May 1, 2023

Representative Melanie Miller (R-City of Ashland), Representative Sharon Ray (R-Wadsworth), Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario), and Representative Marilyn John (R-Richland County) at the Regional Legislative Briefing held in Ashland on April 28.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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CCAO welcomes two new commissioners D'Onofrio and Siclair

This week, CCAO welcomed two new commissioners to the statewide ranks.

In Hocking County, Jason D'Onofrio was sworn in to serve in place of former Commissioner Gary Waugh who passed away in March. D'Onofrio served in the US Air Force for nearly 30 years and has also worked for the Hocking County Sheriff since 1995. He also cofounded Pineland Trading Company, which supplies equipment and uniforms to first responders. D'Onofrio will serve the remainder of the unexpired term and is planning to run for the seat's next full term in 2024.

In Henry County, Lori Siclair was selected to serve the next two years of former Commissioner Jeff Mires' term after he resigned due to moving outside the county. Siclair has served on the Napoleon City Council for nearly six years and is the long-time public relations coordinator for Filling Homes, a non-profit organization that serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Siclair will serve until 2024 when an election will be held for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Newly appointed Hocking County Commissioner Jason D'Onofrio.

Newly appointed Henry County Commissioner Lori Siclair.

Open Enrollment - Managed Care for workers' compensation

CCAO members participating in our workers' compensation programs benefit from significant premium savings every year. **Sedgwick Managed Care Ohio** has been a key partner with our programs since 1997, and Open Enrollment for managed care organization (MCO) selection is May 1-26, 2023.

CCAO continues to endorse Sedgwick MCO as the clear MCO of choice for our members, and here are the two most important reasons why we encourage our members to select Sedgwick MCO:

Results – the data is clear

- Claims managed by Sedgwick MCO incur ***10.9% fewer lost days*** per claim than claims managed by other MCOs *(BWC Public Data 22-05025, 2021-2022 claims as of 12/13/2022)*. Fewer lost workdays translates to less costly claims and fewer staffing problems to solve.
- Sedgwick MCO reduced medical costs for their clients by an ***additional 17.2%*** below BWC fee schedule in 2022 *(Sedgwick MCO Billing Data, Bills processed in 2022)*. All MCOs reduce medical bills to the BWC standard fee schedule, but this additional Sedgwick reduction enhances premium savings and discount options.

Service – making things simple

- Workers' compensation claims can become complex. Sedgwick MCO works closely with their client employers and with the injured employee to navigate the BWC system and the medical treatment process until the claim is resolved.

Your MCO plays a vital role in your ability to control claim costs, care for injured employees, and preserve options for premium savings. If you are one of the 68 Counties that are already active with Sedgwick MCO, no action is required. If you are not, please **click here** to learn more about Sedgwick and enroll. For more information, call Lance Watkins at Sedgwick MCO at 614-376-5524, or email at Lance.Watkins@SedgwickMCO.com.

Deadline to register for the Central District Meeting is *this Friday*

Registration for the CCAO/CEAO Central District Meeting on May 10 must be completed by this Friday, May 5.! Registration can be completed here and costs $25 (credit card only).

The event will be held in Logan County, beginning with a breakfast at the Cranberry Resort and lunch at Six Hundred Downtown in Bellefontaine. Discussions will include the challenges of maintaining the natural health and beautify of Indian Lake and how to promote entrepreneurialship in small towns.

If you have questions regarding the event, please contact CCAO/CEAO Central District President and Logan County Commissioner Joe Antram.

Happy birthday to nine counties!

Nine counties have celebrated birthdays since the last issue of Counties Current, with all but one turning the same age! On April 30, Franklin County and Gallia County turned 220 years old, while today is the 220th birthday for Butler, Columbiana, Greene, Montgomery, Scioto, and Warren counties. Today is also the 218th birthday of Highland County.

Franklin County is named after Founding Father Benjamin Franklin, and was created out of land formerly belonging to Ross County.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, the oldest national organization focused on veterans' affairs, traces its foundation back to a meeting between 13 Spanish-American War veterans at a Franklin County tailor shop in 1899. They formed the American Veterans of Foreign Service which would evolve into the VFW in 1914.

