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County Information and Data Service

Published weekly by: County Commissioners Association of Ohio

209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • www.ccao.org

VOLUME XXXXVIII

NO. 9

MARCH 7, 2014

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 11, 2014	OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION, STATEHOUSE, COLUMBUS
MARCH 12, 2014	FUNDING WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS – A 2ND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR
MARCH 20, 2014	CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
MARCH 21, 2014	CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
MARCH 24, 2014	CCAO TAXATION & FINANCE AND JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEES CONFERENCE CALL
MARCH 28, 2014	CORSA RENEWAL MEETING, EMBASSY SUITES - AIRPORT, COLUMBUS
MARCH 31, 2014	NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS QUARTERLY MEETING, BUCYRUS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, CRAWFORD COUNTY (BUCYRUS)
APRIL 2014	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH (see article under County Activities)
APRIL 11, 2014	CEBCO ANNUAL MEETING, DOUBLETREE COLUMBUS-WORTHINGTON, WORTHINGTON
MAY 15-16, 2014	OHIO COURTHOUSES SYMPOSIUM, DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS
JULY 11-14, 2014	NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION, ORLEANS PARISH (NEW ORLEANS), LOUISIANA

ASSOCIATION NEWS

FUNDING WATER & WASTEWATER PROJECTS

Join CCAO for a one-hour “Funding Water and Wastewater Projects” – part of the 2nd Wednesday Webinar Series - on March 12 at 9:30 a.m. Topics will include: background and purpose of the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA), key features of OWDA’s loans, other OWDA funding programs, Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, Drinking Water Assistance Fund, and other public funding programs.

To register for this exceptional educational opportunity, please click on this link: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/835659718>. 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, 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, March 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 March 17 if you will be attending the meeting. Also, please feel free to contact Kathy Dillon 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 to Mary Panaggio at (614) 723-2008 or mpanaggio@ralaw.com. [Read more...](#)

CCAO WORKERS COMP GROUP RETRO PROGRAM REPORTS GREAT RESULTS

The CCAO Workers Comp Group Retro Program recently reported results for the 2010 through 2013 program years, and the results are great! Group Retro is a BWC sponsored rating program which allows similar employers to combine their experience and earn rebates based upon good claims performance across three evaluation periods. CCAO, working with CompManagement Inc., has sponsored a Group Retro Program for counties beginning in 2010 with 15 members, which has grown to 33 members in 2014. To join the CCAO Group Retro Program a county must meet underwriting guidelines for frequency and severity of claims and must exhibit a commitment to safety and claims management.

The 15 counties in the 2010 Group Retro Program have earned over \$1.27 million in performance-based rebates, which represents a savings of 27.4% of premium. The 2011 Program included 22 counties who have saved 31.2% or \$1.78 million through the second evaluation period, with more savings predicted for the third evaluation. The 2012 Group Retro Program grew to 25 counties who are projected to earn performance-based rebates in excess of 22% of premium with a rebate of over \$1.06 million at the first evaluation in April 2014.

Congratulations to all the counties in the CCAO Group Retro Program. They have worked hard to provide a safe workplace and actively manage their workers comp claims, resulting in a return of over \$4 million to their

counties' bottom line. For more information on the CCAO Group Retro Program, contact Beth Miller at (614) 220-7989, (888) 757-1904 or emiller@ccao.org

CRAWFORD COUNTY TO HOST NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

Join Crawford County Commissioners Steve Reinhard, Jenny Vermillion, and Doug Weisenauer and County Engineer Mark Baker for the NW District Commissioners and Engineers Quarterly Meeting to be held on Monday, March 31, 2014. Registration, social hour, dinner, and the quarterly meeting will take place at the Bucyrus Community Hospital (Avita Health Systems), 629 North Sandusky Avenue, in Bucyrus.

Tours: 1) Industrial tour: GE facilities, Covert Manufacturing, and Kurtzman Art Institute; and 2) History tour: D. Pickings Company/Bucyrus Historical Society, Crestline Historical Society/Shunk Museum, and Galion Historical Society/Brownella Cottage.

The social hour, dinner, and business meeting will be held after the tours at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Angie Chandler, Assistant Clerk or Jenny Vermillion, County Commissioner, at (419) 562-5876 or Mark Baker, County Engineer, at (419) 562-7731. [Read more...](#)

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

VIDEO VISITATION FOR INMATES IN COUNTY JAILS

Officials in Montgomery and Warren counties plan to allow inmates to meet with their lawyers, family, and friends using remote video access. Video technology would reduce security risks of moving inmates around the jail and improve the use of jail staff, while offering a convenient alternative to face-to-face visits. Fewer than 200 jails nationwide use the service.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office said that agency hopes to have the video visitation available for attorneys to meet with inmates by the end of the year. The service would later be broadened to inmates' family and friends. Video visitation will be provided through an existing contract for inmate phone services and would not cost the county additional money.

Warren County projects that some revenue from the program, while reducing security risks associated with moving inmates around the jail for about 13,000 visits a year.

