DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 2015  NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

APRIL 20, 2015  CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, CONFERENCE CALL (NOTE: The meeting has been changed to a conference call.)

APRIL 21, 2015  CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

APRIL 21, 2015  OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION, STATEHOUSE ATRIUM, COLUMBUS

APRIL 24, 2015  CCAO DEFERRED COMPENSATION COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

APRIL 24, 2015  NORTHEAST OHIO COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION MEETING, A.I. ROOT CANDLE COMPANY, MEDINA

APRIL 24, 2015  CCC/EAPA REGIONAL TRAINING, ROSE HILL RESTAURANT, MEDINA COUNTY (MEDINA)

APRIL 24, 2015  CCAO DEFERRED COMPENSATION COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

MAY 1, 2015  SELECTING PROJECT DELIVERY MODELS & BIDDING FOR PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN OHIO, THE CONFERENCE CENTER AT OCLC, DUBLIN

MAY 4, 2015  CCAO TAXATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE WEBINAR

MAY 13, 2015  SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGES FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYERS, A CCAO SECOND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR

MAY 20-22, 2015  NACo WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION CONFERENCE, KAUA'I COUNTY (HI)

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

JULY 10-13, 2015  NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE, MECKLEMBURG COUNTY, CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER, CHARLOTTE, NC

DECEMBER 6-8, 2015  CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER, COLUMBUS
ASSOCIATION NEWS

OCCO LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION – APRIL 21 – NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH ACTIVITY

Just a reminder that the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) Legislative Reception will be held on Tuesday, April 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus. Representatives from other OCCO member organizations will be in attendance as well as many members of the Ohio General Assembly.

County officials need to continually communicate and build partnerships with members of the General Assembly. Invite your state senators and state representatives to the reception! While you are in Columbus that day, please schedule appointments with your legislators to discuss issues of importance to your county and/or attend a Senate or House session. Don’t miss this important opportunity to lobby the Ohio General Assembly during National County Government Month!

CCAO understands that many of you see your lawmakers regularly within your counties. We strongly encourage you to travel to Columbus on April 21 to physically show your support for your lawmakers, who will be looking to see if anyone from their district attended this important event.

MEDINA COUNTY TO HOST NE OHIO COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION ON APRIL 24

Join Medina County Commissioners Adam Friedrick, Patricia Geissman and Timothy Smith for a Northeast Ohio Commissioners Association Meeting on April 24, 2015 at the A.I. Root Candle Company, 623 West Liberty Street, in Medina. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. followed by a CCAO Legislative Update. After the meeting registrants will tour the A.I. Root Candle Company where lunch will be catered. Following lunch there will be a tour of Castle Noel. Register no later than Friday, April 17.

APRIL IS NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH: RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT COUNTIES

National County Government Month is well underway and CCAO and NACo encourage counties across the country and hold activities and events to raise awareness about counties. Activities such as open houses at county facilities, conducting programs with schools, recognizing veterans and employees, and issuing proclamations help county leaders raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government. Since 1991, CCAO and NACo have encouraged counties to actively promote county government programs and services.

Meet with your member of the Ohio Congressional Delegation: One activity that all counties should pursue during NCGM is to meet with their members of Congress. During those meetings, county officials should stress that federal policies matter to county government and county government matters to America’s local communities. They should know that county governments are responsible for the fundamental building blocks for healthy, safe and vibrant communities and that federal policy decisions have a major, cascading impact on county government.

Meet with your member of the Ohio General Assembly: All county officials are invited to attend the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) Legislative Reception to be held on April 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus. Arrive early to attend a hearing, Senate or House session, and schedule a meeting with your members of the Ohio General Assembly. Invite them to attend the reception with you. The reception is being co-sponsored by the Ohio Judicial Conference.

Read more…
Send photos and articles about your National County Government Month activity to Communications Coordinator Andrew Johnson to post on CCAO’s social media sites.

**SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGES FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYERS**

CCAO is pleased to offer a one-hour “Social Media Challenges for Public Employers” webinar on May 13 at 9:30 a.m. The session, presented by Jonathan Downes, an attorney with Zashin and Rich, will include case studies, the discipline of employees and the possible exposure for employers and the following points:

- Core principles to avoid social media liability,
- How to control public record requests of social media,
- New privacy laws on personal accounts,
- Using a friends list without liability,
- Hidden traps of personal blogs,
- Workplace speech not protected under the First Amendment,
- New legal rulings that change the way you send texts,
- Identifying the trip-wires for personal liability, and
- Avoiding liability from social media on personal devices.

Participants in the webinar may pose questions to the presenters who will respond during and after the power point presentation. Click here to register for this exceptional educational opportunity. There is no charge to attend the webinar.

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...

**AFFILIATE NEWS**

**2015 CCC/EAPA REGIONAL TRAINING – APRIL 24**

Join the County Commissioners Clerks and Engineers Administrative Professionals Association (CCC/EAPA) at the first of three regional training sessions will be held next Friday, April 24 at the Rose Hill Restaurant, 7249 Wooster Pike - Route 3, in Medina County (Medina). The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. and is hosted by Peggy Folk, Clerk, Medina County Commissioners, and Gina Frimel, Secretary, Medina County Engineers Office. There is no charge to attend. Lunch is provided by CCAO/CEAO.

All the county commissioners’ and engineer’s office support staff members are encouraged to attend. These regional meetings and the CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference, held in December, are excellent opportunities for networking. The topics discussed at the regional meetings vary from the daily operations of the office to recent legislative updates.

RSVP your attendance to the meeting coordinator - Gail Crossen, Clerk, Ashland County Commissioners Office - at (419) 282-4220. Information about the CCC/EAPA is available at [www.ccc-eapa.org](http://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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CCC_EAPA). For more information about CCAO’s oldest affiliate organization, please contact 2015 CCC/EAPA President Theresa Upton, Clerk, Lorain County Commissioners, 226 Middle Avenue, Elyria, OH 44035 or (440) 329-5103.
FACILITY MANAGERS & LOSS CONTROL ASSOCIATIONS TO MEET JUNE 19

The County Facilities Managers Association and the County Loss Control Coordinators Association will meet together in Lake County (Painesville) on Friday, June 19. The meeting will be held at the Lake County Utilities Training Center located, 1981 Blasé Nemeth Road, in Painesville Township. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. and should last until about 3:00 p.m.

The morning session will have a representative from The Garland Company give a presentation on what to be looking for on a roof inspection, preventive maintenance plans and materials for different roof applications. Lake County’s chief building inspector will be speaking about electrical safety, what maintenance and electrical technicians need to know and new laws or procedures that have gone into effect recently. In the afternoon a representative from OSU Extension will give a presentation on the application of herbicides and pesticides, type of licensing needed and the rules and regulations associated with the license.

Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP your attendance by June 5 to County Facility Manager President Chuck Klco, Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, Lake County Commissioners at (440) 350-2577.

STATE ACTIVITIES

AGREEMENT IN EARLY VOTING LAWSUIT

This morning, the parties in the Ohio NAACP v. Husted case notified the federal district court that they had reached an agreement that will end the lawsuit and establish voting hours for in-person absentee voting. This resolution ensures uniformity in voting hours across Ohio’s 88 counties.

The elimination of the overlap week where individuals could register to vote and cast their ballot on the same day was maintained by the agreement as it was originally enacted by the 130th General Assembly through Senate Bill 238. The plaintiffs also agreed to drop any claim to attorneys’ fees or damages. The settlement, which will dismiss the suit with prejudice, was filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio’s Eastern Division today, marking the end of litigation in the Ohio NAACP v. Husted (Case No. 2:14-CV-404).

The primary election next month will not be impacted as the hours set by the settlement agreement will not go into effect until after the May 2015 election. Read more…

Additional Resources:
Voting hours for elections after the May 2015 Primary and Special Election
Voting hours for the May 2015 Primary and Special Election as set by Directive 2014-17

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN EARLY MAY

The Ohio Attorney General’s (OAG) Office will be opening the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant applications in early May for organizations providing services to victims of crime as they journey toward survivorship through taking a participatory role in their communities. A recent change in federal funding formulas is expected to substantially increase the amount of funding Ohio receives. National organizations expect state allocations to be increased fourfold, bringing Ohio’s expected allocation to be approximately $60 million.

