 and other tax legislation.

As we look back at the legislative priorities of 2023, and look forward to 2024 and beyond, it is becoming increasingly important to educate the legislature on the role of counties and the services they provide to the citizens of Ohio. CCAO President Glenn Miller established the CCAO Advocacy Task Force to help CCAO members grow their existing relationships with legislators or foster new relationships. The Task Force also will help the CCAO policy team provide our members with effective advocacy tools to assist with the relationship developing process. The Task Force started its work this fall, and we encourage everyone to join the process. Our members are our strongest advocates, and we stand ready to help you succeed as commissioners, executives, council members and as advocates for CCAO.

NACO PARTNERSHIP

In 2023, CCAO continued our strong partnership with the National Association of Counties through federal advocacy and member involvement.

Several CCAO members were selected to participate in NACO commissions and groups. Ashtabula County Commissioner Kathryn Whittington served in the Opioid Solutions Leadership Network focused on exploring evidence-based solutions for the use of opioid settlement funds. Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce co-chaired the NACO Housing Task Force to study housing affordability and strategies, which released its recommendations in the fall. Scioto County Commissioner Bryan Davis was appointed to the NACO Commission on Mental Health and Wellbeing

to study systemic issues contributing to mental health challenges in this country. Warren County was selected to participate in the first Counties for Career Success Cohort which aims to address workforce issues.

In 2023, Clermont County Commissioner David Painter chaired the Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee and Warren County Commissioner Shannon Jones chaired the Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee. Franklin County Commissioner John O’Grady chaired the Large Urban County Caucus.



CCAO members Sabrina Christian-Bennett, David Painter, Glenn Miller, Kathryn Whittington, and Executive Director Cheryl Subler with 2023-2024 NACO President Mary Jo McGuire (middle-left).

64 counties that are **NACo Members**

4 CCAO Members on **NACo Board of Directors**

20+ CCAO Members on **NACo Steering Committees**

14 **NACo Achievement Awards** received by Ohio Counties

+

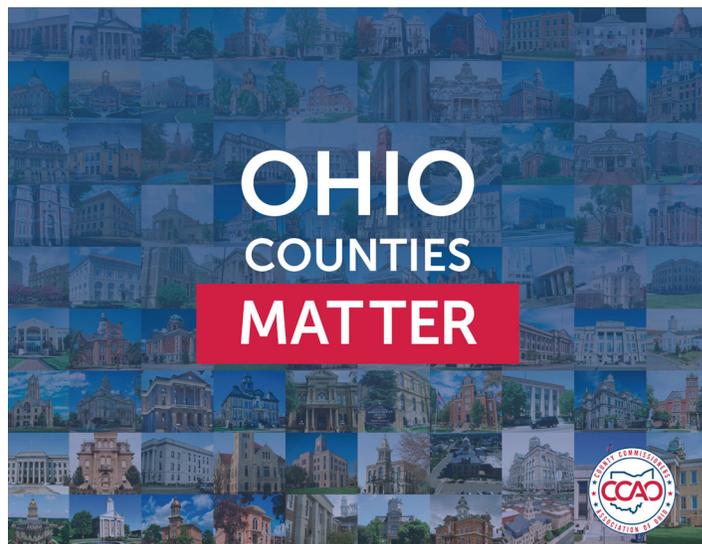
CCAO’s first NACo Achievement Award!

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

This year CCAO continued work to implement our Strategic Plan. Many of this year's goals centered around supporting our 282 members through training and educational resources and building relationships. This Annual Report highlights our New Member Training and Summer Symposium events, as well as the many regional events the association held to foster connection between members. CCAO also continued many of our partnerships (pages 5 & 17) and launched new initiatives through our Research & Education Foundation (page 7) while offering more service options to our members from the Service Corporation (page 9).

The Association published a revamped *Ohio Counties Matter* booklet. The publication outlines the structure of county government and highlights the core services counties provide to Ohioans. The booklet is intended as an educational tool and will be available for commissioners, executives, and council members to use to teach the public about the roles of county government.

Ohio Counties Matter is just one of the many publications CCAO released this year as an educational tool. On page 13 of this report, you can learn more about the county commissioner handbook chapters, county advisory bulletins, and other educational resources available.



In August, CCAO hosted its 2023 CCAO Summer Symposium “Economic Development Strategies: Ohio Counties Reaching Forward” at the Cherry Valley hotel in Newark, Ohio. Many county officials and staff members were in attendance to learn about the broadband landscape in Ohio, the role that county landbanks play in economic development, as well as workforce and economic development initiatives in counties around the state.

