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March 18, 2024

The CORSA Board of Directors and CCAO each recently received award recognition for excellence and dedication from different associations. Read more below!

Top Photo, left-to-right: Barbar Zemlock (AGRiP Board President), Charlie Schilling (Washington County), Mark Stahl (Ottawa County), Dave Wilson (Guernsey County), Diane Ward (Adams County), Craig LaHote (Wood County), Dan Dean (Fayette County), Cory Noonan (Allen County), Jim deSpelder (AGRiP Board Vice President).

Bottom: CCAO Assistant Director John Leutz and CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler with Department of Aging Director Ursel McElroy (fourth from the right), alongside members of the Ohio Association of Senior Centers.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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CORSA, CCAO receive recognition

Recently, both CORSA and CCAO have received recognition from other organizations for excellence and dedication.

CORSA receives AGRiP Recognition for Advisory Standards
At the Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRiP) 2024 Governance Conference earlier this month, The CORSA Board of Directors and staff were presented with a plaque for AGRiP Recognition. The AGRiP Recognition requires pools to undergo a rigorous self-assessment to ensure pool operations meet professional standards and industry best practices. Any pool that meets the Advisory Standards is granted Recognition for three years, helping assure its governing body and members it is operating as effectively as they expect. Approximately a quarter of the 213 AGRiP members have achieved this recognition.

CCAO, Department of Aging receive OASC award
At the Ohio Association of Senior Centers (OASC) annual conference earlier this month, CCAO and Director of the Department of Aging Ursel McElroy were awarded the Muriel Bertsch Award for dedication to efforts of senior centers. The award came as a result of the strong partnership between CCAO and the Department in securing funding for the Healthy Aging Grants program in the state operating budget.

CCAO conducting survey on municipal inmates in county jails

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio is conducting a membership survey to gauge how counties across the state are approaching an emerging issue in their county jails: the housing of municipal inmates.

CCAO has heard from some members that their jails, already crowded, are having additional strain placed upon them by municipalities in their counties sending inmates to the county jail instead of a municipal holding facility. While some counties may have agreements in place regarding the municipality paying to house inmates at the county facility, others may not.

To better evaluate the issue and potentially work with the General Assembly on a legislative solution to this issue, CCAO is asking members to respond to this survey to better educate the Policy Team on the scope of the issue.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Kyle Petty, Managing Director of Policy or Nick Ciolli, Research Analyst.

Central District to hold meeting on May 3; Southwest District on May 6

Central District
The Central CCAO/CEAO District will host a regional meeting in Fairfield County on May 3.

The event will feature a breakfast and a welcome by Central District President and Delaware County Commissioner Gary Merrell, followed by an update from CCAO. Then, each Fairfield County Commissioner will give a brief presentation on one of their areas of focus:

- Commissioner Jeff Fix: Fairfield County's Land Use Planning Process
- Commissioner Steve Davis: Expanding Transit to Meet Workforce Challenges
- Commissioner David Levacy: The Fairfield County Workforce Center and Training Programs.

The event will conclude with a tour of the county's workforce center and a lunch.

Registration can be completed here. Please RSVP no later than April 22 so that appropriate preparations can be made. If you have difficulties registering, please contact Fairfield County Administrator Aundrea Cordelia at aundrea.cordle@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

Southwest District
Save the date! The Southeast CCAO / CEAO District will host a meeting on May 6 at 11:00 a.m. in Harrison County. The meeting will be held at Wagner Field, the home of the Harrison Central High School Huskies.

The full agenda is still being finalized but the focus of the meeting will be on solar power and feature guests from two solar energy companies (Nottingham Solar and BJAAM Solar Partners) and area residents.

You can send RSVPs to cgraham@harrisoncountyohio.org.

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner:

JobsOhio
Ohio's Economic Development Corporation

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Governor DeWine declares state of emergency in counties impacted by severe weather

Yesterday, Governor Mike DeWine issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency across 11 counties that were hit hard by severe weather last week.

The declaration orders all relevant State departments and agencies to lend their services, equipment, supplies, and personnel as necessary to assist in the response and recovery effort. Agencies providing support include the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

In addition, Governor DeWine activated the Ohio National Guard to help Logan County officials with the clean up of storm debris on public property.

The counties covered under the declaration include:

- Auglaize
- Crawford
- Darke
- Delaware
- Hancock
- Licking
- Logan
- Mercer
- Miami
- Richland
- Union

Community Broadband Accelerator Program accepting applications until March 31

The application period to participate in the 2024 BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator Program is open and will be open until March 31. The program, conducted in collaboration with Ohio State Extension, is an intensive 10-week educational program designed to boost local communities in their knowledge and resources to better leverage state and federal broadband funding. The end goal of the program is for each "team" (made up of local governments) to produce a community strategic plan for broadband implementation.

