View this email in your browser

January 16, 2024

CCAO President and Tuscarawas County Commissioner Chris Abbuhl along with Executive Director Cheryl Subler joined their peers in Washington D.C. for the NACo leadership meeting. As part of the program, the two attended a White House briefing.

Association and Member News | State and Federal News |
Education and Grants | County News | Did You Know?
Job Postings

Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive | Dates to Remember

ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

Back to Top

Counties receive funding from grant programs

Last week, the DeWine-Husted Administration announced grant awards under two state programs: the Body-Worn Camera Grant Program for law enforcement agencies and the Lead Safe Ohio Program to mitigate lead risks.

Body-Worn Camera Grants

In 2021, Governor DeWine created the Body-Worn Camera Grant Program to assist local law enforcement agencies in starting or expanding body-worn camera programs. Since its inception, more than 300 agencies have received funding. Under the latest round of funding, 108 agencies will receive funding; 32 will create new body-worn camera programs and the remaining 76 will expand their program or upgrade aging technology.

Of these 108 agencies, 22 are county sheriff offices. The sheriff offices receiving funds, and the amount, are listed below.

New Camera Programs:

- Fayette County - $110,548.16
- Highland County - $96,356.00
- Hocking County - $39,154.10
- Lawrence County - $192,236.00
- Trumbull County - $68,158.40
- Van Wert County - $160,186.50
- Vinton County - $83,828.60
- Wyandot County - $61,645.00

Expansion or Updating Programs:

- Ashtabula County - $50,620.79
- Butler County - $55,279.12
- Erie County - $31,610.53
- Jackson County - $69,437.25
- Lorain County - $25,440.00
- Lucas County - $114,411.35
- Medina County - $30,268.00
- Mercer County - $50,918.55
- Pickaway County - $10,701.96
- Portage County - $15,714.00
- Richland County - $141,683.20
- Scioto County - $10,120.00
- Union County - $25,312.00
- Washington County - $11,000.00

Together, county sheriffs received $1.5 million to create or expand body-worn camera programs. The full list of entities that received funding is accessible here.

Lead Safe Ohio

The Lead Safe Ohio program was created out of funding from House Bill 45 of the 134th General Assembly and is aimed to lead abatement strategies, including removing lead-based paint from households.

The projects announced last week will support waterline replacement, window and door replacement, siding enclosure, soffit enclosure, porch component repair, and lead cleaning efforts. The grants total $1.6 million and will remove lead from 82 households.

Several grants will go to counties to conduct the lead abatement projects. The counties receiving funds, as well as how many households will be served, are listed below.

- Ashland County - Two households ($40,000)
- Ashtabula County - Seven households ($200,000)
- Carroll County - One household ($20,000)
- Defiance County - Four households ($90,000)
    - Includes homes in Paulding County
- Fayette County - Two households ($30,000)
- Greene County - Five households ($50,000)
- Henry County - Four households ($100,000)
    - Includes homes in Fulton County
- Lorain County - Three households ($45,000)
- Medina County - Two households ($30,000)
- Monroe County - Two households ($100,000)
- Pike County - One household ($25,000)
- Scioto County - Three households ($45,000)
- Tuscarawas County - Three households ($50,000)
- Williams County - Three households ($85,000)
- Wyandot County - Two households ($30,000)

You can learn more about the Lead Safe Ohio Program here.

Northwest District to hold meeting on March 20

On March 20, Fulton County will host the quarterly meeting of the Northwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association. The meeting will take place at the Fulton County Administration Building in Wauseon.

The meeting will feature announcements from CCAO, CEAO, CEBCO, and CORSA, and culminate in a tour of the recently renovated Fulton County Courthouse.

To register, please complete this form and send to Jessica Schuette via email at jschuette@fultoncountyoh.com, via fax at 41-337-9285, or mail to 152 S. Fulton Street, Suite 270, Wauseon, OH 43567. Registration must be submitted by March 6.

CCAO publishes Commissioner Handbook update, appendices

Last week, CCAO published three updates to the Commissioner Handbook, including adding two appendices that had not been updated since 1994.

Chapter 005: Legal Representation received an update, providing more accurate information regarding when the board of commissioners may retain outside legal counsel, the role of the county prosecuting attorney in providing services to county entities, and more.