Director of Legislative Affairs for Governor DeWine Giles Allen, Director of Agriculture Brian Baldrige, Director of Development Lydia Mihalik, and Director of the Ohio EPA Anne Vogel all sat down with representatives of counties to hear their issues and discuss initiatives their departments and offices are taking to help counties tackle issues in

their communities. Senator Tim Schaffer, Representative Thaddeus Claggett, House Assistant Minority Whip Dontavius Jarrells, House Minority Leader Allison Russo, Representative Adam Mathews, and Representative Brian Stewart (all pictured above) participated in a panel to discuss the roles counties can play in advocating for Association priorities and their individual county issues.

Thank you to the Planning Committee: CCAO 2nd Vice President David Painter (Clermont County), Tony Anderson (Fayette County), Harry Brady (Huron County), Tim Bubb (Licking County), Cindy Cameron (Muskingum County), Sabrina Christian-Bennett (Portage County), Erica Crawley (Franklin County), Rita Darrow (Summit County), and Dave Wilson (Guernsey County).

RESEARCH & EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

This year, CCAO worked to bolster the Research and Educational Foundation with two key events: awarding of five scholarships to Ohio students pursuing careers in public service, one scholarship per region, and the inaugural County Classic Golf Outing.

In July, the CCAO Research and Educational Foundation presented five high school seniors across Ohio with \$2,000 scholarships. One scholarship was offered to students in each CCAO district, payable directly to the student when CCAO received confirmation of attendance at a university, community college, training program or vocational school. Those that applied also planned a career in public service in Ohio.

After receiving more than 90 applications from 50 counties and a thorough review process the panel awarded scholarships five worthy students:

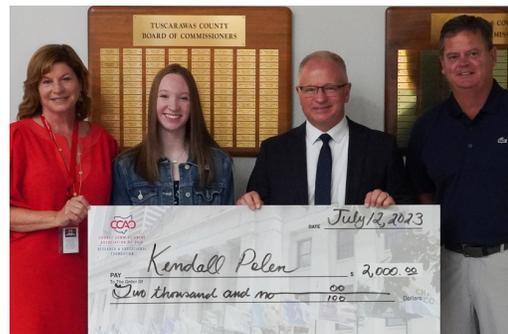
- Northwest: Anisha Chopra, Erie County
- Northeast: Michael Telakowicz, Ashland County
- Central: Brooklyn List, Pickaway County
- Southwest: Riley Raynard, Scioto County
- Southeast: Kendall Polen, Tuscarawas County

We are looking forward to growing the scholarship program and focusing on other initiatives in the future!

During the CCAO Summer Symposium, leaders from across the state assembled at the Clover Valley Golf Course to enjoy a great game of golf and fellowship while supporting a great cause. The CCAO Research and Educational Foundation wishes to thank all of our golfers and sponsors for their support.

If you would like to support the foundation, you can donate online at the Research and Educational Foundation page at CCAO.org or you can send a personal or campaign account check, made payable to:

CCAO Research and Educational Foundation
209 E. State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215



CCAO ENTERPRISE SERVICES

County Benefits+ launches

This fall, CCAO announced the launch of a pioneering initiative aimed at enhancing the lives of the county workforce in Ohio. County Benefits+ is a new partnership between CCAO and Aflac. This partnership, assisted by NACo's Public Promise Insurance, has quickly been recognized by multiple counties as a way to save money and offer superior products to the county workforce.



In just a few short months, CCAO was able to bring over ten Ohio counties into the program. The team will begin presenting to other counties early in 2024 with the goal of increasing participation.

In an era where attracting and retaining talent has never been more challenging, County Benefits+ goes beyond a traditional supplemental benefits program by offering an all-encompassing solution that caters to the specific needs of both the county workforce and the leadership that support them. With the increasing costs of healthcare in America, supplemental benefits are built to help employees cover unforeseen expenses that a core medical benefit offering may not. These unforeseen medical events often add financial hardship to the lives of county employees and their families.

Highlights of County Benefits+ include:

Wide Range of Voluntary Supplemental Benefits:

Benefits that employees can elect to offset additional costs associated with Critical Illness, Accidents, Cancer Diagnosis, Hospital Stays, Pet Insurance, ID Theft, and Life Insurance. These provide cash payments that cover expenses such as copays, deductibles, and other unforeseen expenses.

Statewide Underwriting: Aflac has agreed to strong statewide plans and rates for the state of Ohio specific to county governments. This reduces the hassle of obtaining quotes and pulling large amounts of data for voluntary benefits.

No County Costs: The program is voluntary with each employee purchasing only the products they want.

One-on-One Enrollment Support: Every county employee will have an opportunity for a face-to-face or virtual discussion with a certified enrollment counselor.

HR Team Support: The program includes an administration, billing and payroll support feature. In addition, the certified enrollment counselors are able to assist HR teams with driving home key messages during their one-on-one consultations.

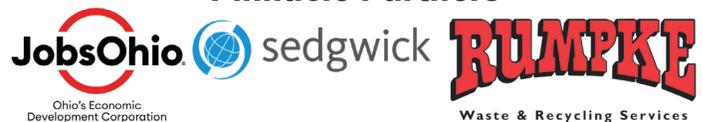
Enhanced Communication: Communication materials and education campaigns are easy to provide to staff.

County Focus: This program is built 100% for the county workforce. It is built to strengthen the benefits package your county is already offering and support your teams in the battle to attract and retain talent.

CCAO begins corporate partnership program

In July, CCAO introduced the corporate sponsorship program. This new program allows companies that offer services to county governments to support the work of the association while at the same time taking part in CCAO events and networking opportunities. CCAO wishes to thank the following organizations for participating in our inaugural year.

Pinnacle Partners



Premier Partners



Participating Partners



CCAO ENTERPRISE SERVICES



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

SERVICE CORPORATION

AGGREGATION PROGRAMS

140,000+

meters in the **Electric Aggregation Program**

More than **1.48 million kilowatt hours** used - enough to light a standard lightbulb for nearly **1,700 years!**

Estimated **Electric Aggregation** savings:
\$52.5 million

ENERGY PROGRAMS

59 members in the **Electric Energy Program**

Estimated **Electric Energy Program** savings:
\$15.5 million (+131% from 2022)

61 members in the **Natural Gas Energy Program**

Estimated **Natural Gas Energy Program** savings:
\$4.5 million (+56% from 2022)

35,500+

meters in the **Natural Gas Aggregation Program**

An increase of
570% active meters!



OHIO COUNTY
EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT PLAN

For the future you imagine

316 new enrollments

583 deferral increases

792 investment personalizations

\$59.5 million in Retirement Readiness Reviews!

NEW PROGRAM!



Ottawa County became the first county to take advantage of the **Service Corporation Cyber Program**, a partnership with HG Consulting to enhance county cyber security standards.



The 2023 CORSA Board of Directors.
 Back row: Charlie Schilling (Washington County), Dan Dean (Fayette County), Gary Merrell (Delaware County), Cory Noonan (Allen County), Craig LaHote (Wood County)
 Front row: Mark Stahl (Ottawa County), Teresa Bemiller (Knox County), Diane Ward (Adams County), CORSA President Dave Wilson (Guernsey County).

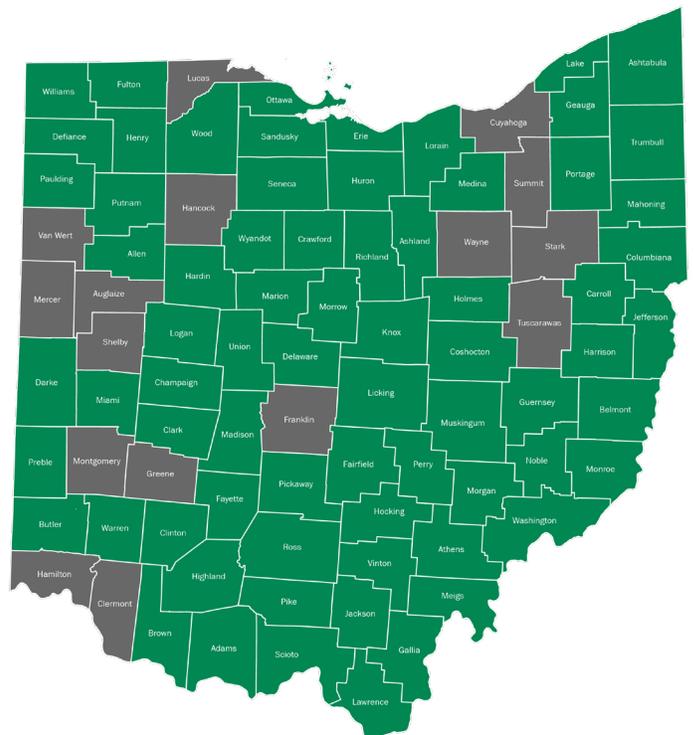
CORSA maintains its mission to provide members with comprehensive property and liability coverage and high-quality **Risk Management Services at a stable and competitive cost.**

\$15.7 billion in covered assets.

\$5.8 million returned to members in the form of dividends, grants and services!

72 counties and **47** county affiliates strong!

CORSA’s membership grew with the addition of **six counties** (Hocking, Lawrence, Morgan, Noble, Pike and Vinton) along with the addition of **three affiliates** (Juvenile Residential Center NW Ohio, Corrections Commission of Southeastern Ohio, and Northeast Ohio Community Alternative Program).





CEBCO continues to grow! **Hocking County** joined our consortium in July, with **Butler County** and **Pike County** slated to join in 2024. With these additions, CEBCO will now consist of **48** counties, serving approximately **15,500** employees and **34,750** members with medical and pharmacy coverage.

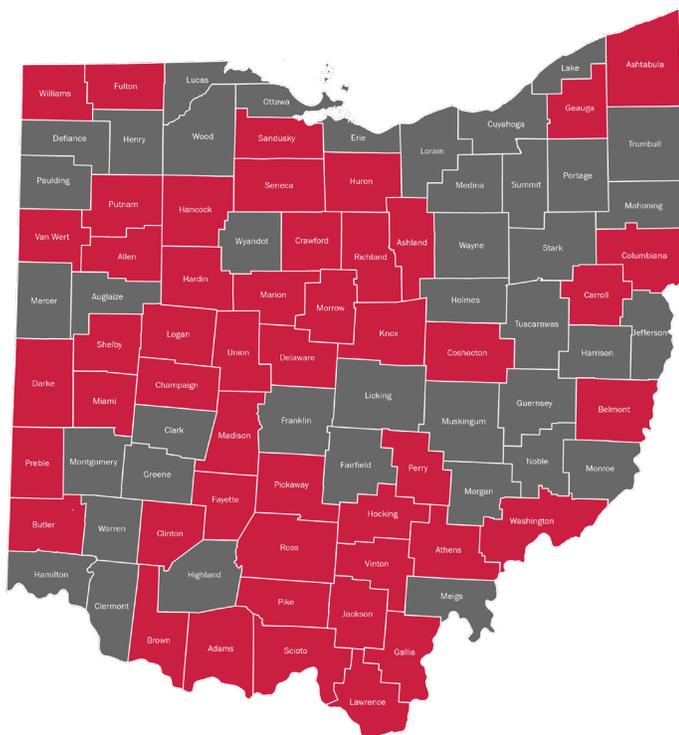
CEBCO also added **Holmes County** to our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) in November.

The CEBCO Board of Directors authorized staff to expand our program by offering our benefit programs to cities and townships. Eligible entities must have more than 100 enrolled employees and be able to provide medical claims experience.

Our new wellness program will debut next year. **CEBCO Rewards 200** will provide up to **\$200** each in incentives for medically enrolled employees and spouses, who complete identified medical services and wellness activities for the 2023 - 2024 program year.

CEBCO also provides **\$650,000** in Wellness Grant funds to member counties to fund wellness activities.

Kevin Hinkle has joined the CEBCO team as Assistant Director. Read more about Kevin on page 16!





Regional Legislative Briefings

In the spring, CCAO and our members hosted 18 regional legislative briefings across the state to discuss key county priorities with legislators. During the discussions, CCAO members shared stories from their counties and successes of state programs to illustrate the need for a continued strong state-county partnership.

CCAO/CEAO District Meetings

CCAO staff joined CCAO and CEAO members at six district meetings this year. The Northwest District kicked off this year’s meetings in Crawford County with tours of Advanced Fiber Technology and Crossroads Factory Store candlemaking. Erie County also hosted a Northwest District meeting in August where members learned about the county’s economic development strategies.

Stark County hosted the Northeast District in May at Hall of Fame Village for a presentation and tour of the site. Carroll County hosted the Southeast District at the Encino Utica Shale warehouse where members took a tour of an active well site.

The Central District gathered twice: Logan County hosted in May for discussion about the opportunities and challenges in the Indian Lake region and Knox County hosted in October at Heartland Commerce Park where members heard a presentation from the county land bank.



Top: The CCAO-CEAO Central District held its May 8 meeting in part at Indian Lake in Logan County.