Many counties receive VOCA funds already through their County Prosecutor’s Office or court systems. Funds often pay salaries of victim advocates who help crime victims navigate the criminal justice system and exercise
their rights. The OAG expects many of the county-based programs to apply for expanded funding levels and new grants. Commissioners, county executives, county council members and other interested parties may contact Michael Sheline, Assistant Section Chief of the Crime Victims Section, at (614) 644-8392 for more information on increased funding opportunities and partnering with counties throughout Ohio.

OVERDOSE PREVENTION TASK FORCE ISSUES RECOMMENDATIONS

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced the recommendations issued by the Overdose Prevention Task Force, which addresses issues regarding the real-time reporting of drug overdose deaths in Ohio. The task force was created after efforts by the OAG to gather up-to-date statewide statistics on heroin overdose deaths revealed that Ohio lacks a standard protocol for classifying drug overdose fatalities. There is also no method in place to publicly obtain up-to-date overdose death statistics. The value of non-fatal overdose data and other data sources that could be utilized to prevent overdose deaths was also examined.

The task force issued the following recommendations:

- Make drug overdose death data available in online Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse,
- Encourage coroners to adopt uniform reporting practices,
- Review data collected in current state reporting systems, and
- Review EMS and non-fatal overdose data sources.

Click here for a copy of the full Overdose Prevention Task Force report.

VOLUNTEERS REDUCE COST OF LITTER PICKUP

Last year, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) spent $4 million picking up 42,572 bags of trash. That money could be used to purchase 28 new snowplow trucks, pave a 28-mile 2-lane road, or install 160 culverts. Fortunately, ODOT does get aid from local volunteers, including its more than 1,400 Adopt-A-Highway groups.

ODOT’s Adopt-A-Highway groups – at least one in each of Ohio’s 88 counties – clean a two-mile section, or interchange, a minimum of four times a year for two years. Last year, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers pick up 20,000 bags of trash, saving ODOT $130,000. ODOT also pays for guards from state prisons and county jails to monitor inmates working to pick up litter. Click here for more information about adopting a section of highway or an interchange to help reduce the cost of litter pick up.

GRANTS HELP RECYCLING PARTNERSHIPS, SUPPORT OHIO’S GLASS MANUFACTURERS

Ohio EPA is awarding more than $459,298 in grants to help direct waste glass that would end up in landfills to Ohio’s manufacturers in the form of cullet – clean bits of ground jars, bottles and windows. The grants include:

- Southeastern Ohio Joint Solid Waste Management District - $203,500,
- North Central Ohio Solid Waste District - $104,650,
- Shelby County - $127,350, and
- Montgomery County Solid Waste District - $23,798.
Ohio manufacturers need recycled glass to produce new glass products. About 90 percent of glass containers used in Ohio ends up in landfills. An Ohio study commissioned in 2011 determined that Ohio’s manufacturers use about 110,000 tons of recycled glass each year; yet they need 275,000 to 295,000 tons. Glass manufacturing is an important part of Ohio’s economy. Five manufacturing facilities produce container glass, fiberglass and reflective coatings. Four glass plants process the raw materials for the first five. Manufacturers save on energy costs when they are able to substitute cullet for raw glass-making materials because the cullet melts at a lower temperature. When manufacturers are able to save on energy costs, they can pass those savings on to customers or help support job retention or growth. Click here for more information.

STATE’S HEALTHY U OHIO INITIATIVE OFFERS THREE WAYS TO LIVE "WELL BEYOND 60!"

May is celebrated nationally as Older Americans Month to recognize the achievements of our elders and acknowledge the many organizations that serve, care for and provide them with opportunities to contribute. Ohio’s theme for 2015, "Well Beyond 60!" emphasizes the role that each of us plays in determining our own health and wellness. HEALTHY U Ohio, the state's chronic disease self-management program, helps Ohioans stay active, make healthy choices and manage chronic conditions so that they can live "Well Beyond 60!"