Gallia County was created out of land belonging to Washington County. It draws its name from "Gaul," the Roman term for the geographic area comprising much of modern-day France.

The Ohio Hospital for Epileptics was founded in Gallia County in 1892 on the site of a former Union Army hospital during the Civil War. The hospital was the first in the country dedicated to the treatment of epilepsy. All that remains of the hospital today is three stone water towers.

Butler County is named for Richard Butler, an officer during the Revolutionary War who was killed in 1791 in a battle with the Western Confederacy of Native Americans. The county was created out of land formerly belonging to Hamilton County.

Butler County was the site of the Voice of America Bethany Station, a powerful shortwave radio transmitter that delivered broadcasts overseas. Its first broadcast was directed at Nazi Germany in 1944.

Columbiana County draws its name from Christopher Columbus, the explorer who, in 1492, brought the western hemisphere to Europe's awareness for the first time in more than 300 years. The county was created out of land formerly belonging to Jefferson and Washington counties.

One of the United States' most infamous gangsters met the end of the line in the Columbiana County village of Wellsville. Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd died in a shootout with federal agents and East Liverpool police officers while passing through the county. His body was publicly displayed in East Liverpool before being returned to his native Oklahoma.

Greene County was created out of land formerly belonging to Hamilton and Ross counties. It is named for Nathanael Greene, one of the premier American generals during the Revolutionary War.

During the construction of the Washington Monument, each state was invited to provide a block of native stone for use in the construction. The block Ohio provided was limestone that came from a quarry in Greene County and cut by a Xenia mason.

Montgomery County is named for General Richard Montgomery, a general in the Revolutionary War who was killed during the battle for Quebec City. The county was created out of land formerly belonging to Hamilton County.

The first game of what would become the National Football League took place in Dayton's Triangle Park. October 3, 1920, saw the Dayton Triangles defeat the Columbus Panhandles 14-0. The Triangles were the third longest-lasting original team (the Chicago Bears and the Arizona Cardinals, albeit as different teams, are original teams) but would cease operations in 1930, while the Panhandles would fold in 1926.

Scioto County shares its name with the Scioto River, a Wyandot word for "deer" and was created out of land formerly belonging to Adams County.

Despite five of the original 14 NFL teams being based in Ohio, when the Dayton Triangles moved to Brooklyn for the 1930 season it seemed that Ohio might be left without a professional football team. In July, however, the NFL granted Portsmouth a franchise. The Portsmouth Spartans started as a semi-pro team in 1928 and in its four seasons in Portsmouth played in what has become regarded as the NFL's first playoff games, a 1932 defeat to the Chicago Bears, 9-0. In 1934, the franchise was bought and moved to Detroit, where it still operates as the Detroit Lions.

Warren County is named for Joseph Warren, a lesser-known figures from the nation's founding; it was Warren who dispatched Paul Revere and William Dawes to warn Concord of the impending British raid. The county was created out of land formerly belonging to Hamilton County.

Warren County was the site of a telecommunications test in the 1930s. On May 2, 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt formally began operations of the Blaw-Knox Antenna which broadcast the WLW station at 500,000 watts (commercial radio stations today typically operate at between 50,000 and 100,000 watts). The broadcast was supposedly so powerful that it was picked up by barbed wire fences on area farms.

Highland County was created out of portions of Adams, Clermont, and Ross counties. It draws its name from its hilly topography.

The Highland County Courthouse is the county's second and is the oldest county courthouse in the state still in use. It opened its doors in 1834.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Updated comparison of state and federal procurement law available

Bricker Graydon has shared a revised comparison of Ohio procurement law and federal uniform guidance. The document is intended to provide a comparison of the procurement rules and regulations prescribed by both federal law and state law, as they relate to Ohio counties using ARPA funds. Counties must comply with both state and federal law, where possible. Where federal requirements are more restrictive than state law, federal law must be followed. Where state law is more restrictive than federal requirements, state law must be followed.

The key revision regards state term contracts (page 8), which counties may participate in but Bricker Graydon suggests exercising caution and reviewing Auditor of State training materials before doing so.

The information presented in the chart was prepared by Bricker Graydon LLP as a service to CCAO. This information is intended solely for informational purposes of CCAO and its members and is not intended to constitute legal advice to, and may not be relied upon by, any party. Readers should engage legal counsel to provide legal advice related to any specific transaction.