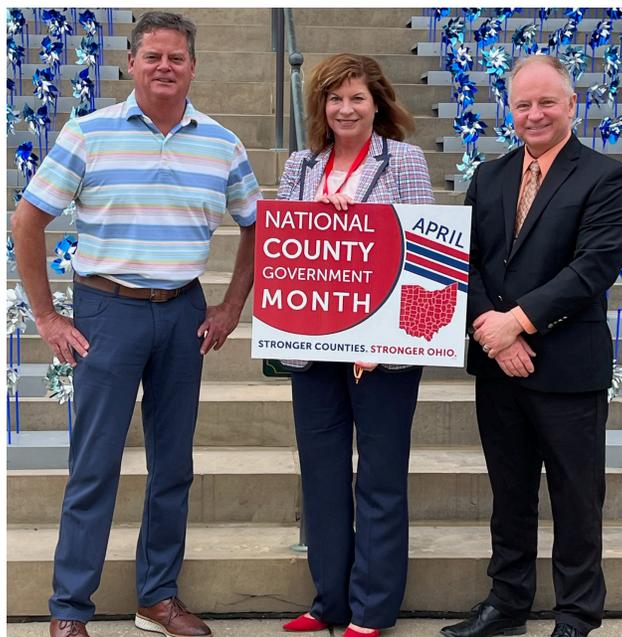
Above: The CCAO-CEAO Southeast District’s May 19 meeting included a visit to a Carroll County shale well drill site.

Post Budget Briefings

In the fall, the CCAO Policy Team hosted five briefings in Allen, Delaware, Guernsey, Highland, and Portage Counties to share details about the recently passed state operating budget language and funding affecting counties. CCAO Members also shared updates on their current county projects and priorities. You can learn more about the budget on Page 4.

National County Government Month

Counties celebrated National County Government Month (NCGM) in April. During the month, commissioners, executives, and council members educated the public on county government functions and engaged with the state on county government functions and engaged with the state on fostering a continued state-county partnership. NCGM is an excellent opportunity to spread the word on the important role counties play in Ohioans’ lives!



Tuscarawas County Commissioners Greg Ress, Kristin Zemis, and Chris Abbuhl observed County Government Month in April.



CCAO Members attend NACo, Ohio State leadership programs

Tuscarawas County Commissioner and CCAO 1st Vice President Chris Abbuhl participated in the 2023 NACo County Leadership Institute. The Institute brings together county elected officials to learn strategies for innovation and creative responses to the complex issues they face.

Every summer, the John Glenn College of Public Affairs hosts a bipartisan class nominated by leaders from their jurisdiction, including township trustees, school boards, city council, mayors, county officials, and state

MEMBER TRAINING

representatives. The goal of the Academy is to build trust among participants so they return to political life with a better understanding of their colleagues and a renewed commitment to public service.

CCAO members selected to attend the academy were Muskingum County Commissioner Melissa Bell, CCAO Treasurer and Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus, CCAO Board Member and Defiance County Commissioner David Kern, and CCAO Board Member and Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne.



Welcome Class of 2023!

In February, CCAO hosted New Member Training for the Association's 35 newly elected county commissioners, executives, and council members. New members heard presentations by experienced commissioners, county staff and other officials along with CCAO, CORSA and CEBCO staff. Educational topics included county budgeting, ethics, economic development and workforce, human services and strategic planning.

During the training, our new members also toured the Ohio Statehouse following lunch with state senators and representatives and had in depth conversations with cabinet directors Kimberly Murnieks (OBM), Lori Criss (OMHAS), Matt Damschroder (ODJFS), and Brian Baldrige (Agriculture).



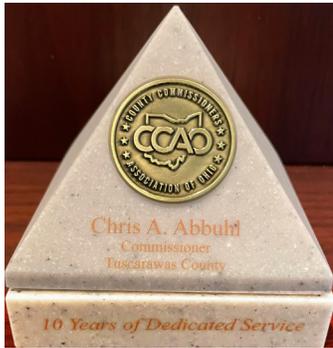
Above: Cabinet directors Matt Damschroder, Lori Criss, Kimberly Murnieks, and Brian Baldrige at the CCAO New Member Training.

Below: The 2023 new members stand on their county in the Statehouse Map Room.



MEMBER RECOGNITION

This year, CCAO launched a new recognition program to illuminate the remarkable years of service, enduring commitment, and outstanding achievements of county commissioners, county executives and county council



Eighty-one commissioners received awards during the 2023 Winter Conference.

members – extraordinary individuals who shape the future of our counties.

