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County Information and Data Service

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APRIL 9, 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 14, 2010	NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN VETERANS' SERVICES – SECOND WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
APRIL 15, 2010	CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
APRIL 16, 2010	CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
APRIL 19, 2010	CCAO JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE, FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BUILDING, COLUMBUS
APRIL 21, 2010	CCAO/OSWDO/OEEF SOLID WASTE TRAINING COURSE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
APRIL 22, 2010	CCAO/OSWDO/OEEF SOLID WASTE TRAINING COURSE, WAYNE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, WAYNE COUNTY (WOOSTER)
APRIL 30, 2010	CCAO/OSWDO/OEEF SOLID WASTE TRAINING COURSE, WARREN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, WARREN COUNTY (LEBANON)
APRIL 30, 2010	CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, OLD COURTHOUSE, ASHTABULA COUNTY (JEFFERSON)
APRIL 2010	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
JULY 16-20, 2010	NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE, RENO/SPARKS CONVENTION CENTER, RENO/WASHOIE COUNTY, NV

ASSOCIATION NEWS

NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN VETERANS' SERVICES: SECOND WEDNESDAY'S SEMINAR - APRIL 14

With the return of our brave soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan, the need to provide services to these veterans increases daily. CCAO will be hosting "Opportunities in Veterans' Services" - the first in a series of "Second Wednesday's" seminars - on April 14 at the CCAO Offices, 209 East State Street, in Columbus. This program will provide the opportunity for commissioners and staff to review the structure and financing of veterans' services and to learn about statewide developments and challenges for the Ohio Department of Veterans' Affairs and local Veteran Service Commissions.

The seminar will begin sharply at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude promptly at 12:30 p.m. Registrations will be accepted only by email. Coffee will be served during the morning and lunch will be on your own. Best of all, **no registration fee** will be charged! A flyer containing information and instructions on how to register for “New Opportunities in Veterans’ Services” seminar is linked on the front page of the CCAO website at www.ccao.org. To register, contact Janet Erwin, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at jerwin@ccao.org.

AFTER IT LEAVES THE CURB: A SOLID WASTE TRAINING COURSE

CCAO and the Organization of Solid Waste Districts of Ohio (OSWDO) are sponsoring solid waste management training sessions, “After It Leaves the Curb.” The training sessions will include a summary of solid waste management in Ohio from the perspective of solid waste districts. The targeted audience includes county commissioners, solid waste district policy committee members and boards of trustees. Training funds are provided by the Ohio EPA Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) grant that was given to the CCAO Research and Education Fund.

Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. with the training sessions beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 2:00 p.m. Registration fee (includes lunch): **\$15** – county commissioners, trustees of solid waste authorities, policy committee members of solid waste districts, solid waste district personnel, planning directors, and the Ohio EPA or **\$50** – other attendees. **Registration deadline is one week before the seminar** for the last three dates:

- **April 21 – CCAO Offices**, 209 East State Street, Columbus
- **April 22 – Wayne County** Administration Building, 428 West Liberty Street – 2nd FL, Wayne County (Wooster)
- **April 30 – Warren County** Administration Building, 406 Justice Drive – Room 120, Warren County (Lebanon)

For more information about the training, please contact Brad Cole, CCAO Managing Director of Research, at (614) 220-7981, (888) 757-1904 or bcole@ccao.org. For information about registration, contact Amanda Jones, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7985, (888) 757-1904 or ajones@ccao.org.

JOBS COMMITTEE HOSTING MEETING TO HELP IDENTIFY BARRIERS & SOLUTIONS TO GROW JOBS IN OHIO

CCAO is pleased to announce the details of the Jobs, Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee sponsored meeting to discuss barriers and improvements for workforce and economic development in your county! The Jobs Committee co-chairs, Commissioners Steve Arndt (Ottawa) and Deborah Lieberman (Montgomery), ask you to participate in the meeting and survey (detailed below), along with a team of workforce and economic development professionals in your county. Please identify the team of experts in your county who focus on workforce development and economic development, such as your workforce director, economic development director, planning director, or CIC. Choose the team you feel is most appropriate. Please bring them with you to the meeting.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. We will hold the meeting at the Franklin County Children Services building, 855 West Mound Street, in Columbus.

To prepare for the meeting and with your input, we have created a survey to help gather information prior to the meeting so that on April 19, we can have a very successful event. Follow this link to access the survey: <http://fs10.formsite.com/dburnette/form458709431/index.html>.

