



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 10, 2014	CCAO METROPOLITAN AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS CONFERENCE CALL
FEBRUARY 12, 2014	HOW TO RUN A SUCCESSFUL LEVY CAMPAIGN – A CCAO 2 ND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR
FEBRUARY 14, 2014	CORSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
FEBRUARY 19, 2014	CCAO SMALL COUNTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, CONFERENCE CALL
FEBRUARY 20, 2014	CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
FEBRUARY 21, 2014	CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
FEBRUARY 28, 2014	CCAO JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL
MARCH 1-5, 2014	NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE , WASHINGTON HILTON, WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 11, 2014	OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION , STATEHOUSE, COLUMBUS
MARCH 28, 2014	CORSA RENEWAL MEETING, EMBASSY SUITES - AIRPORT, COLUMBUS
APRIL 2014	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
MAY 15-16, 2014	OHIO COURTHOUSES SYMPOSIUM , DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CORSA BEST PRACTICES PANEL RECEIVES PACESETTER AWARD



The County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) Personnel Best Practices Panel received the Pacesetter Award at the 30th Annual Ohio Public Employer Labor Relations Association's (OHPELRA) Training Conference, which was held at the Cherry Valley Lodge in Licking County. The Award recognizes innovative leadership which has resulted in positive impact to public sector labor relations and human resources. The Panel was created to develop the CORSA Personnel Policy Manual, and to facilitate the implementation and adoption of the Manual in

county offices and departments. Members of the Panel include: John Brownlee, CORSA Risk Control Manager; Kelly Anne Cicolani, Director, Richland County Commissioners HR and Risk Management; Aundrea Cordel, Fairfield County JFS HR Director; Chad Dennis, Colonel, Licking County Sheriff's Office; Jim Keating, Director, Trumbull County HR Department; Denise Smith, Chief Assistant Prosecutor, Portage County; Mike Steiger, HR Director, Allen County Board of DD. CCAO extends its congratulations to Panel members and expresses appreciation for the Panel's contributions to human resources best practices in Ohio County government.

Any announcement of the Award would be incomplete without recognizing Cheri Hass, former partner of the law firm Fishel Hass Kim Albrecht. Cheri died in September, 2013, as a result of an accident while hiking in Zion National Park in Utah. Cheri was a member of the Panel and provided key guidance in the development and implementation of the Personnel Policy Manual. Two awards are presented at the Training Conference, the Pacesetter Award and the Award of Excellence. Cheri received the Award of Excellence and she therefore was involved with both awards. The awards reflect the respect and admiration held by the Ohio human resources and labor relations community for Cheri.

CORSA is the risk sharing pool sponsored by CCAO that provides property and liability coverage and risk management services to 65 Ohio counties and 20 multi-county facilities. Additional information on the services provided by CORSA can be found at www.corsa.org.



IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to CCAO Policy Analyst Laura Abu-Absi and her husband, Boomer Schmidt, on the birth of their beautiful son, Cedar Joseph Schmidt! Cedar was born Sunday evening, February 2 weighing in at 7 lbs. 1.2 oz. and measuring 20 inches long. Mom, Dad, and Cedar are doing well, and the CCAO staff is so happy to welcome him into the family. Congratulatory notes may be sent to Laura and Boomer, c/o CCAO, 209 E. State Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

WAGING SUCCESSFUL BALLOT ISSUE CAMPAIGNS

CCAO is pleased to offer a one-hour 2nd Wednesday webinar on "Waging Successful Ballot Issue Campaigns" on February 12, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. At a time of tight budgets and declining tax resources for certain county purposes, county officials may be asked to seek voter support for tax levies in order to cover the cost of county funded services in a variety of areas. Learn from experienced professionals how to address issues related to the timing of any proposed tax levy, the process for proposing a levy, communication strategies, the value of campaign research, fundraising, identifying core constituencies, get out the vote efforts, and how to wage a winning campaign.

To register for this exceptional educational opportunity, please click on this link: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/398656222> 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. [Read more...](#)

[Click here](#) for a complete schedule of 2014 2nd Wednesday Seminars.

REMINDER: ALL MEMBERS WELCOME TO ATTEND CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

This is a reminder that all county commissioners, county executives and county council members are welcome and invited to attend the CCAO Board of Directors meetings. The next CCAO Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Friday, February 21. In order to include everyone who plans to attend in the lunch count, please RSVP Kathy Dillon, Office Manager & Boards' Liaison, at kathydillon@ccao.org on or before February 17 if you will be attending the meeting. Also, please feel free to contact Kathy should you have any additional questions.