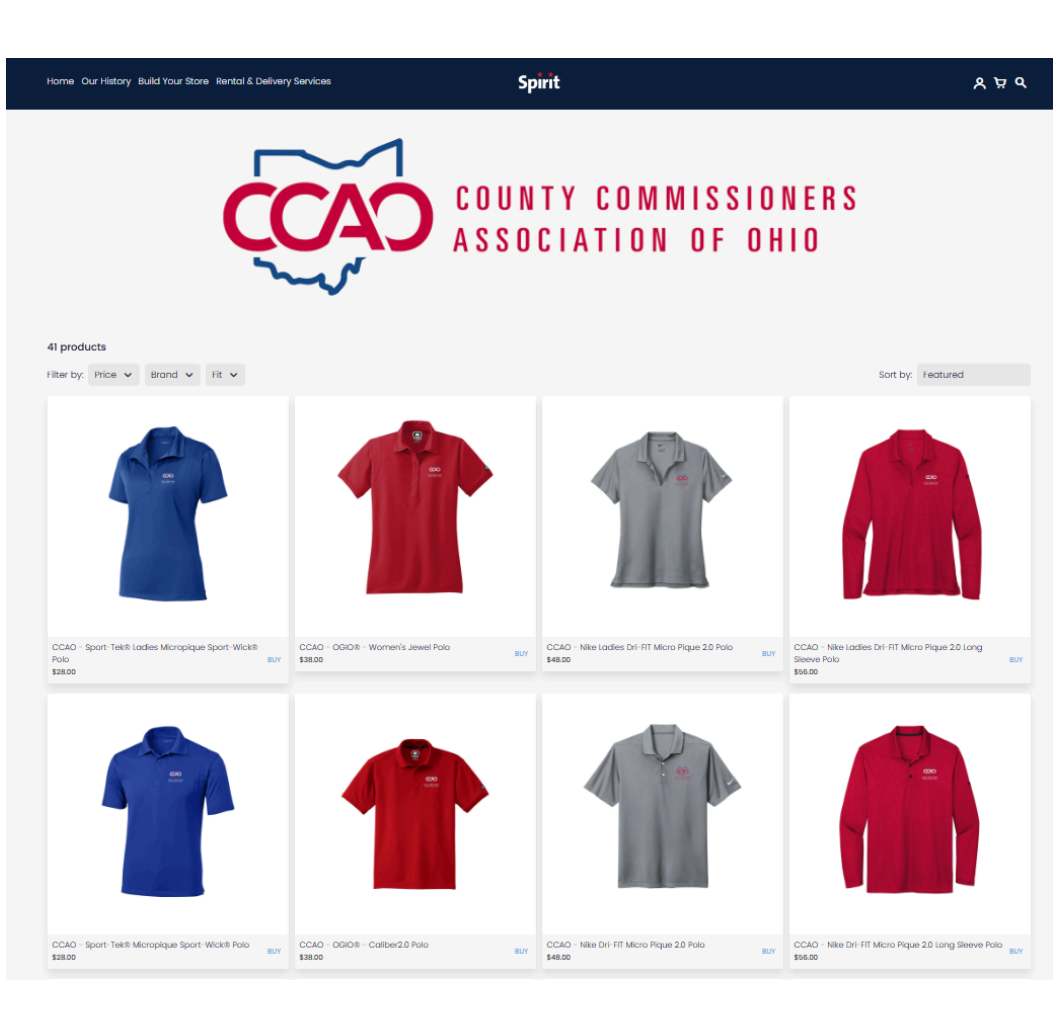
The Association also published the Directory of County Boards & Commissions, which provides an overview of the nearly 100 boards that commissioners may serve on or appoint to, while the County RC Calendar lists key dates for counties, including dates when statutory requirements must be met. We hope that these publications will be useful to commissioners, county executives, county council members, other county elected officials, and county staff.

CCAO launches new merchandise store

Time to get your CCAO on!

CCAO proudly launched a new online merchandise store featuring more than 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.

You can shop the store here.


Home Our History Build Your Store Rental & Delivery Services
Spirit
CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION OF OHIO
41 products
Filter by: Price Brand Fit
Sort by: Featured

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

Back to Top

Senator Vance, colleagues introduce bill to extend Affordable Connectivity Program

Last week, Ohio Senator JD Vance and Vermont Senator Peter Welch, along with colleagues from both parties in the Senate and House of Representatives, introduced the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act.