There are three ways to connect with HEALTHY U Ohio: 1) Community-based workshops, 2) Online workshops, 3) HEALTHY U on Facebook. To learn more about HEALTHY U Ohio and find a community-based workshop near you, visit www.aging.ohio.gov or contact your area agency on aging at (866) 243-5378. Read more...

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OPINION

2015-015. SYLLABUS: A court of common pleas may expend moneys in the court's special projects fund to hire personnel to provide additional security at the entrance to the court house, within the court house generally, or whenever personnel of the sheriff's office are not immediately available to secure a courtroom, provided the court determines that the provision of additional security benefits the efficient operation of the court. (2001 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 2001-006, explained.)

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

COUNTIES INVITED TO WEIGH IN ON OMB REGULATORY REVIEW

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has invited NACo to contribute to their “Smarter Regulation and Retrospective Review”. OMB is looking across the federal government agencies to identify outdated, duplicative or extremely burdensome regulations and is taking action to modify or eliminate them where possible.

One of their top goals is “burden reduction for state and local governments.” OMB has asked NACo and their local government partners to put together a list of regulations that could benefit from the review process. The NACo staff has already assembled two lists of regulations and unfunded mandates. Documents for review:

1. NACo’s list of EPA regulations
2. NACo’s list of unfunded mandates across various federal agencies
3. Burdensome regulations compiled by the National Governors Association
To assist NACo in their review, please send suggestions and comments to Deborah Cox, NACo Director of Legislative Affairs, at (202) 942-4286.

NACo ACTIVITIES

NEW NACo INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS

Join NACo for a webinar on Thursday, April 30 at 2:00 p.m. to learn more about a new national initiative for counties, “Stepping Up: A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails”. This webinar will explain what the initiative is and the benefits to counties of signing on. Hear from fellow NACo members as they describe four Stepping Up launch events across the country that will highlight their accomplishments in reducing the numbers of people with mental illnesses in their jail, and how you can register to virtually attend these events. Register here...

NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION – REGISTRATION IS OPEN

NACo’s 80th Annual Conference and Exposition will be held July 10-13 at the Charlotte Convention Center, in Mecklenburg County, (Charlotte) North Carolina. The Annual Conference provides county officials with a great opportunity to vote on NACo’s policies related to federal legislation and regulation; elect officers; network with colleagues; learn about innovative county programs; find out about issues impacting counties across the country; and view products and services from participating companies and exhibitors.

Registration is open. Register online to save $25! The largest hotel blocks are at the Westin Charlotte Hotel (headquarters) and the Hilton Charlotte City Center Hotel. Room blocks have been held at seven other downtown hotel properties. Downtown Charlotte is a very walkable city with many dining opportunities. NACo will be encouraging walking throughout the conference. Shuttle service will be available running on a 20-25 minute schedule with stops at multiple hotels. The discounted early bird registration deadline is May 29, but waiting until this date will not guarantee your hotel reservation at your first choice hotel. For more information and to register online, click here.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

OHIO EPA STRATEGY TO IMPROVE SERVICES

Join the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for a webinar on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. to learn more about the merger of the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) and the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA). During this webinar, Ohio EPA will discuss one of Director Craig Butler's priority initiatives to create a "one-stop shop" environment within the agency for businesses and communities seeking technical and financial resources to help them achieve compliance. This webinar includes an audio broadcast feature, which means that you will listen to the audio using your computer speakers or headphones. You may send in questions using the chat feature of WebEx at any time during the event. To reach more attendees, two webinars have been scheduled. Registration is required. Register here...

13th ANNUAL STATE OF THE REGION CONFERENCE

Bowling Green State University’s Center for Regional Development (CRD) will host the “13th Annual State of the Region Conference” on Monday, May 4, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 6165 Levis Commons Blvd., in Perrysburg. A continental breakfast and
networking begins at 8:00 a.m. with the program following at 9:00 a.m. and ending at noon. There is no charge for this event, however, space is limited and filling up fast. Register here...

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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