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County Information and Data Service

Published weekly by: County Commissioners Association of Ohio

209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • www.ccao.org

VOLUME XXXXVIII

NO. 28

JULY 17, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 24, 2009	CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, NOBLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, NOBLE COUNTY (CALDWELL)
JULY 24-29, 2009	74 TH NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION, DAVIDSON COUNTY (NASHVILLE), TN
JULY 26, 2009	OHIO CAUCUS MEETING, GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER – JACKSON E ROOM, DAVIDSON COUNTY (NASHVILLE)
AUGUST 7, 2009	CORSA REGIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR, CCAO OFFICES, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
AUGUST 12, 2009	CCAO/CEBCO HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS & HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNTS SEMINAR, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
AUGUST 19-21, 2009	CCAO/CEAO/OSU EXTENSION SUMMER MEETING, GALAXY RESTAURANT & BANQUET CENTER, MEDINA COUNTY (WADSWORTH)
AUGUST 28, 2009	CORSA ANNUAL MEETING, DOUBLETREE HOTEL, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCAO/CEAO/OSU EXTENSION SUMMER MEETING – EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT THROUGH COLLABORATION

In a collaborative effort, OSU Extension – Medina County and the North East Regional Office have invited CCAO/CEAO to meet on August 19-21, 2009 in Medina County (Wadsworth). Together with OSU Extension, Commissioners Pat Geissman, Stephen Hambley, and Sharon Ray and County Engineer Mike Salay will co-host this joint summer meeting at the Galaxy Restaurant & Banquet Center, in Medina County (Wadsworth). This is the first time that our three organizations will meet together. The theme of the meeting will be “Effective Government Through Collaboration.”

Taking tight county budgets into consideration, OSU Extension invited CCAO/CEAO to meet together instead of holding both the CCAO/CEAO Annual Summer Conference and OSU Extension County Commissioners Days. The CCAO Communication and Education Committee has been considering different options for meetings during the past few years. In addition, CCAO has sought the input from our affiliate members.

Interesting education sessions and tours have been planned. Registration materials were mailed last week. Download a copy at www.ccao.org and click on the meeting article on the front page. If you have any questions about the conference please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904, or mjneiman@ccao.org.

CCAO HUMAN SERVICES & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – JULY 31

Debbie Lieberman, Montgomery County Commissioner and Chair of the CCAO Human Services and Workforce Development Committee, has scheduled a meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2009. Rapid Response/Workforce Development and the final biennial budget overview will be discussed. If you would like for other topics to be placed on the agenda, please contact Beth Tsvetkoff, CCAO Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7996 or btsvetkoff@ccao.org.

Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP your attendance by Monday, July 27 to Janet Erwin, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7986 or jerwin@ccao.org.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS & HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNTS

The County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio (CEBCO) is sponsoring an educational seminar on August 12, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The topic, "Health Savings Accounts and Health Reimbursement Accounts - Everything You Ever and Never Wanted to Know," will be presented by Aon Consulting.

The seminar will be presented at the CCAO Offices, 209 East State Street, in Columbus. Space is limited. Please reserve your space with Jean Scholz, CEBCO Program Assistant, at (614) 220-0645, (888) 757-1904 ext. 106 or jscholz@ccao.org.

AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES

2009 CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETINGS

The County Commissioners' Clerks and Engineer's Administrative Professional Association of Ohio (CCC/EAPA) has scheduled regional meetings to share information and network with other clerks. CCC/EAPA is comprised of county commissioners and engineers' office staff. All commissioners' clerks and engineers' administrative professionals are welcome to network with this most informative organization. The board works hard to provide educational workshops and training opportunities at summer and winter conferences.

Regional information and networking luncheon meetings are a priority with CCC/EAPA. Topics will vary at each meeting and are held on Friday's beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. CCAO/CEAO sponsors the lunch.

