



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

Published weekly by: County Commissioners Association of Ohio

37 West Broad Street, Suite 650 • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4195

Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • www.ccao.org

VOLUME XXXXVIII

NO. 1

January 11, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY 18, 2008

CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

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.

JUNE 8-10, 2008

CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE, LAKE COUNTY (PAINESVILLE)

DECEMBER 7-10, 2008

CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

TROY NAMES 2008 BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

2008 CCAO President Daniel Troy (Lake) appointed the following county commissioners to the CCAO Board of Trustees for a one-year term:

- Mike Crabtree (Scioto)
- Brian Hill (Muskingum)
- Ben Konop (Lucas)
- Edward Kuenzli (Wyandot)
- Cheryl Noah (Wayne)
- Margery Paeltz (Brown)
- Dan Polivka (Trumbull)
- Gary Starner (Hocking)
- Roger Tackett (Clark)

Presidential appointments will be presented for approval at the January CCAO Board of Trustees meeting, which will be held on Friday, January 18 in the CCAO Offices in Columbus.

2008 CCAO ROSTER UPDATES

Yes, it's that time again...time to update information for the *2008 CCAO Roster*! A memo concerning updating the Roster was sent to county commissioners clerks several weeks ago. The updated information should reflect the 2008 reorganization of the Board of County Commissioners.

Newly appointed commissioners and veteran commissioners that would like to update their photos should e-mail them now. Please do not staple, fax photos or send photos from the newspaper, because the reproduction quality is poor.

Please respond ASAP after the board reorganization on January 14. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE;
STRENGTHEN THE VOICE OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

The 110th Congress, Second Session will scrutinize a great number of programs that assist counties. 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. **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.

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**. Letters of invitation have been sent to the Ohio Congressional Delegation. Call now to make your appointments to meet with them during the conference! 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.

STATE ACTIVITIES

EDWARD J. TIFFIN AWARD

The Ohio Historical Society is now seeking nominations for the fourth annual Edward J. Tiffin Award in recognition of a person or family who has made extraordinary contributions to the field of history in Ohio.

The Tiffin Award, named in honor of Ohio's first Governor Edward J. Tiffin, is the Ohio Historical Society's highest honor for extraordinary contributions to Ohio history, national history, or history in general. Recipients may be individuals or

families, living or deceased. Contributions to history will be defined broadly and could include any of the disciplines comprising the field of history and other related fields of endeavor.

Nominations deadline: March 14. For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ohiohistory.org/sn/121807.html>.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SURVEY
ON THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF
EMPLOYERS

In light of today's global economy and the desire to educate students for success in higher education and careers and as fully participating citizens, the Ohio State Board of Education is asking stakeholders from all aspects of the business community to provide input into policy recommendations and next steps.

The web address (https://webapp1.ode.state.oh.us/odesurvey/survey_s/Edge_Survey.asp) links to a brief survey that asks respondents to offer comments on the types of skills, knowledge and behaviors that employees need today to be successful in the workplace and also what will be needed in the future to ensure that Ohio is competitive in the new global economy. The State Board of Education will use the results from the survey to help develop policy recommendations and define next steps in reforming Ohio's education system.

The survey link will be active until early February. For more information please contact: Marianne E. White, Management Analyst Supervisor, Ohio Department of Education, Office of Policy and Accountability, 25 South Front Street, Mail Stop 708, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 995-9944, fax (614) 728-2627, or marianne.white@ode.state.oh.us.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

BUSH TAPS CREIGHTON TO HEAD OFFICE OF
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Former Stark County Auditor and Recorder Janet Weir Creighton has been appointed by President

George W. Bush to serve as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. She began her duties at the White House this week.

Creighton will be in charge of advancing the administration's agenda to government officials outside of Washington and responding to the needs of governors and state and local officials. She spent 22 years in politics serving as Stark County Recorder from 1985 to 1991, Stark County Auditor from 1991 to 2003 and Canton Mayor from 2004 to 2007. In addition, Creighton served as president of the County Auditors Association of Ohio and as public director of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board for the 5th District.

CONGRESS RESCINDS \$250 MILLION IN WORKFORCE DOLLARS

Ohio could lose close to \$22 million

Late last week, Congress passed legislation to rescind \$250 million from the states' Workforce Investment Act ("WIA") allocation. Federal officials have been debating for some time whether or not to rescind unused WIA funds, even though the time frame to use the funds has not been reached. Tony Quatman, who is the President of the Area 7 Workforce Investment Board, along with board chairs across the country, sent letters to congressional leaders advocating against the proposal.

Congress passed the legislation in its Omnibus Bill rescinding unspent FY 2005 and 2006 funds as of June 30, 2007.

The following is the referenced section of the House Report mentioned in the bill:

Of the unexpended balances remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Labor under this heading for fiscal years 2005 and 2006 to carry out the Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker formula programs under the Workforce Investment Act, \$250,000,000 are rescinded: Provided, That the Secretary of Labor may, upon the

request of a State, apply any portion of the State's share of this rescission to funds otherwise available to the State for such programs during program year 2007: Provided further, That notwithstanding any provision of such Act, the Secretary may waive such requirements as may be necessary to carry out the instructions relating to this rescission in the statement of the managers on the conference report accompanying this Act.

Also, as a result of the legislation, there also will be an across-the-board reduction of certain workforce program dollars.

Ohio's portion of the rescission will be close to \$22 million. ODJFS is in the process of obtaining more details from the Department of Labor on how the rescission will be apportioned in Ohio. But, until the Department of Labor provides guidance on how the federal agency will recapture these WIA funds, we will not know the impact the rescission will have in Ohio. In previous years, ODJFS has been able to absorb such rescissions with its own money without adversely affecting local service. Given the state's current tight budget, however, the Department may not be able to absorb the losses this time.

MORTGAGE FORGIVENESS DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2007 SIGNED

Late December, Senator George Voinovich and Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones (Dist. 11-Shaker Heights) joined President Bush for the signing of H.R. 3648/S.1394 - The Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007. The legislation changes current law that forces individuals to pay income tax when they have part of their mortgage loan forgiven or are forced to foreclosure because of an inability to pay their mortgage.

Senator Voinovich co-authored the original legislation which was amended to win passage in both the House and the Senate before Christmas. The major difference is that the bill is now temporary and expires at the end of 2009, but the relief will be available for the 2007 tax season.

Declining home prices and rising foreclosure rates have forced more and more families to sell their homes for less than they paid, and sometimes less than the outstanding debt. The Internal Revenue Service currently taxes any loan forgiveness as "income." The Mortgage Relief Act relieves families of a tax burden when their lender forgives part of the mortgage on a principal residence, whether as part of a work-out, a short sale, or a foreclosure.

Ohio has the highest foreclosure rate in the nation at 3.7 percent. Another 7.4 percent of Ohio mortgages are past due, meaning that more than one in 10 are either past due or are in foreclosure. Thirty-two counties had an increase in foreclosure filings above 24 percent, including eight major metropolitan counties: Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Stark, and Summit.

Other Ohio Members of Congress signing on as co-sponsors of the bill were Senator Sherrod Brown and Representative Zach Space (Dist. 18-Dover).

NACo ACTIVITIES

RESTORE THE PARTNERSHIP: NACo 2008 KEY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has embarked on a mission to remind our nation's leaders of the singular importance of Federalism to the American system of government. NACo calls this effort "Restore the Partnership" and hopes to strengthen the relationships between counties and the federal government in order to serve the American people better. The 2008 NACo Key Legislative priorities reflect this overarching theme to focus on those goals most essential to reestablishing the historic tradition and practice of Federalism.

The priorities follow continuing legislative matters left to be resolved from the 110th Congress First Session. Restore the Partnership means looking at these issues in light of the responsibility elected officials have undertaken in seeking common solutions to America's problems. NACo's eleven Steering Committees, Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC) and Rural Action Caucus (RAC) have adopted the key priorities listed below which are

consistent with our efforts to restore the partnership and will be advocating these priorities and other important issues throughout the year.

The following Key Legislative Priorities are not in any priority order:

- Opposition to Unfunded Mandates
- Maintaining & Increasing the Financial Partnership
- Tax Issues
- Reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act/PILT Funding
- Farm Bill Reauthorization
- Aviation Reauthorization
- Establish Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

For more information about NACo's 2008 Key Legislative Priorities go to www.naco.org – click on Issues & Interest > Legislative Priorities at the top of the frame.

WANT TO PARTNER ON A PILOT FOR BIOBASED PRODUCTS?

The United Soybean Board (USB) is interested in working with counties to initiate pilot projects using biobased products. Pilot use of biobased products will give practical experience on how these products perform, their availability and how they can help meet their green purchasing and sustainability goals.

Biobased products are commercial or industrial products that are made from agricultural, biological or forestry materials that are currently available as replacements for petroleum-based products. Examples of biobased products include:

- Janitorial cleaning products (i.e., floor, glass, tile, bathroom & general purpose cleaners)
- Facility maintenance items (i.e., paint strippers, mastic or graffiti removers)
- Equipment maintenance (i.e., hydraulic fluids, greases, lubricating oil, two-cycle engine oil, parts cleaners & degreasers)

For more information about biobased products go to www.soybased.org. The site also contains Best Practices Guide for Biobased Products and profiles on USB demonstration projects with federal government agencies. If your county is interested in exploring a pilot project, please contact Kelly Zonderwyk, NACo Senior Community Services Associate and Affiliate Services Coordinator, at (202) 942-4224, fax (202) 737-0480 or kzonderwyk@naco.org.

COUNTIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has developed a document on “Counties and Climate Change: Frequently Asked Questions,” which focuses on NACo’s new County Climate Protection Program and other national initiatives, such as Cool Counties. The County Climate Protection Program supports counties as they work to have a positive impact in their communities (i.e., reducing emissions, benefiting the environment and public health, and saving taxpayer dollars.) This new program will provide counties with best practices, tools and resources to assist them in developing and implementing successful climate change programs at home. To view a copy of the frequently asked questions go to www.naco.org/climateprotection.

2008 ACTS OF CARING AWARDS

The 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 Award. The winter 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 enhance3s 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. 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.

GRANTS

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES GRANTS

Four Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) grant programs are accepting applications until February 1, 2008. Two of the grant programs are available for general recreation and two are for trails.

- **Natureworks Parks & Recreation** – All local subdivisions of government (local school boards are ineligible.) Contact John Lynch at (614) 265-6825 or john.lynch@dnr.state.oh.us
- **Land & Water Conservation Fund** – All local subdivisions of government and local school boards (with prior approval). Contact John Lynch at (614) 265-6825 or john.lynch@dnr.state.oh.us
- **Clean Ohio Trails Fund** – Political subdivisions and non-profit organizations. Contact Mary Fitch at (614) 265-6477 or mary.fitch@dnr.state.oh.us.
- **Recreational Trails Program** – Cities and villages, counties, townships, special districts, state and federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Contact Mary Fitch at (614) 265-6477 or mary.fitch@dnr.state.oh.us.

Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2008. For more information about the programs contact the person listed above and/or go to www.dnr.state.oh.us/grants.

PUBLICATIONS

IMPLEMENTATION OF GASB 45, CASE STUDIES OF 15 COUNTIES RELEASED

The National Center for the Study of Counties at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia has recently published “Implementation of GASB 45, Case Studies of 15 Counties.” This study reflects the responses of 15 counties to the new accounting rule enacted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board entitled Statement 45. Statement 45—Accounting and

Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits other than Pensions — now requires county officials to evaluate and change how they account for retiree health benefits. This study, compiled in cooperation with the National Association of Counties, provides an overview of the major issues surrounding GASB 45 and tells the stories of 15 counties and their progress with GASB 45 implementation.

To download a PDF version of the report to www.naco.org and click on the story on the front page. To order a printed copy (Cost: \$12), contact Jacqueline Byers, NACo Research Director, at (202) 942-4285 or jbyers@naco.org.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

STATE OF THE REGION CONFERENCE

The “6th Annual State of the Region Conference”, hosted by the Center for Regional Development at Bowling Green State University, will be held on January 30, 2008 at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, 10630 Fremont Pike, in Perrysburg. The conference starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at noon.

This Conference, an informative and relevant discussion of current conditions and the economic trends moving forward, will focus on the Midwest region (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ohio). The conference agenda is a top down approach to looking at the current economic conditions. C. Robert Sawyer, Regional Director for the Chicago Region of the Economic Development Administration will be presenting on the state of the Midwest region’s economy. Following the overview of the Midwest, a representative of the Ohio Department of Development will be discussing regional economy from the state’s perspective. Local experts will speak on retail, housing and labor.

There is no charge to attend – space is limited. Pre-registration is encouraged. For more information or to register please contact Pat Sherman at (419) 372-8710, psherma@bgsu.edu or www.bgsu.edu/crd.

OHPELRA ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

The Ohio Public Employer Labor Relations Association (OHPLERA) will hold the “24th Annual Training Conference” from February 3-5, 2008 at Cherry Valley Lodge & Conference Center, 2299 Cherry Valley Road, in Newark. The theme of the conference is “Against All Odds: OHPELRA Gives You The Winning Edge.” An application has been submitted to the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Continuing Legal Education for CLE credit hours for this program. For a conference agenda and to register online go to www.ohpelra.org. Registration deadline: January 28, 2008. For more information about the conference or OHPELRA please contact Joy Campbell, OHPELRA Treasurer, Butler County Department of Personnel, 315 High Street – Floor 6, Hamilton, OH 45011, (513) 887-3595, fax (513) 785-5199 or campbellj@butlercountyohio.org.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

SYLLABUS 2007-045

A board of county commissioners has a duty to provide janitorial services to the board of health of the general health district that occupies a county-owned building.

SYLLABUS 2007-046

Pursuant to R.C. 2744.01(B), neither a freeholder called by the county sheriff to appraise real property under R.C. 2329.17 nor an auctioneer hired by a county sheriff in accordance with a court order issued pursuant to R.C. 2335.021 to conduct an auction of real property levied upon by execution under R.C. Chapter 2329 is a county employee for purposes of R.C. 2744.03(A)(1) and R.C. 2744.08. (1940 Op. Att’y Gen. No. 2521, vol. I, p. 681, syllabus, paragraph one, overruled; 1934 Op. Att’y Gen. No. 3319, vol. II, p. 1465, overruled on the basis of statutory amendment.)

CLASSIFIEDS

ASSISTANT ENGINEER

The Logan County Engineer is currently accepting applications and resumes for the position of Assistant Engineer. This is a full-time opening

requiring a minimum Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering from an ABET accredited civil engineering program with an Engineer Intern designation and desire/ability to obtain a Professional Engineer (P.E.) and Professional Surveyor (P.S.) license and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class B. Residency in Logan County is required within six months. A physical and drug screening is required.

The first two years of assignments will primarily be construction site inspections at two federal aid bridge projects. The successful candidate must be able to clearly communicate both verbally and in writing. Works under administrative direction, assists with management and technical operation of department; plans, designs, and directs civil engineering projects for bridge, ditch and highway maintenance and construction; directs work of employees and contractors to ensure compliance with plans, specifications and safety standards; analyzes reports, maps, drawings, blueprints, tests, and aerial photographs on soil composition, terrain, hydrological characteristics and other topographical and geologic data; conducts project cost analysis and feasibility studies; prepares and directs reports, designs, specifications, plans, construction schedules and environmental impact studies; inspects, directs, and monitors construction and maintenance activities at project sites; uses computer assisted engineering and design software/equipment; provides assistance to contractors, county officials and the public; supervises and may perform bridge and culvert inspections; updates bridge inventories for ODOT; and operates dump truck with snow plow attachment during ice/snow emergencies.

Compensation is commensurate with experience. A complete job description and application for employment is available by contacting the Logan County Engineer's Office. Deadline for submission of application and resume is **January 31, 2008** at 4:00 P.M. at the Logan County Engineer's office, 1991 County Road 13, P.O. 427, Bellefontaine, OH 43311, (937) 592-2791. EOE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES ASSISTANT DIRECTOR(S)

The Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services is searching for an experienced

professional for the following two upper level management position, as Children's Services Assistant Director: These positions report to the Director of the agency and are responsible for leading the Senior Management Team of the Children's Services Division. The Children's Services Division is legally responsible for documenting reports of child abuse, neglect, related chemical dependency issues, and acting to protect child victims and children at risk of harm. Assistant Directors require a comprehensive knowledge of all program areas which includes Intake, Ongoing, Adoption, Clinical, and Foster Care. The Children's Services Division has over 500 employees and a budget of \$115.8M. The qualified applicant must possess management skills which enable him or her to utilize the Children's Services Division's human and financial resources to effectively coordinate the services provided by other community resources.

Position requires a Master's degree in a related field and five years of related direct service or administration experience. Hamilton County offers a highly competitive salary (\$76,222-\$111,666 annual) and excellent benefits package.

Reference Posting #253-07 when applying. You may apply in person or send your resume/application to the following address: Hamilton County Human Resources, County Administration Building, 138 East Court Street, Room 707, Cincinnati, OH 45202. FAX to: (513) 946-4720. For a comprehensive job profile and to apply on-line visit: www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov. Application deadline: **January 31, 2008**. EOE

SENIOR PLANNER

The Knox County Regional Planning Commission is currently accepting applications and resumes for the position of Senior Planner. Under the supervision of the Executive Committee of the Commission, the Senior Planner serves as Secretary to the Commission and is responsible for the following: Providing professional service to the public, leadership in all aspects of planning, administering regulations and managing staff, and working with the Commission's committee and local and other units of government.

This is a full-time position requiring a minimum of a four-year degree from an accredited university or college in planning or a related field; minimum of five years of experience with the varied aspects of planning in a regional/county planning commission or a similar organization; minimum of three years of administrative responsibility for staff; demonstrated professional development through certification by at least one statewide or national organization for planners and through other similar activities; ability to project a high level of professionalism and sensitivity in dealing with the public, developers, governmental officials and members of the Commission; computer experience and aptitude as demonstrated by proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, Publisher and Access as well as Arc View GIS and other similar tools; and a valid Ohio Driver's License and an acceptable driving record.

Position description and application are available on the County's website www.co.knox.oh.us/jobs or 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 **February 1, 2008**. EOE.