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<td>MARCH 10, 2015</td>
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<td>CORSA RENEWAL MEETING, HOLIDAY INN COLUMBUS NORTH, WORTHINGTON</td>
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MARCH 27, 2015  CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, JOHN S. KNIGHT CENTER, SUMMIT COUNTY (AKRON)

MARCH 27, 2015  CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, BENDER’S TAVERN, STARK COUNTY (CANTON)

MARCH 30, 2015  CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, JAKE’S RESTAURANT, ASHLAND COUNTY (ASHLAND)

MARCH 30, 2015  CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, CELEBRATIONS II, MONTGOMERY COUNTY (DAYTON)

APRIL 1, 2015  CEBCO ANNUAL MEETING, COLUMBUS AIRPORT MARRIOTT, COLUMBUS

MAY 1, 2015  SELECTING PROJECT DELIVERY MODELS & BIDDING FOR PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN OHIO, THE CONFERENCE CENTER AT OCLC, DUBLIN (NOTE: THE DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM MARCH 27)

JUNE 24-25, 2015  COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

NW OHIO COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING – MARCH 16

Hancock County Commissioners Mark Gazarek, Phillip Riegle and Brian Robertson and County Engineer Christopher Long will host the Northwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association Quarterly Meeting on March 16, 2015 at The Bruggeman Lodge, 9250 Township Road 208, in Findlay.

Registration begins at 1:15 p.m. Tours depart at 2:00 p.m. for 1) Hancock County Landfill and Gas to Energy Facility and 2) Hancock County Courthouse and the Historical Museum including the Michael G. Oxley Government Center. The social hour begins at 4:30 p.m. followed by the business meeting and dinner.

Registration fee: $18.00 per person. Deadline for reservations: March 6, 2015. Deadline for cancellations: Friday, March 13, 2015. Read more...

GOVERNMENTAL ENERGY AGGREGATION WEBINAR – MARCH 11

CCAO is pleased to offer a one-hour “Governmental Energy Aggregation” webinar on March 11 at 9:30 a.m. Both electric and natural gas governmental opt-out electric aggregation is permissible in the State of Ohio. There are some obvious differences between the two types of aggregation while others are more subtle. Both could create issues or challenges for elected officials to identify and consider when deciding if governmental opt-out aggregation makes sense for their community. Here are some items that will be covered in the webinar:

- Background of electric and natural gas choice in Ohio
- Key differences between natural gas and electric aggregation in Ohio
- Steps to setting up both electric and natural gas aggregation
- Utility pricing differences on natural gas across Ohio
- Utility pricing differences on electricity in Ohio
- Electric and natural gas utility auction timing and duration
- General geography where aggregation is permissible and where it isn’t
- Evaluation of what is “savings” from a community and customer’s perspective
Bring your thinking caps with you as the decisions you make for your facilities on energy pricing matters may not be same as what you make or would like to make for consumers that participate in governmental aggregation. Our speakers are from Palmer Energy Company, the company that manages the CCAO Service Corporation Natural Gas, Electric and Energy Conservation Programs.

Webinar participants may pose questions to the presenters who will respond during and after the power point presentation. There is no charge to attend. To register, please click here. If you experience difficulty in connecting to the link above and wish to register for the webinar, please email Amanda Jones, CCAO Program Assistant, and provide her with your name, title, and email address. **Webinar participation is limited to the first 100 to sign-on to the webinar that morning.** For additional information regarding the topic for this webinar, please contact Brad Cole, CCAO Managing Director of Research.  [Read more…](#)

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT – WHAT’S NEXT?

CCAO/CEBCO invites you to attend one of our 2015 ACA training sessions on the “Cadillac Tax” and some specific, new employer reporting requirements of the Affordable Care Act. These provisions will affect what you do in 2015 and beyond. Marc Fishel of Fishel Hass Kim Albrecht LLC will present and answer your questions on these and other ACA-related topics.

Sessions will begin at 10:30 a.m. We welcome staff and elected officials from all counties to participate. Choose the location and date that works for you:

- March 10  Ohio University Inn, 331 Richland Avenue, Athens
- March 17  The Roberts Center, 123 Gano Road, Wilmington
- March 24  CCAO, 209 E. State Street, Columbus

There is no charge to attend the training sessions. Lunch will be served following the session. To help us have proper seating and refreshments, please RSVP your attendance five days before the session to Melissa Bodey at (614) 220-7997 or Wendy Dillingham at (614) 220-7992.

WIOA IMPLEMENTATION SYMPOSIUM – MARCH 26

The [Area 7 Workforce Investment Board](#) in cooperation with CCAO, the Ohio Job and Family Service Directors Association, and other workforce investment boards will present a “Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) Implementation Symposium” on March 26, 2015 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel, 1375 N Cassady Avenue, in Columbus. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. with the symposium beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 2:30 p.m.

The Symposium will provide local elected officials and decision-makers with information to effectively implement the WIOA. Attendees will hear from state and national leaders on the key provisions and requirements of the new workforce legislation.

The keynote speaker is John Colbert, who was a senior official in the Clinton Administration as chief of staff with the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration overseeing an $11 billion budget. Colbert helped direct the nation’s major job training and youth development programs.