Past participants of the Accelerator Program include Ashtabula, Defiance, Henry, Lucas, Monroe, Paulding, Shelby, and Tuscarawas counties have all participated in the past two years, as well as a team comprised of Athens, Hocking, and Perry County and a team comprised of Ohio River Valley counties (Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton counties).

Among the topics covered in the program are:

- Community Needs Assessments
- Feasibility Studies
- Regulatory Issues
- Community Outreach & Engagement

A full schedule can be accessed here.

An overview of the program and a copy of the application is accessible here. Completed applications, as well as questions, should be send to Mark.Schade@development.ohio.gov.

SERB releases Wage Settlement Report, finds majority of public-sector contracts featured wage increases

Last week, the Ohio State Employment Relations Board (SERB) released its annual Wage Settlement Report. The report analyzes the overall wage increase percentage and other monetary incentives that were included in public-sector labor contracts in Ohio during calendar year 2023.

The 14-page report contains a lot of good information regarding contracts from across the state and is worth reading. For those who do not have the time, CCAO is highlighting a few notable points.

- About 87% of labor contracts negotiated feature wage increases, with an average of 3.75% in 2023, 3.09% in 2024, and 2.93% in 2025.
- County jurisdictions had the highest negotiated percentage wage increase in 2023 and 2024 (4.20% and 3.27%, respectively).
- The bargaining unit that received the highest percent wage increase across all three years was "Police (Safety/Security)".

SERB defines the county jurisdiction as "all county-level employers," and defines the police bargaining unit as any bargaining unit that includes uniformed police officers, sergeants, lieutenants, captains across all jurisdictions, county sheriff deputies, corrections officers, security guards, park rangers, safety dispatchers, and E911 dispatchers.

You can view past Wage Settlement Reports and other SERB publications on the board's website.

DeWine-Husted Administration shares initial Intel report

On Friday, Governor Mike DeWine shared the initial Intel Onshoring Annual Report, a condition of the company receiving state aid for the semi-conductor project in Licking County.

The full report is accessible here and the Governor's press release is accessible here.

Among the highlights of the report are that, of the 70 direct-Intel employees working at the site, all but one live in Ohio and hail from 14 different counties, and that construction workers from 75 counties have contributed to the project thus far.

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.

TOMORROW: Development to host webinar on county and independent fairs grant

Tomorrow, the Department of Development will host a webinar regarding the County and Independent Fairs Grant Program, created as part House Bill 33, the state's main operating budget. The webinar will provide an overview of the program, give a walkthrough of how to apply, and feature time for Q&A with Development staff. You can register for the webinar here.

All county and independent agricultural societies that hold an annual exhibition to promote agricultural interests of the county and the state will be eligible to apply.

This program focuses funding on capital expenditure projects with the purpose of increasing fair access or economic impact within their local fairgrounds. Eligible projects the grants can be used for include but are not limited to:

- New/upgraded machinery/equipment.
- Technology improvements.
- Property/Structure – Construction, improvements, or enhancements.
- Property/Structure – Repairs or renovations.
- Assets with useful life of more than one year.
- Road/access improvements.
- Upgrades to electrical or sanitation systems.
- Grandstand purchases or renovations.
- ADA accommodation improvements.

Additional information, including reporting guidelines and where to apply for the program, are available on the Department of Development's website.

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation bringing Ohio Safety Congress to Columbus on March 27-29

Get ready to attend the 2024 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo® (OSC24®) on March 27-29 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center where you will LEARN, SOLVE, and CONNECT with leading experts! Knowledgeable presenters will focus on issues directly related to the challenges you face each day. Find your favorite sessions in the full educational program. ***Sessions will apply toward the BWC 2-hour annual safety training requirement for Group Rating and Group Retro members***.

In addition, the keynote line-up consists of two diverse speakers, Brett Culp and Eduardo Garcia. They both have amazing messages you won't want to miss.

Can't make it to Columbus? A select number of the sessions will be livestreamed so you can watch from anywhere!

Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your workplace safety practices and protect your most valuable asset – your employees. Please attend OSC24® and take steps toward a safer, healthier, and more productive workplace.

Ohio Land Bank Association to hold 13th Annual Conference in April

The 13th Annual Ohio Land Bank Conference will be held at the John S. Knight Center in Akron, Ohio, from April 24-26.

This year's conference covers a diverse range of sessions, from housing strategies and urban revitalization to leadership development. Highlighting practical knowledge for community revitalization, the event also features engaging receptions and a number of unique mobile tours, fostering networking and collaboration among attendees.

For more details on session topics and scheduling, visit the event's official site.

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, and on occasion other stories may be highlighted as well.

