



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST 10, 2011	SOCIAL NETWORKING FOR PUBLIC ENTITIES, 2 ND WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
AUGUST 26, 2011	CORSA ANNUAL MEETING, QUEST CONFERENCE CENTER, COLUMBUS
AUGUST 26, 2011	CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, GALLIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, GALLIA COUNTY (GALLIPOLIS)
SEPTEMBER 9, 2011	CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, OTTAWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, OTTAWA COUNTY (PORT CLINTON)
SEPTEMBER 30, 2011	CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, BELMONT HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, BELMONT COUNTY (ST. CLAIRSVILLE)
OCTOBER 28, 2011	CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, JOHNNY APPLESEED METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT, ALLEN COUNTY (LIMA)
DECEMBER 11-13, 2011	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER, COLUMBUS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

2nd WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES: SOCIAL NETWORKING FOR PUBLIC ENTITIES

CCAO encourages commissioners and other county officials to attend the next CCAO 2nd Wednesday Seminar Series on "Social Networking for Public Entities" on August 10, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The 2nd Wednesday Seminar Series will be held at the CCAO Offices, 209 East State Street, in Columbus.

In the 21st Century Americans increasingly expect to be able to use social media and electronic means to access every level of government for public information and government services. Social media is being used to connect the public to government information and services and to provide reciprocal communication between government agencies and the public. Learn from public information officers and legal counsel how social media is being used to connect citizens with county agencies and the challenges that face government agencies in developing social media programs.

The 2nd Wednesday sessions are design to be very interactive, allowing ample opportunity for attendees to ask questions and have dialogue directly with the speakers. All sessions are free and parking is available in lot adjacent to the CCAO office. Program details are posted at www.ccao.org. Coffee will be served during the morning and lunch will be on your own. Best of all, no registration fee will be charged! To register, contact Tanya McComas, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at tmccomas@ccao.org. Please include the name and title of those attending and the county, agency or company they represent.

CCAO AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES

2011 CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

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 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.

AUGUST 26, 2011 - GALLIA COUNTY
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Gallia County Courthouse, 18 Locust Street, Second Floor, Gallia County (Gallipolis)
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JoAnn Sikorski, Clerk/Administrative Assistant, Athens County Commissioners, (740) 592-3219 or jsikorski@athenscountygovernment.com

SEPTEMBER 9, 2011 - OTTAWA COUNTY
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Ottawa County Courthouse, 315 Madison Street, Ottawa County (Port Clinton)
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Rhonda Slauterbeck, Ottawa County Commissioners, (419) 734-6720 or rslauterbeck@co.ottawa.oh.us

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 - BELMONT COUNTY
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Belmont Hills Country Club, 47080 National Road, Belmont County (St. Clairsville)

JoAnn Sikorski, Clerk/Administrative Assistant, Athens County Commissioners, (740) 592-3219 or jsikorski@athenscountygovernment.com

OCTOBER 28, 2011 - ALLEN COUNTY
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Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District, 2550 Ada Road, Allen County (Lima)

Kelli Singhaus, Clerk/Administrative Assistant, Allen County Commissioners, (419) 228-3700 ext 8827 or ksinghaus@allencountyohio.com or Laura Redick, Account Clerk and Receptionist, Allen County Engineer's Office, (419) 228-3196 or lredick@allencountyohio.com

Please email suggestions for agenda items to Carolyn Hauenstein, Clerk, Erie County Commissioners at (419) 627-7675 or chauenstein@eriecounty.oh.gov or Rhonda Slauterbeck, Clerk, Ottawa County Commissioners at (419) 734-6720 or rslauterbeck@co.ottawa.oh.us. Bring any forms to the meeting that may be useful to share with other counties.

To obtain additional information about the CCC/EAPA, or if you are interested in serving on one of the committees, please contact CCC/EAPA President - Gail Crossen, Clerk, Ashland County Commissioners, at (419) 282-4220 or gcrossen@ashlandcounty.org or www.ccc-esao.org

IN MEMORIAM

GLENN W. SPROWLS

CCAO was saddened to hear about the death of Glenn Webb Sprowls who passed away on July 9, 2011. Glenn was the Executive Director of the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO) from 1988 to 2009. He had also worked in the Summit County Engineer's Office. Arrangements are pending with the DeVore-Snyder Funeral Home in Sunbury.

STATE ACTIVITIES

OPERS RETIREMENT DECISION FACTORS SURVEY RESULTS

One third of Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) members eligible for retirement say they're very likely to do so within the next 12 months, according to a recent OPERS survey. The "Retirement Decision Factors Survey," an email questionnaire distributed in June to nearly 5,000 randomly selected OPERS members currently eligible to retire, addressed a request by the OPERS Board of Trustees to assess what factors might be causing members to consider retirement. Two groups were surveyed: those currently eligible to retire and those who have retired since December 1, 2010.

Half of those eligible to retire indicated that they are considering retiring within the next 12 months. That would represent a significant increase from the number of new retirees during the past two calendar years. The proposed pension legislative changes were cited as a main reason for the increase.

Another reason for the survey was to determine if retirees are planning a "rush to the door." Compared to this time last year, OPERS experienced a 34 percent increase in the number of retirement applications and a 20 percent increase in inquiries from public employees who may be interested in retiring.

The survey determined that:

- Half of those eligible to retire say they are considering doing so within the next 12 months.
- Of those who say they are considering retirement within the next year, two-thirds say they are "very likely" to retire in that timeframe, meaning that a third of all eligible members are very likely to retire in 12 months.
- 29 percent of those considering retirement identified pending pension legislation as the main reason (other factors included meeting age and service requirements, and health reasons).
- Proposed changes to the Cost of Living Adjustment had the most impact on retirement plans for 41 percent of those influenced by pending pension legislation.
- Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of those considering retirement within the next year are very closely monitoring pension legislation and OPERS-recommended changes.
- The biggest reason recent retirees cited for their decision was meeting age and service requirements (32 percent), followed by pension legislation (21 percent).

The survey garnered a 32 percent response rate – 1,573 surveys were completed. At the same time, OPERS also conducted a survey of 3,045 randomly selected retirees who have retired since December 1. OPERS received 842 of those surveys back, a response rate of 28 percent.

About 49,000 OPERS members are currently eligible to retire. An average of 10,723 OPERS members retired in each of the past two years.

For more information about the survey go to www.opers.org If you have any questions on the survey, please feel free to contact Carol Nolan Drake, Chief External Affairs Officer, Ohio PERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43214 or cdrake@opers.org

JUNE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

According to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, unemployment rates increased in 84 of the state's 88 counties during June, and were in the double digits in half of them. Pike County had the distinction of the highest unemployment in the state at 15.4% last month, followed by Meigs County (14.2%) and Clinton County (14.1%). Overall, jobless rates of 10% or higher were recorded in 43 counties. In only four counties was unemployment less than seven percent. They included Holmes County (6.8%), and Delaware, Geauga, and Mercer counties, at 6.6% each. Go to <http://ohiolmi.com/laus/ColorRateMap.pdf> to view a map listing all the unemployment rates.

TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX AND PUBLIC UTILITY REPLACEMENT PAYMENT INFORMATION UPDATED TO REFLECT STATE BUDGET

On July 20th the Ohio Department of Taxation posted to its website updated information on the impact of the state budget on the accelerated phase out of the tangible personal property (TPP) and public utility (SB3) reimbursement payments to local governments.

Due to the independent manner in which county services are delivered and levies are raised, the Department has categorized county services into five service categories:

- Mental health/developmental disabilities levies
- Public health levies
- Senior services levies
- Children services levies
- Other levies that do not fit into any of the above categories (this includes the county general fund)

The department has prepared a separate worksheet for each of the five categories of fixed rate, current expense levies listed above for TPP and public utility deregulation reimbursement to counties— a total of ten separate worksheets. Two additional worksheets have been prepared for counties with inside millage levies for debt purposes that qualify for reimbursements. Inside millage levies for the purpose of retiring bonded indebtedness are not affected by the accelerated phase out of TPP and public utility payments.

The department also has prepared an overview that explains how the accelerated phase out of TPP and public utility reimbursement will be accomplished. The state budget accelerates the phase out of TPP and public utility reimbursement for taxing districts with little reliance on these revenue streams. However, taxing districts with a heavy reliance on TPP and public utility reimbursement will experience a longer period of reimbursement payments.

The department has calculated for each of the five service delivery areas the total resources available to each unit of government. For the first four service delivery categories listed above, total resources consist of total property tax receipts (including property tax rollbacks/homestead exemption) and total TPP and public utility reimbursements. For the fifth service category or "other category", total resources includes all funding streams mentioned above plus the county share of the Local Government Fund and the first one percent permissive county sales tax levied under ORC 5739.021, but not the additional half percent sales tax levied under ORC 5739.026.