Currently, Sandusky County offers off-site visitation for friends and family to visit from home. All visits are monitored and recorded and can be terminated for inappropriate behavior. Off-site visitation allows children to visit from a safe, comfortable environment. In addition, video visitation is cheaper than driving to the facility.

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH



Since 1991, CCAO has encouraged counties to actively promote county government programs and services. 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.

This year's theme, established by the National Association of Counties (NACo), is "Ready and Resilient Counties: Prepare. Respond. Thrive." Counties may focus on how they prepare and respond to natural disasters and emergencies or any situation that the counties may face, such as economic recovery or public health and safety challenges.

Your county may establish another theme to celebrate NCGM. The ultimate goal is to celebrate NCGM and host a variety of community outreach events and activities to include:

- lead county facility tours,
- recognize county employees and volunteers,
- distribute information about county programs and services,
- sponsor student essay or art contests,
- meet with business and community leaders, and
- adopt resolutions.

Resources prepared by NACo to help you plan NCGM:

Plan: [2014 NCGM planning booklet](#)
[Sample Proclamation](#)

Teach: Tell community and county residents [Why Counties Matter](#)
Reach teachers and school-age children with [County Government Works](#)

Advertise: [NCGM poster](#)
["Ready and Resilient" poster](#)
[County Government Month logo 1](#)
[County Government Month logo 2](#)

Send information about your activities to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at mjneiman@ccao.org.

AFFILIATE NEWS

2014 CCC/EAPA REGIONAL TRAINING SCHEDULE

The County Commissioners Clerks and Engineers Administrative Professionals Association (CCC/EAPA) announced that three regional training sessions will be held in the following counties:

- **APRIL 25 – WOOD COUNTY**
Wood County Courthouse, 1 Courthouse Square – Floor 5, Bowling Green
Host: Sandy Long, Clerk, Wood County Commissioners
Meeting Coordinator: Jessica Sautter, Office Manager, Wood County Engineers Office, (419) 354-9068 or jsautter@co.wood.oh.us
- **JUNE 20 – WAYNE COUNTY**
Wayne County Administration Building, 428 West Liberty Street, Wooster
Host: Diane Austen, Clerk, Wayne County Commissioners
Meeting Coordinator: Linda Reigle, Administrative Coordinator, Union County Engineer's office, at (937) 645-3018 or lreigle@co.union.oh.us
- **SEPTEMBER 12 – FRANKLIN COUNTY**
CCAO Offices, 209 East State Street, Columbus
Hosts and Meeting Coordinators: Carolyn Hauenstein, Clerk, Erie County Commissioners, (419) 627-7675 or chauenstein@eriecounty.oh.gov and Jenny Griffin, Office Manager, Pickaway County Engineers Office, (740) 474-3360 or jgriffin@pickawayengineer.org

All the county commissioners' and engineers' office support staff members are encouraged to attend. These regional meetings 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 2014 CCC/EAPA President Linda Reigle, Administrative Coordinator, Union County Engineer's Office, 233 West Sixth Street, Marysville, OH 43040, (937) 645-3018 or lreigle@co.union.oh.us.

STATE ACTIVITIES

ABSENTEE BALLOTS & USPS REGULATIONS

The United States Postal Service (USPS) recently adopted [new regulations](#) related to the mailing of non-UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) absentee ballots.

In general, the new regulations require boards of elections to do three things:

1. Indicate in a prominent location (i.e., as a part of the ballot instructions, mailing instructions, or the envelope) that the proper amount of postage must be paid using the marking "First-Class Mail postage must be applied." Alternatively, the marking "Apply First-Class Mail postage here" may be printed in the upper right corner of the address side of the return envelope.
2. Indicate in a prominent location the specific amount of First-Class Mail postage required for the return of the ballot to election officials.
3. Each mailing must be accompanied by a complete sample mail piece.

Boards of elections are exempt from the new regulations if a "postage due account has been established to guarantee the payment of return postage." As such, the Secretary of State's Office continues to recommend that boards of elections establish and maintain a postage due account for this purpose.

USPS encourages local election officials to "consult with postal officials to assist with mail piece design, barcode placement, and to determine the proper amount of postage required for mailing ballots to voters and the return of ballots to election officials."

As you consider implementation of these new USPS regulations, you may want to review other USPS information regarding [absentee ballots and election mail](#).

- [Tag 191 for Domestic and International Ballots](#)
- [Special procedures for APO/FPO/DPO Ballots](#)
- [Official Election Mail logo](#)
- [Creating election mail](#)

Questions about election mail should be directed to the following USPS Election and Political Mail Coordinators: Cincinnati - Debbie Bleile at (513) 684-5523 or Northern Ohio - Leslie Farr at (216) 443-4184.

OHIO'S RECORD LOW OFFENDER RECIDIVISM RATE CONTINUES TO DECLINE

Ohio's already record-low recidivism rate has dropped again, according to Gary C. Mohr, Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. The new rate of 27.1 percent better than the previous rate of 28.7 percent, and continues to be well below the national average of 40-44 percent.