More than one person from each county can fill out the survey. Thus, each member of your team can fill it out separately, and answer as many or little of the questions as is appropriate. Or, you can coordinate your response with one survey submission with your whole team. You can decide! We encourage you to include your team in this process, and ask them to be honest and open in answering each question, particularly the questions targeted at identifying barriers and where improvements should be made!

If you would like more information about the meeting, please contact Beth Tsvetkoff, CCAO Policy Analyst, or John Leutz, Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 221-5627 or (888) 757-1904. Please RSVP your attendance by April 12 to Janet Erwin, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7986, (888) 747-1904 or jerwin@ccao.org.

HEALTHY COUNTIES – THEME FOR NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH!

National County Government Month (NCGM) is celebrated each April by the nation's counties to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government. The 2010 theme is "Healthy Counties" to promote essential county health care services and healthy living and recreation programs. County governments play an essential role in America's healthcare system. They are unique in their responsibility to both finance and deliver health services through public hospitals and clinics, local health departments, and long-term care facilities. In addition, counties provide mental health and substance abuse treatment and offer coverage programs for the uninsured.

Since 1991, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has encouraged counties across the country to actively promote county government programs and services. Formerly National County Government Week, the designation was expanded to a full month for 2010 to offer more counties more opportunities to plan and participate. Counties aren't expected to hold public awareness activities throughout the month, but can schedule activities any time during the month. Go to NACo's website at www.naco.org/NCGM to download more information.

NOTE: OSU Extension and CEBCO have compiled a CD with presentations on wellness topics, which could be used during National County Government Month. To obtain a copy contact CEBCO at (614) 221-5627.

STATE ACTIVITIES

OPERS PLAN DESIGN INFORMATIONAL MEETING – APRIL 27

The Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) Board has directed their staff hold a series of meetings across the state for all OPERS members and retirees to discuss the recommended plan design changes the Board proposed to the Ohio Retirement Study Council in November 2009. Several meetings have been held. The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at Youngstown State University, Beeghly Hall – McKay Auditorium, in Youngstown. This OPERS session for members and retirees will be held from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

Parking has been designated to lot M26 between Lincoln Avenue and West Rayen Avenue behind Smith Hall. For the address, directions, and parking information go to

- www.yosu.edu/maps/parkmapbw.pdf (map and building location) and
- www.yosu.edu/maps/directions.pdf (directions from various locations).

You do not need to RSVP for the event. For more information, contact: Carol Nolan Drake, J.D., Chief External Affairs Officer, Ohio PERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 222-0398, or cdrake@opers.org.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

HELPING OHIOANS COMPLETE THE CENSUS FORM

Do your county residents have questions about completing your 2010 Census form? By now, thousands of Ohioans have received the Census in the mail, but many are uncertain how to answer some of the questions. Encourage residents to take just 10 minutes to answer 10 questions that will affect funding in Ohio for the next 10 years. For every Census form that is returned by mail, you save the Census Bureau from sending a person to follow-up. Door-to-door follow-up costs \$57 per household.

Household & Residence

- Residency is determined by where you live the majority of the year.
- For a second home, mark "0" for the number and residents and write the address of your main residence.
- Include children born on or before April 1, 2010.
- Divorced parents with shared custody of a child should count the child where he/she spends the majority of time. If custody is split, the child's residence is where he/she is on April 1, 2010.
- College students living away from home should be counted in the city where they attend school.
- Military personnel should be tallied at the base where they live. All non-U.S. citizens are required to complete the census form.

Race & Ethnicity

- If there is not an option that describes your race, write a description in the space marked "other race."
- Multiracial people may check more than one race category or write "multiracial."

Census Participation

- Census participation is mandatory. You have to complete all 10 questions.
- Forms are not available online. You must complete the paper form.
- If you do not complete the form, a Census official will visit your home and ask you the questions on the form then submit your answers.
- Census officials protect your identity and information.
- By law, Census officials cannot share your personal information with anyone, including federal, state and local agencies.

Missing Forms

- Wait until April 12, 2010, for the Census form to arrive by mail. After April 12, call the Census help line at 1-866-872-6868.
- Another option is to visit a Questionnaire Assistance Center or Be Counted Site to pick up a form. Find a Questionnaire Assistance Center or Be Counted Site by logging onto the U.S. Census 2010 web site at: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>

The 84 service centers are located across the state. The service centers will remain open through April 19, 2010. Each center is staffed so you can receive in-person information and language assistance to complete the Census form. For more information about the Census, visit: www.census.ohio.gov.

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL COUNTIES

County governments are eligible for three recently announced funding opportunities from USDA Rural Development that address rural housing, business development, telemedicine, and distance learning. The

National Association of Counties (NACo) is a leader in national efforts to bolster funding for these programs that are increasingly critical to rural counties, which are facing difficult fiscal situations. NACo is also leading efforts to ensure that USDA give priority to projects that are connected to local government priorities identified in regional development plans.

In addition to the three funding opportunities described below, USDA Rural Development accepts applications on a rolling basis for a broad range of other programs and is still seeking to fund community facility projects with Recovery Act funding that must be utilized by September 30, 2010. The **Community Facilities Program** provides loans and grant to assist in the development of essential community facilities – such as county health departments, police and fire stations, schools, libraries, child care centers, and a many other facility projects that counties undertake. The program also funds sidewalk construction and county fair facilities. Counties are encouraged to talk with staff from our state office to find out if their current or planned projects are eligible. Contact J. Anthony (Tony) Logan, State Director, USDA Rural Development, 200 North High Street – Room 507, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 255-2390 or Tony.Logan@oh.usda.gov.

- **Rural Business Grants with Focus on “Great Regions”**

USDA Rural Development recently announced funding availability for the Rural Business Opportunity Grants of up to \$250,000 and is open to nonprofit and public agencies to improve business opportunities in rural areas. Projects should be designed to help rural communities in the region create wealth so they are self-sustaining, repopulating and thriving economically.

USDA will give preference to “Great Region” applications, or applications from multijurisdictional areas within a State, territory, or Federally-designated Tribal land or crossing such boundaries. This regional approach could be considered a test run for the Regional Innovation Initiative proposed in USDA’s budget for FY 2011 which would create set-asides in a number of USDA programs for applications that are part of a regional development plan. Application deadline: **June 28, 2010**. For more information, go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-6860.htm>.

- **Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants**

USDA Rural Development is offering grants to nonprofits, public agencies, and Indian tribes for grants to provide increased access to technology to foster education, training and health care resources for people living in rural areas of America. Funds may be used to acquire end-user telecommunications equipment such as videoconferencing equipment needed to provide distance learning and telemedicine services to rural communities. Application deadline: **May 18, 2010**. For more information, go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-6007.htm>.

- **Rural Rental Housing Loans**

USDA Rural Development has issued a Notice of Funding Availability for Loan Guarantees under the Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program (GRRHP) for Fiscal Year 2010. Under the program, the Agency will provide credit enhancements to encourage private and public lenders to make new loans for affordable rental properties that meet program standards. Lenders will be expected to underwrite and service the loans. Funds may be used for new construction, acquisition with rehabilitation, or revitalization, repair, and transfer of existing Section 515 housing. Application deadline: **December 31, 2010**. For more information, go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-3959.htm>.

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo 75th ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

The National Association of Counties (NACo) and Reno/Washoe County, Nevada invite you to join over 2,000 appointed and elected officials from across the nation this summer for the “anniversary-sized” NACo 75th

Annual Conference & Exposition to be held July 16-20 at the Reno/Sparks Convention Center. This is the only national conference and exposition dedicated solely to county government. Conference registration is now open! Register for the conference and housing online at www.naco.org to save \$25 per registrant. Click on the article about the conference on the front page. The early bird discount is available until June 4. Hotel rooms are only available at the Grand Sierra Resort. For more information, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

ARTS AND CULTURE AWARD

The NACo Arts and Culture Award program is designed to encourage counties to submit successful programs that have used arts and cultural activities to address not only the quality of life, but also social problems in their communities. In 2008, Franklin County won the National Public Leadership in the Arts Award.

Eligibility is extended not only to outstanding arts and historical preservation programs, but also to innovative funding processes that have been used to fund arts and cultural programs. Both ongoing and onetime projects are eligible for the award, but must meet the following requirements:

- The program or project must have been initiated since January 2004.
- County officials and/or staff, as part of their official duties, must have played a significant role in developing and implementing the program or project.

Each program will be evaluated based on: demonstrated community impact, innovation, community/county partnership, leadership, and transferability. Application deadline: **April 16, 2010**. The winning county will be presented with an award during a special awards ceremony held during NACo's Annual Conference.

For more information please contact Kathryn Murphy, NACo Research Associate, (202) 661-8806, fax (202) 737-0480, or kmurphy@naco.org. Download the 2010 Arts and Culture Award Program Application at www.naco.org. Click on the article located on the front page.