The department calculates the percentage of total resources represented by TPP and public utility reimbursement as separate calculations utilizing calendar year 2010 as the base year. The test to determine whether a county continues to get reimbursement is based on whether a county's reimbursement exceeds 2 percent of total resources for that service function within each county. The law generally reduces reimbursement payments to each service delivery function by 2 percent per year, with separate calculations for TPP and public utility reimbursement. If a county service delivery function has more than 2 percent reliance in any year, then 2 percent is deducted from the payment for that year. If the reliance is less than 2 percent in any year, then reimbursement payments cease. For a detailed discussion of how the reimbursement payments will be calculated in calendar year 2011, please refer to the department's overview for counties at the link listed below.

Under the budget, any county service delivery function that has more than a 6 percent reliance on TPP or public utility reimbursement utilizing calendar year 2010 as the base year will continue to receive payments through calendar year 2013 and in succeeding years at the 2013 level. The state budget suspends the phase down of TPP and public utility reimbursement in 2013 at 2013 levels for county service delivery functions still receiving payments at that time.

The law permits local governments to ask for changes in the classification of specific levies and in the calculated amount if any local government believes that a particular levy function has been misclassified or miscalculated. Local governments have until June 30, 2013 to request changes in the calculations, after which all calculations become final. The Department of Taxation encourages local government officials to review these spreadsheets carefully and to submit any questions or suggested corrections to the department by email at tpp@tax.state.oh.us

The overview and the spreadsheet are available on the CCAO website and at this link http://www.tax.ohio.gov/channels/government/phase_out.stm The CCAO contact on this subject is Brad Cole, Managing Director of Research, who may be contacted at (614) 220-7981, (888) 757-1904 or bcole@ccao.org

NACo ACTIVITIES

NEW ONLINE GAME – "COUNTIES WORK"

NACo, together with iCivics, has created an online game, "Counties Work," to educate students in grades 6 through 12, about the important role and functions of county government by letting them run their own county. A curriculum and web quest has also been developed to assist teachers with preparing lessons on county government. Click here to view the game: <http://www.icivics.org/>

iCivics (formerly Our Courts) is a web-based education project designed to teach students civics and inspire them to be active participants in our democracy. iCivics is the vision of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who is concerned that students are not getting the information and tools they need for civic participation, and that civics teachers need better materials and support.

This online game is part of NACo Immediate Past Glen Whitley's public awareness campaign of "County Government Works" which has many free tools that can help tell your county's message to your constituents. For more information go to www.naco.org and click on the information on the front page.

U.S. ON 'WRONG TRACK,' SAY MAJORITY OF COUNTY ELECTEDS

The gap is widening between county elected officials who think the country is headed in the right direction and those who don't — and taking a negative turn, according to NACo's eighth annual National Survey of County

Elected Officials. The survey was officially released at the NACo Annual Conference held in Multnomah County (Portland), OR.

Sixty-two percent of respondents to the 2011 survey said the nation is on the “wrong track,” up slightly from 59 percent in 2010. However, the percentage of those saying the country is headed in the “right direction” declined by five percentage points. The telephone survey, conducted May 11–16, queried a random sample of 508 elected county leaders nationwide. It was conducted by the Survey Research and Evaluation Unit at the Carl Vinson Institute, University of Georgia, which developed and analyzed the survey.

Sixty-three percent said the 2011 federal budget did not cut enough spending. Viewed along party lines, Republicans (82 percent) and independents (69 percent) were far more likely to share this view than were Democrats (32 percent).

Forty-two percent rated the national economy as poor, a slightly more positive reading than in 2010, when 48 percent held that view.

While expressing concern over federal spending, county officials surveyed are also concerned about losing federal support that flows to their communities in the form of block grants. Fifty-seven percent replied that they were “concerned” about cuts to federal block grants; 38 percent were not.

As for counties’ own economies, county elected officials rate their fiscal health slightly above average. On a scale of 1 to 10, respondents pegged their health at 6.40 — slightly higher than last year (6.19) but equal to 2009, just after the economic crisis.

Fifty-five percent of elected officials said that balancing their most recent budgets was more difficult than in years past, more so for larger counties than smaller ones. The most often identified culprit threatening fiscal health was unfunded state and federal mandates (39 percent).

Fifty-six percent of county officials said their county had cooperated regionally to lower the cost of services. Additionally, 26 percent said they had consolidated services with another government in response to economic conditions or budget stress. Of the 23 percent that said they had privatized some services, interestingly, 46 percent of those were from the Northeast region.