2023 Local Impact Statement Report published

On Friday, the Legislative Service Commission released the 2023 Local Impact Statement Report. The report is a concatination of the As Enacted fiscal notes for bills that LSC determined would have a financal impact on a unit of local government (townships, municipalities, counties, or school districts). The report includes the fiscal notes for 14 bills.

The report is also required to include comments from local government associations (CCAO, the Ohio Municipal League, the Ohio Township Association, and the Ohio School Boards Association). You can read CCAO's comments on the Local Impact Statement Report here.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

Upcoming Ohio EPA webinars

CCAO would like to inform our members of two upcoming webinars that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is hosting.

The first will be held on May 2, at 9:00 a.m. The Ohio EPA will host the webinar focusing on noncompliance at small wastewater treatment plants. The webinar will go over tools that the Ohio EPA uses to diagnose problems and monitor treatment systems to keep them in compliance with regulations. The webinar fulfills continuing education units for three hours for Registered Enviornmental Health Specialists, Environmental Health Specialists in Training, and Wastewater Operation Certifications. Registration is free and can be completed here.

The second webinar will take place on May 17, at 1:00 p.m. It will cover the Construction Stormwater General Permit and recent changes related to it. The webinar will give an overview of the changes and has ample time reserved for Q&A. The webinar fulfills continuing education units for one hour for Registered Enviornmental Health Specialists, Environmental Health Specialists in Training, and Wastewater Operation Certifications. Registration is free and can be completed here.

SAM.gov, federal grant portal, walkthrough available; grant writing resources available

Last month, the US General Services Administration hosted an online forum to help walk state and local officials through how to use SAM.gov. The website is the primary portal for intergovernmental assistance from the federal government to state and local governments.

The Administration has made the presentation slide deck and the recording of the session available for download, as well as a one-page guide.

Grants are a valuable resource for counties to utilize, but knowing how best to develop competitive applications can be difficult and the learning curve cause counties to lose out on grants. Luckly, federal agencies and nonprofits offer resources to assist in developing competitive applications. Federal agency websites point to internal and external sources and many conduct free training and targeted one on one or small group technical assistance. Here are some current resources to explore:

- Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse
- Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
- Local Infrastructure Hub
- National Wildlife Federation
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- State and Community Energy Programs-Tools and Resources
- US Department of Transportation
- USDA Rural Development
- 10,000 Communities Initiative

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

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This section of *Counties Current* will be a permanent fixture for the foreseeable future to help counties with the ins and outs of the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These two laws provide a once-in-a-generation investment.

Federal legislation increases ARPA flexibility for infrastructure, disaster response, and CDBG projects

The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 was signed into law on December 29, 2022. The legislation contains important updates to how counties and other local governments may use their ARPA funds. First, the Act codifies the standard allowance included in the US Department of the Treasury's Final Rule that permits counties to use up to $10 million for the provision of government services under the "revenue loss" eligibility category without having to demonstrate losses through a complicated formula. This codification means that the Treasury Department cannot alter the standard allowance in any subsequent rulemaking.

The Act also permits counties to use the greater of $10 million or 30 percent of their total ARPA allocation for federal infrastructure projects, responding to natural disasters, or Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. Counties must expend these funds no later than September 30, 2026, rather than the standard date of December 31, 2026. Eligible natural disaster responses include emergency relief and the negative economic impacts of natural disasters, including temporary emergency housing, food assistance, financial assistance for lost wages, or other immediate needs. CDBG projects must meet the requirements of Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

Some of the federal infrastructure programs eligible for ARPA match include the National Highway Performance Program; Bridge Investment Program; Surface Transportation Block Grant Program; and, the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program. More information, and a complete list of eligible transportation programs, is available from NACo at this link.

Resources for ARPA Reporting and Compliance

The most recent version of the US Treasury Reporting Guidance was published September 20, 2022. Counties and other local governments with populations greater than 250,000 or ARPA distributions greater than $10 million are required to file Project and Expenditure Reports no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter throughout the grant period. Other recipients will file Project and Expenditure Reports annually by April 30.