Decades of Dedication: County Governance Award

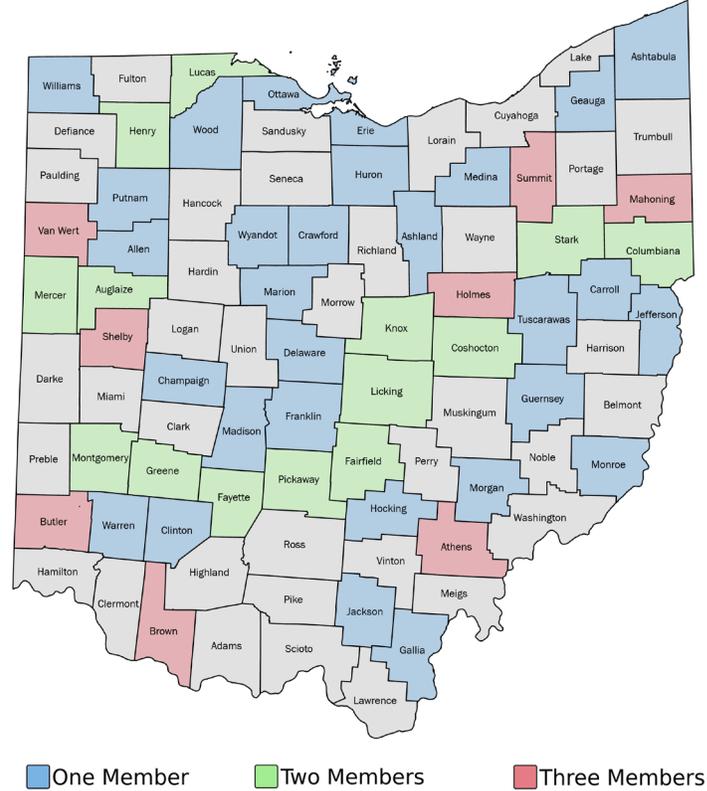
honors our members when they've reached the benchmark of 10 years of service, 20 years of service, 30 years of service and even 40 years! Over these time spans, such

commissioners, executives and council members steadfastly have led innovative projects and secured vital funding in the realms of economic development, protecting children and supporting families, vital infrastructure including water and sewer services, and much, much more!

At the CCAO Annual Membership Business Meeting on December 7, 2023, 81 of the 282 CCAO elected members were celebrated. Specifically, 70 officials have served 10 or more years, 10 officials have served 20 or more years, and Mercer County Commissioner Jerry Laffin has served more than 40 years making impactful decisions!

Thank you to our dedicated county commissioners, county executives and county council members with decades of service who have given much of their life, energy and passion to make their county a wonderful place to call home and have a bright future for generations to come!

Counties with Members with More than a Decade of Service Time

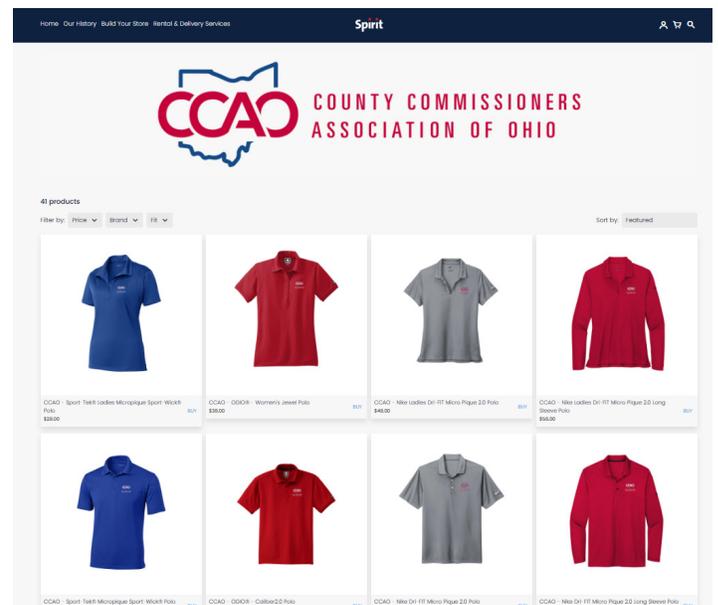


CCAO launches new merchandise store

Time to get your CCAO on! CCAO proudly launched a new online merchandise store featuring over 40 CCAO branded products. Store features include shirts, sweaters, pullovers and more. The Association continues to develop new products to include in the store that represent CCAO's mission and celebration of county government. The store offers easy ordering and shipping options and a "quick shopper" feature to highlight some of the most popular items.