The legislation would provide $7 billion to support affordable high-speed interest to qualifying households across the nation. The funding would allow the program to continue, as it is currently projected to exhaust its funding in April.

The Affordable Connectivity Program provides monthly discounts for internet service and has been utilized by more than 1.1 million households in Ohio (or 23% of Ohio households, the second highest enrollment rate in the program).

The bipartisan bill would extend the successful federal program and continue to expand broadband access to underserved areas of the state. You can learn more about the program at its website, including how to help residents of your community to apply.

NACo accepting applications for 2023 Achievement Awards

NACo has officially put out the call for applications for NACo Achievement Awards. The award program, entering its 54th year, celebrates outstanding county government programs and services.

Achievement Award winners will be featured in County News, NACo's primary newsletter, and will be honored at NACo's Annual Conference. The recognition is also useful for highlighting important projects to your local community.

The awards cover 18 program categories, such as Children and Youth, Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Health, Human Services, Planning, Transportation, and more.

Last year, Ohio counties received 14 Achievement Awards, and CCAO received its first Achievement Award! You can view a full list of NACo Achievement Award winners dating back to 2009 at NACo's award database.

The deadline to submit applications is March 30, with applications submitted before February 23, receiving a savings on the application fee.

Two weeks remaining to register for NACo Legislative Conference at discounted rate

Registration at a discounted rate for the 2024 NACo Legislative Conference (to be held in Washington, D.C., February 10 - 13) will continue until Friday, January 26. Registration for member counties is $575 until January 26; afterwards, "on-site" registration will cost $690. For non-member counties, the costs are $810 and $960, respectively.

The Legislative Conference brings the nation's county officials together to discuss federal policy issues that impact counties and offers the chance to engage with federal policymakers, both elected members of Congress and federal agency officials.

You can register for the conference and access more materials about it here.

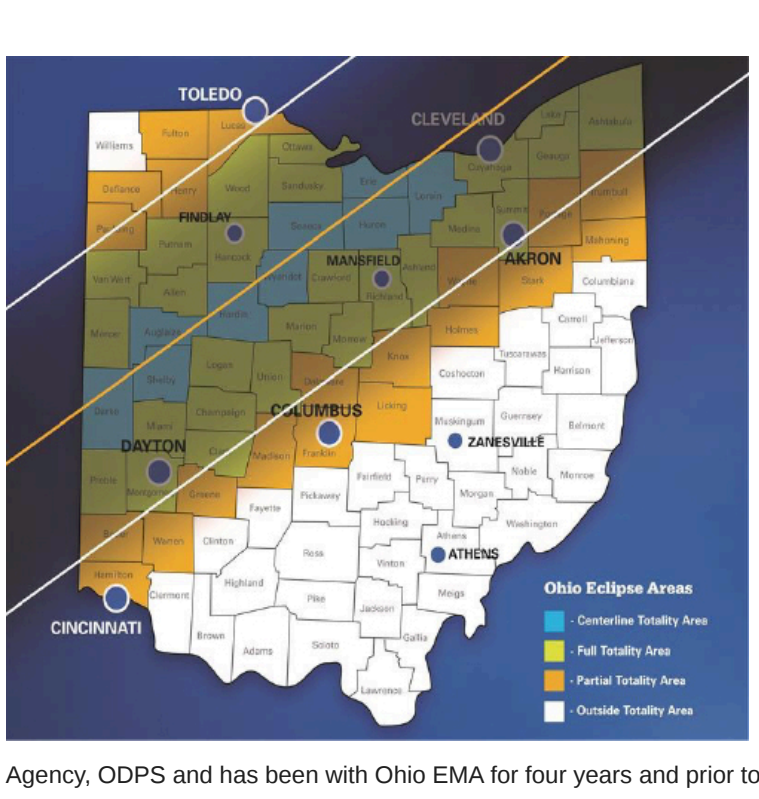
EDUCATION AND GRANTS

Back to Top

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

TOMORROW: CCAO, Ohio EMA to host solar eclipse webinar

On Wednesday, January 17, CCAO will be hosting a webinar with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency regarding what counties should know and how they can prepare for the total solar eclipse that will occur later this year.