OCCO LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION – MARCH 11

The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) invites all county commissioners, county executives, and county council members to a Legislative Reception to be held on March 11, 2014 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Statehouse Atrium. Representatives from the other OCCO member organizations will be in attendance as well as many members of the 130th Ohio General Assembly. Statewide office holders have also been invited.

OCCO strives to unite the associations representing Ohio's 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.

Please RSVP your attendance by March 3, 2014 to Mary Panaggio at (614) 723-2008 or mpanaggio@ralaw.com. [Read more...](#)

STATE ACTIVITIES

MOVING OHIO FORWARD DEMOLITION GRANT PROGRAM

Attorney General Mike DeWine this week announced funding of \$3.8 million for 87 counties in the [Moving Ohio Forward Demolition Grant Program](#). The additional grants were a reallocation of unrequested funds from Phase One of the program. The guidelines for distributing [Phase Two of demolition grant awards](#) will be similar to the Phase One requirements with the following new provisions:



- There is no matching fund requirement to use Phase Two funds;
- Counties have until May 31, 2014 to use the Phase One grant funds;
- The deadline to spend Phase Two funds is September 30, 2014 with reimbursement requests to be submitted by October 31, 2014; and
- Funds cannot be used for the demolition of properties listed in the federal National Register of Historic Places.

The Program helps stabilize and improve communities by removing blighted and abandoned homes with funds from the national mortgage settlement reached in 2012. The demolition program requires that a lead entity, such as a land bank or local government, apply for the funds on behalf of each county in Ohio.

For Phase Two grants, the unrequested funds have been reallocated based upon the same formula as the original allocations, with each county receiving a minimum of \$7,800 for the demolition of at least one more blighted structure. Counties that did not use their full allocation in Phase One of the grants were given the opportunity to request funds from their unused allocation to fund specific demolition projects. Warren County was the only county that declined additional grant funding.

For more information, contact Matt Lampke, Mortgage Foreclosure Counsel, Office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, at (614) 466-8569 – office, (614) 381-6496 – cell, or matthew.lampke@ohioattorneygeneral.gov.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE FOR LOW INCOME COUNTY RESIDENTS

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has released detailed [tax credit and free tax assistance information](#) and a [one-pager for county use](#) to provide information about federal tax credits that may be available to working families served by the county departments of job and family services. It also identifies programs which offer free tax preparation assistance to eligible Ohioans. All Ohio Works First recipients and Food Assistance recipients with earned income will be receiving the attached notice informing them of the tax credits and how to get assistance filing their returns. ODJFS has also identified contact information for constituent questions on the topic at TANF-FSTA@ifs.ohio.gov or by calling (866) 886-3537.

GYPSY MOTH TREATMENT INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Areas across Ohio are slated to receive gypsy moth aerial treatments by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) in early spring to slow the spread of the destructive insect. ODA will host [open houses*](#) in treatment areas that will offer attendees the opportunity to speak directly with those who work with the program, learn about the pest, and view [maps of treatment areas](#).



The gypsy moth is a non-native, invasive species that has been advancing into Ohio from Pennsylvania and Michigan over the past decade. In its caterpillar stage, it feeds on the leaves of over 300 different tree and shrub species and is especially fond of oak. A healthy tree can usually withstand only two years of defoliation before it is permanently damaged or dies. Currently in Ohio, there are 51 counties under gypsy moth quarantine, limiting the movement of regulated articles out of those counties.

*In case of inclement weather, please contact the hosting Ohio EPA District Office or check the [web page](#) for cancellations. No reservations are necessary. If you cannot attend the information session closest to your county, please feel free to attend another session. Written comments about the proposed treatment blocks should be sent to ODA by March 1. Letters can be sent via e-mail to plantpest@agri.ohio.gov or via mail to the attention of the Gypsy Moth Program, Plant Health Division – Building 23, Ohio Department of Agriculture, 8995 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068. [Read more...](#)

ODJFS RELEASES DECEMBER 2013 EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS

The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) has released county by county employment numbers from December that show Monroe County has the highest unemployment rate with 14.6% and Mercer County has the lowest at 3.8%. An ODJFS [map](#) provides unemployment percentages for each county and compares them to the state's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment average of 6.6%. It shows most counties are sitting above the Ohio unemployment rate of 6.6%, but 10% are at or below the national rate of 6.5%. [Read more...](#)

DRINKING WATER ASSISTANCE FUND ACCEPTING PRE-APPLICATIONS BY MARCH 1

The Ohio EPA is accepting pre-applications for financial assistance for drinking water projects. Communities with drinking water infrastructure projects seeking 2015 loans must submit applications by March 1, 2014. Before projects can be considered for funding they must be added to the OEPA's project priority list, which can be done by submitting a nomination form.

