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# CIDS

## County Information and Data Service

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NOVEMBER 3, 2006

### DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 13, 2006	CCAO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
NOVEMBER 14, 2006	OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS SEMINAR AND LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON, STATEHOUSE ATRIUM, COLUMBUS
NOVEMBER 16, 2006	CCAO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
NOVEMBER 17, 2006	CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
DECEMBER 11, 2006	CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS
DECEMBER 10-13, 2006	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS
MARCH 3-7, 2007	NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, HILTON WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUNE 10-12, 2007	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PARK INN TOLEDO (FORMERLY RADISSON HOTEL), LUCAS COUNTY (TOLEDO)
JULY 13-17, 2007	NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE, RICHMOND, VA

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

#### CEBCO PROGRAM'S RENEWAL RATES ARE IMPRESSIVE!

The CEBCO Board of Directors are pleased to announce the 2007 renewal rates for the participating counties. The rates range from 1% to 12.5%, with none of the participating counties receiving over a trend increase. The composite or average increase was 2.43%. Ten counties received an increase in the 1% range, one county received a 7.43% increase and two counties with higher claims experience received a 12.5% increase. These increases were

then REDUCED by the prescription drug rebates they earned in the previous year. These rebates are accumulated annually and then credited back directly to the county that earned the rebate. This methodology netted some of the counties an actual decrease and some a negligible increase. The last county to join the program, Union County, just joined the program October 1. Their rates were calculated for a fifteen month period, so they were not involved in the renewal process until next year.

Participating counties include: Allen, Ashtabula, Athens, Butler, Champaign Darke, Delaware, Hardin, Hocking, Logan, Madison, Putnam, Union, and

Williams Counties. In addition to the fourteen counties with medical and prescription drug, dental and vision coverage Geauga and Wayne counties have joined CEBCO's Life Insurance Plan. Many plans renew their coverages effective January 1, so now is the time to explore CEBCO!

As with all of the existing CEBCO products, your county can choose any of the stand alone programs separately or in conjunction with any of the other CEBCO offerings include: Medical, Drug, Dental, Life and Vision Coverage. Harnessing group buying power is a key benefit of CEBCO. For more information on the CEBCO Program please contact Maggie Neely at (614) 221-5627 x146 or to obtain a quote Melissa Bodey x150.

OCCO SEMINAR & LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON - NOV 14

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) seminar and legislative luncheon on Tuesday, November 14, 2006! A seminar of interest to all county elected officials on "IRS Treatment of Taxable Fringe Benefits" is scheduled from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. followed by the legislative luncheon at noon in the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus. The Ohio State Coroners Association will host the luncheon.

Recently the IRS has been conducting audits on public entities to determine if certain employee fringe benefits are being appropriately treated as taxable income under the Internal Revenue Code. Currently, the IRS is auditing a northern Ohio county, and an audit has been completed on the City of Columbus. It is our understanding that these entities were randomly selected, too. Attend the seminar to find out what items are considered taxable and under what conditions; discussions will cover certain meal allowances while traveling, cell phones, automobiles, employer-provided vehicles, personal use of vehicles, uniforms and gifts.

County officials need to continually communicate and build a partnership with members of the General Assembly. OCCO encourages you to invite your state senators and state representatives to the luncheon,

in addition to the general invitation that OCCO will be sending. Keep in mind that legislators will attend the event and look for county officials from their district. Please help us ensure that county officials are in attendance for each legislative district!!!

Many of you see your lawmakers regularly within your counties. OCCO strongly encourage you, though, to travel to Columbus on November 14 to physically show your support for your lawmakers, who will be looking to see if anyone from their district made the effort to come to this important event.

**Please RSVP your attendance at the seminar and/or luncheon so that seminar materials can be prepared and an accurate meal count can be ordered.**

After you meet with your legislators at the Statehouse, please take some time to see the following:

- **County flags** will be flying on Veterans' Plaza on the east side of the Senate Building.
- **Statehouse Rotunda Display** - A rare public display of ornate silver serving pieces from the Battleship Ohio, launched 105 years ago by President William McKinley, is on display in the Statehouse Rotunda. The 13 silver items are on loan from the vaults of the Ohio Historical Society with special permission granted to the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board from the United States Navy. Major ships served as a floating embassy during this period and the silver was used for elaborate receptions and meals when docking in foreign ports.

CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE - DECEMBER 10-13

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 125<sup>th</sup> CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference and Trade Show to be held December 10-13, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, in Columbus. Register for the conference by November 17 to get the pre-registration discount. Registration materials were mailed to county commissioners, county engineers and CCAO affiliates this week. Everyone

attending the conference must register, even if you are attending meetings only. Government employees may sign up to attend meetings by the day (i.e., Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday).

**Preliminary Agenda**

**Monday, December 11**

**CCAO Workshops**

- Drug Testing & Drug Free Workplace Program Implementation
- Directions on Wellness Programs from the American Cancer Society
- Recent Updated Floodplain Regulations
- Automation Technology
- Senior Management Accused of Harassment? How to Respond.
- Tax Increment Financing
- Workforce, Economic Development & Social Services
- CCAO Legislative Update

**CCAO/CEAO General Session**

- Governor Elect (invited)
- Review of the 126<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (leadership invited)

**Tuesday, December 12**

**CCAO Workshops**

- The Destructive Forces of METH
- Future of State & Local Revenues
- County Airports
- RC&D Workshop
- Justice - At What Cost?
- Foreclosure Prevention - Win/Win For Residents & Property Tax Base
- 4-H Programs that Work!
- Lean County Government

**Wednesday, December 13**

**CCAO Workshop**

- The First Step To A Healthier You

A copy of the agenda was faxed to all Board of County Commissioner Offices on November 3.

Please make copies for all interested staff. To obtain a copy via email please contact the CCAO office at (614) 221-5627.

**REGISTRATION**

Some registration options have changed this year. Registrants have the following options to choose from:

**Packages**

**Full Conference Registration**

by 11/17 - \$275 after 11/17 - \$285  
(Conference registration and the following meals are included: Sun. buffet dinner, Tues. continental breakfast, Tues. lunch, Tues. Banquet and Weds. buffet breakfast.)

**Meetings Only (Government Employees)**

by 11/17 - \$25 after 11/17 - \$35  
(Conference registration priced per day - Mon, Tues & Weds. No meals.)

**Meetings Only (Corporate Employees)**

by 11/17 - \$155 after 11/17 - \$165  
(Conference registration for the entire conference. No meals.)

**Tuesday Banquet Only**

by 11/17 - \$60 after 11/17 - \$70  
(Reception, dinner & entertainment)

**Spouse/Guest**

by 11/17 - \$110 after 11/17 - \$120  
(Full packet + spouse/guest luncheon & program)

**Spouse/Guest Luncheon Only**

by 11/17 - \$45 after 11/17 - \$55

Please note: Anyone attending a meeting during the conference is required to register. County officials or employees registering for meetings only packets must register for each day they are attending. The nominal registration fee defrays the conference expenses incurred by CCAO/CEAO to hold the conference.

**SPOUSE/GUEST ACTIVITY**

Woodhaven Farm: The Cooking Connection, located in Licking County (Johnstown), will be the destination

for spouses/guest registrants on Monday, December 11. The bus will leave on Monday, December 11 at 9:45 a.m. and return around 2:30 p.m. Woodhaven Farm is a participatory gourmet cooking adventure. Attendees who wish to refrain from cooking can hike on the property! Join Chef Tami Cecil for a culinary adventure. For more information about Woodhaven Farm check out [www.woodhavenfarm.com](http://www.woodhavenfarm.com).

**ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF 2007 OFFICERS**

The CCAO Annual Meeting and election of 2007 officers will be held on Tuesday afternoon, December 12 at 2:15 p.m. The Banquet and installation of officers will be held on Tuesday evening.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Please make your reservations (\$135 single/double) directly with the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215, (888) 421-1442 or <http://columbus.hyatt.com/groupbooking/cmhrccnty2006>. Cut off date: November 17, 2006. **If CCAO/CEAO doesn't pick up the room block our expenses increase and it will be reflected in higher registration fees next year.**

2007 COUNTY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE		
HOLIDAY	ACTUAL HOLIDAY	LEGAL HOLIDAY
New Year's Day	January 1	January 1
Martin Luther King Day	January 15	January 15
President's Day	February 22	February 19
Memorial Day	May 30	May 28
Independence Day	July 4	July 4
Labor Day	September 3	September 3
Columbus Day	October 12	October 8
Veteran's Day	November 11	November 12

Thanksgiving Day	November 22	November 22
Christmas Day	December 25	December 25

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RING

In 1986, CCAO authorized the creation of an official county commissioners ring. The ring was designed at the request of current and former county commissioners under the guidance of CCAO. To order a ring, please contact Mike Miller at Miller's Jewelers in Mansfield at (419) 522-2793. It takes about six weeks for delivery of the rings.

**CCAO SERVICE CORPORATION PROGRAM NEWS**

CCAOSC NATURAL GAS PROGRAM – INFORMATION FOR CURRENT MEMBERS

As mentioned last week, now is the optimal time for current member counties to add additional buildings to the CCAOSC Natural Gas Program if they wish to do so. This enables us to integrate these new buildings immediately into the program, reducing administrative paperwork prior to program reorganization next year.

In order to add buildings quickly and easily, we will need the following information:

- Associated County
- Account #
- Name (of the building)
- Service address (of the building) w/zip code
- County Billing Address (and whether it is included with other accounts or separately)
- Consumption data for the last 12 months.

This information can be submitted to Brent Fisher, CCAO Enterprise Services Manager, via mail to the CCAO offices at 37 West Broad Street, Suite 650 Columbus, OH, 43215. For greater speed and efficiency they can also be submitted via e-mail at [bfisher@ccao.org](mailto:bfisher@ccao.org) or via FAX at 614-221-6986.

## **STATE ACTIVITIES**

### MARATHON NEGOTIATIONS REACH AGREEMENT OVER VOTER ID RULES

Lawyers for the state and labor union met late into the night on Wednesday, November 1 under a federal judge's supervision in an attempt to resolve a challenge to Ohio's use of new voter identification rules for the General Election on Tuesday, November 7. A hearing that had been originally been scheduled in the morning on Wednesday had yet to take place by 6:00 p.m. After hours of negotiation, litigation was avoided, and a consent order has been approved.

The confusion around the ID requirement for absentee ballots became evident when numerous voters used the wrong number from their driver's license on their absentee ballots. Ohio law now requires a voter to list either their driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number or to provide a copy of current utility bills or certain other government document.

Many voters who opted to use their driver's license listed the wrong number. They listed the multi-digit one printed in bold immediately above their photo, as opposed to the correct number which is located on the left side of the card, between the address and birth date, under "license no."

Under the order, county election boards are to accept and count any absentee or provisional ballot returned by mail or in-person so long as it has the voter's name, address, date of birth, and signature. "County Boards of Elections shall count these ballots even if they do not contain the driver's license number, the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number, or other statutorily recognized forms of identification," the order said.

The order requires Secretary of State Ken Blackwell to communicate the new information to all employees and post it on websites.

### AMENDED HOME SEWAGE RULES ADOPTED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007

The Public Health Council adopted the amended Sewage Treatment System (STS) Rules on October 12, 2006. The amended rules were filed on Friday, October 27th and are now available on the ODH web site at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/rules/final/f3701-29.aspx> The new STS rules (Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-29) are posted just below the current rules and will be in effect on January 1, 2007. In addition, the Department of Health's Sewage Treatment System (STS) Program web now has a new **CONTRACTORS** page at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/eh/sewage/contract1.aspx> Information and a brochure on the state exam on the STS rules is posted on this site. Other contractor information related to bonds and continuing education will also be provided on this new STS Program page.