These meetings are scheduled to be held throughout the rest of 2009:

- **July 24, 2009** - Noble County Health Department, Noble County (Caldwell)
- **August 28, 2009** - Wood County Commissioners Office, Wood County (Bowling Green)
- **September 25, 2009** - Darke County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Facility, Darke County (Greenville)
- **October 9, 2009** - Scioto County Emergency Management, Scioto County (Portsmouth)
- **October 23, 2009** - CCAO Offices, Franklin County (Columbus)

Meeting location addresses can be found at www.ccao.org > Calendar > Seminars, Workshops & Special Events. Please email suggestions for agenda items to Carolyn Hauenstein, Clerk, Erie County Commissioners at chauenstein@erie-county-ohio.net. Bring any forms to share that may be useful to other counties.

To obtain additional information on the CCC/EAPA, or if you are interested in serving on one of the committees, please contact JoAnn Sikorski, Clerk/Administrative Assistant, Athens County Commissioners, at (740) 592-3219, jsikorski@athenscountygovernment.com or www.ccc-esao.org. A Yahoo Group to post questions and answers that arise has been opened. You are encouraged to join this yahoo group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CCC_EAPA.

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VOTE TO PLACE THEIR GOVERNMENT REFORM ISSUE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

Cuyahoga County Commissioners Peter Lawson Jones and Tim Hagan voted Thursday to place their own government reform issue on the November ballot. Both Commissioners Jones and Hagan want voters to elect a 15-member panel that would recommend a new government structure next year. That issue could share the ballot with a proposal to replace all three commissioners with an 11-member county council and a county executive. Passage of both measures would set the stage for a messy 2010 election, during which voters would be electing the 11 new county council members and at the same time considering another form of government that could eliminate the council positions.

At Thursday's meeting, Jones and Hagan said that letting voters elect a charter-review panel is a more transparent and democratic method of reforming county government. Another competing proposal was crafted behind closed doors. Many local politicians support the move by Jones and Hagan. Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, County Treasurer Jim Rokakis, and U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich were among 16 officials to give their endorsement in a news release Thursday.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is still verifying petition signatures for the other county reform proposal. The supporters submitted about 79,000 signatures to the board last week. More than 45,000 valid voter signatures are needed to put the issue on the November ballot. The board had examined about 15,000 signatures as of Wednesday, and more than 9,000 have been verified. According to the Board of Elections, the 68 percent verification rate is "extremely high." (Source: *Cleveland Plain Dealer* 7/16/09)

STATE ACTIVITIES

SECRETARY OF STATE WEBSITE COMPILES DATA ON WIDE VARIETY OF SOCIAL HEALTH INDICATORS

Ever wondered how many children tested positive for lead in Van Wert County in 2003 or how many deer-vehicle collisions occurred in Richland County in 2007? Last week, Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner introduced a new website that can answer those questions (181 and 571 respectively) and a host of other statistical inquiries that have hitherto eluded all but the most dedicated policy wonks willing to search and compile data from numerous sources.

The Better Lives, Better Ohio website (www.sos.state.oh.us/BetterLives.aspx) is designed to provide information about the state's social health based on a wide variety of about 300 statistical indicators in the fields of education, government, natural resources, health, public safety, family, and the economy.

Some examples include: the consumer price index; venture capital investment; adoptions; low infant birth rate; juvenile arrests; library visits; farm land acreage; foreclosures; and psychiatric hospitalizations.

OHIO'S JOBLESS RATE ROSE TO 11.1% IN JUNE

Today, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics released figures detailing the state's unemployment rate. Ohio's unemployment rate rose to 11.1% in June, an increase from 10.8% recorded in May. The number of workers unemployed in Ohio in June was 662,000, compared with 647,000 in May.

In June 2008, the state's jobless rate was 6.4%. The number of unemployed has increased by 279,000 in the past 12 months from 383,000. The national unemployment rate for June was 9.5%.

