



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 15, 2007	CCAO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, CCAO OFFICE, COLUMBUS
MARCH 16, 2007	CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES , CCAO OFFICE, COLUMBUS
MARCH 16, 2007	CCAO COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICE, COLUMBUS
MARCH 19, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, HOLIDAY INN FRENCH QUARTER, WOOD COUNTY (PERRYSBURG)
MARCH 19, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, HILTON INN WEST, SUMMIT COUNTY (AKRON)
MARCH 23, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, HOLIDAY INN -DAYTON AIRPORT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY (ENGLEWOOD)
MARCH 23, 2007	CORSA RENEWAL MEETING, ALADDIN SHRINE CENTER, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
MARCH 30, 2007	CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, THE UPSTAIRS RESTAURANT, MAHONING COUNTY (YOUNGSTOWN)
APRIL 13, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, BLUEBIRD FARM, CARROLL COUNTY (CARROLLTON)
APRIL 22-28, 2007	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK
APRIL 23, 2007	NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, TREE LINKS GOLF COURSE, LOGAN COUNTY (BELLEFONTAINE)
APRIL 27, 2007	CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, SALLIES, ASHLAND COUNTY (ASHLAND)
JUNE 10-12, 2007	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PARK INN TOLEDO (FORMERLY RADISSON HOTEL), LUCAS COUNTY (TOLEDO)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS

Mark your calendar and plan to attend one of the Regional Legislative Briefings to be held in March and April! The purpose of the meetings are to provide legislators and county commissioners with an opportunity to discuss legislative issues affecting county government on a regional basis.

For more information please contact John Leutz, CCAO Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7994, (888) 757-1904 or jleutz@ccao.org.

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK - APRIL 22-28

April 22-28 is National County Government Week (NCGW). Sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo), NCGW was first celebrated in 1991 to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties. The theme for this year's celebration is "Protecting the Environment".

America's counties take seriously their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its citizens in sensible and cost-effective ways. Environmental protection plays a critical role in this great responsibility. NCGW offers an ideal opportunity for counties to showcase their innovative and successful environmental initiatives.

A booklet offering ideas and suggestions for planning local activities during the week will be mailed to every county in early February. Information is now available on the NACo website at www.naco.org.

COUNTY LOSS CONTROL COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION

Risk management and human resources professionals are invited to join the County Loss Control Coordinator's Association (CLCCA). CLCCA is a group of professionals who develop and manage loss control programs to protect the interests of Ohio counties.

CLCCA is an active group, sponsoring quarterly meetings with relevant topics at convenient locations throughout the state, at little or no cost. By joining, you will have access to a valuable resource: personnel from other Ohio counties and from CORSA who offer experience and expertise, as well as a genuine interest in assisting others with their loss control issues.

Please contact Colleen Lockhart, President, at 440-279-1670, or clockhart@geaugabocc.org or any CLCCA Board member for additional information.

OHIO OFFICIALS ATTEND NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

County officials and staff from 27 Ohio counties brought their concerns to the nation's capital as part of the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2007 Legislative Conference held March 3-7 in Washington, D.C. During the five-day conference, NACo members discussed legislative issues and programs important to counties and communities, met with members of Congress, attended professional development and education workshops, and heard from nationally prominent political leaders and commentators.

CCAO hosted an Ohio Congressional Delegation Breakfast on Capitol Hill on the last day of the conference. Sixty Ohio officials heard about issues in Congress from Senators George Voinovich and Sherrod Brown and Representatives Paul Gillmor (Dist. 5-Tiffin), Jim Jordan (Dist. 4-Mansfield), Dennis Kucinich (Dist. 10-Lakewood), Ralph Regula (Dist. 16-Canton), Zach Space (Dist.18-Dover), and Betty Sutton (Dist. 13-Lorain). Several Congressional staff members represented members that were not present. CCAO thanks the members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation who took time out of their busy schedules to meet with Ohio officials.

The NACo Annual Conference will be held July 13-17, 2007 in Richmond, Virginia. Registration is available on-line at www.naco.org.

