



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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APRIL 20, 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 27, 2007	CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, SALLIES, ASHLAND COUNTY (ASHLAND)
MAY 4, 2007	CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, THEO'S RESTAURANT, GUERNSEY COUNTY (CAMBRIDGE)
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
AUGUST 1, 2007	CCAO ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, OAKHAVEN GOLF CLUB, DELAWARE COUNTY (DELAWARE)
AUGUST 14-15, 2007	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DAYS, VAN WERT COUNTY (VAN WERT)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

HIT A HOME RUN IN LUCAS COUNTY!

Lucas County Commissioners Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Pete Gerken and Ben Konop and County Engineer Keith Earley will host the 127th CCAO/CEAO Annual Summer Conference on June 10-12, 2007 at the Park Inn Toledo (former Radisson Hotel) and SeaGate Convention Centre in downtown Toledo. Conference materials were mailed this week to county commissioners, county engineers and affiliates. Conference sponsor and exhibitor mailings will be sent next week.

Change in Conference Event Schedule - The 2007 Summer Conference event schedule has changed. The conference day pattern is still the same, but

sessions will be ending mid afternoon on Tuesday, June 12. There will be no banquet on Tuesday evening.

Sunday evening event - Join Lucas County on Sunday evening, June 10 at the Toledo Mud Hens v. Norfolk Tides baseball game at Fifth Third Stadium, which is located in downtown Toledo across from the Park Inn. A reception, dinner and game will be held at the stadium. Tickets to the game are included with the full and spouse registration packages. Pick up tickets at the CCAO/CEAO Registration Desk located on first floor of the Park Inn prior to the game.

Optional Golf Outing - Tee times have been reserved beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 10 at Heather Downs Country Club. Greens fees: \$45 (includes 18 holes and a shared cart). Please contact

Tanya Wilcox, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 221-5627, (888) 757-1904 or twilxoc@ccao.org for more information.

CCAO workshop topics

- Health Savings Accounts
- Employment Practices 101/Minimum Wage
- The Future of 9-1-1 and County Law Libraries
- Agriculture & Rural Development: CAFO Impacts
- Human Services Budget
- Alternative Energy
- IRS Taxation of Fringe Benefits
- Urban & Rural Drainage Issues
- IRS Fringe Benefit Audits of Counties
- Campaign Finance/Purchasing Legislation
- Healthy Lifestyle Choices

Hotel Reservations - The headquarters hotel is the Park Inn Toledo. Room rate: \$89 single/double. Reservation cut off date: May 18, 2007. For reservations please call (419) 241-3000.

Spouse Activity - Details for the spouse/guest activity are being finalized.

Please watch future issues of CIDS for more conference information.

THOMPSON TO LEAD COSHOCTON FOUNDATION

Coshocton County Commissioner Kathleen Thompson resigned her seat on April 15 to become the director of the Coshocton Foundation. Thompson has served as county commissioner from 1999 to 2007. The Coshocton Foundation was created in 1967 and provides scholarships and grants to the community. CCAO extends best wishes to Kathy as she continues serving her community in another capacity.

CCAO SERVICE CORPORATION NEW

US COMMUNITIES SAVES OHIO PARTICIPANTS \$1.5 MILLION IN 2006

Marking its 10-year anniversary, an innovative government purchasing alliance has saved counties, cities, schools, and non-profit organizations across

the country \$735 million on \$5 billion in purchases, officials representing the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance was announced last week at the National Press Club. In 2006, Ohio participants in the U.S. Communities saved \$1.5 million.

U.S. Communities provides a money-saving national purchasing forum for local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education and non-profits nationwide by pooling the purchasing power of tens of thousands of public agencies in the U.S. and Canada. The alliance was founded in 1996 by the National Association of Counties (NACo), the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), the National League of Cities (NLC) and the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO).

Primary advantages of the purchasing alliance:

- Competitively solicited contracts by a lead public agency;
- Most favorable public agency pricing;
- No cost to participate;
- Nationally sponsored by leading associations and purchasing organizations;
- Broad range of high quality products;
- Aggregates purchasing power of public agencies nationwide; and
- Managed by public purchasing professionals.

For more information please contact Tom Strup, CCAO Deputy Director of Operations, at (614) 220-7978, (888) 757-1904 or tstrup@ccao.org or visit the U.S. Communities website at www.uscommunities.org.

STATE ACTIVITIES

SMOKING BAN RULES COULD TAKE EFFECT BY LATE APRIL

On March 21, the Ohio Department of Health filed revised draft enforcement rules with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) to implement the statewide smoking ban adopted last November in the general election. Upon this filing, JCARR's jurisdiction to consider the revised rules lasts for 30 days. On Monday, JCARR held a hearing

on the Department's rules and took no action. However, even if JCARR takes no action on a rule, the rule may become law. JCARR does not have the power to approve a rule, but only has the power to recommend a concurrent resolution invalidating the rule upon which the General Assembly must act. Because JCARR did not make such a recommendation concerning the smoking ban rules, the Department is free to file the rules in final form no earlier than the end of this week. Once filed in final form, the rules will be given an effective date, which can be no earlier than the end of April. Thus, the smoking ban may be enforced as soon as the end of April.

Among the changes in the revised rules was a change that exempts some private clubs from the indoor smoking ban. For purposes of this exemption, private club members who provide services for the club, regardless of whether or not they are paid, are not considered employees. Therefore, as long as a private club's employees also are club members, and the club meets the other requirements in the law, then the club is exempted. The following are the other requirements in the law: (1) only members, who cannot include anyone under the age of 18, may be present in the club and (2) the club is nonprofit and is located in a free-standing building.

The revised rules also clarify that an anonymous complaint alone cannot form the basis for a violation. The revised rules permit signs to be posted by means other than affixing the sign to real property, such as placing a sign on a stake in a mulch bed adjacent to an entrance. Also, a definition of smoking device was added to the rules, clarifying that wood-burning ovens are cooking devices and are not regulated under the law.

During the JCARR proceedings, many bar owners and smoking rights advocates, such as the Small Business Coalition, voiced objections to the rules because they believe that the rules infringe on their protected constitutional rights. Several other groups, such as SmokeFreeOhio and the Ohio Licensed Beverage Association, argued that the exemption for private clubs goes beyond what the ballot language permits. They believe that the Department's rules permit an exemption more broad than the exemption the voters approved in November.

For guidance on the smoking ban statutes and rules, please refer to the Department's website: <http://www.odh.state.oh.us/alerts/ohiosmokingban.aspx>. For further information, please contact Beth Dominic, Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7996, (888) 757-1904 or bdominic@ccao.org.

LONG APPOINTED TO FORECLOSURE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Governor Ted Strickland has appointed CCAO Executive Director Larry Long to the Foreclosure Prevention Task Force chaired by Ohio Department of Commerce Director Kimberly Zurz, former State Senator and Summit County Council Member. State leaders are trying to head off a spike in home foreclosures are asking some in the lending industry to make blanket changes to outstanding loans and waive past due amounts.

At the first meeting of the Task Force held last week, Director Zurz outlined requests that include restructuring loans to more reasonable fixed interest rates, extending the length of existing loans and waiving late fees. While noting that lenders are not "jumping through hoops" at the requests, Director Zurz said lenders are beginning to recognize that changing the terms could provide them some value from loans that appear headed to foreclosure. "Getting anything out of the market is better than getting nothing," she said.

The Foreclosure Prevention Task Force began its review of pertinent issues with a goal of creating a set of recommendations - some of which could be added to the budget bill (HB 119) - by end of June. Director Zurz said the panel is obligated to act quickly, given the number of foreclosure processes underway now, and a likely future increase with billions of dollars in mortgages ready to move to higher adjustable interest rates. Task force members stressed the importance of educating Ohioans about the issue, and preparing them to handle higher interest rates or other payments that may come due. Long will serve on the sub-committee dealing with educating the borrowers, which is chaired by State Treasurer Rich Cordray.

Beyond restructuring loan terms and waiving fees, Director Zurz also noted that the task force should

consider seeking other concessions from lenders, including eliminating inflated appraisal values from principal amounts; urging lenders' attorneys to work toward preserving loans, rather than foreclosing; and allowing lenders to transmit information on jeopardized loans to the state. State Treasurer Richard Cordray said the concessions would be focused mainly on the subprime lending industry, noting that that is where the current "crisis" lies. He said the subprime industry hasn't typically done much loss mitigation, but said the likely increase in foreclosures will require it to change.

NACo ACTIVITIES

LEADERSHIP IN THE ARTS AWARD

Each year the Americans for the Arts solicit nominations for the prestigious County Leadership in the Arts Award. This award program, cosponsored with NACo, is presented to the county governing board that has shown leadership in promoting arts, culture and historic preservation in their community. Recent recipients of this award, which was started in 1999, include: Los Angeles County, Calif. Board of Supervisors; Montgomery County, Md. County Executive; Broward County, Fla. Board of Commissioners; Shelby County, Ala. Board of Commissioners; and the Lackawanna County, Pa. Board of Commissioners. Applications will be accepted through April 27. The Leadership Award will be presented at the Annual Arts Dinner at the NACo Annual Conference in Richmond, VA. Visit www.americansforthearts.org or more information or contact Jackie Byers, NACo Research Director, at (202) 942-4285 or jbyers@naco.org.

NACo DISASTER/TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT AVAILABLE

The toolkit includes software for good decision-making, a CD with useful preparedness documents and a DVD entitled, "The Seven Signs of Terrorism" that is customizable for local communities. Supplies are limited and available to NACo member counties. NACo developed the kit with financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Office of Grants and Training. (Contact: Rocky Lopes, NACo

Project Manager, Community Services, at (202) 661-8841 or rlopes@naco.org)

AWARD PROGRAMS

INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD

Since its inception in 1985, Innovations in American Government has focused on innovative government programs. Throughout its history, Innovations has accepted applications in all policy areas from training employees to juvenile justice, recycling to adult education, parks to the management of debt, public health to e-governance. All units of government of government are eligible for recognition and awards under the following guidelines:

- Programs must be administered under the authority of one or more governmental entities;
- The program must have been implemented 12 months prior to the date of submission (i.e., for a 2007 awards the program must have been launched prior to September 12, 2005);
- Programs must be currently in operation; and
- Applications must be submitted by the governmental entity responsible for the innovation; nonprofit, private sector, and union initiatives are eligible only with significant governmental involvement and oversight.

For more information about the grant program, please go to www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu.