



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 2-5, 2007	CCAO/CEAO WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
DECEMBER 3, 2007	CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS
DECEMBER 12, 2007	9-1-1 GOES TO COLUMBUS DAY
MARCH 1-5, 2008	NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, HILTON WASHINGTON & TOWERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 5, 2008	OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BREAKFAST, RAYBURN BUILDING - ROOM B-369, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCAO NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The CCAO Nominating Committee, chaired by Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner and CCAO Past President, met on November 16, 2007. Other commissioners serving on the committee included Mike Adelman (Huron), Ted Kalo (Lorain), Carl Watt (Crawford), and Bill Young (Geauga).

The committee wishes to thank all members who submitted their names for consideration. The nomination process was difficult because 28 highly qualified and motivated individuals expressed interest in serving on the Board. The Committee, however, was charged with recommending candidates for eight regular two-year terms. The committee adopted the following report:

CCAO OFFICERS

For President - Daniel Troy, Lake County Commissioner
For 1st Vice – Kerry Metzger, Tuscarawas County Commissioner
For 2nd Vice President - Paula Brooks, Franklin County Commissioner
For Secretary – Mark Thomas, Belmont County Commissioner
For Treasurer – Ben Nutter, Seneca County Commissioner

PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE ELECTED TO SERVE ON THE BOARD

Bob Corbett, Champaign County Commissioner
Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner
Patricia Geissman, Medina County Commissioner
Olen Jackson, Morrow County Commissioner

**FOR TWO YEAR TERMS ON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mike Adelman, Huron County Commissioner
 Sam Bassitt, Allen County Commissioner
 Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner
 Nick Kostandaras, Summit County Council
 Deborah Lieberman, Montgomery County
 Commissioner
 Joe Moroski, Ashtabula County Commissioner
 Otto Nicely, Defiance County Commissioner
 Bill Young, Geauga County Commissioner

FOR TWO ONE-YEAR UNEXPIRED TERMS

Nancy McKeen, Erie County Commissioner
 Ron Widener, Miami County Commissioner

Finally, the 2008 President will make nine more appointments to the CCAO Board for next year. Should you desire to be considered for such an appointment, please complete and return the form and questionnaire that was sent to all county commissioners to Kathy Dillon at the CCAO no later than December 3, 2007. In the event you previously expressed an interest to the Nominating Committee for a position and were not selected, you need NOT submit your name again as the next president will automatically receive names previously submitted.

**STRICKLAND, BRUNNER, CORDRAY, DANN &
GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEADERS TO ADDRESS
CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE**

CCAO/CEAO is pleased to announce that **Governor Ted Strickland** will address the Opening General Session on Monday, December 3 at the 127th CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference and Trade Show to be held December 2-5, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, in Columbus. Also, speaking on a panel at the Opening General Session will be **Senate President Bill Harris, Senate Minority Leader Teresa Feder, House Speaker Jon Husted,** and **House Minority Leader Joyce Beatty.**

Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann will be speaking at a session on "Managing E-mail: Electronic Public Records Retention" on Monday, December 3 and

Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner will be speaking at an "Elections Update" session on Tuesday, December 4. **State Treasurer Richard Cordray** will speak at the luncheon on Tuesday, December 4 on the "Statewide Parcel Program and Spacial Technology."

SPOUSE/GUEST LUNCHEON AND TOUR - Join the Ohio Herb Education Center (www.ohioherbcenter.org) for "Thyme for Fun in the Kitchen" - an experiential learning activity on Monday, December 3. The luncheon and program will be held at the Creekside Conference & Event Center located in downtown Gahanna. Following lunch the bus will take spouse/guests to Easton Town Center for an afternoon of shopping.

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF 2008 OFFICERS - The CCAO Annual Meeting and election of 2008 officers will be held on Tuesday afternoon, December 4 at 2:15 p.m. The banquet and installation of officers will be held on Tuesday evening. **Governor Ted Strickland** will install CCAO officers. See you at the conference December 2-5!

