



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- JANUARY 8, 2014 SOCIAL MEDIA & THE IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT – CCAO 2ND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR
- JANUARY 18, 2013 CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
- MARCH 1-5, 2014 NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON HILTON & TOWERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.
- APRIL 2014 NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
- MAY 15-16, 2014 OHIO COURTHOUSES SYMPOSIUM, DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS
- MAY 21 - 23, 2014 NACo WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION CONFERENCE, ANCHORAGE BOROUGH (ANCHORAGE), AK
- JULY 11-14, 2014 NACo COUNTY SOLUTIONS AND IDEA MARKETPLACE, MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER, ORLEANS PARISH (NEW ORLEANS), LOUISIANA

ASSOCIATION NEWS



This will be the last issue of CIDS for 2013. CIDS will resume on January 10, 2014. On behalf of the CCAO staff, we wish you a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year. Please note that our office will be closing at noon on December 24 and New Year's Eve.

HAHN TO DEPART CCAO FOR ASSISTANT AG POSITION

It is with both regret and excitement for Josh that CCAO announces that Josh Hahn's last day at CCAO was December 18, 2013. He has begun his new position working for Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine as the new Assistant Attorney General in charge of Special Counsel and Third Party Vendors. Josh has made many valuable contributions to county government since joining CCAO in 2007 and then being elevated to a Senior Policy Analyst in 2011. His knowledge of agriculture, energy, soil and water, fair boards, canine issues, rural drainage and ditches as well as state and county general government issues served CCAO well during his time with us. His presence is already being missed not only for his skill and talent, but



also for his wit and warmth. Best wishes to Josh in his new position and many thanks to Josh for his valued contributions to county government.

Josh has agreed to share his personal e-mail address in case any of you would like to send him a note and stay in touch. It is hahn0110@yahoo.com. His final words to us as he departed was how much he enjoyed getting to know all of you and the many ways you encourage and support the CCAO staff.

SOCIAL MEDIA & THE IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT

CCAO is pleased to offer a one-hour 2nd Wednesday webinar on “[Social Media and the Impact on Employment](#)” on January 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. explaining legal issues in local government’s use of social media. The webinar will focus particularly on the potential legal issues and challenges that face public employers when employees use social media. Jonathan Downes, Esq. of Zashin & Rich Co., LPA, a certified specialist in labor and employment law, to share his expertise on Social Media and the Impact on Employment.

To register for this exceptional educational opportunity, please click on this link: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/845296286> If 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 name, title, and email address. Space is limited for this webinar, so register early. For additional information regarding the topic for this webinar, please contact Brad Cole, CCAO Managing Director of Research, at bcole@ccao.org

[Click here](#) for a schedule of 2014 2nd Wednesday Seminars. Mark your calendar and plan to participate!

OHIO COURTHOUSES SYMPOSIUM

County courthouses are prominent public buildings in our county seats. They serve as the center for political and commercial life and are important anchors in the heart of our Ohio communities. Fifty-five of Ohio’s county courthouses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and many of the other courthouses are just as significant. However, each public building comes with challenges to meet public needs, what are the solutions and techniques making these buildings viable for another 100 years and how will they be funded?



CCAO, the Ohio Historical Society, the Supreme Court of Ohio, and Heritage Ohio are working together to host a special “[Ohio Courthouses Symposium](#)” on May 15-16, 2014 to celebrate Ohio’s majestic historic county courthouses and to share best practices for the caretakers of our state’s courthouses that are in need of restoration and repairs. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Registration information will be available in March, 2014.

STATE ACTIVITIES

TIS BETTER TO RETURN THAN TO REGRET

The holidays are a time for family, tree trimming, ringing in the New Year and – gifts! That means it is also a good time of year to review the Ohio Ethics Laws around public servant restrictions on accepting these gifts. The Ethics Law prohibits a public official from accepting a “substantial thing of value” from an “improper” source. Some things that have often been deemed as having substantial value include cash, expensive gifts, exclusive golf outings, expensive event access to theater or sporting events, as well as vacations and jewelry. An “improper” source is an individual or party that is doing or seeking to do business with, interested in matters

before, or regulated by the county. Inexpensive gifts that are nominal, such as a coffee mug, tin of popcorn, or a tray of cookies are usually fine to keep (just watch out that you don't accept multiple items of minimum value from the same source because they are added together for ethics purposes). The [Ethics Commission's Gift Bulletin](#) may be especially helpful in determining whether or not to accept a specific gift.