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo 2009 NATIONAL SURVEY QUOTED IN NEW YORK TIMES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE

From April 27 to May 19, 2009, the National Center for the Study of Counties (NCSC) polled a random sample of 500 county elected officials on issues related to the economy, the new Presidential administration, and their use of electronic communication. The survey was conducted as the nation focused on both the economic crisis and the first months of the Obama Administration. The interviews were conducted by telephone by National Research Inc. in Washington, D.C., and the data were processed and analyzed by the Survey Research Unit at the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

Two weeks ago, the *New York Times* ran a front page article about tax and budget nightmares for state and local government. "Homeowners across the country are challenging their property tax bills in droves as the value of their homes drop, threatening local governments with another big drain on their budgets. The requests are coming in record numbers, from owners of \$10 million estates and one-bedroom bungalows, from residents of the high-tax enclaves surrounding New York City, and from taxpayers in the Rust Belt and states like Arizona, Florida and California, where whole towns have been devastated by the housing bust."

"The tax appeals and reassessments present a new budget nightmare for governments. In a survey conducted by the National Association of Counties, 76 percent of large counties said that falling property tax revenue was significantly affecting their budgets," said Jacqueline Byers, NACo's research director.

The major findings from the 2009 survey include:

- While Congress and the White House moved from Republican to Democratic control over the past two years, the party composition in county government, in the aggregate, remains nearly unchanged.
- Two-thirds of all respondents say that the most important problem facing the nation is the economy and jobs, and 44 percent cite the economy as the most important problem facing their county specifically.
- The percentage of county elected officials who say that the country is heading in the right direction (48 percent) exceeds the percentage that believes the country is on the wrong track (41 percent) for the first time since 2005.
- Half of all respondents (50 percent) rated the national economy as poor, although only 23 percent rated economic conditions in their specific county as poor. Still, respondents are less pessimistic about the economic future in 2009 than they were in the 2008 poll; in 2008, a majority (53 percent) said that economic conditions were getting worse, whereas only 42 percent in 2009 said that economic conditions are getting worse.
- Fifty-nine percent of respondents in 2009 said that balancing the most recent budget was more difficult this year than in years past. This is the highest level since the poll started in 2004, exceeding the

number in last year's poll by 10 percentage points. Respondents from the Northeast expressed the highest level of difficulty with the current budget compared to years past.

- The policies of state and federal government (17 percent) and the poor economy (15 percent) are cited as the greatest threats to fiscal health in respondents' counties. Seventy-eight percent of respondents say that their state hinders their ability to collect revenue either significantly (33 percent) or somewhat (45 percent), although 60 percent characterize their county's overall relations with their state government as cooperative rather than contentious.
- 60 percent of respondents said that their counties have some cooperative purchasing agreements with their state government, but only 30 percent have similar arrangements with municipal governments or school systems, and only 23 percent said that their county takes advantage of national purchasing arrangements.
- While 21 percent of the respondents in the 2009 poll said that their county has reduced its portion of employee health insurance benefits, and 17 percent have laid off county employees, only 7 percent have decreased the county's level of contribution to employee retirement plans. As far as future actions, a majority are considering reducing services (59 percent) and dipping into rainy day funds (54 percent). Only 23 percent are considering raising property taxes.
- County elected officials are slightly more likely to approve of the job that President Obama is doing as President in general (51 percent) than approve of the President's job in handling the economy (45 percent). Nevertheless, a majority (57 percent) expressed some confidence in the President's ability to turn around the economy.
- While county elected officials are divided on the issue of allowing the Bush Administration tax cuts for those making over \$250,000 per year to expire, a slight majority favor the Obama Administration's position on the issue; 51 percent favor allowing the tax cuts to expire, while 44 percent oppose letting the tax cuts expire at the end of next year.
- While half of all respondents said that telephone was their preferred method for communicating with constituents—when the option of face-to-face was omitted—only 19 percent chose email as the preferred option. Twenty-two percent of county elected officials maintain a website for communicating with constituents outside of the campaign, and 46 percent maintain email lists for communicating news about county government to constituents.
- Four percent of those polled said that they blog about their county governance, and 11 percent have accounts with at least one online social networking site such as Facebook, MySpace, or LinkedIn.

To read a copy of the survey go to www.naco.org and click on newsroom>media center. Scroll to surveys and click on "How Are Counties Doing? An Economic Status Survey."

