2019
ALUMNI NEWS
County Commissioners Association of Ohio
A Message from CCAO Executive Director Suzanne Dulaney

Hello Alumni! I hope this issue finds you well.

It has been a very productive year for CCAO. In this issue, you will read about the great strides that have been made in restoring the state/county partnership. Thanks to the DeWine Administration, legislative leadership in the House and Senate, and a very hard working Executive Committee, Board of Directors, membership, and our talented policy team; we spoke with one voice and that voice was heard. I am so very thankful for the positive momentum the year has brought. While certainly much remains to be done, there is a refreshing atmosphere of mutual respect that is critical to any successful partnership.

I also need to inform you that at the end of this year we will be wishing a most happy retirement to someone most of you know well due to her thirty-five years of service to CCAO - our very own Mary Jane Neiman. I can hardly fathom a conference coming together without her. She has been a dedicated employee whose attention to detail has enhanced our organization in innumerable ways. I suspected that once her beautiful granddaughter Catherine entered this world recently that I was in trouble! Catherine is so precious and I know MJ is looking forward to spending time with her post retirement. So many of you formed a special relationship with her over the years, and I’m sure she would like to hear from you. Her e-mail address is mjneiman@gmail.com.

We will also be wishing Doug Foust a fond farewell as he begins the next chapter of his life after his years of dedicated service as the managing director of our CEBCO program. Doug has done a tremendous job growing CEBCO during his tenure. When I returned to CCAO six years ago, there were 26 counties in the program. Today, CEBCO is 38 counties strong. He and his team have really grown the wellness program and added tools to help county employees make informed health decisions. He has positioned CEBCO well for the future. He has also benefited counties through his hobbies. Doug has been responsible for repairing and restoring historic clocks to their former glory in several courthouses throughout the state. CCAO also benefitted from another one of his hobbies - restoring old juke boxes. He has always made sure a juke box was on hand to enhance our special events and holiday parties. Thanks, Doug, for the many ways you have lent your talents to CCAO!

Looking ahead, I am excited by the new talent that has joined CCAO and look forward to what they will bring to the organization. I hope you will enjoy reading about them in this issue and have a chance to meet them. We will continue to build on a stronger state/county partnership in the coming year. A big concern on the minds of many of our members is the condition of our county jails. We have a crisis on the horizon as many of our county jails need to be replaced or renovated. Due in part to the drug crisis we have been facing, jails are exceeding the recommended capacity by approximately 8%. Thus, we will be seeking help from the state as part of the capital budget process. 2020 will also mean that it is time for the next census. As you know, the census is critical to counties’ planning and funding purposes. If you are interested in ways to help with the census, visit census.gov.

As you know from your time at CCAO, the bonds we form with one another run deep and are a part of what makes it such a special place. I hope that we will see you at Winter Conference so that fellowship you have with CCAO and one another can be experienced once again.
The passage of the state operating budget and transportation budget earlier this year signaled a new day in the state-county partnership with strong investments in indigent defense reimbursement to counties, child protective care along with Ohio’s roads and bridges.

Governor Mike DeWine in his operating budget proposal responded to CCAO’s key legislative priority with the state providing significant new funding for reimbursement to counties for indigent defense costs. Governor DeWine allocated an additional $60 million per year for indigent defense reimbursement in his biennium budget. In addition, he provided $30 million each year for children services.

The Ohio House continued to build on this sturdy foundation by providing an additional $35 million in the second year of the budget, and doubling the new funding the Governor proposed for children services.

The Ohio Senate supported this reinforced foundation between the state and counties, which is much appreciated.

CCAO originally anticipated that the funding in the second year of the biennium would equate to 100 percent reimbursement to counties for providing indigent defense; however, this figure probably will be more like 85-90 percent reimbursement as counties work to improve the underfunded system of indigent defense.

In addition, the DeWine Administration and Ohio General Assembly also made investments in Ohio’s infrastructure through the transportation budget earlier this year. The tax on gasoline was increased by 10.5 cents (for a total of 38.5 cents), and the tax on diesel was increased 19 cents (for a total 47 cents). As a result, an additional $865 million more per year for road and bridge projects will be available.

The increase also will mean significant new revenue for counties, townships and municipalities, which get roughly 40 percent of the current gas tax. Under the latest transportation budget, local governments will get 45 percent of the additional revenue generated by the tax increase.

