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APRIL 26, 2013

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 2013

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

APRIL 30, 2013

OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS (OCCO) RECEPTION, STATEHOUSE MUSEUM (CRYPT), COLUMBUS

MAY 1, 2013

CCAO AGRICULTURE & REGIONAL AFFAIRS, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

MAY 8, 2013

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT REFORM – CCAO 2ND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR

MAY 22-24, 2013

NACo WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION CONFERENCE, COCONINO COUNTY (FLAGSTAFF), ARIZONA

JUNE 7, 2013

CCAO SUMMER SEMINAR, QUEST BUSINESS CENTER, COLUMBUS

JUNE 19-21, 2013

NACo LARGE URBAN COUNTY CAUCUS (LUCC) CONFERENCE, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)

JUNE 28, 2013

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING – SENATE DISTRICT 17 – OLD CANAL SMOKEHOUSE, ROSS COUNTY (CHILLICOTHE)

JULY 19-22, 2013

NACo COUNTY SOLUTIONS & MARKETPLACE (ANNUAL CONFERENCE), TARRANT COUNTY (FORT WORTH), TEXAS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

OCCO LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION - APRIL 30

The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) invites all county commissioners, county executives and county council members to a Legislative Reception on Tuesday, April 30 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Statehouse Museum (formerly called the Crypt) in Columbus. This reception is an excellent opportunity to meet with your members in the General Assembly to discuss issues of importance. OCCO has invited all members of the General Assembly. There is no charge to attend the reception.



OCCO is an organization that strives to unite in a joint effort, the various associations representing county elected officials and judges in order to promote sound, efficient, and fiscally responsible government. It serves as a forum to provide information about issues of importance to county elected officials and allows the members the opportunity to work on legislative issues of mutual concern.

RSVP your attendance **TODAY** to Dianna Moore at (740) 670-5302 or recorder@lcounty.com

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT REFORM – A CCAO 2ND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR

CCAO is pleased to offer a one-hour “Construction Contract Reform” webinar on May 8, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. explaining some of the key changes that have been made to Ohio’s public improvement law that provide county officials with new options for designing and constructing public improvements. The last state budget amended Ohio’s public improvement law to authorize county officials to use single prime contracting, construction manager at risk and design build as alternatives to multiple prime contracting which had generally been required of public owners since 1877.

To register for this exceptional educational opportunity, please click on this link: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/435111246>. If for any reason you experience difficulty in connecting to the link above and you wish to register for the webinar, please email Amanda Jones, CCAO Program Assistant, at ajones@ccao.org and provide her with your email address. Space is limited for this webinar, so register early. If you have questions regarding registering for the webinar, please contact Amanda at the email address listed above. For additional information regarding the topic for this webinar, please contact Brad Cole, CCAO Managing Director of Research, at bcole@ccao.org

IN MEMORIAM

SETH TAFT

Seth Chase Taft (90), a former Cuyahoga County Commissioner from 1971 to 1978, died Sunday, April 21 after a recent fall. Taft leaves a legacy of advocacy of government reform and regionalization of government services. While on the CCAO Board, he was instrumental in urging CCAO to look at innovative ways to change county government. He narrowly lost the 1967 Cleveland mayoral race to Carl Stokes and lost a bid for governor because he was thought to be too liberal for a Republican. A graduate of Yale Law School, Taft spent his 40-year legal career at the law firm of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue in Cleveland.

Taft was the son of Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Taft, the grandson of President William Howard Taft and the nephew of U.S. Senator Robert Taft. He is survived by his wife Frances, four children and 10 grandchildren.

AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES

CCC/EAPA REGIONAL TRAINING SCHEDULED IN WARREN COUNTY

The County Commissioners Clerks and Engineers Administrative Professionals Association (CCC/EAPA) will be holding a regional training session on May 10, 2013 at the Warren County Engineer’s Office, 210 West Main Street, in Lebanon. To RSVP your attendance, please contact Sharon Lawhorn, Warren County Engineer, (513) 685-3305 or sharon.lawhorn@co.warren.oh.us

All the county commissioners’ and engineers’ office support staff members are encouraged to attend. Regional meetings, as well as at the CCAO Summer Seminar and the CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference, are excellent opportunities for networking. The topics discussed at the regional meetings vary from the daily

operations of the office to recent legislative updates. All meetings will be held on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend. Lunch is provided by CCAO/CEAO.

