DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 31, 2006
CCC/ESAO REGIONAL BRIEFING, THE VARSITY CLUB, HURON COUNTY (WILLARD)

APRIL 3, 2006
NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, FINDLAY INN & CONFERENCE CENTER, HANCOCK COUNTY (FINDLAY)

APRIL 21, 2006
CCAO URBAN COUNTIES COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

APRIL 21, 2006
CCAO HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

APRIL 21, 2006
CCC/ESAO REGIONAL BRIEFING, 365th FIGHTER GROUP, SUMMIT COUNTY (NORTH CANTON)

APRIL 28, 2006
CCAO AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, CEAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

APRIL 28, 2006
CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE, JOHN S. KNIGHT CENTER, SUMMIT COUNTY (AKRON)

MAY 5, 2006
CCC/ESAO REGIONAL BRIEFING, WELCOME CENTER, MUSKINGUM COUNTY (ZANESVILLE)

JUNE 2, 2006
CCAO WORKERS’ COMP PROGRAM ANNUAL MEETING, FOUR SEASONS CONFERENCE CENTER, HILLARD

JUNE 11-13, 2006
CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE, JOHN S. KNIGHT CENTER, SUMMIT COUNTY (AKRON)

AUGUST 4-8, 2006
NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE, COOK COUNTY (CHICAGO), IL

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCAO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE-APRIL 21

CCAO Health and Human Services Committee chair David Dhume (Madison) has scheduled a meeting of the committee on Friday, April 21 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the CCAO office in Columbus.

The following items will be discussed:

• Adoption Legislation (HB 529 and SB 287)
• Review Social Services Survey Results
• Federal Legislation Impacting Human Services
• NACo Activities Related to Human Services
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Suzanne Dulaney, CCAO Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7982 or sdulaney@ccao.org.

CCAO AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - APRIL 28

The CCAO Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee will convene a joint meeting with representatives of the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO) on Friday, April 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the CCAO offices located at 6500 Busch Blvd - Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43229-1758, (614) 221-0707. Please note the address! CEAO moved to the Busch Blvd. address last July.

Committee Chair Joyce Morehart (Wyandot) scheduled the meeting is to discuss infrastructure impacts caused by agricultural operations and ways we can work together to seek legislative relief. Discussion will focus on recently introduced legislation – Senate Bill 295, as well as items currently identified as priorities in CCAO’s Ag & Rural Affairs Legislative Platform.

Senate Bill 295, sponsored by Senator John Carey, would expand the current notice and communication requirement that major concentrated animal feeding operations must have with county & township officials prior to obtaining state permits to operate to facilities that are simply concentrated animal feeding facilities.

Lunch will be provided. Please to RSVP to Amanda Jones, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7985, (888) 757-1904 or ajones@ccao.org by April 21. If you have any questions about the agenda please contact Cheryl Subler, CCAO Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7980, (888) 757-1904 or at csubler@ccao.org or Joyce Morehart, Wyandot County Commissioner and Committee Chair, at (419) 294-3836 or jmorehart@co.wyandot.oh.us.

HURON, PORTAGE & MUSKINGUM COUNTIES TO HOST CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETINGS

For the past three years, the County Commissioners Clerks and Engineers Secretaries Association of Ohio (CCC/ESAO), CCAO’s first and oldest affiliate organization, have held a series of very successful regional meetings around the state. The purpose of these meetings was for CCC/ESAO members to share their knowledge with other clerks and secretaries that are unable to attend conferences and workshops.

Due to the overwhelming success, CCC/ESAO has scheduled six regional meetings in 2006. These informal meetings are open to all commissioners clerks or deputies and engineers secretaries or administrative assistants to discuss various topics of concern in your county. The meeting topics are tailored to meet the needs of each district. All meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend. Lunch will be sponsored by CCAO/CEAO. The CCAO Board of Trustees encourages all county commissioners to permit their clerks and other office support staff to attend one of the following meetings. The first three meetings will be held in Huron, Portage and Muskingum counties.

MARCH 31, 2006 - HURON COUNTY - REGION 2
LOCATION: The Varsity Club, SR 224, Willard, OH
COUNTIES: Ashland, Crawford, Delaware, Erie, Huron, Knox, Licking, Lorain, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Union and Wyandot
RSVP to Cheryl Nolan, Administrator/Clerk, Huron County Commissioners’ at (419) 668-3092 or cnolan@hccommissioners.com or Barb Leuthold, Clerk, Crawford County Commissioners at (419) 562–5876 or barbl@crawford-co.org.