CCAO is very appreciative of the improved state-county partnership thanks to the leadership of Governor DeWine, Speaker Householder and Senate President Obhof along with the Ohio General Assembly.

The CCAO board of directors thanked Gov. Mike DeWine for strengthening the state-county partnership.
CORSA Update
by Frank Hatfield, CORSA Interim Managing Director

County Risk Sharing Authority’s (CORSA) vision is, “To be the leader in providing Ohio counties with exceptional value, services and protection of assets,” which leads us to program growth and enhancements for 2019.

Growth: 66 of Ohio’s 88 counties are CORSA members. In April 2019 the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot joined CORSA, which increases our total county-related entities to 45.

CORSA provides coverage for property valued at $12.7B, $1.7B of payroll, over 12,647 vehicles and approximately 2,718 deputies for law enforcement liability. This year the Board of Directors decided to make a change in the reporting of claims from claims made to occurrence which showed a planned decrease in net assets from last year. CORSA remains financially strong with net assets of $89M as of year ended April 20, 2019. Member equity continues to be used to reduce costs and provide risk-management services to members. For the 2019-2020 program year, member equity is being used for the following: Program Cost reduced by $2.4M through loss fund dividends being applied as credits to program costs; Members earned $800K in credits to program costs by participating in the Loss Control Incentive Program; $1.3M used to fund risk management services. CORSA offers members a vast array of valuable risk management services that reduce claim and administrative costs and improve operational efficiency.

Program Enhancements: The following program enhancements were made this year. Drone coverage will follow the member’s limits and deductibles for no extra charge. Land Banks can remain on a separate policy or the covered board can be added to the County’s coverage with Board of Commissioners approval. A new coverage has been added to the program this year, Schedule 1 and 2 substances controlled under federal law cleanup, removal and disposal. And the enactment of HB 291 now allows counties to elect use of a coverage document issued by a joint self-insurance pool rather than an individual surety bond.

CORSA’s underwriting staff has been working the last couple of years implementing underwriting information into a risk management information system called Origami Risk. And, this year the claims staff has been working to convert claims information from Risk Master to Origami Risk, which will go live on November 18, 2019. We are excited for the conversion, this will provide the staff and members with robust reports integrating claims and underwriting into one system.

The 2019/2020 CORSA Board of Directors dedicating their leadership and service to the membership and staff are the following: President - Dan Dean (Fayette), Vice President - Cory Noonan (Allen), Treasurer - Dave Wilson (Guernsey), Secretary - Craig LaHote (Wood), Paul Haller (Jackson), Tony Zartman (Paulding), Chris Day (Preble), Jack Evans (Miami) and Steve Stolte (Union).

Looking forward to 2020!!
As 2019 draws to a close, I am reflecting on a new program we started this year. Our members were asking for a good company that could help them with a Section 125 plan for their employees. We also heard from CEBCO that this was needed and they were looking for a good company to complement their stellar health services line. CCAOSC decided to make it happen.

Now, fast forward six months and 10 counties are with our newest CCAOSC Preferred Vendor partner, TASC. Counties are receiving superior service and options for their employees with the pre-tax nature of the savings plan. This plan practically pays for itself and feedback has been good.

But our other programs remain strong too: The CCAOSC Energy Program is strong under the 2019 Energy Executive Committee leadership of President Mike Stegall, Darke County Commissioner. The program is expanding into Gas Governmental Aggregation and is looking to reorder the Solar Savings Initiative due to regulatory changes in the market.

The CCAO Deferred Compensation program is doing very well under the Chairmanship of Champaign County Commissioner Bob Corbett. Corbett leads the Deferred Compensation Executive Committee that oversees a program of over 24,000 county employees residing across all 88 Ohio counties. Our portfolio is strong and has topped over $772 million. Our program includes things like ROTH, being able to take loans out, an intuitive website, licensed advisors that will come to you one-on-one to advise about all your retirement needs, a managed account service option for investing, and a zero cost “Stable Value” fund option. We continue to improve and innovate.

The CCAO Workers’ Compensation programs, one for Group Rating and the other for Retrospective Group Rating, are saving counties millions of dollars while helping to eliminate risk and accidents.