Generally, the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 3701-29 (STS Rules) effective January 1, 2007, requires that sewage treatment system installers, service providers and septage haulers that register with a local health district to perform work required under the law take a state examination. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is the state agency responsible for the implementation of the sewage treatment system rules and the development of the state exam for registered sewage treatment system installers, service providers and septage haulers. Any STS installer, service provider, and septage hauler that operates in the State of Ohio, must pass the state exam as part of the local registration requirements

## **FEDERAL ACTIVITIES**

### PANEL RECOMMENDS CLOSING THE TAX GAP

The staff of the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation was asked by Committee Chair Senator Charles Grassley (IA) and Senator Max Baucus (MT) to develop possible options for reducing the shortfall between the amount of tax voluntarily and timely paid by taxpayers and the actual tax liability of taxpayers

(the "tax gap"). These options were to go beyond those contained in the Joint Committee staff report, *Options to Improve Tax Compliance and Reform Tax Expenditures* (JCS-2-05) January 27, 2005.

As a result, the Joint Committee on Taxation staff recently proposed to require counties to alter their property tax bills to separately state any amounts that are not deductible for federal tax purposes and report this information to the IRS.

Under current law, taxpayers can claim an itemized deduction for state and local real estate taxes. However, these taxes are only deductible if they are based on the assessed sale of the real property and charged uniformly against all property under the jurisdiction of the taxing authority; fees for services, such as trash collection and user fees and assessments for streets, sidewalks, water mains, sewer lines and other improvements are not deductible.

Present law does not require information reporting for the payment of real estate taxes. Local governments generally provide taxpayers with real estate tax statements, but the information provided on such statements varies by jurisdiction. In addition, mortgage lenders generally provide taxpayers with statements reflecting amounts paid from escrow accounts to local governments. However, the information provided on local government statements and mortgage lender statements is not furnished to the IRS.

The Senate Finance Committee is seeking comment on this proposal by December 1, 2006. To assist NACo in preparing comments, please consider the following questions:

- Do you believe that your county's property tax statements already separately itemize all taxes/fees sufficiently to meet this requirement?
- If not, what difficulties would you face in doing so?

- In addition, do you believe that your county's personnel can or should specify whether individual amounts are or are not deductible for federal tax purposes?

For more information and to comment please contact Alysoun McLaughlin, Associate Legislative Director, National Association of Counties, 440 First Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 942-4254 (direct) or [amclaughlin@naco.org](mailto:amclaughlin@naco.org).

## **NACo ACTIVITIES**

### COUNTY LEADERSHIP IN CONSERVATION AWARD

Counties have long been leaders in land conservation and open space protection, and NACo and the Trust for Public Lands want to salute these efforts with a County Leadership in Conservation Award. These awards will recognize leadership, innovation and successful implementation of investments in open space, parks, watersheds, recreational lands and wildlife preserves by NACo member counties.

The deadline for submissions is **November 17, 2006** and the awards will be presented at an annual conservation awards program as part of NACo's Legislative Conference, March 3-7, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

Additional information, nomination forms and descriptions of the 2006 award-winning counties can be accessed on the Web at either [www.naco.org/conservationawards](http://www.naco.org/conservationawards) or [www.tpl.org/awards](http://www.tpl.org/awards) or by contacting James Davenport, Project Manager, County Services Department, at (202) 661-8807 or [jdavenport@naco.org](mailto:jdavenport@naco.org).

### EARN 300 FREE RADON TEST KITS FOR YOUR COUNTY

Now in its second year, NACo is continuing its successful radon program to coincide with National

Radon Awareness Month in January 2007. To raise awareness of radon, its health effects, and mitigation techniques, NACo is again conducting the County Radon Outreach Program. Your county could be one of 10 counties to earn 300 free radon test kits. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. About 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked, according to the EPA. To learn how to submit an application on your planned outreach activities to diverse and low-income areas of your counties, please contact NACo. Applications are due to NACo by **November 13, 2006**. For more information contact: Kelly Zonderwyk, Community Services Associate and Affiliate Service at (202) 942-4224 or [kzonderwyk@naco.org](mailto:kzonderwyk@naco.org).

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### 2005 SERB PUBLIC SECTOR INSURANCE REPORT

The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) has recently published the "*14th Annual Report on the Cost of Health Insurance in Ohio's Public Sector*" based on the responses of more than 600 Ohio public employers on health care costs for over 235,000 public employees. Fifty-three counties responded to the survey.