ODNR LAND ACQUISITION GRANTS

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) seeks proposals for acquisition and/or conservation easement projects that will improve water quality within [Ohio's four Areas of Concern](#) (AOC). The AOCs are places within the Great Lakes Basin where the beneficial uses are impaired. Portions of Maumee, Black, Cuyahoga, and Ashtabula rivers and their watersheds have portions in the AOCs.

In federal fiscal year 2013, more than \$560,000 in federal funds were awarded and matched with about \$1 million in state and local funds. The money was used to acquire more than 58 acres in Lucas and Cuyahoga counties.

Application deadline: 5:00 p.m. on January 13, 2014. Submit proposals to the Office of Coastal Management for projects requesting from \$100,000 to \$800,000 per acquisition/easement project from willing sellers. Projects eligible for funding must be located within a designated area, be endorsed by the associated Remedial Action Plan implementation group and assist in restoring fish and wildlife habitats, according to ODNR. After the land is acquired, it must be owned by a non-federal public entity and preserved in perpetuity for conservation purposes. [Read more...](#)

2014 COUNTY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

HOLIDAY	LEGAL HOLIDAY
New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King Day	January 20
President's Day	February 17
Memorial Day	May 26
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 1
Columbus Day	October 13
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 27
Christmas Day	December 25

CUSICK APPOINTED TOURISMOHIO DIRECTOR

This week the TourismOhio Board, an 11-member group that advises the Ohio Development Services Agency on the strategic direction to promote Ohio tourism, welcomed Mary Cusick as the new director. Cusick was appointed by Governor Kasich in November.

Nearly 190 million visitors come to Ohio each year. TourismOhio is in the first year of a five-year pilot funding model to market Ohio. Funding is based on the year-to-year increase in state sales tax revenue from tourism-related industries, up to \$10 million dollars.

For more information about TourismOhio, please call (614) 466-8844, prinfo@development.ohio.gov or <http://consumer.discoverohio.com>. To keep up to date on tourism developments in the state read the online newsletter at <http://www.buckeyeline.com/>

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

BUDGET CONFEREES REACH AGREEMENT

On December 10, Senate Budget Committee announced that they had reached a two-year budget agreement. The proposal put forth by the "budget committee," titled the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, provides \$63 billion in sequester relief over two years (\$45 billion in FY2014 and \$18 billion in FY2015), which is split evenly between defense and non-defense discretionary spending. Despite some opposition from individuals in both parties, the agreement passed the House on December 12 by a vote of 332-94. The budget deal went to the Senate, where it was expected to be approved this week. Once the bill is signed into law, appropriators intend to wrap up work on FY2014 spending bills before the current Continuing Resolution expires on January 15. [Read more...](#)

FARM BILL NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE; TEMPORARY EXTENSION POSSIBLE

On December 12, the House passed H.R. 3695, which would extend the 2008 farm bill through January 31, 2014. However, the Senate Majority Leader and Senate Agriculture Committee Chair have both refused to take up an extension in the Senate due to opposition to continuing direct payments to farmers. The 2008 farm bill includes direct payments, while both the House and Senate measures currently in conference have eliminated such payments. Despite differing opinions, both House and Senate lawmakers are hopeful that a final conference report will be provided the first week of January. [Read more...](#)

WATER RESOURCES BILL DELAYED UNTIL 2014

The conference committee on the water resources bill will push its work into the new year. Despite making progress over the past two weeks, conferees working to resolve differences between the Senate's Water Resources Development Act (S. 601) and the House's Water Resources Reform and Development Act (H.R. 3080) have run out of time. S. 601 and H.R. 3080 both address many water resources issues important to counties, including Army Corps Vegetation Management policy clarifications, pilot programs that allow local governments the lead role in implementing projects and studies, levee safety and invasive species. [Read more...](#)