CCAOSC has a variety of quality preferred provider vendors as well, including Maximus for their cost recovery and cost allocation plans, Securus for their inmate pay phone program, First Communications for their long-distance service plans, HG Consulting LLC for cyber security assessments for IT to address vulnerabilities, GovDeals, Inc. and now TASC.

It is a pleasure to be able to serve counties and to help find solutions to ever changing needs. CCAOSC tries to be there as a trusted partner. I am proud that CCAOSC saves counties money, offers better services and even improves county employee job satisfaction. Thank you for that honor.
CEBCO Update
by Doug Foust, CEBCO Managing Director

CEBCO continued to grow, welcoming two new member counties effective Jan. 1. With the addition of Crawford and Van Wert, 36 counties now enjoy the stability and cost savings associated with CEBCO’s pooling and group purchasing strength. The board of directors said farewell to long-serving members Gary Lee of Union County and John Love from Putnam. Both had served in leadership positions including Board President over the years. Commissioners Jeff Benton (Delaware) and Marilyn John (Richland) were appointed to fulfill the unexpired terms of Lee and Love. Elections held at the Annual Membership meeting in April resulted in Jay Begg (Allen), Tony Bornhorst (Shelby) and Mike Welch (Ashland) being reelected to serve plus the addition of Christiane Schmenck (Union) to three-year terms. Officers were elected to include President Jay Begg, Vice President Mike Welch, Treasurer Marilyn John and Secretary Tony Bornhorst.

Other important things that happened in the past year:

The program completed its second year with Interactive Health, a national wellness company offering screenings to our members including the availability of a comprehensive 38-factor blood panel as an optional service. In the first few months of the year, 4,500 members utilized the voluntary screening and as a result confidentially learning of a total of 6,000 conditions (an average of more than one per participant) they did not know they had. The program is intended to help members become more aware of potential health conditions earlier and have a conversation with their physician before a little problem becomes a big one.

2020 renewals were distributed to member counties in September. The pool continues running very well, with half of the counties seeing their cost either remain the same for 2020 or, in many cases, actually go down. In an era of ever-increasing healthcare costs, this is a welcome relief to our members. Our actuaries and financial advisors confirmed that the fund is meeting or exceeding its benchmarks for stability and remains very strong.

Earlier I announced my intention to step down this winter, having served since April 2013. The board conducted a search for a replacement and selected Mike Kindell, currently serving as Senior Benefit Specialist to the Southern Region for CEBCO to succeed me. Mike will bring a wealth of industry knowledge to the position from his experience in the insurance industry gained prior to joining CEBCO more than five years ago. The pool remains well-situated for continued growth and maintaining the stability for which it is known.
Kindell to lead CEBCO in 2020

The County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio (CEBCO) board of directors has promoted Senior Benefit Manager Michael Kindell to the position of CCAO managing director of health and wellness effective Jan. 1, 2020. Mike is filling the position due to the announced retirement of Douglas Foust, effective at the end of the year.

As a senior benefit specialist, Mike is an integral part of the CEBCO team creating and presenting programs to members on health care benefits and informed consumerism. He analyzes medical and prescription benefit reports to identify trends and performs quarterly reviews with member counties about their claim experience.

In addition, he consults with member counties on health insurance benefit design and strategy and is a liaison between member and carriers for complex claim situations.

A native of Miami County, Mike started with CCAO in 2014. He has a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Miami University and has over 25 years of experience in the health insurance industry. Prior to working at CCAO, Mike was an account executive with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He is a licensed life and health insurance agent.

CCAO welcomes three new staff members

Nedra Benson began her service in 2018 as a temporary employee and joined the staff this year as an administrative professional. Visitors at the CCAO office are greeted and assisted by Nedra when attending a meeting or visiting the office.

Prior to joining CCAO, Nedra was the office administrator for Kiefner and Associates, Inc., an engineering and technical services firm. Her other experience includes being an academic assistant at Franklin University, a substitute ESOL teacher with the Somali Bantu Community Association, and as an administrative assistant and retail account executive with ShoreBank.

Robin Garrett joined the staff as an administrative professional. Robin will be handling a variety of administrative support duties and assisting with conferences, seminars and meetings. She brings over 20 years’ experience in office management and administrative support for executive management.