2010 COUNTY COURTHOUSE AWARDS APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are available for the "2010 NACo County Courthouse Awards" program. The County Courthouse Awards program is sponsored by Siemens and recognizes innovative governance by county elected officials from NACo member counties. Award winners will receive an engraved plaque to display in their county; recognition at NACo's Annual Conference and be able to present a \$5,000 college scholarship to a graduating high school senior in their county. Awards will be given out in three categories: rural, suburban and urban. To obtain an application, go to www.naco.org and click on the story on the front page. Application deadline: **May 7, 2010**. For more information, contact NACo Associate Legislative Directors Dalen Harris (dharris@naco.org) or Erik Johnston (ejohnston@naco.org) at (202) 393.6226.

SEMINARS/WEBINARS

SERB PUBLIC SECTOR HEALTH INSURANCE CONFERENCE

Join the State Employment Relations Board (SERB) for their "Public Sector Health Insurance Conference" to be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Central Office, 1980 West Broad Street, in Columbus. The conference begins at 8:55 a.m. and ends at 3:45 p.m. Explore critical topics in Ohio public sector health insurance practice such as Federal and State health reform initiatives, public sector health insurance information, dependent eligibility audits (DEAs), medical plan design, prescription drug plans, and the future of health care. Sherri Noll, CCAO Managing Director of Health and Wellness Programs, will participate as a speaker at the conference.

Registration fee: \$150 - includes all sessions and course materials. Lunch is on your own. Registration deadline: **April 21, 2010**. For more information, contact Health Insurance Conference, State Employment Relations Board, 65 East State Street – Floor 12, Columbus, OH 43215-4213, (614) 466-2963, timothea.johnson@serb.state.oh.us or www.serb.state.oh.us.

Second Wednesday's



Recognizing that commissioners and their staff confront a number of daily challenges on a wide variety of topics, CCAO is initiating a regular series of short, concise seminars beginning in 2010. All sessions will be held at the CCAO office, 209 East State Street, in Columbus. The programs will begin promptly at 9:30 am and will conclude by 12:30 pm. Registrations will be accepted only by email. Coffee will be served during the morning, and lunch will be on your own. Best of all, the seminars are **FREE!**

CCAOC's FREE Educational Sessions

CCAOC is testing this new initiative during 2010, and hopes to make the sessions also available remotely using the web later this year.

Please take advantage of this exciting opportunity to become better informed in a variety of areas!

2010 TOPICS - Tentative

April 14	New Opportunities in Veterans' Services	Sept 8	Enforcing Weight Limits on County Roads
May 12	Ohio's Prevailing Wage Law	Oct 13	Planning for Future County Facility Needs
June 9	Behavioral Health Challenges	Nov 10	Furlough and Layoff Refresher
July 14	Future Changes in PERS	Dec 8	Using Internet Reverse and Personal Property Auctions
Aug 11	Transition to Charter Government in Cuyahoga County	For More Info	Watch CIDS & CCAO Web Site (www.ccao.org) for possible changes, speakers, registration info & agendas

For more information or to register, contact:

Janet Erwin, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at 614/220-7986 or jerwin@ccao.org



Second Wednesday's

April 14, 2010

Opportunities in Veterans' Services

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

With the return of our brave soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan, the need to provide services to these veterans increases daily. This program will provide the opportunity for commissioners and staff to review the structure and financing of veterans services and to learn statewide developments and challenges for the Ohio Department of Veterans Affairs and local Veteran Service Commissions.

PRESENTERS/SPEAKERS

Paula Brooks, Franklin County Commissioner and CCAO President

Tim Espich, Assistant Director, Ohio Department of Veterans Affairs

Jim Forster, Deputy Director for Operations, Ohio Department of Veterans Affairs

Mike Morman, Veteran Service Commissioner, Putnam County

Jon Warmeling, Veteran Service Officer, Lake County

AGENDA—9:30-12:30

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|------------|--|
| 9:30 a.m. | Welcome and Introductions |
| 9:45 a.m. | Veterans Services Overview and Law |
| 10:00 a.m. | New Challenges and Opportunities |
| 11:45 | Cooperation and Collaboration Between County Commissioners, VSC Commissioners, and VSC Service Officers (Panel Discussion) |
| | Concluding Remarks |

LOCATION

All Second Wednesday's Seminars will be held in the Board Room at the CCAO offices, 209 East State Street, Columbus 43215.

HOW TO REGISTER

Register for this program by email only to Janet Erwin at jerwin@ccao.org. Please include the name and title of those attending and the county, agency or company they represent. Coffee will be served at 9:00 a.m., the program concludes promptly at 12:30 p.m., and lunch is on your own after the program.

County Commissioners Association of Ohio

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