On Monday, April 8, 2024, people within a 124-mile-wide band in the state of Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse, an extremely rare event which will draw large numbers of visitors to Ohio. Areas outside the band will experience a partial eclipse. Christen Swayer-Cunningham is the Planning Section Supervisor at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, ODPS and has been with Ohio EMA for four years and prior to this role worked as an Exercise Coordinator in the Planning Training and Exercise Branch and a Disaster Services Consultant in the Disaster Recovery Branch.

You can register here for the webinar. If you are unable to register with the link above, please contact Nedra Benson, CCAO administrative professional, at nbenson@ccao.org or call 614-221-5627, and provide her with your email address.

Chloride Reduction Grant Program accepting applications through January

Through the current operating budget, the state funded H2Ohio at unprecedented levels, allocating $270 million over the biennium for the program. This funding will be distributed among four entities with the goal of reducing harmful algal blooms within the Western Lake Erie Basin. Funding flows through the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Lake Erie Commission.

A newly created program funded at $46.6 million per fiscal year named the H2Ohio Rivers Initiative under the Department of Natural Resources will focus efforts of cleaning up polluted waterways, removing certain dams, and restoring rivers across the state. One facet of the program is the Chloride Reduction Grant, created with the purpose of promoting chloride reduction in Ohio water resources.

The Chloride Reduction Grant program will provide reimbursement grants up to $75,000 per individual unit of government. The grants will be used to support upgrades to road salt application equipment and storage facilities with the goal of making improvements to storage and providing tools to reduce over-application of deicing materials and subsequently protect and prevent chloride from impacting surface and ground water resources.

The grant portal will remain open through the close of business on January 31. The application can be downloaded here.

If you have any questions regarding the H2Ohio or the Chloride Reduction Grant process, please contact Policy Analyst James Kennedy.

Welcome Home Ohio program accepting applications

The Welcome Home Ohio (WHO) program, created in the state's operating budget, is accepting applications for its three constituent programs.

Welcome Home Ohio – Purchasing (WHO-P)

- Grant funds to pay the cost of purchasing qualifying residential property.
- No maximum defined for the purchase of property.

Welcome Home Ohio – Rehabilitation/Construction (WHO-RC)

- Grant funds to assist in the cost of rehabilitation or construction of qualifying residential property.
- A maximum of $30,000 can be applied to each qualified residential property.

Welcome Home Ohio – Tax Credits (WHO-TC)

- Tax credit is allocated once the qualifying residential property is sold to a qualifying individual.
- Maximum of $90,000 or one-third of the cost of rehab/construction, whichever is less.
- Tax credits shall be issued up to June 30, 2025.

Land banks, county land reutilization corporations, and counties that have adopted a resolution "of adopting and implementing procedures to facilitate the effective reutilization of nonproductive land" are eligible to apply for all three programs.

Each program will be funded with up to $25 million in each fiscal year of the current biennium. There is no maximum or minimum grant amount, but administrative and construction capacity must be detailed in the application.

Applications will be accepted through February 9, with further rolling applications accepted from February 12 to May 31, subject to available funding.

More information about the program, including links to FAQs, a webinar, and information about how to apply, can be found on the program's website.

Drug Law Enforcement Fund Grant program accepting applications

The Office of Criminal Justice Services in the Department of Public Safety is accepting applications through February 8 for the Drug Law Enforcement Fund Grant program.

The grant program is intended to defray expenses that drug task forces incur in performing functions related to enforcing the state's drug laws and other state laws related to illegal drug activity.

To be eligible for a grant, a law enforcement agency must meet a number of criteria, two of which are that the task force's implementing agency participates in the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System or the FBI's NIBRS Collection Application and that there is a local match of at least 25%. Grants under the program are limited to $250,000 in a calendar year.

More information, including the other eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found in the grant's Request for Proposals.

Grants for adult day accepting applications

A grant program administered by the Department of Aging and the Office of Budget and Management is accepting applications to assist in the growth of new and existing adult day providers. The intent of the program is to expand accessibility to programs to enhance the quality of life of older Ohioans.

Funds from the $6 million grant program can be used for equipment, infrastructure modifications, service expansion, workforce retention, and more. Additionally, grantees will receive technical assistance from LeadingAge Ohio and Aging.