Most recently, Robin worked as an executive assistant to the board of governors of Grottos North America – Supreme Council Office. In addition, she served as an executive assistant for Atrium Centers, LLC, Rite Rug Company and several other companies.

Rachel Massoud is a policy analyst specializing in human services, workforce development and general government matters. Prior to joining CCAO, Rachel served as a legislative advocate for the Ohio Municipal League. She was also a senior legislative aide for Sen. William P. Coley, II, as well as an intern at the U.S. House of Representatives. Earlier, she interned with former Warren County Administrator Dave Gully where she experienced first-hand the importance and complexity of county government. Rachel earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from DePauw University, graduating magna cum laude.
Staff departures and retirements

During the County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio (CEBCO) Board Retreat, Doug Foust advised the Board of his intentions to step down as CCAO’s managing director of health and wellness. Doug is responsible for the management and sales growth of CEBCO in addition to developing and managing relationships with CEBCO vendor partners. Prior to joining CCAO/CEBCO in 2013, he was the director of health care services for the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio and assistant director of health care administration for the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System of Ohio.

CCAO Program Assistant Tanya McComas left the staff in June. Tanya performed a variety of support and administrative duties for various programs; maintenance of the information management system; assistance with meeting and conference registration and logistics; tracking payments for CCAO, CCAOSC, CORSA and CEBCO; and technical assistance for webinars. She had been with the association for 18 years.

After serving 35 years at CCAO, Public Relations Associate Mary Jane Neiman will be retiring at the end of the year. Neiman in early January decided to retire prior to surviving a widow-maker heart attack a few weeks later. She appreciates all the love and support during her cardiac rehabilitation. Neiman began her service at CCAO as a research associate in 1984 where she joined the staff prior to serving five years at the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and two years in retail management. Over the years, her job duties have changed from issue research to lobbying to communications to meeting planning among other administrative duties.

County officials attend White House Regional State Leadership Day

Over 60 Ohio county officials attended The White House Regional State Leadership Day on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. Attendees received briefings from senior administration officials and intergovernmental affairs teams, including Director Larry Kudlow (National Economic Council), Secretary Betsy DeVos (Education), Secretary Elaine Chao (Transportation), Administrator Andrew Wheeler (EPA) and Director Jim Carroll (White House Office of National Drug Control Policy), both at the White House and across federal agencies.

County officials from the states of Michigan and Kentucky also attended.

Prior to the White House conference, the National Association of Counties (NACo) briefed county officials on key legislation of importance to counties. Officials also toured The White House.
Haller inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Jackson County Commissioner Paul Haller for his enshrinement into the Class of 2018 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

Command Master Chief (Fleet Marine Force) Haller retired last Nov. after 40 years of service in the U.S. Navy. A graduate of Jackson High School, Haller enlisted in the Navy in 1978. Over the years, he was deployed and served in many operations abroad in Japan, South Korea, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Iraq and stateside in many states. He served as the reserve Command Master Chief of the Navy Operational Support Center in Columbus. Haller holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Rio Grande and a Master’s degree from Ohio University. In addition to his distinguished Navy career, Haller has served as Jackson County Commissioner since 2013. He serves on the board of the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) – CCAO’s insurance pool.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame recognizes the efforts of Ohio’s distinguished men and women who have worn the uniform of our nation’s armed forces and then continue to contribute to their communities, state and nation through exceptional acts of volunteerism, advocacy, professional distinction, public service and philanthropy. The program is not intended to focus on what Ohio military members accomplished while in uniform but rather what has occurred in their lives outside of and beyond their military service.

Whiston attends NACo’s County Leadership Institute

Tom Whiston, Morrow County commissioner and CCAO’s secretary, joined a select group of leaders in county government from across the country to participate in the 16th Annual County Leadership Institute (CLI), a rigorous program developed by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and Cambridge Leadership Associates. CLI equips county officials with practical leadership strategies as they explore innovative approaches to address key issues facing their counties and constituents.

The program helps county leaders develop their approach toward solving complex challenges. It provides tools to encourage innovation and creativity; resources for invigorating organizational culture; and best practices in effective communication, collaboration and decision-making.

CCAO introduces quarterly magazine and podcast

CCAO launched County Leader, a new quarterly e-magazine, and “County Cast,” a new podcast, to provide an in-depth look at the news, programs and policies affecting Ohio’s 88 counties. Both communications pieces are available on the CCAO website.
Interview with an Alumnus
Barb Queer, former Ashland County Commissioner

Where are you from?
I am from Ashland County.