STATE ACTIVITIES

OHIO UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS IN JANUARY; AGENCY CITES DATA ADJUSTMENTS

Ohio's unemployment rate dropped to 5.3% in January but the change was downplayed by the Department of Job and Family Services. "The decline in the unemployment rate in January is more likely the result of year-end data adjustments than actual changes in the work force," ODJFS Director Helen Jones-Kelley said in a news release. January's report was pushed back as a result of the annual data benchmarking of data, the agency said. February figures will also be released later this month.

Ohio's unemployment rate was 5.6% in December. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.6% in January, up from 4.5% in the prior month, according to the agency. The state's non-farm wage and salary employment dropped 12,000 in January to 5,430,800, ODJFS said. The data shows 320,000 were unemployed during the month, a drop of 4,000 from December. In the last 12 months, the state's total number of unemployed workers has decreased by 2,000. The agency said Ohio's unemployment rate was 5.5% in January 2006.

County-specific rates, not adjusted seasonally, ranged from 11.1% for Monroe and Pike counties to 4% in Mercer County. Rates went up in 75 of the state's 88 counties compared to the prior month. Other high-rate counties included: Morgan - 10.8%; Huron and Ottawa - 10.4%; Adams - 10.3%; and Meigs - 10.2%. ODJFS said low-rate counties included: Delaware and Holmes - 4.2%; Auglaize - 4.6%; Franklin - 4.7%; Hancock and Union - 4.8%; and Shelby - 4.9%.

ISSUES DIRECTIVE TO EXPAND ACCESS TO PASSPORT SERVICES

Governor Ted Strickland has issued a directive calling for the Ohio Department of Aging to expand access to PASSPORT services for the 1,100 of Ohio's seniors currently on the waiting list.

"Today's action will allow us to help more than one thousand seniors find quality care while remaining in

their homes," Strickland said. "Not only is there a great public benefit to allowing older Ohioans more options, but it will add significantly to their quality of life."

Strickland praised the bipartisan work being done to address this issue.

PASSPORT (Pre-Admission Screening System Providing Options and Resources Today) is a Medicaid waiver program run through the Ohio Department of Aging that provides medical care to qualifying seniors in home and community settings.

PASSPORT started a waiting list in August 2005 because not enough money was made available to provide its services to all those who were eligible. At this time, the Department of Aging instituted a managed enrollment policy that capped the number of slots available on a monthly basis. At the end of January 2007, 1,100 Ohioans were on the PASSPORT waiting list.

In the directive, additional Medicaid funds have been made available to cover all individuals on the waiting list through June 30, 2007.

Eligible PASSPORT participants are 60 or older, financially eligible for Medicaid institutional care, frail enough to require a nursing home level of care and able to remain safely at home with the consent of their physician.

Applicants go through a screening to determine eligibility for PASSPORT. If determined eligible, caseworkers work with the consumers to develop and monitor the in-home services that will be provided.

Link to governor's directive <http://governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Directives/PASSPORT%20Directive%203-8-07.pdf>

SPRING SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN OHIO - MARCH 25-31

Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week will be held March 25-31. During this time, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages all citizens to update their disaster

preparedness plans and practice the safety measures necessary to protect themselves and their property from tornadoes, floods and other severe weather hazards that affect Ohio. National Flood Safety week will be held on March 18-24.

A statewide tornado drill will be conducted on Wednesday, March 28. At 9:50 a.m., tornado warning sirens will sound and a test message will broadcast on the Emergency Alert System (EAS). All businesses, schools and homes are encouraged to practice their tornado safety procedures during this time.

For additional information on severe weather safety and preparedness, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website at www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

OHIO CITIZEN CORPS GRANTS

The Ohio Citizen Corps Program Grant provides links to a variety of their programs, grants and documents available in Ohio.

The Citizen Corps mission is to bring community and government leaders together to coordinate the involvement of community members in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery.

The new Web page is available at www.ema.ohio.gov/citizencorps.asp.