Northwest District

Lucas County allocates over $700K to 13 community groups
Toledo Blade, March 12, 2024
Lucas County will give 13 community organizations more than $700,000 to continue to carry out their missions, the commissioners said at a news conference Tuesday morning.

"In the last few years, we've taken the position that wise expenditures of our county money is to invest in community grass roots organizations," Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken said. "Many times organizations aren't big enough to qualify for federal or state money. They're really doing the people's work in specific areas. We know the challenges. These organizations are building stronger communities all around the county."

County Commissioner Lisa A. Sobecki said the organizations provide value to county residents.

"These grants are intended to support programs in our county that don't traditionally receive Community Development Block funds or similar grants," she said.

"This is an example of how government and organizations are working together," county Commissioner Anita Lopez said.

She highlighted the Fair Housing Center's services to the public.

Northeast District

Medina County Veterans Service Office expansion, renovation project breaks ground
Medina Gazette, March 13, 2024
The Medina County Veterans Service Office broke ground on Tuesday, marking the start of its expansion and renovation project on its current space in Medina.

Medina County Veterans Service Director Ed Zackery previously said by the end of the project, the building will be double its original size.

"We're creating a community room, some garage space for our vehicles and then we're gutting the inside of our existing building and reappropriating it," Zackery said. "We will come out with three additional offices, a larger waiting room and a community room."

Medina County Facilities Director Steven Bastean said the demolition inside the building began on Monday as crews removed carpeting and ceiling tiles. Additionally, walls have been marked for demolition.

With the start of construction, a groundbreaking ceremony was held Tuesday morning with the Medina County Board of Commissioners, the Medina County Veterans Service Commission and Medina County Clerk of Courts Dave Wadsworth all present.

Veterans Service Commission President Jim Hoessle welcomed the construction, stating that it will lead to a new, improved and enlarged space for local veterans.

Central District

Commissioners approve jail medical services contract, JFS pay hikes
Mansfield News Journal, March 14, 2024
Richland County has a new contract with a new provider for medical services for county jail inmates.

County commissioners on Tuesday approved a one-year contract with the option of three one-year renewals with Southern Health Partners Inc. of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The contract, which is effective April 1, calls for the county to pay $700,590 the first year with "locked in" 4% increases each of the first two option years and a renegotiated price the final year. The county paid the current provider, Advanced Health Care, around $607,000 for jail health services in 2023 and allocated $760,000 in that budget line item for this year.

Commissioners voted in January to put out a request for proposals for inmate health services after Advanced Correctional Health care indicated the cost would increase 33% to more than $800,000 if the county exercised its final one-year renewal option. The company has been working under a one-month contract extension.

The RFP included two options — one that would continue current services, and a second that would provide two licensed practical nurses 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. The second option involved enhancements that included a comprehensive drug and alcohol treatment program with regular assessments for inmates who are experiencing severe withdrawal or mental health issues and a health appraisal of a inmates by a nurse within 2 hours of their walking into the jail.

Southwest District

Clermont County re-tests warning sirens, reminds residents to stay prepared
WCPO 9, March 13, 2024
Anyone in Clermont County around noon Wednesday probably heard the Outdoor Warning Sirens going off, but it wasn't because of severe weather, it was a test.

The county usually tests these sirens on the first Wednesday of every month at noon. That's what they did this month. But after some of their sirens didn't go off during that test, they scheduled another.

Clermont County Board of Commissioners President David Painter said the county contracts with a company for these sirens, and they called in this company to troubleshoot.

"Basically, there's a device that originates a particular signal and for some reason that device did not work correctly and they were able to make those corrections and re-verify that it worked," he said.

During Wednesday's test, Clermont County said all of the sirens sounded.

But experts warn that people shouldn't rely on these sirens as their only way to be alerted of severe weather.

"The reality is, as everybody knows, that those sirens are only for outdoors. Now, a lot of folks trust them to let them know if they're inside the house, but that's a mistake. You've got to have another way to get information," WCPO 9 First Warning Chief Meteorologist Steve Raleigh said.

Southeast District

Highway Patrol, Hocking County Sheriff, and Logan Police announce joint initiative
Logan Daily News, March 14, 2024
The Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Hocking County Sheriff's Office, and the Logan Police Department will be collaborating in multiple enforcement and education events in 2024 to focus on traffic safety and drug interdiction. Starting this week, an increased presence in the community will be observed focusing on drug interdiction in Laurelville, Murray City, the City of Logan, and on all major routes in Hocking County.

"The Ohio State Highway Patrol is dedicated to our community in Hocking County, and we look forward to continued interagency cooperation with the Hocking County Sheriff's Office and Logan Police Department," said Athens Post Commander, Lieutenant Steven P. Daugherty. "Troopers are focused on working together to take dangerous drugs off our streets before they harm families in our community."