To shop, visit:

getspirit.com/collections/ccao



CCAO Numbers at a Glance

52

STATEHOUSE
REPORTS



9

WEBINARS

20+

STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

5

COMMISSIONER
HANDBOOK UPDATES

7

COUNTY
ADVISORY
BULLETINS

3

ISSUES OF
COUNTY LEADER

COUNTY
LEADER



County Commissioners Association of Ohio Magazine Spring 2023



52

COUNTIES CURRENT
WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS



10+

COUNTY DATA
EXCHANGE
UPDATES

To provide our members with updates on state policy initiatives and the county government landscape, CCAO hosted webinars, published County Advisory Bulletins (CABs), and updated Commissioner Handbook chapters.

Through webinar training, members had the opportunity to learn about HR practices, the unwinding of the federal pandemic Public Health Emergency, performance audit processes, Department of Development Grant opportunities, and more. The policy team published CABs detailing the state transportation and operating budgets, as well as the new jail funding formula and credit card authority counties have following the state budget.

The Commissioner Handbook chapters regarding alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services (chapter 47), civil service and employment issues (chapter 63), collective bargaining (chapter 65), employee benefits (chapter 66), and renewable energy siting authority (chapter 96) were updated to provide up-to-date information for members.

Additionally, the Association began updating the County Revised Code Calendar and the Directory of County Boards and Commissions, both last revised in 1994. As you know, county government has changed quite a bit over the last 29 years, so these documents will be helpful resources for county officials and staff to refer to. Both of these will be published in January 2024.



1) Commissioner Mike Halleck (Columbiana County) with Representative Dan Troy. Troy is a former Lake County Commissioner and two-time CCAO President.

2) Representative Jim Hoops with President Glenn Miller (Henry County) and Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett (Portage County).

3) Representative Sharon Ray with Medina County Commissioners Aaron Harrison and Steve Hambley. Ray is a former Medina County Commissioner.

4) Representative Brian Stewart with Commissioner Jeff Fix (Fairfield County). Stewart is a former Pickaway County Commissioner and former CCAO Board of Directors member.

CCAO STAFF UPDATES

Staff Service Awards



25 YEARS

Beth Miller, CORSA Claim and Litigation Manager

20 YEARS

Thisbe Butcher, CCAO Finance and Benefits Manager

Tracia Callahan, CORSA Program Assistance

5 YEARS

Nedra Benson, CCAO Administrative Professional

Frank Hatfield, CORSA Risk Manager

Hannah McKee, CEBCO Wellness Coordinator

Rachel Reedy, CCAO Outreach & Member Engagement Manager

Thank you for your service!

CORSA Claim and Litigation Manager Beth Miller was recognized by CORSA Director John Brownlee for 25 years of service to CORSA.

Nelson joins CEBCO

Gina Nelson joined CEBCO as the Program Services Manager, a newly created position. Nelson has more than 17 years of experience in health administration and the health insurance industry. She was born in Trumbull County and has lived in Cuyahoga and Lucas counties. She is currently a resident of Franklin County. Nelson is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a B.A. in Communication and an M.H.A. in Health Administration.



Kennedy joins CCAO Policy Team

James Kennedy joined the Association policy staff as a policy analyst covering agriculture and rural affairs, water quality, small county affairs, and other county policy issues. Prior to joining CCAO, Kennedy worked with the Martin County, Florida Board of County Commissioners as the county’s legislative coordinator where he focused on many policy issues including water quality. He also previously served as a legislative aide in the Ohio House of Representatives. Kennedy is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University with a B.A. in Political Science.



Hinkle joins CEBCO

Hinkle joined CEBCO as its new Assistant Director. In this role, Hinkle is responsible for assisting in the management and growth of CEBCO as well as developing strategies for expansion in the future. Prior to joining CEBCO, Hinkle spent the last 17 years as Regional Vice President of Sales at Anthem and had held various other positions within Anthem for over a decade prior. Hinkle is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University and has also taken Executive Education at Kelley School of Business and Eckerd College. He has previously served on the boards of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Central Ohio Diabetes Association, Access Health Columbus, and Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association.



PARTNERSHIPS

We continued our partnership with **Buckeye Boys State and Buckeye Girls State**. These American Legion led programs are immersive weeklong experiences where high school students learn about good citizenship and city, state, and county government. Through the process, some students are elected as county commissioners and receive advice from current county commissioners in the process.