Members are urged to consult resources from US Treasury, NACo, and the Ohio Office of Budget and Management for more information about reporting and how to use ARPA funds. CCAO maintains a list of ARPA links and resources, including a comparison of state and federal procurement laws, at the ARPA Resources page.

Ohio Ethics Commission issues statement regarding stimulus funds

Last week the Ohio Ethics Commission released a statement ensuring that public officials are aware that stimulus funds, such as those received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act and the funds that communities will receive under Governor Mike DeWine's Appalachian investment program, are public funds and that conflict of interest laws must be observed.

To that effect, the Commission also recirculated its Advisory Opinion No. 2009-006, issued in 2009 regarding stimulus funds made available to governments under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It provides a more in-depth examination of potential conflicts of interest with stimulus funds, including a discussing regarding vendors.

CCAO encourages members refamiliarize themselves with this Advisory Opinion and conflict of interest laws to ensure good stewardship of ARPA and Appalachia funds.

Guidance and overview of available BIL funding available from NACo and the Ohio Department of Transportation

NACo and ODOT each host a resource page providing information to counties about the Bipartican Infrastructure Law. The pages are rich with information including multiple tables providing overviews and links to funding opportunities, a timeline of upcoming grant programs, and much more.

The NACo website can be found here and the ODOT website can be found here.

CCAO strongly encourages counties to frequently visit the sites and apply for funding through the myriad of programs to bring valuable federal funds to Ohio communities.

COUNTY NEWS

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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One county from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted.

Northwest District

Shelby County Commissioners adopt bond sale resolution

Sidney Daily News, April 28, 2023

The Shelby County Commissioners adopted a resolution regarding the sale of the Landings of Sidney's revenue bonds at a public hearing on April 20.

Joshua Grossman, an attorney at Dinsmore and Shohl, and Jennifer Hicks, executive director of the Landings of Sidney, were present for the hearing.

Grossman explained the planned use of the upcoming issuance of tax-exempt bonds from the county of no more than $20 million, with an estimated issuance of $14,750,000.

The proceeds will go to SLF Sidney, LLC, and SLF Sidney Operations, LLC — also known as the Superior Living Foundation, a Maryland nonprofit — to acquire the Landings of Sidney and make improvements to the furniture, fixtures, equipment and carpeting in the facility. Grossman reiterated that no taxpayer dollars will be pledged or used to pay back the bonds because the bonds are not the general obligation of the county.

Northeast District

Morgan: Water Resources IT Staff 'Extremely Competent'

Geauga Maple Leaf, April 26, 2023

A week after a meeting in which members of the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing board voted to bring the information technology systems of the Water Resources Department under its authority, County Administrator Gerry Morgan is hitting back on "unfair" treatment of GCDWR staff.

A cyber-attack originating in Russia took out a GCDWR email server early in the morning of April 12. Emergency ADP board meetings were held on both April 13 and 17 to address the issue.

It was the first meeting — a tense affair held in Geauga County Auditor Chuck Walder's office — during which Morgan said members of the ADP board unfairly characterized GCWRD I Network Administrator Mike Kurzinger and outside IT contractor Joe Camino, who owns CSJ Technologies Inc. in Mentor.

"I believe that Mr. Kurzinger and Mr. Camino are extremely competent in what they do," Morgan said in an email interview with the Geauga County Maple Leaf. "I feel the treatment of Mr. Camino (a Geauga County resident, business owner and vendor to the county), who was at the (April 13) ADP meeting at the request of water resources to help answer technical questions regarding the setup of water resources system, was unfair."

Central District

Franklin County commits $15.5 million toward affordable housing in Linden neighborhood

WOSU News, April 25, 2023

The Linden neighborhood is getting an investment of $15.5 million toward affordable housing thanks to an agreement between Franklin County Commissioners and Nationwide Children's Hospital Healthy Homes program.

"People need homes that are close to jobs, shopping and good schools, and they need homes that are affordable," Franklin County Commissioner John O'Grady said in a statement.

The funding from commissioners will allow the Healthy Homes program to build more than 200 affordable housing units and 33 houses on property belonging to Franklin County Land Bank. It will also help up to 100 lower-income families make needed home repairs.

A $192,000 renter support program will provide short-term assistance for struggling renters. Some funding will also go to child development and early learning programs in Linden, including ensuring on-time enrollment for students starting kindergarten.