Applications close on February 2. More information about the program, including how to apply, can be found on the Ohio Grants Portal.

USDOT offering $1.5 billion in grants for transportation projects

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently announced $1.5 billion in funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. These grants have previously been known as TIGER and BUILD grants.

In the FY 2023 round of RAISE grants, Ohio communities received four grants totaling $30.47 million:

- City of Toledo: $20 million
- City of Kent: $5.25 million
- Western Reserve Transit Authority: $2.94 million
- City of Cincinnati: $2.28 million

In the new round of RAISE grants counties are eligible to apply directly to USDOT for grants. Multiple jurisdictions may submit joint applications, provided a lead entity is identified.

Projects are broken into two categories:

- **Capital Projects**
    - Maximum award available for a single project is $25 million, with the awards being no less than $5 million if located in an urban area or $1 million if located in a rural area.
- **Planning Projects**
    - Maximum award available for a single project is $25 million. There is no award minimum.

No single state may receive more than $225 million. The grants are competitive, and states are not guaranteed a certain amount. USDOT encourages applicants to consider how their projects will address climate change, improve racial equity, and/or remove barriers to opportunity. Applications that address these factors will be more competitive.

CCAO encourages counties to work with your local transit authorities, your municipalities and townships, and your neighboring counties to bring these federal funds to Ohio communities.

Please visit NACo's summary of the program and the official Notice of Funding Opportunity for more information. Applications are due by February 28 and must be submitted through Grants.gov.

Recording, slide deck available for All Ohio Future Fund webinar

Earlier in January, the Department of Development held a webinar to provide information on the All Ohio Future Fund, a fund created in the operating budget that will distribute funds for site development projects across the state. Last week, the department made the webinar materials available online.

You can access a recording of the webinar, including the Q & A portion, here. The slides are available here.

More information about the program, including program guidelines and other links to the webinar material, can be found at the program's webpage.

COUNTY NEWS

Back to Top

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

Allen County DD using grant to aid accessibility

LimaOhio.com, January 11, 2024

The Allen County Board of DD will be helping to improve accessibility for area businesses thanks to a new grant allocation of $584,000 awarded from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

"We only had seven days (to apply for the grant)," board superintendent Theresa Schnipke said. "We pulled off a miracle. I was hoping for around $50,000. We were notified right before Christmas that we received $584,000."

Schnipke said the funding must be allocated for projects before the end of this year. The board hopes to use the funding to help businesses become more accessible and increase access throughout the community.

Northeast District

County considers expanding solar, wind farm ban

The Vindicator, January 12, 2024

Mahoning County commissioners have set a Feb. 15 public hearing on whether to expand a ban on large solar and wind farms in the unincorporated areas of 10 more townships.

The hearing follows the commissioners' decision Nov. 9 to ban such projects in Green Township after the trustees there requested the ban.

Commissioners reached out to the 13 other townships in the county to ask whether they also have an interest in banning large solar and wind projects, and Austintown, Beaver, Berlin, Canfield, Coitsville, Goshen, Jackson, Milton, Poland and Springfield were interested.

"A lot of people don't want blight. A lot of people don't want huge windmills in their fields. We have very good farm and agricultural property," Traficanti said. "A lot of the farmers are not in favor of this."

Three townships were not interested in banning the technologies — Boardman, Ellsworth and Smith — Commissioner Anthony Traficanti said.

Traficanti said a lot of the concerns voiced by the 10 additional townships were similar to the concerns that were voiced when commissioners held two public hearings for the Green Township ban.

Central District

Licking County keeps Union Township dead end as public road ahead of housing development

Newark Advocate, January 6, 2024

Because of a vote from the Licking County Commissioners this week, a rural, residential street could become a major thoroughfare in Union Township.

Commissioners Tim Bubb and Duane Flowers voted Thursday to deny removing about 208 feet of Grand Pointe Drive from public roads. The commissioners did approve vacating about 422 feet of a plotted, but not constructed, part of Simeon Drive from public roads.

The Union Township Trustees approved vacating both sections in October.

The residents of the 17-home Grand Pointe neighborhood off Ohio 37 (Lancaster Road) petitioned commissioners to vacate both parts over concerns that the dead end of Grand Pointe Drive could be used to connect a new housing and commercial development to the east with Ohio 37, becoming a major thoroughfare — something residents say the roads weren't built for when the subdivision opened about 20 years ago.