Information about the CCC/EAPA is available at www.ccc-eapa.org and there is also a yahoo group that is a resource for questions and answers. You can sign up at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CCC_EAPA. For more information, please contact 2012 CCC/EAPA President Lisa Hawkins, Clerk, Ashtabula County Commissioners, 25 West Jefferson Street, Ashtabula, OH 44047-1092, (440) 576-3754, Fax (440) 576-2344, or LLHawkins@ashtabulacounty.us

STATE ACTIVITIES

CCAO RESPONDS TO OEPA POSITION PAPER ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT APPROVAL PROCESS

In response to an Ohio EPA position paper entitled "Solid Waste Management District Plan Development Cycle Revisions", CCAO and the Organization of Solid Waste Districts of Ohio (OSWDO) prepared a response to Ohio EPA on the proposed changes to the plan approval process. The CCAO/OSWDO response letter was based on a review of the position paper by the CCAO Special Committee on Solid Waste Law chaired by Logan County Commissioner John Bayliss. The CCAO/OSWDO response covers topics related to ten year planning periods, plan start dates, plan approval cycles, non-binding advisory opinions, contingent plan approval, for cause extensions, and an EPA proposed one-time non-substantive plan adjustment. [Read more...](#)

ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE (E3) PROGRAM

The Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Program at the Ohio EPA recognizes organizations committed to environmental excellence at all levels; it is open to a wide variety of participants. The program targets those who reduce waste, improve efficiency and work to continuously improve as an environmental steward. The silver level recognizes businesses and others that have a good environmental compliance record and have completed environmental stewardship activities. Any business or other type of organization in Ohio may be nominated. Nominations for the 2014 silver level are requested by June 28, 2013.

The bronze level is designed to recognize any entity completing environmentally beneficial activities. Any business, non-profit, government entity or other organization in Ohio may apply. Applications are accepted on a continual basis for the bronze level. Exceptional bronze-level participants may be asked to apply for silver-level recognition.

[Click here](#) for more information about the E3 program. Contact Howard Dong at (614) 644-2130, (800) 329-7518 or howard.dong@epa.state.oh.us with any questions.

JOB FAIRS SCHEDULED FOR RETURNING VETERANS

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services will provide news and updates on job fairs and major employment opportunities as they become aware of them. Two significant job events for Ohio veterans are scheduled on Monday, April 29 and Thursday, May 16.

- **April 29 – Youngstown – Energy Jobs Fair**
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Holiday Inn - Boardman, 7410 South Avenue, Youngstown.
Sponsors: U.S. Senator Rob Portman, Ohio Oil & Gas Association, and the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber. [More information...](#)

- **May 16 – Cincinnati – Veteran Job Fair**
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Paul Brown Stadium, Two Paul Brown Stadium, Cincinnati.
Sponsors: RecruitMilitary in partnership with the American Legion. [More information...](#)

For veterans that need help with a resume and translating military to civilian experience, [click here...](#)

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT VOTE SET FOR EARLY MAY IN SENATE

Last week, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) utilized a process known as “Rule 14,” to move the [Marketplace Fairness Act \(S.743\)](#) forward. This procedure is sometimes used by leadership to move a bill quickly to the floor for full Senate consideration and allows them to bypass the committee(s) with jurisdiction, in this case, the Senate Finance Committee. On Monday, April 22, cloture was successfully invoked (by 74-20 vote) on the motion to proceed to the legislation, essentially meaning that the full Senate began consideration of the bill this week. It is currently unclear what amendments will be offered but there is a likelihood some of them will contain language that would preempt state and local taxing authority.

NACo, along with other state and local government groups, has long advocated for the authority to enforce existing sales tax on remote sales. This issue has compounded over recent years due to the extraordinary development of the Internet’s use as a retail marketplace. As a result state and local governments have lost billions of dollars in uncollected sales taxes and main street businesses are at a significant disadvantage to online retailers.

The Marketplace Fairness Act does not create a new tax, rather, the legislation would grant the authority for state and local governments to enforce existing sales and use tax laws on remote sellers. The bill creates a level playing field no matter the choice of venue for retailers and grants the collection authority only after states have simplified their sales tax laws.

On March 22, during the debate over the FY 2014 Senate Budget Resolution, the sponsors of the Marketplace Fairness Act offered an amendment that allowed for a test vote on the legislation. Although symbolic, the vote was significant in that 75 Senators voted in favor of the amendment, demonstrating overwhelming support for the legislation itself. Thanks to Ohio Senators Brown and Portman for supporting the legislation!

Late Thursday, April 25, the amendment hit a snag. Not all states have sales taxes (i.e., Oregon, Montana, New Hampshire, and Delaware). Although the Senators from Oregon, Montana and New Hampshire voted against the amendment, the Senators from Delaware voted for the amendment. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) lead the charge against the amendment. The arguments against the Marketplace Fairness Act range from requiring states to collect the taxes of other states thousands of miles away against their will to discrimination because it mandates responsibilities that brick and mortar retailers do not have to track to giving an advantage to foreign retailers. Supporters say the amendment treats foreign retailers the same as domestic ones, but opponents question the ability of states to enforce state tax laws on companies based in other countries.

As of this morning, the Senate has agreed to end the debate. A final vote in the Senate is set for early May. It remains uncertain if the House will go along with the bill, but the President supports it.

For more information, read the [NACo legislative fact sheet on remote sales tax collection](#) or the [NACo press release on Marketplace Fairness Act](#) If you have questions or need assistance, contact Mike Belarmino, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4254 or mbelarmino@naco.org

LOSING MUNI-BONDS TAX-EXEMPTION HARD ON SMALL COUNTIES; OTTAWA AND BELMONT COUNTIES WEIGH IN ON THE ISSUE

NACo recently ran an article in *County News* (April 22, 2013) about the effects of losing the municipal bond tax exemption on small counties. County Commissioners Steve Arndt (Ottawa) and Ginny Favede (Belmont) weighed in on the issue with NACo. The topic has been on the minds of government officials since the Simpson-Bowles Commission on Debt Reduction recommended eliminating all tax exemptions for all newly issued municipal bonds in 2010. President Obama's 2014 budget proposes making the bonds subject to a 28 percent cap for individuals earning \$200,000 or more or couples earning \$250,000 or more. Such a cap would add three-quarters of a percent to borrowing costs for counties.

When the prospect of Congress' revoking the tax-exempt status municipal bonds came up, Arndt did the math. Looking at a bond issue of \$100 million, he came up with a \$16 million increase, on top of the \$130 million it would cost to repay the bond over 20 years. "That kind of money changes things," he said. Chief among them, a project's financial viability.

"When that kind of cost increase is figured in, it changes the project's cost-benefit ratio, and if it tips the scales, it could kill a project," he said. "If it's too expensive, those things aren't approved." Ottawa County has done plenty of projects that have totaled more than \$100 million dollars. "In the grand scheme of our budget, \$100 million is not that much," he said. "When you add in \$16 million in unanticipated costs because of taxes, then it means a lot more. We don't have that money to throw around." Arndt said for half of the counties in Ohio that don't have a bond rating, the costs would be even greater.



Belmont County is about two warning letters away from being forced by EPA to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. Favede said the project looks to cost roughly \$5 million, which will force the county to issue bonds to pay for the project. The possibility that Congress could eliminate the tax exemption on municipal bond interest is hanging over the commissioners' heads, though, because of the additional costs it will entail.

"We'd be looking at an increase of 3–4 percent tacked on over the life of the bond, and those projects are generally 20–25 years," she said. "That's almost \$4 million for a \$5 million project. That interest is astronomical for us, and no matter what, it makes the project cost-prohibitive." Favede said the county is poised for growth over the next few years, but infrastructure projects, and affordable financing, would be crucial. [Read more...](#)

NACo ACTIVITIES

2013 COUNTY SOLUTIONS & MARKETPLACE

The 2013 County Solutions and Marketplace is the new name for the Annual Conference of the National Association of Counties! The Conference will be held July 19-22, 2013 at the Fort Worth Convention Center in Tarrant County (Fort Worth), Texas. The Conference has been reduced to a 4-day program with additional opportunities for you to engage with your peers from across the U.S.! To those who have attended the NACo Annual Conference before – please note the change in programing. [Click here](#) for the new and improved schedule!

Register online to save \$25 off the conference registration fee. Register by June 7 to get the early bird discount! [Click here](#) to register and make your hotel reservations.

CCAO will be hosting a reception on Saturday, July 20 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the Fort Worth Convention

Center. Please be prompt and arrive by 5:00 p.m., because the following four candidates running for NACo 2nd Vice President will address the caucus:

- [Allan Angel](#), Commissioner, Kent County (Dover), Delaware
- [Stan Batmon](#), Commissioner, St. Clair County (Pell City), Alabama
- [Sallie Clark](#), Commissioner, El Paso County (Colorado Springs), Colorado
- [Tim Josi](#), Commissioner, Tillamook (Tillamook), Oregon

The election for the NACo 2013-14 Officers will take place on Monday, July 22. Information about the NACo Credentials Process (voting process) will be sent to all presidents of the Board of County Commissioners and County Executives in May. If you have any questions about the credentials process, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

EARLY INDICATORS OF SHALE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR

Recognizing early indicators for shale energy development and hydraulic fracturing provides more time to plan for industry activity. Join NACo for “Early Indicators of Shale Energy Development: A Framework for County Readiness” webinar on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. The objective of this webinar is to understand the stages of development and discover a framework for preparing your county. [Click here](#) to register. Contact Therese Dorau, NACo Program Manager for County Solutions & Innovation, at (202) 942-4224 or tdorau@naco.org

OEPA COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE

The Ohio EPA will host the “Seventh Compliance Assistance Conference” on May 21 & 22, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, in Columbus. Organizations will gain valuable information and contacts to help with environmental compliance responsibilities. Some of the topics include: air permitting basics and reporting; preparing for an Ohio EPA inspection; hazardous waste requirements overview; used oil and SPCC requirements; reporting when things go wrong; solid waste basics; wastewater discharge permits, new source review and Title V permitting, Ohio EPA’s enforcement process, and storm water and wetland requirements for construction. [Click here](#) for more details and to register.

CLASSIFIEDS

Title /For More Information. . .	Employer/Application Deadline
Assistant Director	May 2, 2013 Wood County JFS
Budget Analyst	May 3, 2013 Erie County
Director	May 24, 2013 Belmont County JFS
Director of Office of Management & Budget/Central Accounting Services	Open Until Filled Portage County