When did you serve as county commissioner?
I served as a commissioner in Ashland County from 2009-2016. Prior to being elected commissioner, I was Ashland County’s Business and Human Resource administrator. I served Ashland County for 39 years before retiring at the end of my term in 2016.

What other offices did you hold?
I began my career with Ashland County right after graduation from Ashland High School. I worked for the commissioners first as their switchboard operator before becoming a deputy clerk in their office. In 1996 the commissioners appointed me their Business and Human Resource administrator. The only elected office I held with Ashland County was commissioner.

Why did you want to be a commissioner?
I wanted to be a commissioner because I really enjoy helping people. I also had very good working relationships with all of the other local elected officials. Having served in county government for the previous 31 years and being well aware of the many issues facing county government, it was the natural progression of my public service career.

Why was it important to be a part of CCAO?
It was always important, in Ashland County, for the commissioners to be part of CCAO because they (CCAO) have traditionally and historically provided the voice for, and been the advocate for counties at the legislative level of State government. They were always the go to folks for any matter that came to commissioners that involved another local agency as well as a state agency. They also had the respected staffers that spent many productive hours at the Statehouse working on our local issues.

What is the thing you are most proud of during your time with CCAO?
Since my time with CCAO spans 30+ years, the thing I am most proud of was the formation and establishment of the CORSA and CEBCO risk sharing pools for Ohio counties. These pools have reduced costs and their risk management services have reduced risk to counties and they provide efficient services at lower costs to their members.

What was your biggest challenge as a commissioner?
My biggest challenge as commissioner was taking office in January of 2009, just as the recession was hitting Ashland County hard and the local government money was going away. Also, interest rates had hit record lows as well as sales tax revenues. Within weeks of me taking office, we had to close our County Home, slash budgets and eliminate positions. However, eight years later, after much belt-tightening and conservative fiscal spending, we were in a much better financial situation than when I took office.

Are you still involved with CCAO? How?
I am an alumnus now.
What do you think makes county commissioners such important advocates for their communities?
County commissioners are such important advocates for their communities because they are responsible for, and answer to, their entire county. I was reminded a number of times that the city within your county is also part of the county.

Therefore, the more you know about the city and villages and townships within your county, the better decisions you can make when you understand how your decision affects them. Also, having a voice through CCAO for commissioners at the state level really provides a tremendous resource for our local communities.

What have you been doing since you left office?
Since I left office I have been volunteering for a number of local agencies. I help out with our local economic development agency as well as our local historical society and genealogical society and others. I also closely follow the Ashland University Women’s Basketball team. I have season tickets and have followed them to the National Championships the last four years.

Is there anything else you’d like to add regarding your role as county commissioner or your county?
I was honored to serve the citizens of Ashland County for 39 years, and I am proud of the strong relationships we formed and have maintained over the years with CCAO, CORSA and CEBCO. I consider them friends as well as professional colleagues.
Where in the world is Brad Cole?

Cindy and I decided to take advantage of my recent retirement from CCAO by doing some travel both within the United States and internationally. In 2018, we took two long trips, one road trip during July and August to South and Southwestern U.S., and a second trip involving a cruise last November and December to Peru, Patagonia and Antarctica. We also did another extended summer road trip in 2019.

On our 2018 road trip, we primarily selected cities and national parks we had not previously visited. Heading south we visited Nashville (Grand Ole Opry); Little Rock, Arkansas; Dallas-Arlington (presidential library and Indians-Rangers baseball), Galveston, Austin, San Antonio and Fort Stockton, Texas; Alamogordo (White Sands National Monument), New Mexico; Page (Glen Canyon National Park), Arizona; Salt Lake City, Utah; Abilene, Kansas; and Independence, Missouri. While traveling around the country, we visited the presidential libraries of Clinton, George W. Bush, Johnson, Eisenhower, and Truman. We also spent time with our middle son, Andrew, OSU graduate and fan, who resides in Salt Lake City and attends graduate school at the University of Utah.