To download a copy of the “National Survey of County Elected Officials” go to www.naco.org/research/pubs/Documents/2011%20Commissioners%20Opinion%20Survey.pdf

SEMINAR

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT REFORM SEMINAR BEING OFFERED BY THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Join the Associated General Contractors for a “Construction Contract Reform Seminar” at one of four locations around Ohio during August. Representatives from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and Jeff Appelbaum, chair of the Construction Law practice group of Thompson Hine and managing director of Project Management Consultants, will be the presenters. Appelbaum served as the lead facilitator of the Ohio Construction Reform Panel and was instrumental in the formation and passage of the new legislation.

In addition to having ample opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback, participants will learn:

- What is in construction reform
- How it will change the dynamics of public construction

- Public owners' expectations
- What it will take to implement the new delivery systems, and
- Changes to prevailing wage law included in the budget bill

August 11 - Columbus - OSU Fawcett Center

August 12 – Cleveland - Holiday Inn Cleveland South (Independence)

August 17 - Cincinnati - Allied Construction Industries office

August 18 – Toledo - TBA

Registration fee: \$40.00. For more information, contact Andrea Ashley at AGC (614) 486-6446 or andrea@agcoho.com or www.agcoho.com

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION OPINION

Opinion No. 2011-07 Travel Expenses For Spouse

Syllabus by the Commission:

1. State employees who travel for state business can take along their spouses provided that the state would not incur any additional cost as a result of their spouses' travel;
2. If state employees take their spouses along when traveling on state business, the employees or their spouses must pay any transportation, meals, and extra expenses incurred for the spouses' travel.

Note: While this advisory opinion specifically involves state employees, the laws, analysis, and conclusions also apply to other public officials and employees in the state at every level of government. Read the opinion at www.ethics.ohiogov/opinions/2011-07.pdf

CLASSIFIEDS

WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR III

Warren County seeks candidates for a full-time Water Treatment Plant Operator III position to operate the water treatment plant facility, perform preventive maintenance, draw water samples and perform basic chemical tests, and perform other duties as required. Qualifications: completion of secondary education; training and/or work experience which evidences basic knowledge of water and chemistry, safety practices and procedures, water treatment plant equipment operations, and the operation of laboratory testing equipment, and/or equivalent combination of training and/or experience. Licensure requirements: Class II Water Supply Works Operator's License, Ohio EPA operational certification for chlorine and fluoride tests, and valid Ohio driver's license. For application information go to <http://www.co.warren.oh.us/county/jobs/index.htm> Application deadline: **5:00 p.m. on July 29, 2011**. EOE.

JOB & FAMILY SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR

The Wood County Commissioners are accepting applications for the position of County Job and Family Services Administrator. This unclassified position administers state, federal, county, and other resources for the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services with responsibility for Children's Services, Workforce Development, and the Family and Children First Council.

Qualifications: Completion of undergraduate major core coursework in one of the following or a related field: business administration, public administration, human services, human resources, psychology, sociology, social work, education or finance. Also requires strong computer skills and an additional five years of administrative/managerial experience to include responsibility for managing the fiscal aspects of an organization,

agency, program or operational area and assisting in developing and implementing policies, programs, laws, rules and/or regulations. At least two of the five years must have been as a supervisor over subordinate staff and/or contractors. A valid driver's license is required.

Salary: Pay Grade 17: \$69,957.78 Minimum (FLSA Executive Exemption) - Public employment retirement and full benefits. Information packets and applications are available from the Commissioners' Office, 5th Floor, County Office Building, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M, or online at www.co.wood.oh.us. Applicants must submit a completed Wood County Application for Employment, cover letter, resume, and three professional references to the Wood County Commissioners, c/o Pamela Boyer, Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, OH 43402. Application deadline: **4:30 p.m. on August 19, 2011.** EOE.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Butler County is accepting applications for a county administrator. Requires BS/BA in Public/Business Administration, related field; MS/MA preferred; ICMA Credentialed Public Manager a plus. Also requires 5 years experience in Management/Administration. See brochure at www.mercergroupinc.com for qualifications/experience requirements. The County Administrator is the Chief Administrative Officer of the County. Starting salary market competitive DOQ/E; benefits; reasonable relocation expenses. Position open until filled. First review of cover letters/resumes August 15, 2011. Confidential materials to James Mercer, The Mercer Group, Inc., 551 West Cordova Road, #726; Santa Fe, NM 87505, (505) 466-9500; Fax: (505) 466-1274, jmercer@mercergroupinc.com; or www.mercergroupinc.com. 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 at mjneiman@ccao.org