Since 2019, there have been 188 impaired driving related crashes in Hocking County, with 63 of them being drug-related. Eight of those crashes resulted in fatalities.

"This collaborative effort shows the strength and commitment of our law enforcement officers to the residents of Hocking County," said Hocking County Sheriff Lanny E. North. "Deputies will work alongside our partners to reduce crime and educate on the dangers of drugs and addiction."

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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MARCH 19
Ohio Primary Election

MARCH 20
Northwest District Meeting, Fulton County

MARCH 21
CORSA Renewal Meeting

MARCH 21
CCAO General Government Committee Meeting

MARCH 22
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

MARCH 31
Easter

APRIL 5
Annual CEBCO Business Meeting

APRIL 8
Solar Eclipse

DID YOU KNOW?

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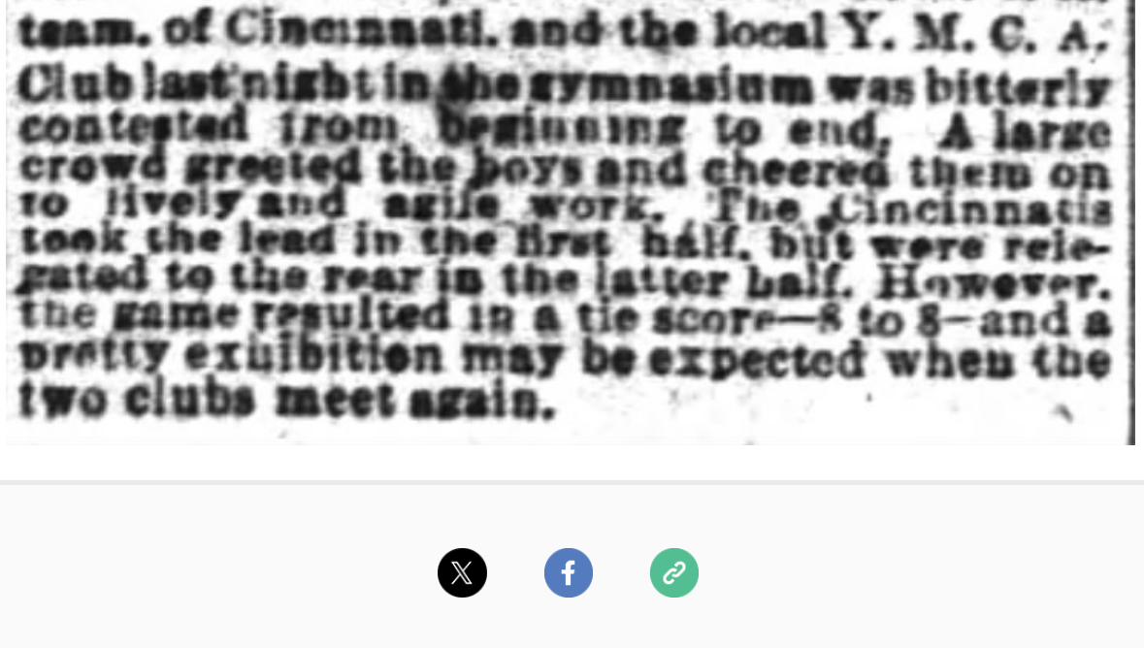
Ohio Basketball

Yesterday, the selection ceremony for the 2024 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship was held, and later this week the First Four will be played at the University of Dayton, as it has since 2012. But did you know that Dayton basketball can trace its roots back to the very first recorded basketball game in the state?

Basketball was invented by James Naismith in late 1891, with the first public game played in Massachusetts in March 1892. Just one year later, a YMCA team from Cincinnati played a YMCA team in Dayton, the first basketball game with a score that appears in an Ohio newspaper.

As the blurb below, from the March 20, 1893, edition of the *Cincinnati Enquirer,* shows, the game ended in an 8-8 tie after the Dayton club came back from a first half deficit.

In those early days of basketball, the rules differed greatly from today. Among the most notable differences were the absence of the three-point line (which first appeared in the late 1960s), the outlawing of dribbling (players could not move with the ball at all), and the fact that each time had nine players on the court at a time (compared to today's 5-on-5 set up).



MADE A TIE.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE ENQUIRER.

DAYTON, OHIO, March 19.—The game of basket-ball between the Senior Y. M. C. A. team of Cincinnati and the local Y. M. C. A. Club last night in the gymnasium was bitterly contested from beginning to end. A large crowd greeted the boys and cheered them on to lively and agile work. The Cincinnatis took the lead in the first half, but were relegated to the rear in the latter half. However, the game resulted in a tie score—8 to 8—and a pretty exhibition may be expected when the two clubs meet again.

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