SUPREME COURT UPDATE FROM THE STATE AND LOCAL LEGAL CENTER

Recently, the Supreme Court decided to hear two qualified immunity cases and issued an opinion without oral argument in a third case. Qualified immunity protects government officials from lawsuits where the law they violated isn't "clearly established." The State and Local Legal Center will file an amicus brief in both of the cases that the Supreme Court has decided to hear. [Read more...](#)

NACo ACTIVITIES



NACo 2014 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Save the date and plan to attend NACo's 2014 Legislative Conference to be held March 1-5,

2014 at the Washington Hilton, in Washington, DC. Educational sessions focus on legislative issues that impact counties. Hear from nationally-known speakers and leaders in the federal arena for viewpoints on today's issues facing our nation. Online registration is open! [Read more...](#)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

IDENTIFYING & PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN COUNTIES

Human trafficking occurs in counties large and small, rural and urban, but the signs of it are often missed due to lack of knowledge. Join NACo on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. to learn about the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign, which educates communities on indicators of human trafficking, how to use a victim-centered approach to combat trafficking and how to bring together law enforcement, social service agencies and other organizations in your county to address this issue. [Register here...](#)

FIRSTNET & THE STATE & LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM - GET YOUR COUNTY INVOLVED!

Join NACo on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. for the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) webinar. FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) that is charged with building, operating and maintaining a nationwide, interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety.

Through the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Congress set aside valuable wireless spectrum and \$7 billion in spectrum auction proceeds to deploy the data network. The legislation also provides funding for a new \$118.15 million State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP), managed by NTIA, that will fund consultation and outreach activities by the states to plan for the nationwide network. [Register here...](#)

FARMLAND PRESERVATION SUMMIT

The 14th Annual Ohio Farmland Preservation Summit will be held on February 5, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on the campus of The Ohio State University, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, in Columbus. "Farmland Preservation: Focusing on Farmers" will focus on a variety of timely educational topics.

Registration fee: \$50 (includes continental breakfast and lunch). Registration deadline: January 31, 2014. For more information, please contact OSU Extension, Fairfield County, (740) 653-5419, Hogan.1@osu.edu or <http://fairfield.osu.edu>. [Read more...](#)

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION

SYLLABUS - 2013-042

A board of directors of a port authority created pursuant to R.C. 4582.22(A) is not a county board for purposes of R.C. 309.09(A) and is not entitled to legal representation by the county prosecuting attorney, regardless of whether the port authority is composed of a single county or multiple political subdivisions.

CLASSIFIEDS

POLICY ANALYST POSITION AVAILABLE

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio seeks a full-time Policy Analyst specializing in rural affairs, energy, and general county government issues.

The position entails the following: (1) helps develop and implement effective advocacy strategies to further CCAO policy positions with legislators, executives, and other organizations; (2) conducts detailed and thorough research in assigned policy areas, drafts legislation, and conducts data analysis using spreadsheets and other programs to convey information; and (3) provides training and educational outreach to Ohio's counties, which includes some travel.

Individual must effectively work independently and as part of a team as well as possess strong analytical, communication, and social skills. The individual also must be able to work varying hours, due to travel and legislative commitments. In addition, individual must be able to recognize opportunities and initiate action, manage a wide range of commitments, and meet short deadlines.

Bachelor's Degree plus 2-3 years experience in county or state government or the legislature preferred, or equivalent combination.

Competitive salary and benefit program. Send resume, cover letter and salary requirements to Amanda Jones, CCAO, 209 East State Street, Columbus, OH 43215 or e-mail to ccaopa@ccao.org. *No phone calls please.*

Title /For More Information. . .	Employer/Application Deadline
Policy Analyst	January 13, 2014 County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO)
Superintendent	December 28, 2013 Montgomery County Board of DD
Sanitary Engineer	January 3, 2014 Medina County
JFS Director	January 3, 2014 Lucas County
Registered Dietician/Dietary Manager	Open until filled Williams County
Resident Activity Director/Recreational Therapist	Open until filled Williams County