NACo LAUNCHES ANNUAL GREEN COMPETITIONS; WIN SMALL GRANTS FOR YOUR COUNTY

NACo is sponsoring two national competitions for county governments beginning July 1 through November 30, 2009.

Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR Campaign – through this competition, counties collect pledges from county employees and residents to change a light in their home to an energy-efficient one and choose among a variety of other actions they can take to help save energy. Last year, over 7,135 county employees and residents throughout the country pledged to replace 72,199 incandescent bulbs or fixtures in their homes with a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) that has earned the government's ENERGY STAR label. Three winning counties will earn \$5,000 grants courtesy of Wal-Mart.

County Drive Smarter Challenge – counties motivate and empower county employees and residents to educate themselves on how to reduce gasoline use by keeping their cars in good working order, driving less, and driving more fuel efficiently. In the first year of the Drive Smarter Challenge, 5,964 county employees and

residents took the challenge to improve gas mileage and reduce the emission of harmful pollutants. Three winning counties will earn \$3,500 grants courtesy of Auto-Zone.

It's easy to participate. Your county **must** be registered as a participant to be eligible to participate in these national competitions. Register your county as a participant at www.naco.org/competitionregistration and then follow instructions on pledge collection. For more information visit www.naco.org/greencompetitions.

CLASSIFIEDS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Fairfield County is seeking a full-time economic development director. This position is responsible for coordinating and facilitating activities and efforts of area agencies, businesses, and industries working toward the economic growth of Fairfield County. Candidates for this position should possess an undergraduate degree in City Planning, Public Administration, Business Administration, or Marketing. This position also requires two years of experience in the field of economic development. The annual salary for this position is \$59,000 - \$74,900 depending upon experience. **Application deadline: July 24, 2009.** Please go to www.myworknet.com for position details and information on the application process. **NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. EOE.**

CITY ENGINEER

The City of Fairborn (population +32k), is seeking a qualified city engineer to direct seven employees in a busy Engineering Division. The Engineering Division performs plan reviews for residential, commercial and industrial developments; plan and spec preparation, both in-house and by consultants, for infrastructure projects; inspection of all public infrastructure construction; traffic engineering functions; and CADD/GIS support function. Reports directly to the Public Administrative Services Director. Minimum qualifications: BA in Civil Engineering with ABET approved major course work; OH Professional Engineer license or ability to obtain within six mos. of employment; five years experience in engineering with at least three years experience in supervision; proven skill in grant writing and grant procurement; prefer previous Municipal experience; salary up to \$81,120.00/year. **Application deadline: Monday, July 27, 2009.**

Submit resume or application (available at www.ci.fairborn.oh.us) to: City of Fairborn, H.R., 44 W. Hebble Ave., Fairborn, OH 45324 or e-mail hr@ci.fairborn.oh.us or FAX (937) 754-3152. For reasonable disability accommodation call HR at (937) 754-3020. EOE

CIVIL ENGINEER

The city of Fairborn, (population +32k), is seeking a qualified civil engineer in the busy Engineering Division. The Engineering Division performs plan reviews for residential, commercial and industrial developments; plan and spec preparation, both in-house and by consultants, for infrastructure projects; inspection of all public infrastructure construction; traffic engineering functions; and CADD/GIS support function. Reports directly to the City Engineer. Minimum qualifications: BA in Civil Engineering with ABET approved major course work; four years engineering experience; physical ability to perform the duties of the position with reasonable accommodation. Must be a licensed PE within the State of Ohio or able to acquire within six months of appointment. OH driver's license. Salary: \$52,041 up to \$73,465. **Application deadline: August 3, 2009.**

Submit application/resume (available at www.ci.fairborn.oh.us) to: City of Fairborn, Human Resources, 44 W. Hebble Ave., Fairborn, OH 45324 or e-mail hr@ci.fairborn.oh.us or FAX (937) 754-3152. For reasonable disability accommodation call HR at (937) 754-3021. EOE