2008 HOLIDAYS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES

HOLIDAY	LEGAL HOLIDAY
New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King Day	January 21
President's Day	February 18
Memorial Day	May 26
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 1
Columbus Day	October 13
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 27
Christmas Day	December 25

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

WOOD COUNTY GOVERNMENT NAMED HEALTH WORKSITE

Wood County government has been named a Healthy Ohio "Healthy Worksite Award" recipient, which is given only to Ohio employers that make a serious commitment to employee health. The award is part of a larger program called Healthy Ohio, a statewide initiative of the Ohio Department of Health to increase awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. It acknowledges efforts to facilitate and encourage good employee health, enhance productivity and ensure a healthy work environment. Wood County Government was one of 22 employers in the State to receive recognition.

The Wood County Health Benefits Plan has offered wellness programs since 1993 when it starting offering wellness screenings to employees. Over the years, the Wellness Programs have expanded to include smoking cessation programs, reimbursements for fitness facility and nutrition/weight control memberships, an open swim program, fitness challenges, and lunch and learn programs.

The focus for 2008 is the implementation of a Wellness Rewards Program which offers employees the opportunity to earn points toward a deductible credit for their 2009 medical coverage. The goal of the program is to encourage new employees to adopt a healthy lifestyle, while motivating current participants to increase their level of activity.

The Wood County Commissioners are the trustees of the Health Benefits Plan. The Employees Health Benefits Committee reviews plan design and makes recommendations to the Commissioners. A nine-member Wellness Subcommittee develops and oversees wellness programming.

STATE ACTIVITIES

BWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTE ON OHIO'S GROUP RATING PROGRAM

Although the Bureau of Workers' Compensation

(BWC) Actuarial Committee had recommended an 87% discount as a first step in the process of lowering the state maximum discount, the BWC Board of Directors unanimously voted on November 21, 2007 to reduce the maximum group-rating discount for private employers from 90 percent to 85 percent effective July 1, 2008.

The BWC believes that the decision was a necessary step toward creating greater equity between the premiums paid by group employers and non-group employers. The BWC anticipates that this change will enable them to reduce private employers' workers' compensation base rates by approximately 2.5% overall. However, all Ohio employers can expect to see further reductions in group rating discounts in the future.

While this vote of the BWC Board of Directors does not affect public employer group rating plans (including the CCAO Workers' Comp Group Rating Plan), it is anticipated that the BWC Board will set the same 85% discount cap on public employer groups. This decision will be made BWC Board early in 2008 and will be included in the calculations made by CCAO and CompManagement during the second quarter of 2008 in putting together the 2009 CCAO Group. The first impact of this BWC Board decision will be felt by counties in May 2008 when making decisions on membership in the 2009 CCAO Group Rating Plan, which will impact premiums paid by counties in 2010.

For additional information you may contact Beth Miller, CORSA Claim and Litigation Manager, at (614) 220-7989, 888-757-1904 or emiller@ccao.org. Thanks to CompManagement, Inc. for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

Although CMI was hoping the BWC would not impose a change for the 2008 policy year, originally the recommendation was to reduce the maximum group rating discount from 90% to no lower than 80%. We are grateful that the maximum discount wasn't dropped to 80%.

2008 ODNR RECYCLING & LITTER PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAMS

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention have released applications for the 2008 grant programs. For more information about the Scrap Tire Grant, Market Development Grant, Community Development Grant, and Litter Cleanup Grant fact sheets, which outline the major components, processes, and requirements of the grant programs go to <http://www.ohiodnr.com/recycling> or contact one of the people listed below.

In addition, the division will be hosting two informational meetings to answer questions about the grant programs. Potential grant applicants are encouraged to attend one of the following meetings: December 11, 2007 - 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and December 12, 2007 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Assembly Center – East Room, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. E-1, Columbus, OH 43229. If you have any questions regarding these grant opportunities, please contact the division staff at;

Scrap Tire Grant

Matt Dummitt (614) 265-7003

Market Development Grant

Chet Chaney (614) 265-6407

Community Development Grant

Chet Chaney (614) 265-6407

Litter Cleanup Grant

Nexida Feliciano (614) 265-6375

PURCHASE OF ELECTED OFFICIAL SERVICE CREDIT

County elected officials recently received a memo from the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) concerning the cost to purchase "elected official" service credit that is scheduled to increase January 1, 2008. To preserve the lower rate for elected official service earned through 2007, members must make a partial payment or submit a payroll deduction authorization form to OPERS prior to December 31, 2007 or within 30 days from the date

a cost statement from OPERS is mailed, whichever is later. Call OPERS at (800) 222-7377 to request a cost statement.

If you have already commenced a service purchase for elective service earned prior to 2007, regardless of the method of payment, the cost to purchase that credit was locked in at the contribution rate at the time you commenced the purchase. Future purchases of elective service credit will be billed at the contribution rate in effect at the time the service was rendered. Cost statements will be provided on request.

Please call OPERS at (800) 222-7377 to request a cost statement and to discuss payment options for this optional purchase. If you have specific questions, or need additional information, please call Tom Sherman, Government Relations Officer, at (614) 222-2924 or Chris Lowe, Legal/Legislative Research Analyst, at (614) 225-1153.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

CONGRESS SENDS HEAD START BILL TO THE PRESIDENT

The House and Senate have overwhelmingly approved the conference report on Head Start Reauthorization. The House approved the measure on Wednesday, November 14 by a vote of 381-36, and the Senate followed suit shortly with a unanimous vote of 95-0. NACo's major issue in reauthorization was increasing the amount of money available for Early Head Start. The conference report expands the set aside from a current maximum of 10 percent to a maximum of 20 percent. If this increase had been in place in 2007, then Early Head Start would have received \$1.38 billion. (Contact: Marilina Sanz, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4260 or msanz@naco.org)

HOUSE APPROVES LANDMARK RECIDIVISM REDUCTION BILL

After almost three years of development, the U. S. House of Representatives on November 13, voted 347 to 62 to approve landmark recidivism reduction legislation, The Second Chance Act of 2007 (H.R.

1593). This modest but outstanding piece of legislation provides comprehensive assistance to state and local governments in developing evidence based programs that will help enable persons leaving jail or prison to successfully re-enter their communities. It has been estimated that more than two-thirds of local detainees and state prisoners will be rearrested within three years of their release and half will be re-incarcerated.

The legislation was considered on the Suspension Calendar and required a two-thirds vote for approval. The Senate is expected to approve the legislation during the first week in December when Congress returns from the Thanksgiving Holiday. In recent weeks House and Senate staffers had pre-conferences on the House version to make certain that it contained the key senate provisions. (Contact: Donald Murray, NACo Senior Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4239 or dmurray@naco.org)

HOUSE APPROVES MORTGAGE FINANCE LEGISLATION

The U.S. House of Representatives approved H.R. 3915, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, two weeks ago. The bill was passed on a 291-127 vote. The measure is designed to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices by establishing licensing and registration requirements for residential mortgage originators, and by providing certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans.

Opponents of the bill argue that it is overly restrictive and will strip lenders of tools needed to access certain segments of the mortgage finance market. The White House issued a Statement of Administration Policy expressing concern over H.R. 3915, noting that provisions in the bill overly constrict the primary and secondary markets for mortgage finance, including language that establishes underwriting standards, liability provisions, and subjective obligations for mortgage originators.

The Administration also supports a national origination standard and opposes the potential for states and localities to enact their own anti-predatory

lending ordinances. The Administration supports simplified disclosure language to borrowers, greater focus on unfair and deceptive practices and enhanced education, training and oversight of loan originators. The Senate has yet to take up the bill. (Contact: Cassandra Duhaney, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4204 or cduhaney@naco.org)

FARM BILL TEMPORARILY SHELVED

On November 16, the U.S. Senate was unable to cut off debate and limit amendments on the 2007 Farm Bill, essentially shelving the measure until the Senate returns on December 3. By a vote of 55-42 the Senate did not invoke "cloture" on the measure leaving over 260 amendments filed on the bill. It is unclear whether there will be sufficient floor time to consider the bill after the Thanksgiving recess. Congress may have to pass a long-term extension of the 2002 Farm Bill. NACo's interests in the bill consist of the rural development title, and the nutrition title of the bill. (Contact: Ed Rosado, NACo Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4271 or erosado@naco.org)

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE; REGISTER ON-LINE TO SAVE \$25

The 110th Congress, Second Session will hit town next January and a great number of programs that assist counties will be under intense scrutiny. As a county official you need to know what this means for counties, what you can do about the issues, and how you can strengthen the voice of local government on Capitol Hill. With a philosophy of "those who show up decide," you have a host of reasons to attend the NACo Legislative Conference!

The NACo Legislative Conference will be held March 1-5, 2008 at the Hilton Washington. Registration opened on Monday, November 26. Register online at www.naco.org to save \$25. Early bird registrations are due by January 18, 2008! Hotel rooms fill up fast, so register now for a room at or close to the conference headquarters hotel.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Ohio Congressional Delegation Breakfast to be held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5 in the Rayburn House Office Building – Room B369. More details to follow in future issues of CIDS. For more information about the conference or the Ohio Congressional Delegation Breakfast, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 775-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

BUTLER AND LICKING COUNTIES AWARDED FREE RADON TEST KITS FROM NACo

Beginning January 1, counties across the nation will lead activities and host special events to increase awareness of the health effects of radon exposure and to promote radon testing, mitigation, and radon-resistant new construction. To assist in this effort, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has awarded twenty-four counties and coalitions of counties, including Butler and Licking counties, 200 free radon test kits through its County Radon Outreach Program. The test kits, supplied by NACo, were awarded to these counties for their innovative radon outreach and education efforts concentrated in diverse and low income population areas.

Butler County will follow up on its last several years of radon awareness success by mailing each past participant a new Radon Frequently Asked Questions sheet in addition to distributing radon fact sheets in over 36,000 utility bills. The county will focus this year on promoting its new mitigation assistance efforts with the test kits. Butler County has also developed a number of partnerships with organizations in the community to help spread radon awareness.

Licking County will distribute its free kits directly to the 3,000 Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clients in the county. The county will use the kits to supplement its own stock to better cover this target group. The county hopes to test and mitigate 1,400 homes. The county also will conduct a media campaign through the county health department working with Time Warner to purchase air time for commercial spots promoting radon awareness. The county health department will participate in a local Building Industry Association Home Show as well as other local county

fairs and events to hand out radon educational materials.

To learn how your county can plan radon outreach efforts in coordination with National Radon Action Month, contact Kelly Zonderwyk, NACo Senior Associate, Community Services, (202) 942.4224 at kzonderwyk@naco.org.

2008 ACTS OF CARING AWARDS

The National Association of Counties (NACo) 2008 Acts of Caring Awards will again present cash awards to the volunteer programs that win the Legacy Award for Excellence, and Innovation and the Youth Service Awards. The winner of the Legacy Award will receive \$1,500; the Youth Service Award winner will receive \$1,000.

An “act of caring” is a community service provided by a county-sponsored volunteer program that enhances or preserves the quality of life. Any county government that is a member of NACo with an active program that meets the contest criteria is eligible to participate. A county program that won an Acts of Caring Award in the past two years is not eligible in 2004.

The Acts of Caring Awards recognize the top county volunteer programs in the country. The programs are honored for their community service and the legacy they provide for the future. This is the ninth year for this awards program. Awards will be presented during National County Government Week in Washington, D.C. in a Capitol Hill ceremony.

Up to 18 programs will be recognized and deemed examples of outstanding Acts of Caring. Based on county size, as many as three programs will be recognized in each of the following six categories: community improvement, criminal justice/emergency management, elderly services, health services/social services, libraries, and program for children and youth.

Application deadline: January 18, 2008. For more information please contact Tom Goodman, NACo Public Affairs Director, at (202) 942-4222,

tgoodman@naco.org or www.naco.org and click on the article in the center pane about the Acts of Caring Awards.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING

Pursuant to House Bill 9 (126TH General Assembly), all elected officials or their designees are required to attend a three hour public records certification course. The Ohio Attorney General, by law, is required to provide the training for this course and the AG's office has scheduled numerous public records sessions throughout Ohio. To find a list of trainings being offered by the AG's office, please visit www.ag.state.oh.us/publicrecords/training.asp. If you wish to attend a training offered by the AG's office, you must register through the aforementioned webpage or by calling 1-877-AG-4-OHIO.

To supplement the training sites offered by the AG's office, a group of local government organizations, including CCAO, have scheduled additional regional certified training opportunities. Two training opportunities will be offered each day to maximize the number of officials that may be trained. To register for the training dates listed below, please visit www.ohiotownships.org/records/publicrecordstraining.htm and fill out the on-line registration form. An e-mail address is required to register for these sessions, as a confirmation will be sent to the e-mail address provided. For more information about any of these training opportunities, please e-mail Heidi Fought, Director of Governmental Affairs at the Ohio Township Association, at fought@ohiotownships.org.

December 3 - Lawrence County

Ohio University Southern Campus, 1804 Liberty Ave., Ironton, OH 45638, (740) 533-4600
1st Session - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
2nd Session - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

December 6 - Wood County

Wood County Educational Service, 1867 N. Research Dr., Bowling Green, OH 43402-9086, (419) 354-9010
1st Session - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
2nd Session - 1:00 - 4:00.p.m.

December 11 - Ross County

The Ross County Service Center, 475 Western Avenue, Conf. Room B & D, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
1st Session - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
2nd Session - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

December 14 - Belmont County

Ohio University Eastern Campus, 45425 National Road W., St. Clairsville, OH 43950, (740) 695-1720
1st Session - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
2nd Session - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

December 17 - Brown County

Southern State Community College, 12681 S.R. 62, Sardinia, OH 45171, (937) 695-0307
1st Session - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
2nd Session - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

December 18 - Tuscarawas County

Kent State University Campus, 330 University Dr. NE, New Philadelphia, OH 44663-9403, (330) 339-3391
1st Session - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
2nd Session - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

December 20 - Athens County

Nelsonville Public Library, 95 W. Washington, Nelsonville, OH 45764, (740) 753-2118
1st Session - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
2nd Session - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

OHIO RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Ohio State Parks and the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association will present the 2nd Annual Ohio Resource Development Academy, which will provide hands-on grant application experience and tactics. The "Ohio Resource Development Academy Grant Writing Workshop" will be held on December 17-18, 2007 at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, 2045 Morse Road – Building E-1 Assembly Center, in Columbus.

Speakers from the ODNR, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will discuss their respective grant programs. Course tuition: \$99. For more information

please contact the Julie Collins, Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, 1069A West Main Street, Westerville, OH 43081, (614) 895-2222, (800) 238-1108, fax (614) 895-3050 or www.opraonline.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

GIS Technician II

The Knox County Engineer is seeking a full-time GIS Technician II to maintain GIS data, tax map records, and to ensure compliance with state/county surveying standards. The incumbent must be proficient in ArcGIS, Arcview, or equivalent software; able to interpret real estate deed legal descriptions; and must be highly detail oriented.

Applicants must have completed a minimum of Associate degree with emphasis on GIS coursework and four years experience. A Bachelor's and two years work experience is preferred. Compensation is commensurate with education and training; full benefits package included.

Position description and application are available on the County's website, www.co.knox.oh.us under County Jobs; can be obtained by contacting epmarth@ecr.net; or at 117 East High Street, Suite 161 in Mount Vernon, OH 43050. Completed applications with attached resumes must be returned to the above address on or before **December 21, 2007**.

PLANNING DIRECTOR

The Henry County Planning Commission seeks interested candidates for the position of planning director. The planning director provides information, analysis, direction, and leadership to the Planning Commission involving a variety of land use, subdivision, zoning, development and water/sewer issues. This position requires a qualified individual to administer and enforce subdivision and special flood hazard regulations; provide zoning technical assistance to townships; coordinate and assist in the administration of the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC); serve as facilitator to the Henry County Regional Water & Sewer District; provide on-going

technical support and implementation of the county comprehensive plan; and maintain and update a comprehensive technical mapping database (i.e., ArcView GIS).

Minimum qualifications include: a bachelor's degree in planning or other related field; two years professional planning experience; basic computer knowledge in Microsoft Windows operating system and related programs; ability to effectively perform verbal and written communication; proficient in undertaking multiple tasks and responsibilities; and capability to be self-efficient and self-motivated.

Salary range: \$35,000 to \$40,000. Deadline for receiving resumes is **December 20, 2007**. Applicants may email resumes to hencopc@bright.net, or mail or fax resumes to: Henry County Planning Commission, 660 North Perry Street, Napoleon, OH, 43545, fax: (419) 592-5508, phone: (419) 592-2976. EOE

SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR

Applications are being accepted for the position of Delaware County Social Services Administrator within the Department of Job and Family Services. The Social Services Administrator is responsible for direct and indirect supervision of Social Service Supervisors and other staff. Position is responsible for the overall management and development of the Social Services Division – Children Services. Qualified applicants must have LISW preferred and/or Master's degree and six years supervisory experience in a public children services agency. Additional job qualifications and an employment application can be obtained by visiting our website at www.co.delaware.oh.us the Delaware County Human Resources Department at 10 Court Street, 2nd Floor, Delaware, OH, 43015, or by calling (740) 833-2120. Deadline for submitting an application is Thursday, **December 6, 2007**.