OCSWA GEARS UP FOR ANNUAL SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA) is gearing up for its annual Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest.

During, or around, Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Week (March 25-31) the committee would like grade schools to focus their instruction on severe weather and emergency preparedness. Students in first through fifth grade and individualized instruction classes can create posters that illustrate how to prepare for and protect oneself from severe weather that typically affects the state of Ohio (tornadoes, thunder & lightning storms,

flooding, excessive heat and winter storms). All regional winners will be invited to participate in an awards ceremony at the Ohio State Fair in August.

Visit the OCSWA Web page at www.weathersafety.ohio.gov, scroll to the bottom of the menu box on the left, then click on 2007 Contest Rules.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

WIRED: FEDERALLY-FUNDED REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is soliciting grant applications for the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative. DOL is making \$65 million for this third round in federal grants available for regional projects. Grants may total up to \$5 million over three years. States can submit up to two applications for the awards and proposals must address investment, infrastructure and talent development.

Only Governors may submit the grant applications on behalf of regional partnerships. Initial letters of intent must be submitted to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) by March 16, with final applications due by March 30. Selected proposals can be submitted to DOL no later than April 12.

For more information please go to <http://www.ohioworkforce411.gov/wired>. The site will be updated frequently.

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACIO AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE COMPETITION

Counties across the nation are invited to submit their best communication efforts for recognition by the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO), an affiliate of NACo. Entry categories for the Awards of Excellence Competition include: annual reports, brochures, internal publications, external publications, writing, graphic design, photography, audiovisual productions, special projects and computer media. Submissions must have been completed and distributed from January 1 to December 31, 2006. Entries must be primarily the

work of the entrant with outside assistance strictly limited to support functions, such as typesetting and printing.

Deadlines and entry fees: \$35 per entry for NACIO members or \$50 per entry for non-members due by 5:00 p.m. March 11, 2007. Late entries will be accepted until March 18, 2007 with an additional fee of \$15 charged per entry. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.nacio.org. For more information please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

MEETINGS

OHIO COUNTY/CITY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Ohio County Information Technology Association (OCITA) Program is a comprehensive learning partnership that benefits counties, cities and individuals. OCITA membership is open to all county IT professionals from the offices of county auditors, county commissioners county executives, Boards of MRDD, clerks of court, county treasurers, county recorders, county engineers, and any others who strive to improve the use of information technology in county government. The group meets every other month.

The OCITA will meet on Friday, March 16 at noon at the Franklin County Administration Building, 373 South High Street, in Columbus. There is no charge to attend. Lunch will be served. The business meeting will be conducted during lunch. Topics to be discussed in the afternoon include: Microsoft Windows Vista Presentation and Licensing Options and lessons learned from the recent rollout at the Ohio Department of Health will be discussed. In addition, Microsoft's Progress on the Trustworthy Computing Initiative (<http://www.microsoft.com/mscopr/twc/default.aspx>) update will be presented.

For more information please contact Angie Koontz, Systems Administrator, Licking County Government, 20 South Second Street, Newark, OH 43055, (740) 670-5160 or fax (740) 670-5152.

Visit www.ocita.org for additional information about OCITA.

CLASSIFIEDS

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

The Board of Preble County Commissioners is accepting applications for the full time, unclassified, exempt position of County Administrator. This position assists in the administration, enforcement, and execution of policies of the Board of County Commissioners. This position is also considered a non-covered employee under FLSA.

Interested applicants must possess the ability to communicate with many variables and determine specific action, analyze and interpret data, draw valid conclusions using judgment and analytical skills and to recommend constructive changes in processes, policies and programs.

Applicants must have completed post secondary education in public or business administration or related field and/or five (5) years administrative experience in a department under a political subdivision of a county or local government.

A competitive salary (commensurate with experience) and a full range of benefits are offered.

Applications and a job description can be obtained at the Office of the Board of Preble County Commissioners, 101 East Main Street, Eaton, Ohio 45320. Deadline to submit an application and resume for the County Administrator's position is **March 30, 2007**.

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.