WIOA Symposium Focus:

- Understand how WIOA will change workforce services in your county
- Learn from state and national experts about the opportunities provided by the new federal workforce legislation
- Identify the key decisions county commissioners must make in the coming months
- Engage in an open dialog with peers and policy experts to get your questions answered
- Network with colleagues from across Ohio

There is no charge to attend the WIOA Implementation Symposium. To assure adequate space and lunches are prepared, please register or cancel before March 23, 2015. Register here…

FOR ALL COUNTIES....HEALTH AND WELLNESS 2015/CEBCO ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

Save the date - CEBCO is hosting its annual membership meeting on April 1 at the Marriott Columbus Airport, 1375 N. Cassady Avenue, in Columbus. Topics anticipated include understanding your ACA responsibilities plus a look at the latest tools for partnering with your employees to hold down health costs. Watch for details in future editions of CIDS. Whether you are in CEBCO or not, this will be informative for anyone managing a county employee health plan.

REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS SCHEDULED IN MARCH

As the 131st General Assembly convenes, CCAO is scheduling regional legislative briefings for commissioners, county executives and council members, and legislators at locations across the state. Meetings have been organized around legislative district lines. These events are designed as an opportunity to allow you to meet with your legislators and your fellow commissioners to articulate and explore the common problems and concerns that county and state government have in serving their constituents, the people of Ohio.

The events are listed above in Dates to Remember. Commissioners, county executives and county council members have received a memo, briefing schedule, and sample press release from CCAO. CCAO sent an invitation to each legislator. We also encourage you to invite other county elected officials and your key staff to attend.

CCAO SERVICE CORPORATION PROGRAM UPDATE

CCAO PUBLISHES BWC SAFETY ACCOUNTABILITY LETTER ON WEBSITE

Counties in both the CCAO Workers Comp Group and Group Retro Rating Plans can go to the CCAO website to review the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC) Safety Accountability letter. The letter outlines the responsibilities of CCAO, the BWC, the third party administrator (TPA), and the Group member counties for participation in safety related activities during the 2015 plan year, and also lists safety resources available to member counties. Any questions can be directed to Beth Miller, CORSA Claim and Litigation Manager, at (614) 220-7989 or Sherry Barbosky, CORSA Underwriting Manager, at (614) 220-7995 or toll free at (888) 757-1904.
IN MEMORIUM

JAMES D. WARD

Former Delaware County Commissioner James David Ward passed away on February 28, 2015. Jim graduated from Olentangy High School and then served his country as a member of the U.S. Air Force for four years. He later retired after 25 years as a trooper with the State of Ohio Highway Patrol, serving in Toledo and Delaware. He received the Trooper of the Year Award in 1973. He served as Delaware County Commissioner for 12 years. CCAO extends sympathy to the Ward family. Read more…

LINDA PORTER

The Jefferson County Commissioner’s Office is mourning the loss of their long-time secretary, Linda Porter, who passed away from a stroke last weekend. She had worked for the commissioner's office for 42 years. The Commissioners said that Linda had a large personality and she always worked hard to protect and do what was best for the office. She was hired by the commissioners’ office in 1973 and retired in October 2013 but came back part time. She was supposed to work four days a week, but many weeks she was in the courthouse five days. Porter does not have any funeral arrangements and will be honored at the courthouse with a dedication ceremony and plaque at a later date. CCAO extends sympathy to the Porter family and the Jefferson County Commissioners.

STATE ACTIVITIES

WORKFORCE AREA DESIGNATION PROCESS INFO TO ARRIVE NEXT WEEK

County commissioners, executives and councilmembers should be expect to receive information early next week from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services on information and the process for requesting area designation under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Please feel free to contact CCAO Senior Policy Analyst Laura Abu-Absi at (614) 220-7996 or (888) 757-1904 for questions, comments or concerns on this process.

APS PROGRAM INNOVATION & APS CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS UPDATE

Per HB 483, the Adult Protective Services (APS) Funding Workgroup was developed to make a formal recommendation regarding the usage of one time $10 million. The workgroup recommended utilizing the one-time funding to support and build upon the current Adult Protective Services framework at both the state and county levels. Of the one-time allotment, $7,368,800 will be used for the APS Planning Process and APS Innovation Fund, which includes both the APS Program Innovation Grants and APS Capacity Grants. The remaining $2,631,200 will be utilized for statewide APS core training, the development of a statewide APS hotline, and implementation of a statewide APS data collection and reporting system.

Please note: all Capacity Grant Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2015.

Proposals must be submitted to the APS_Mailbox@jfs.ohio.gov by the county department of job and family services. The question and answer period for the Capacity Building Grants closes on March 6, 2015. Questions and answers can be reviewed here. Read more…

OHFA AWARDS 11 COUNTIES A PORTION OF $49.5 MILLION TO TACKLE BLIGHTED COMMUNITIES

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) announced the recipients of a program designed to help prevent
foreclosures and stabilize local property values through the demolition of vacant and blighted homes across the state. Eleven counties with established land banks were awarded a portion of more than $49.5 million available through the first funding round of the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP). The 11 land banks are located in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Richland, Stark, Summit, and Trumbull counties.