Between the Grand Pointe neighborhood and Canyon Road sits 187 acres of farmland that was annexed into the city of Heath in November. The city also annexed an additional 48 acres on the east side of Canyon Road. The 187 acres were zoned for potentially hundreds of single-family homes and multifamily dwellings. Part of the 48 acres was zoned for commercial development.

Southwest District

Adams County Board of DD makes history

The Informer, January 9, 2024

In a landmark decision, the Adams County Commissioners have set a new precedent in inclusivity and representation. Today, they appointed Naman Stapleton to the Adams County Board of Development Disabilities (CBDD), marking a significant moment in the county's history. Naman is the first individual with a disability to serve as a fully engaged board member, a step forward in embracing diverse perspectives in leadership roles.

This momentous decision aligns with the requirements of HB 33, a law mandating that by July 1, 2025, every county board in Ohio must include a member who is eligible for and receiving services. The Adams County Commissioners, however, chose to act ahead of schedule, prompted by the departure of two long-serving board members at the end of 2023.

Liz Lafferty, the Superintendent of Adams County DD, expressed her pride and enthusiasm for this appointment. "The appointment of Naman Stapleton to the Adams County Board of DD speaks volumes to how our society has grown to fully accept people with disabilities into leadership roles and real-life experiences," she stated. Naman, who has been a regular attendee at Venture Productions board meetings, is well-acquainted with the protocols and dynamics of board meetings. Lafferty added, "Naman is first to speak up and out on topics that are important to him. As Superintendent, I could not be more proud of Naman's appointment and I am thrilled that our county commissioners were proactive in making this appointment happen a year and a half before it had to." She emphasized the collective benefit of this decision, saying, "Everyone wins when people choose to work together."

Southeast District

Holmes County begins preparing for bicentennial celebration, which may encompass two years

Wooster Daily Record, January 14, 2024

Village council heard of plans in the works to celebrate the bicentennial of Holmes County.

WKLM radio personality Melissa Patrick serves as chairperson of the bicentennial committee. She explained plans for a yearlong celebration to incorporate all villages and towns in the county, using existing dates of festivals and events to be part of the festivities.

Patrick said because there has been some debate over the official date the county was founded, be it 1824 or 1825, the committee has decided to celebrate in both years.

"We want to celebrate with each of the towns and areas in Holmes County to make sure we include everybody," she said. "We want to utilize festivals that already exist instead of creating a bunch of new things. We can add in the 200th anniversary."

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Back to Top

JANUARY 17
CCAO Webinar: Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024: Community Collaboration Efforts

JANUARY 19
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

JANUARY 26
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

FEBRUARY 9 - 14
NACo Legislative Conference

FEBRUARY 15
CCAO General Government Committee Meeting

FEBRUARY 16
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

DID YOU KNOW?

Back to Top

Belmont County

The youngest member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition left for the expedition from the land now belonging to Belmont County.

George Shannon, 15 years old at the time his family moved from Pennsylvania to the Ohio frontier, joined the Corps of Discovery when Merriweather Lewis was setting off from Pittsburgh.

During the expedition, he got separated from the party twice: once while searching for the expedition's horses, during which time he crafted a bullet from wood to kill a rabbit, barely surviving when found by the expedition two weeks later.

During a clash with Arikara Indians, Shannon was shot in the leg. The injury was severe enough that his leg had to be amputated above the knee.

After the expedition, Shannon spent little time in Ohio, instead practicing law in Kentucky and Missouri. However, his two younger brothers made an impact in Ohio.

Thomas Shannon, younger by one year, served as a captain in the Belmont County Company during the War of 1812, served briefly in the U.S. Congress to fill a vacancy, and served 14 years in the Ohio General Assembly across the House and Senate.

Wilson Shannon, 17 years George's junior, served as Belmont County Prosecutor for two years before being elected as the 14th Governor of Ohio, the first native born Ohioan to win the post. He served one term before losing his reelection bid, but then won the subsequent election, making him both the 14th and 16th Governor of Ohio.

You can read more about George Shannon's role in the Corps of Discovery here.

Copyright © 2024 CCAO, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.