While some of the reduction in Ohio's recidivism rate can be attributed to a 2009 court decision that removed nearly 2,500 people from the supervision of the Adult Parole Authority, other factors include the continued use of evidence-based programs, the growth of reintegration units within the prisons, enhanced programs to connect offenders with families and resources while incarcerated, a sophisticated network of community corrections programs and continued work with local communities and reentry coalitions. Recidivism is calculated on a three year time period. The current rate of 27.1 percent is based on offenders released in 2010 Ohio recidivism study. [Read more...](#)

NACo ACTIVITIES

COMMISSIONERS BRING PRIORITY ISSUES TO CAPITOL HILL

More than 1,500 county officials represented the county's interests in the nation's capital during the National Association of Counties' (NACo) 2014 Legislative Conference, March 1-5, in Washington, D.C. County officials from across the country demonstrated to Congress and federal officials that the nation's 3,069 county governments provide the essential building blocks to create healthy, vibrant and safe communities. This includes key public infrastructure, transportation and economic development; creating and sustaining a skilled workforce; ensuring public health and public safety and implementing federal, state and local programs in a cost-effective manner. During the Legislative Conference, participating county officials heard from national leaders on issues important to counties and communities, including Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Sec. Shaun Donovan, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Sec. Sally Jewell, U.S. Department of Interior and Sec. Anthony Foxx, U.S. Department of Transportation.

CCAO/CEAO co-sponsored an Ohio Congressional Delegation Reception attended by Reps. Bill Johnson (Dist. 6-Marietta), David Joyce (Dist. 14-Painesville), Bob Latta (Dist. 5-Bowling Green), and Steve Stivers (Dist. 15-Hilliard). Ohio county commissioners met with their Members of Congress to discuss issues of importance to counties. [Read more...](#)



Kostandaras, Johnson,
Dulaney, Pausch



Kostandaras, Joyce, Lieberman



Latta, Dulaney, Nicely



O'Grady, Wesler, Stivers, Lee

For comprehensive coverage of the 2014 Legislative Conference, [click here...](#)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE ROAD AHEAD: COUNTY TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND FINANCING

NACo recently released [The Road Ahead: County Transportation Funding and Financing](#), a study assessing

the role of counties in transportation (roads and bridges), challenges and solutions to the funding and financing of their transportation systems. Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), the federal surface transportation funding legislation, expires in September 2014, with discussions surrounding reauthorization already started. Join NACo for a webinar at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 to learn more about county transportation funding and challenges, as well as learn how to navigate and use the companion tools of the study, including the web interactive and state level profiles. [Register here...](#)

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS & ROADMAPS: WHAT’S NEW IN 2014?

The 2014 County Health Rankings will be released on March 26. Do you know where your county will be ranked? Join the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute for a webinar at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2014 to learn the rationale behind the Rankings model and new measures and action tools for 2014. You will also learn about the updated communications toolkit and strategies to inform and develop a community health improvement approach in your county. Participants will get access to the embargoed data before its national release. [Register here...](#)

12TH ANNUAL STATE OF THE REGION CONFERENCE

Join Bowling Green State University’s Center for Regional Development for the 12th Annual State of the Region Conference to be held on Monday, April 14, 2014 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 6165 Levis Commons Blvd, in Perrysburg. The continental breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. followed by the program from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon featuring keynote speaker Tom Murphy, a Senior Resident Fellow at the Urban Land Institute and former mayor of the City of Pittsburgh. There is no charge to attend the event. Space is very limited. [Register here...](#)

HUMAN SERVICES INSTITUTE

The Center for Community Solutions is hosting the [72nd Annual Human Services Institute](#) - “Overcoming Barriers to Employment” - from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on April 17, 2014 at The Job Center, 1040 East Tallmadge Avenue, in Akron. There is no charge to attend. [Register here...](#)

The keynote speaker will be Thomas Dubois, Director of New Initiatives, Instituto del Progreso Latino, in Chicago. Learn how some organizations are successfully tearing down the complex barriers to employment, such as poverty, limited language proficiency, and low levels of education. Following the keynote address, there will be small group discussions focusing on: literacy in the workplace facilitated The Literacy Cooperative, re-entry and employment facilitated by Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, and work experience programs facilitated by Summit County Executive Russell Pry.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION

SYLLABUS-2014-009

1. For purposes of R.C. 149.43, a county auditor makes a public record available for inspection when he provides access to the public record online through the county’s website.
2. A county auditor may not charge and collect a fee for making public records available for inspection on a county website.

CLASSIFIEDS

Title /For More Information. . .	Employer/Application Deadline
OMB Director	Lucas County March 19, 2014

Child Support Staff Attorney	Fairfield County JFS March 21, 2014
Design Engineer	Geauga County Open until filled
Senior Manager/Sanitary Engineer Dept.	Greene County Open until filled
HR Director	Portage County Open until filled
Child Support Enforcement Program Administrator	Clark County Open until filled (first reading of resumes on March 17, 2014)
HR & Support Services Deputy Director	Stark County JFS Open until filled
Fiscal Officer	Cuyahoga County Open until filled