OHFA received approval in August from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to utilize up to $60 million of the state's remaining Hardest Hit Funds to prevent future foreclosures by stemming the decline in home values in communities affected negatively by vacant and blighted properties. Treasury allocated $570.4 million of Hardest Hit Funds to OHFA in 2010 to administer the state's foreclosure prevention program, Save the Dream Ohio.

Funding amounts were awarded based on a number of factors including county population and the magnitude of vacant and blighted properties owned or identified for acquisition within the area. The maximum amount of assistance per property is $25,000 with an estimated average amount of assistance of $12,000.

OHFA will award the remaining NIP funds during a second funding round later this year. For additional information regarding NIP, please contact OHFA at (888) 362-6432. Save the Dream Ohio offers programs for homeowners struggling to pay their mortgages. Homeowners may apply for assistance online or by calling (888) 404-4674. Read more…

TANF SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

All County Job & Family Service Directors received Family Assistance Letter #143 concerning the TANF Summer Youth Employment Program that will run from May 1 to October 15, 2015. This letter provides the details for this year’s program. All county agencies that intend to operate a TANF Summer Youth Employment Program must inform Matthew Cunningham by Friday, March 13, 2015 to qualify for participation and to ensure equitable distribution of funds.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

URGE YOUR HOUSE MEMBERS TO PROTECT MUNICIPAL BONDS

As tax reform discussions resume in the 114th Congress, proposals that would cap certain tax benefits, including the exemption for municipal bond interest, continue to be offered as a way to help address the federal debt and deficit. Reps. Randy Hultgren (R-IL) and Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) are circulating a “Dear Colleague” letter in support of tax-exempt municipal bonds. The letter urges Speaker of the House John Boehner and Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi to support municipal bonds and to oppose proposals that would cap or eliminate the deduction for municipal bond interest. NACo has been working closely with congressional staff to move this effort forward.

Click here for an updated NACo legislative presentation on municipal bonds and tax reform efforts. This presentation provides an overview of the many moving parts of tax reform efforts involving municipal bonds in both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

Urge your House Representatives member to sign onto the letter to House Leadership urging them to preserve the tax-exemption for municipal bonds. If your Members would like to sign on, have their staff contact either Ammon Simon in Rep. Hultgren’s office at (202) 225-2976 or Walter Gonzales in Rep. Ruppersberger’s office at (202) 225-3061. Read more…

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**NACo ACTIVITIES**

**NACo HONORS FORMER COUNTY OFFICIALS SERVING IN CONGRESS**

Eighty-five former county officials currently serve in the U.S. Congress. During the Legislative Conference, NACo hosted a reception to honor former county officials and their continued commitment to counties. The program included a brief speech from various members of Congress followed by a small awards presentation. All former county officials serving in Congress were invited to attend. Ohio Congressman David Joyce served as one of the honorary chairs of the event.

The following former county elected officials from Ohio are serving in the U.S. House of Representatives:

- **Joyce Beatty** (Dist. 3-Columbus) – former County Department of Human Services Director
- **Steve Chabot** (Dist. 1-Cincinnati) – former Hamilton County Commissioner
- **David Joyce** (Dist. 14-Painesville) – former Geauga County Prosecuting Attorney
- **Bob Latta** (Dist. 5-Bowling Green) – former Wood County Commissioner

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN THE 2015 COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS**

Join NACo on March 19, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. to learn how the County Health Rankings can serve as a tool to help improve health in your community! Learn from experts at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and one of your peer county leaders about the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. New measures and tools will be presented and will include discussion about how these resources can assist your county in its journey toward building a culture of health. Participants will also get access to embargoed data before the March 25th national release of the 2015 County Health Rankings. [Register here...](#)

**PROJECT DELIVERY MODELS & THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS – DATE CHANGED TO MAY 1**

Join [Bricker & Eckler](#) for a one-day seminar on “Project Delivery Models and the Competitive Bidding Process for Public Projects” on Friday, May 1, 2015 *(Note: The date has been changed from March 27)*. This program blends a traditional morning session of instruction with an interactive afternoon session during which attendees work in groups to experience the delivery model selection and procurement process through a mock project, immediate feedback from the speakers, and questions and answers from participants.
The seminar registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with the seminar starting at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 4:45 p.m. at the Conference Center at OCLC, 6600 Kilgour Place, in Dublin. Tuition: early bird (available through March 13) or members of sponsoring organization (CCAO is a co-sponsor): $199; or regular registration: $239. Two or more from the same organization or Top Gun attendees – call Traci Graham at (614) 227-4941 for special pricing. Tuition includes breakfast, lunch and all handout materials.

Click here to register and for continuing education credit information.

CLASSIFIEDS

CCAO publishes classified ads on our website and in CIDS. Classified ads will be published free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will be published on the website until the application deadline and for several weeks in CIDS. When submitting your ad to CCAO, please provide a link to the online job posting and a deadline date. Email your classified ad to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate.

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<tr>
<td>Deputy Director of Program Integrity</td>
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