Southwest District

Why Hamilton County could hike taxes on Airbnbs, short-term rentals

Fox19.com, April 28, 2023

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners is considering raising taxes on short-term rentals to bring them in line with taxes on hotel guests.

There are an estimated 1,300 properties in the county for overnight and temporary rental on sites like Airbnb and VRBO. It's a number that grows every year.

"We're looking to level the playing field so that someone coming in to stay at a hotel is paying at least more, or a similar rate, to someone staying at a short-term rental," Hamilton County Senior Policy Manager Marc von Allmen said.

Allmen presented the proposal to the Hamilton County Convention Facilities Authority Friday.

Under the proposal, short-term rentals would be taxed at the same 6.5 percent rate levied under the county's transient occupancy tax.

Because Cincinnati has its own 7 percent lodgings tax, the rate for short-term rentals in the city would be 13.5 percent.

Southeast District

County reviewing bids for waterline project

Zanesville Times Recorder, April 17, 2023

The Muskingum County Commissioners recently opened bids for a large water project in the southern part of the county.

The project will bring water to portions of Harrison and Brush Creek townships, stretching from an existing line along Ohio 555 across Virginia Ridge, Irish Ridge and several other roads towards the Muskingum River near Philo.

Due to the sheer size of the project, which will provide service to 160 properties, it was bid in three sections. The county received two bid for the first section. Zemba Brothers of Zanesville bid $2,770,926 and Stonegate Construction of Belpre bid $2,829,323.

There was only one bid for the second part of the project, Stonegate Construction at $3,809,885.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please view the CCAO Calendar for a comprehensive list of events to note.

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MAY 3
Justice and Public Safety Committee Meeting

MAY 5
Northeast District Meeting
JEDI Committee Meeting

MAY 10
Central District Meeting

MAY 11
General Government Committee Meeting

MAY 12
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

MAY 19
Southeast District Meeting

MAY 29
Memorial Day

DID YOU KNOW?

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Ohio's Motto

Chapter 5 of the Revised Code establishes the state seal, state holidays, and other various state insignia. ORC 5.06, effective in 1959, establishes "With God, All Things are Possible" as the official state motto.

Hidden behind those six words, itself a quote from Matthew 19:26 of the Christian Bible, is a complicated history regarding Ohio's state motto.

THE SEAL OF THE TERRITORY OF THE U.S. N.W. OF THE RIVER OHIO
MELIOREM LAPSA LOCAVIT

The Northwest Territory's seal bore the motto *Meliorem lapsa locavit*, a Latin phrase translating to "He has planted one better than the one fallen," a reference to the improvement that settlement brought to untamed land. When Ohio was created out of the Northwest Territory, the motto was used informally before being dropped entirely, although Belmont County retains it.

In early 1866, the secretary of state received a letter proposing 125 state mottos originating from the French, Greek, and Latin languages.

A few proposals among the 125 that speak to your humble *Counties Current* author are:

- Motto 17: *Nobilitas sola est atque unica virtus* (Virtue is the true and only nobility)
- Motto 24: *Pro bono publico* (For the public good)
- Motto 34: *Sic itur ad astra* (Thus is accomplished the road to the stars)
- Motto 47: *Ubi mel, ibi apes* (Where honey is, there are bees)
- Motto 54: *Virtus millia scuta* (Virtue is a thousand shields)
- Motto 64: *Dum vivimus, vivamus* (While we live, let us live)
- Motto 88: *Inter fontes et flumina nota* (Among familiar fountains and rivers)

Ultimately, the state adopted Motto 85: "*Imperium in imperio*" ("a state within a state"). However, the motto was quickly scrapped due in part to its reminiscence of the "states' rights" argument that played a part in the outbreak of the Civil War, which had only ended months before.

After a brief stint, Ohio was again left motto-less. It would remain so until 1958 when the current motto of "With God, All Things are Possible," was proposed by a ten-year-old boy from Cincinnati. It would be adopted the next year.

While the boy suggested the motto because it was a saying that his mother often quoted and she herself was certainly aware of its Biblical context, the list proposed in 1866 included what was likely a paraphrase of the verse.

Motto 18 on the list is "*Omnia cum Deo,*" which translates from Latin as "Everything with God's help."

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