CCAO continued to support members as opioid settlement payments flowed to counties and the **OneOhio Recovery Foundation**. As the Foundation continued its work, Kathryn Whittington, Asthabula County Commissioner, served as Interim Executive Director following her time as Chair of the Board of Directors. In September, Governor DeWine appointed Alisha Nelson to be the Executive Director. In October, Shelby County Commissioner Julie Ehemann was elected to serve on the Foundation's Executive Committee. The following CCAO members also served on the Foundation's Board in 2023: Denise Driehaus (Hamilton County), Ilene Shapiro (Summit County), Judy Dodge (Montgomery County), Glenn Miller (Henry County), Jeff Fix (Fairfield County), and Matt Old (Erie County).

BroadbandOhio

As counties become more involved with broadband projects, CCAO was proud to partner with **BroadbandOhio** for several strategic initiatives. First, BroadbandOhio worked closely with the newly established CCAO Broadband Task Force, formed by CCAO President Glenn Miller, to assist our members with broadband projects and help develop several conference sessions on broadband. Additionally, BroadbandOhio worked with our task force to develop a "broadband 101" handbook for counties to assist our members with broadband projects from start to finish.

LOOKING AHEAD

NACo Legislative Conference (Washington, D.C.)
February 10 - 13, 2024

NACo Annual Conference (Tampa, Florida)
July 12 - 15, 2024

CCAO Summer Symposium (Hocking County)
August 21 - 23, 2024

CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference (Columbus)
December 4 - 6, 2024



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

With agriculture continuing to lead Ohio's economy, the partnership between CCAO and OSU Extension continues to grow and expand. This year OSU Extension and CCAO worked collaboratively to develop a survey on local government zoning. CCAO also is working with OSU Extension to increase competitiveness for grant applications on behalf of counties with limited resources. This partnership will give small and mid-size counties educational opportunities and grant writing assistance which will give certain counties access to additional resources.

CCAO COMMITTEES

Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Chair: Tony Bornhorst, Shelby County Commissioner
 Vice Chair: Bill Clinger, Wyandot County Commissioner

General Government and Operations

Chair: John O’Grady, Franklin County Commissioner
 Vice Chair: Bill Pursel, Knox County Commissioner

Human Services

Chair: Kathryn Whittington, Ashtabula County Commissioner
 Vice Chair: Carolyn Rice, Montgomery County Commissioner

Jobs, Economic Development and Infrastructure

Chair: Cory Noonan, Allen County Commissioner
 Vice Chair: Judy Dodge, Montgomery County Commissioner

Justice and Public Safety

Chair: Barb Lewis, Delaware County Commissioner
 Vice Chair: Terry Britton, Highland County Commissioner

Metropolitan and Regional Affairs

Chair: Gloria Rodgers, Summit County Council Member
 Vice Chair: Kevin Boyce, Franklin County Commissioner

Small County Affairs

Chair: Donnie Willis, Jackson County Commissioner
 Vice Chair: Tony Montgomery, Pike County Commissioner

Taxation and Finance

Chair: Daniel Dean, Fayette County Commissioner
 Vice Chair: Steve Davis, Fairfield County Commissioner

Water Quality Task Force

Co-Chair: Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner
 Co-Chair: Doug Spencer, Auglaize County Commissioner

Cover Photo Captions



- 1) Service Corporation Darnita Bradley, Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce, and Executive Director Subler at the NACo Annual Conference.
- 2) Darke County Commissioner Larry Holmes and wife Carol with Governor Mike DeWine.
- 3) Chief of Staff to the Cuyahoga County Executive Erik Janas, JobsOhio Senior Manager the Auditor of State award for excellent financial reporting for her work with CEBCO.
- 4) Commissioners Dave Hall, Ron Amstutz, and Jim Justice with Representative Marilyn John at the OCCO Legislative Reception.
- 5) CCAO Finance and Benefits Manage Thisbe Butcher received
- 6) Cuyahoga County Council President Pernel Jones, Jr., District Six Councilwoman Meredith Turner, and County Executive Chris Ronayne.
- 7) Executive Director Subler and CORSA Managing Director John Brownlee with the CORSA Board.
- 8) Directors Brian Baldrige (Agriculture), Anne Vogel (OEPA), and Joy Mulinex (Lake Erie Commission) attended a joint Agricultural and Rural Affairs-Water Quality Task Force meeting.
- 9) President Miller and Governor DeWine at the Inaugural Gala.
- 10) Commissioners Sabrina Christian-Bennett and Kathryn Whittington.

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County Employee Benefit
Consortium of Ohio

CEBCO

Health & Wellness



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

SERVICE CORPORATION



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

RESEARCH & EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION