



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

Published weekly by: County Commissioners Association of Ohio

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

VOLUME XXXXVIII

NO. 40

OCTOBER 24, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 12, 2008	OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON, STATEHOUSE ATTRIUM, COLUMBUS
DECEMBER 7-10, 2008	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS
MARCH 7-11, 2009	NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, MARRIOTT WARDMAN PARK, WASHINGTON, D.C.
JULY 24-29, 2009	74 TH NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION, DAVIDSON COUNTY (NASHVILLE), TN
FEBRUARY 23-25, 2009	COMMISSIONERS TRAINING SEMINAR, DEER CREEK RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER, PICKAWAY COUNTY (MT. STERLING)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCAO ON THE MOVE...OFFICES MOVE TO NEW BUILDING ON NOVEMBER 7

On November 7, CCAO, CORSA and CEBCO will experience a momentous occasion when we move into our new office building in downtown Columbus. During the move-in and unpacking phase, the office will be closed for business (no phone or internet service) on Friday, November 7 through Monday, November 10. The building, located at 209 East State Street, is approximately two blocks east of the Statehouse. State Street is the street that runs on the south side of the Statehouse. The building was constructed in 1979, is a three floor brick structure that has 22,152 square feet of space. Included with the building are 50 surface parking spaces.

The facility will be owned by the County Governance Facility LLC, which is a partnership between CCAO, CORSA, and CEBCO each having

an equal share of ownership. The facility will be governed by the Boards Coordinating Council and managed by Tom Strup, CCAO Deputy Director of Operations.

We sincerely believe that this facility will serve as the foundation for continued and enhanced services to member counties. The purchase provides long term cost savings for all the entities that comprise CCAO.

CCAO is anxious to share our new facility! There will be an **open house** held on **Sunday, December 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. during the CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference**. All conference attendees are invited to attend the open house. Transportation will depart from the second floor of the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

To permit staff time to move and unpack at our new location, **CIDS will not be published on November 7**. Our regular publication schedule will resume on November 14.

OCCO LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON – NOV. 12

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) legislative luncheon on Wednesday, November 12, 2008. CCAO will host the luncheon.

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. Please schedule appointments with them to discuss issues of importance to your county while you are in Columbus. Since the Statehouse will be in a flurry of activity in November, take this opportunity to attend a committee meeting or Senate & House Sessions. Don't miss this opportunity to lobby the Ohio General Assembly!

Many county officials see your lawmakers regularly within your counties. OCCO encourages you to travel to Columbus on November 12 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. Call your legislators and tell them you will meet them at the luncheon. **Please register by November 7, 2008.**

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

- **County flags** on display on Veterans' Plaza on the east side of the Senate Building.
- **Ladies Gallery** – The room pays homage to the first female Ohio legislators who paved the way for women in government and honors all women who have served in the Ohio General Assembly.
- **Etch A Sketch Presidential Display** - featuring sketches of America's Presidents on display in the Crypt.

For more information please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

128th CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 128th CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference and Trade Show to be held December 7-10, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, in Columbus. Register for the conference by November 14 to get the pre-registration discount. Everyone attending the conference must register, even if you are attending meetings only. Meetings only registrants must register for each day meetings are attended. No meals are included with the meetings only registration.

Preliminary Agenda

Sunday, December 7

Open House at the New CCAO Office Building

All conference attendees are invited to attend an open house at the new CCAO Office Building located at 209 East State Street in downtown Columbus. CCAO, along with the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA), and County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio (CEBCO) purchased a building this year.

An open house/reception for all conference attendees will be held on Sunday evening, December 7 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Transportation departs from the second floor of the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Monday, December 3

CCAO Workshops

- SB 268: Competitive Sealed Proposal Law
- Local Government Reform
- Media and Public Relations
- OPERS Basics for Soon-to-be Retirants
- Elections Administration
- Taxation Update
- CCAO Legislative Update

CCAO/CEAO General Session

- Auditor of State Mary Taylor
- Ohio General Assembly Leadership

Spouse/Guest Activity

The Kelton House, an authentic example of Victorian architecture, is filled with original furnishing and period dress used by the family. The home was in the Kelton family from its construction in 1852 by Sophia and Fernando Kelton until 1975. Spouses/guests will be greeted at the door by "Sophia Kelton," who will tell you about the family's life in the 1860's. Sophia also has a "family secret" she might share with you – if you keep it.

Bus transportation departs at 9:30 a.m. from the second floor of the Greater Columbus Convention Center and returns at 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 8

District Association Meetings

- NW District Commissioners & Engineers
- NE District Commissioners
- SW District Commissioners & Engineers
- SE District Commissioners & Engineers

CCAO Workshops

- New CCAO Service Corporation Energy Program
- Economic Development in the Age of Tax Reform
- Human Resources
- Area 7 Consortium Meeting
- Ohio's New Workforce Development Initiative
- New Developments in the Prevailing Wage Law
- Self Insurance for Workers' Compensation

Wednesday, December 9

CCAO/CEAO Session

- Layoff Workshop

The headquarters hotel is the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, in Columbus. Rate: \$137 single/double. Reservation deadline: November 14. To reserve a room call (888) 421-1442, (402)592-6464 or <http://columbusregency.hyatt.com/groupbooking/cmhrcccom2008>.

Registration materials and a complete preliminary agenda are on the CCAO website at www.ccao.org.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HANDBOOK CHAPTERS REVISED

CCAO staff continues to work to update the *County Commissioners Handbook*. The *Handbook* is a basic reference source on many issue of importance to county government and county commissioners. CCAO is no longer publishing this as a book, but it is available on the CCAO website. Web publishing is an ideal solution for this publication because there are so many chapters and it is difficult to keep all chapters current.

Recently, Chapter 54 - County Facilities Review Board has been revised from the 1994 version and Chapter 94 - Agricultural Security Areas has been updated from the 2006 version. The chapter of Agricultural Security Areas was revised to incorporate the provisions of H. B. 289, legislation sponsored by Rep. Tony Core (R-Rushsylvania), which became effective on July 18, 2008.

To view the *Handbook*, go to www.ccao.org. Click on Publications in the left pane and click on *County Commissioners Handbook*.

STATE ACTIVITIES

ODJFS DEBUTS ELECTRONIC CASH ASSISTANCE CARD AND NEW SYSTEM TO HELP REDUCE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DUPLICATION AND FRAUD

On October 20, the Office and Family Stability in the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced an upcoming program enhancement for issuing cash assistance benefits. Beginning in February 2009, clients will have a new option to receive their cash assistance benefits on the "Ohio EPPICard," which is an electronic payment card. In August 2009, the Ohio EPPICard will become the primary method of issuance for cash assistance in the state, and paper warrants will be phased out. Benefits that will be issued on the EPPICard are Ohio Works First cash assistance and work allowance, Refugee Cash Assistance, and Disability Financial Assistance.

Also on October 20, ODJFS issued a press release explaining a new computer matching system for public assistance benefits. A few weeks ago, ODJFS began distributing income information from a new data source. The Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS), a computer matching system facilitated through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is sending matches that are distributed to counties through the CRIS-E system. Counties receive matched information from three data streams previously not available: Veterans Administration, the Department of Defense/Office of Personnel Management (regarding active or retired civilian and military employees), and interstate information (to check for duplicate payments made to the same client in more than one state).

Data matches from these sources and across this number of programs have the potential to significantly increase the efficiency with which services are delivered to program participants. Matches often result in closing cases that should no longer be open and reducing the number of cases managed at the local level. The match process also increases the accuracy with which benefit determinations are made for program participants because of the comprehensive income information it makes available to those determining eligibility. Preliminary analysis of test files indicates PARIS will be an effective tool in uncovering unreported income and residency. Forty-three other states currently are participating in this matching system.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

MORE THAN \$5 BILLION RELEASED UNDER LIHEAP; OHIO SHOULD RECEIVE \$245.75 MILLION

Last week, Health and Human Services Secretary (HHS) Mike Leavitt announced the release of \$5.1 billion from the federal government's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) under the Fiscal Year 2009 Continuing Resolution. The funds will assist states, territories, tribal areas, and the District of Columbia with addressing their energy needs, particularly for the upcoming winter season. Ohio should be receiving approximately \$245.75 million.

LIHEAP funding is provided to states through the Office of Community Services in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at HHS. The funds will assist eligible low-income households in meeting their heating and other energy needs.

Under the language of the Continuing Resolution, \$4.5 billion in block grant funds and \$590 million contingency funds must be released by October 30, 2008. Block grant funds will be allocated to states under a formula specified in the Continuing Resolution. Of the \$590 million in contingency funds, \$100 million will assist states where large numbers of eligible households use heating oil for heat: Alaska, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The remaining \$490 million will help individuals in all 50 states. For a complete list of state allocations of the funds released go to:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2008/liheap_allocations_fy2009.htm

EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008; KEY PROVISIONS HELP COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The financial rescue plan signed by the President earlier this month — the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 — may have helped Wall Street, but more importantly it included several key provisions critical to county governments. Following is an overview of all the key county provisions. Included in the bill are:

- Full funding (\$367 million) for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program through 2012 — the highest level of funding (60% increase) in the program's history. PILT payments compensate counties with large public land areas for lost property tax revenues.
- Language to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools program through 2011. The secure rural schools provision also adjusts the funding distribution formula to make it more equitable.
- Extensions of the expiring production tax credits for wind, solar and geothermal projects. The package also contains various incentives for energy efficient buildings, electric cars, bio-fuels, advanced coal projects and other technologies.

- Two-year extension for the deduction of state or local sales taxes on federal returns. Sales taxes can be a significant local revenue source for many county governments. Also, homeowners who do not itemize their income tax deductions are permitted to take a standard deduction for state and local property taxes. The bill extends this deduction for an additional year.
- Prohibition against insurance discrimination aimed at people with, or at risk of, mental health or substance abuse conditions. The provision was a bipartisan, bicameral compromise on the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health and Addictions Equity Act of 2008 (mental health and addictions parity legislation). NACo strongly supported the measure.
- Further assistance to homeowners. The federal government will encourage loan servicers to modify mortgage loans the government acquires to minimize foreclosures by encouraging loan servicers to reduce the interest rates, loan principal or make other modifications.

CONFERENCES

BUILDING AN ADVANCED ENERGY FUTURE FOR OFFSHORE WIND

Great Lakes counties should mark their calendars and plan to attend “Building an Advanced Energy Future for Offshore Wind: A Conversation Among Lake Erie Stakeholders” to be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Case Western Reserve University. This conference will provide opportunities to:

- Learn about and discuss key regulatory, economic, and technical considerations for offshore wind development in Lake Erie
- Hear an update on the Great Lakes Wind Energy Center Feasibility Study
- Discuss supply chain and other activities in an afternoon session of Ohio Wind Working Group

Join this important conversation with federal, state, county, and city officials on the opportunities and

challenges of offshore wind energy. For more information and to receive registration information, please contact Stacy Long at (216) 368-0748 or stacy.long@case.edu.

CLASSIFIEDS

ASSISTANT SANITARY ENGINEER

The Warren County Water and Sewer Department seeks an assistant sanitary engineer to support the deputy sanitary engineer in the role of construction project administrator. Under general direction, this engineer will assist in all phases of water and sewer projects from planning, design and construction to operations. Primary responsibilities include: construction oversight; review of construction and material submittals; pay estimate review and processing; management of all aspects of construction including site visits, inspection and coordination with engineers, contractors and operations personnel. Other duties will include interfacing with the Board of County Commissioners; attending public hearings; meeting with the EPA; public speaking; capital improvements planning and annual budget preparation

Preferred Qualifications: B.S. in Civil Engineering with emphasis in water and wastewater; Registered PE in Ohio strongly desired; 3-5 years experience in water or wastewater construction, with one year at project management level; experience managing water or wastewater personnel; Ohio EPA Operator Certifications are preferred. Pay Range: \$39,772.00 - \$66,301.00. Application deadline: **October 31, 2008.**

A Warren County Application for Employment must be completed. For more information please visit Warren County’s website at www.co.warren.oh.us. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE.

SENIOR MANAGER / OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

The Greene County Commissioners/Sanitary Engineering Department seek a senior manager to direct management staff for all Operations and Maintenance divisions; conducts meetings with

engineering consultants & construction contractors; plans & facilitates supervisory staff meetings; and performs similar duties as assigned.

Bachelor's Degree in human resources, public administration, finance, business, or a closely related field and six years of progressively responsible experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job as listed in the position description.

A current Ohio Class IV Wastewater Operator License required and Class III Water Operator License preferred. Valid Ohio driver's license

required. Salary: \$24.80 - \$35.35/hr. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. For more information go to www.co.greene.oh.us/personnel.htm. EOE.

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. Ads will also be published on the CCAO website at www.ccao.org. When submitting your ad to CCAO please provide a link to the job posting online and a deadline. Please provide a 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, by e-mail mjneiman@ccao.org.