Our South American trip consisted of one week in Peru visiting such beautiful places as the city of Cusco perched in the Andes (elevation 11,200 feet) and Machu Picchu, a 15th century Inca City; a 30 day cruise down the coast of Peru and Chile, with time to see places in Argentina, Falkland Islands, Drake Passage, Antarctic Peninsula, and Montevideo, Uruguay; and three days in Buenos Aires before returning to the US. Highlights of the trip included Machu Picchu and the stunning beauty and wildlife of Antarctica – lots of penguins, seals and whales!

During this past summer we took another road trip out west with stops in Denver to visit friends and take in a Colorado Rockies game, and made a stop in Salt Lake City to visit Andrew. From there we visited Cedar Brakes National Monument near Cedar City, Utah and Death Valley National Park, California – yes, it is hot in July! Our itinerary included visits to the Reagan and Nixon Presidential libraries in Simi Valley and Yorba Linda, respectively, as well as time visiting some of the Disney-related attractions in Anaheim with Cindy’s brother and sister-in-law who reside in San Diego. Heading back to Ohio we visited Saguaro National Park near Tucson, Arizona, and El Paso, Texas as well as Big Bend National Park which is adjacent to the Rio Grande River in south Texas. From there we traveled to Oklahoma City to visit friends and then Branson, Missouri before returning to Ohio.

So, you ask, “What do you do in Ohio when you are not traveling someplace else?” The answer is we believe Ohio has a wealth of entertainment possibilities. Within the past year we have enjoyed multiple Columbus Jazz Orchestra concerts at the Southern Theatre, enjoyed the Columbus Symphony Orchestra on several occasions at the Ohio Theater, and attended several musicals at the Aronoff Center in Cincinnati (Hamilton and Jersey Boys), and the Ohio Theater (Hello Dolly, Dear Evan Hanson, and Mean Girls). We also take in a host of sporting events – Cleveland Indians, Columbus Clippers, Ohio State football – our youngest son David was in the OSU Marching Band 2016 – 2018.

In short, Ohio is a wonderful place to live and we feel blessed to have the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful cultural and entertainment possibilities that this state has to offer.
139th CCAO Annual Winter Conference and CCAO Alumni Association meeting and luncheon

Join your colleagues during the CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 12 p.m. for the CCAO Alumni Association Annual Meeting, election of officers and lunch. CCAO Executive Director Suzanne Dulaney will give an update on the association. After the luncheon, join us in the trade show for an ice cream social.

Please remember to first check in at the CCAO/CEAO Registration Desk located near the lunch on the 2nd floor of the Hyatt to pick up your name badge and program. We look forward to seeing you!

CCAO Alumni Association dues reminder

We sent all former county commissioners, county executives and county council members a 2020 CCAO Alumni Association Dues Membership Packet. 2020 dues are still only $10 per year. In addition, a lifetime Alumni Membership is available for $100.

- CCAO Alumni Membership includes:
  - Alumni Association newsletter
  - CCAO electronic newsletters
  - Alumni Association meeting minutes
  - Updates on current county government developments
  - CCAO Alumni Association page on the CCAO website (to-be-coming)

We hope you take advantage of this opportunity and become a member in 2020. A 2020 CCAO Alumni Membership dues form is included for your convenience. If you need additional information on how to join the CCAO Alumni Association, please contact Nedra Benson, CCAO administrative professional, at (614) 221-5627, (888) 757-1904 or nbenson@ccao.org.
In Memoriam

**Dixie Allen**
Former State Representative and Montgomery County Commissioner Dixie Allen died on Mar. 31. Allen worked 39 years as a civilian employee for the U.S. Air Force in data systems and personnel management at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Los Angeles AFB and Andrews AFB. She was appointed to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1998 to fill an unexpired term and elected to four terms. In addition, she was appointed to serve as Montgomery County Commissioner in 2006 but was not elected to that seat the following year. A graduate of Central State University, Allen was active in her community her entire life.

**Harriet Fenner**
Former Highland County Commissioner Harriet Fenner passed away in July. Harriet served as county commissioner from her appointment in 1971 to complete the unexpired term of her late husband, Wayne Fenner, until 1985. She was the first woman elected to serve as Highland County Commissioner and the first woman to serve as CCAO president. Born and raised in Highland County, Harriet graduated from Hillsboro High School and was active in political and community activities. In addition to serving as a county commissioner, Harriet worked for the Ohio Bell Telephone Company in Hillsboro and Columbus.