New, replaced, rehabilitated, upgraded, or expanded water treatment plants and their components will be a direct result of the loans. The financial assistance will be granted through the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account, which provides low-interest rate loans for community and non-profit, non-community public water systems, according to the OEPA. A disadvantaged community program is also in place and applications for that are due on March 1. [Read more...](#)

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

FARM BILL FINALLY PASSES

After operating without one for the last five months, President Obama will sign a \$956 billion Federal Farm Bill today. The Farm Bill sets policy for hundreds of programs, including farm subsidies and food stamps - and makes some cutbacks to both. The bill cuts food stamps by \$800 million a year, or around 1 percent. The final amount of the Food Stamp cut was a compromise between the Senate bill, which would have cut \$400 million a year, and the House bill, which would have cut \$4 billion a year. The money is scheduled to come from ending the practice in some states of giving recipients a minimal amount of heating assistance in order to trigger higher food stamp benefits, thus the impact of the cuts will be felt in those 15 states engaging in the practice (Ohio is not one of them). The farm subsidies contain substantial policy changes around crop insurance for farmers. The bill also contains a test program that would allow 10 states to grow industrial hemp for states that have legalized cultivation but are unable to produce because of current federal law. It was also the final vehicle for PILT payments wherein the federal government pays local governments \$425 million when they lose tax money because of federal lands, with 45 counties in Ohio receiving reimbursements of \$554,833. That funding had expired at the end of last year. The bill in total could save around \$1.65 billion annually overall, but critics say those savings could be erased if the weather or the market doesn't cooperate. Many of the new farm subsidies would only kick in if a farmer has losses, and it's impossible to predict exactly how much the programs will eventually cost.

EPA PONDERES PHASING OUT CERTAIN LIGHT FIXTURES IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held an "[Executive Order 13132](#) Federalism Briefing" with state and local government groups on EPA's forthcoming rulemaking on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in public buildings. Under E.O. 13132, federal agencies proposing rules that may significantly impact states and localities are required — early on in the process — to consult with elected state and local government officials, or their representative national organizations, on the potential effects of the rule.

EPA states that PCBs have the potential to cause cancer and are associated with other health effects. PCBs are found in fluorescent light ballast fixtures (FLB) in buildings built prior to May 1979. Types of public buildings that may be impacted include, but are not limited to, courthouses, schools, jails, hospitals, nursing homes, recreation or entertainment venues, airports, and daycares.

The yet-to-be-proposed rule would impact a number of public buildings constructed prior to 1980 that have not experienced energy efficiency upgrades. EPA is pondering whether to require an immediate replacement of all PCB FLBs ahead of U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) 2020 rule, which requires replacement of these light fixtures by 2020. EPA is accepting comments from state and local governments on the proposal until March 28, 2014. [Read more...](#)

EPA'S REGULATION ON COAL ASH TO BE RELEASED BY DECEMBER 19

On January 29, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed a consent decree in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, agreeing to publish "a notice taking final action" on its 2010 proposed regulations on coal combustion residuals by December 19, 2014.

In 2010, EPA proposed the first-ever national rules to ensure the safe disposal and management of coal combustion residuals. The proposed rule laid out two options for management of coal ash. One option would overturn current regulations and designate coal ash as a hazardous waste, thus eliminating the beneficial use market, while the second option proposed to maintain coal ash as a non-hazardous waste.

Coal ash is generally managed under state law, as delegated by the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), which is the primary federal law governing state and local management of solid waste. [Read more...](#)

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION

[SYLLABUS - 2014-003](#)

1. A board of county commissioners has no authority to transfer real property belonging to the county to an office of economic development.
2. Pursuant to R.C. 1724.10(B), a board of county commissioners may transfer lands or interests in lands owned by the county to an economic development corporation, provided the economic development corporation has been designated an agency of the county pursuant to R.C. 1724.10 and an agreement between the economic development corporation and the county permits such transfers. A board of county commissioners has no authority, however, to transfer real property other than lands or interests in lands owned by the county to an economic development corporation.

CLASSIFIEDS

Title /For More Information. . .	Employer/Application Deadline
Information Services Director	February 12, 2014 Muskingum County
Registered Dietician/Dietary Manager	Open until filled Williams County
Resident Activity Director/Recreational Therapist	Open until filled Williams County
Design Engineer	Geauga County Open until filled
Senior Manager/Sanitary Engineer Dept.	Greene County Open until filled