Contents included: Project Background; Study Design; Response Rates; Summary of Findings; Summary Tables; Monthly Insurance Premiums - Medical Coverage; Monthly and Annual Insurance Costs - All Health Care Benefits; Annual Change in Insurance Premiums and Inflation Rates (1993-2005); Two-Year Change in Insurance Premiums; Employee Premium Contributions Required by Employer; Level of Employee Premium Contributions; Health Care Costs by Plan Type/Structure; Portion of Employers Providing Dental and Vision Insurance; Clarifications and Definitions.

To order send your payment of \$7.00 per copy or Purchase Order number to: Health Care Report,

Fiscal Office, State Employment Relations Board, 65 East State Street - Suite 1200, Columbus, OH 43215-4213. If you prefer, you may order by calling SERB at (614) 466-2963, or by emailing us at [calexand@serb.state.oh.us](mailto:calexand@serb.state.oh.us).

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT: A NATIONAL STUDY

In the years since September 11, better than 75 percent of the nation's counties have established an emergency management agency that either reports directly to the top officials in a county or is a separate unit within a public safety division or department, according to a recent study released by NACo and the National Center for the Study of Counties.

*Emergency Management in County Government: A National Study*, published by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, was commissioned by NACo to examine key aspects of county emergency management, including its organizational structure, budgets and funding, personnel and training, use of technology, and ways counties collaborate with other government entities and nongovernmental organizations.

The complete report is available to view or download on NACo's Web site, [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org), in the "Surveys" section of the County Resource Center.

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

### PLANS EXAMINER

The Wood County Building Inspection Department is accepting applications for a full time Plans Examiner to review construction blueprints and sites to ensure compliance with the Ohio Building Code and Wood County Residential Building Code.

Minimum Qualifications: Ohio Registered Professional Engineer or Architect with five years Ohio Building Code experience. Requires a valid Ohio Driver's License. Salary: Based on Qualifications (FLSA Exempt)



Classification specifications and applications are available on the County's website, [www.co.wood.oh.us](http://www.co.wood.oh.us), or visit the Wood County Building Inspection Department, Third Floor, County Office Building, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Application Deadline: **November 17, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.** EOE.

### GIS TECHNICIAN I

Position within the Sanitary Engineer department that performs a variety of Geographic Information System (GIS) duties including mapping, scanning, data entry, documentation, updating sanitary sewerage and water system base maps and map service requests.

Minimum Requirements: A four-year college degree in Geography, Planning, Computer Science or Civil Engineering with course-work in Geographical Information Systems; Or an associate's degree and two (2) years experience in GIS technology including successful completion of a minimum of forty (40) hours of related GIS software training and demonstrated knowledge of ESRI applications, databases and document imaging. One (1) year of experience in the use and operation of Geographical Information Systems and applications. Must be proficient in the use of GIS software, including but not limited to ArcView and ArcInfo products. A Valid Ohio Driver's license. Starting Salary : \$38,334. Excellent benefits

Accepting applications/resumes through **November 13, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.** or until position is filled. Please send resume with a copy of your transcript to: Lucas County Human Resources Department, One Government Center, Suite 450, Toledo, Ohio 43604-2259, Attn: GISTECH1. Applications/resumes also accepted at the Source, 1301 Monroe Toledo, Ohio (419) 213-JOBS. Visit our website at [www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us). EOE

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mahoning County Convention & Visitors Bureau is hiring a executive director. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree and/or 3-5 years of experience in marketing and public relations. Proven success in developing strong working relationship with diverse constituencies and good track record in financial management.. Preferred significant experience in the destination-marketing field. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications, within a range of, \$40 – \$60,000.00... Filing deadline: No later than **4:30 p.m. November 27, 2006** to Mahoning County Human Resources office, 21 W. Boardman Street. (330) 740-2130 EXT: 7112 or [www.mahoningcountyoh.gov](http://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov).

#### CLASSIFIED ADS

CCAO publishes the County Information and Data Service (CIDS) weekly. Classified ads will be published free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will run for two weeks if space is available. Please provide faxed or e-mailed copy of the classified ad by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday of each week. Transmit the copy to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, via fax at (614) 221-6986 or e-mail [mjneiman@ccao.org](mailto:mjneiman@ccao.org).