**Edwin C. “Ed” Brubaker**
Former Preble County Commissioner Edwin S. “Ed” Brubaker died in April. A Preble County farmer for many years, Ed served as county commissioner from 1969 until 1984. As commissioner he was involved with CCAO and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Counties and attended two White House Conferences during the Reagan administration. He served two years in the U.S. Army. Ed attended Miami University and received his MPA from the University of Dayton. He was an assistant professor and Southwest Ohio District Specialist in Community Development with OSU Extension.

**Martha Dorsey**
Former CCAO President and Clermont County Commissioner Martha Harris Dorsey died in late November 2018. Born to be a public servant, Martha worked for the Clermont County Department of Human Services for 18 years and became the director. She was elected to an unexpired term on Board of County Commissioners in 1986 and served four consecutive terms. During her tenure as commissioner, Martha served on many boards and commissions. In her honor, the Clermont County Chamber presents the annual Martha Dorsey Pacesetter Award, which honors a public servant who has genuine concern for the welfare of Clermont County and demonstrated outstanding leadership, character and citizenship.

**Bill Pratt**
CCAO and Lawrence County residents were saddened to hear about the sudden death of Lawrence County Commissioner William “Bill” Earl Pratt. Bill operated his family dairy farm of nearly 100 years. He was valedictorian of his Chesapeake High School graduating class and a graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in dairy science. A sixth-generation farmer and fourth-generation dairy farmer, Bill had been an advocate for dairy farming in the county, which had decreased in recent years. He was President of the Lawrence County Board of County Commissioners serving as
commissioner since 2011. He was a former member of the Chesapeake School Board and the Ironton Housing Authority. As commissioner, Bill also served on the Tri-State Airport Authority, the Lawrence County Community Action Organization, the Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation, and many other boards as well.

**William J. “Bill” Ress**

Former Tuscarawas County Commissioner William J. “Bill” Ress, a long-time county resident, died in July following a brief illness. He attended North Texas State University where he earned his bachelor’s degree in business. Bill was elected to a New Philadelphia council seat in 1970 and began a career in public service that would span five decades. Always a fiscal conservative, he won election to the Ohio Senate (30th district) in 1980. Bill served one term as Tuscarawas County Commissioner from 2001-2004. He was the owner of the former Liberty Furniture, a downtown fixture in New Philadelphia, for many years. He was active in his church and civic organizations.

**Donald Edwin “Don” Wuertz**

Donald Edwin “Don” Wuertz, former Delaware County Commissioner, passed away in July. Born in Franklin County, Don graduated from Hilliard High School in 1956 and began working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He served in the U.S. Army from 1961-1963, before being honorably discharged. He worked for the U.S Department of Agriculture for 37 years before retiring in 1993. Throughout his life he was committed to the community serving on Delaware City Council for 12 years - serving as mayor for eight of those years. Later, he served two terms as county commissioner from 1995 to 2002. He was active in his church and civic organizations.
2019 CCAO Executive Committee

President  Julie Ehemann, Shelby County Commissioner
1st Vice President  Carl Davis, Monroe County Commissioner
2nd Vice President  Tim Bubb, Licking County Commissioner
Secretary  Deborah Lieberman, Montgomery County Commissioner
Treasurer  Tony Anderson, Fayette County Commissioner
Member  Mike Halleck, Columbiana County Commissioner

2019 Board of Directors

Chris Abuhl, Tuscarawas County Commissioner
Ron Amstutz, Wayne County Commissioner
Terry Boose, Huron County Commissioner
Terry Britton, Highland County Commissioner
Armond Budish, Cuyahoga County Executive
Bob Corbett, Champaign County Commissioner
Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner
Christopher Day, Preble County Commissioner
Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner
Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner
Pat Geissman, Medina County Commissioner
Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner
Thomas Graham, Jefferson County Commissioner
DeAnna Holliday, Lawrence County Commissioner
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Casey Kozlowski, Ashtabula County Commissioner
Ryan Mack, Defiance County Commissioner
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Cory Noonan, Allen County Commissioner
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Matt Old, Erie County Commissioner
Paula Prentice, Summit County Council
Randy Smith, Meigs County Commissioner
Brian Stewart, Pickaway County Commissioner
Doug Weisenauer, Crawford County Commissioner