APRIL 28, 2006 - SUMMIT COUNTY - REGION 3
LOCATION: 356TH Fighter Group Restaurant, 4919 Mt. Pleasant Road, North Canton, OH
COUNTIES: Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Holmes, Lake, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Wayne
RSVP to Julia Sigel, Executive Assistant, Summit County Engineer’s Office at (330) 643-8168 or jsigel@engineer.co.summit.oh.us
MAY 5, 2006 - MUSKINGUM COUNTY - REGION 4

LOCATION: Zanesville-Muskingum County Welcome Center, 205 North Fifth Street, Zanesville, OH

COUNTIES: Athens, Belmont, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble and Washington

RSVP to Susan Culbertson, Clerk, Muskingum County Commissioners at (740) 455-7100 or commissioners@muskingumcounty.org

For more information, please contact the 2006 CCC/ESAO President Diana Spencer, Administrative Assistant, Preble County Engineer’s Office, at (937) 456-4600 or diana@prebeng.org.

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK - APRIL 23-29

“Protecting Our Communities” is the theme for National County Government Week (NCGW) held April 23-29, 2006. Counties provide a wide variety of services to the public. Among the most important are those services which protect our communities. Counties prepare for and protect communities from natural disasters, terrorist attacks, crime and drug abuse. Counties also work to protect families, children and youth. NCGW is an ideal opportunity to explain how the county works and the services provided to citizens.

To print a copy of this year’s planning materials go to www.naco.org and click on the story about National County Government Week on the front page.

STATE ACTIVITIES

OHIO COMMITTEE FOR SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS

Information on the natural hazards that typically affects Ohio has been available through a link on the Ohio EMA website for a few years. But now, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has its own website for safety and preparedness information. Its address is www.ocswa.ohio.gov.

The site includes dates of Ohio’s Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, Lightning Safety Awareness Week and Winter Severe Weather Awareness Week. Also included are links to making disaster plans for the home and for pets; making emergency kits for the home and vehicle; and safety tips for tornadoes, floods, thunder and lightning storms, extreme heat, winter storms and home fires.

It is the committee’s goal to inform all Ohioans of the weather hazards that most affect the state, and to encourage people to plan and know what to do before, during and after severe weather occurs.

OSU LAUNCHES CENTER FOR FARMLAND POLICY INNOVATION

Thanks to $400,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Center for Farmland Policy Innovation is up and running on the campus of The Ohio State University. The Center was established in response to the needs of local leaders and landowners in their communities who want to retain viable farming while expanding development and are unsure of how to balance the two. The Center will match expertise and resources to local priorities. Applications for funding farmland protection projects under the Center’s first objective, the Farmland Policy Partnership Program, will be accepted soon.

“This will be an ‘action’ center,” said Jill Clark, interim director of the Center for Farmland Policy Innovation. “The vast majority of our resources will go directly to fund local projects. We’ll be doing more than research and planning. Local communities who are going to be most interested in this project are those that still have healthy agricultural sectors but also are experiencing growth, change and development pressure, and want to respond in an equitable way,” Clark said.

Under this program, the Center initially plans to fund four local projects, depending on applications. The Center wants to form a series of demonstration projects or ‘land laboratories’ that can be examples.
for the whole state. Preliminary criteria for potential projects may include:

- The goal is to protect farmland.
- The applicant(s) must be a local governmental entity or similar agency.
- The project must have a budget that includes a local cost-share, direct or in-kind.
- The project must be innovative and new to Ohio.
- The project must be implemented within one to two years.
- The project must translate into a model for other Ohio communities and local partner must be willing to participate in ongoing education for other Ohio communities.

County government is represented on the Center’s advisory board by Larry Long, CCAO Executive Director, and Lynne Erickson, Portage County Regional Planning Commission Director.

For more information please contact Jill Clark, Interim Director, Center for Farmland Policy Innovation, Department of Agricultural, Environmental & Development Economics, The Ohio State University, 337 Ag. Admin Building, 2120 Fyffe Road, Columbus, OH 43210, (614) 247-6479 or clark.1099@osu.edu.

OHIO LAGS REGION IN VOTER TURNOUT, REPORT SAYS

Despite intense national attention during the heated 2004 Presidential election, Ohioans turn out to vote at only slightly higher rates than the national average, according to a recent U.S. Census Bureau study.

Although more Midwesterners tend to vote than people in other regions of the country, the analysis of 2004 elections places Ohio 21st in the nation for voter turnout with approximately 66% of voting age citizens casting ballots. The national average for the election, which drew a record 126 million voters, was 64%.

By contrast, Minnesota and Wisconsin had voter turnouts of about 79% and 76% respectively. Both states permit Election Day registration and early or "in-person absentee" voting.

Not surprisingly, the report shows that registration is the key to voter turnout with 88.5% of all registered voters casting ballots.

Voter turnout for black citizens was significantly higher in the Midwest than in other regions.

HIGH COURT PUTS CITY OF AKRON IN LINE FOR MEGA-PENALTY FOR DESTRUCTION OF EMPLOYEE COMP-TIME RECORDS

In a decision handed down on March 20, a sharply-divided Ohio Supreme Court ruled that a public entity may be fined $1,000 under the state's public records law for the destruction of each single piece of paper contained within a larger document.

The case was heard at the request of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, which was asking the Supreme Court to rule on a question of state law affecting the rights of petitioners in federal court.

The case involved the destruction, by a supervisor in the city of Akron’s Plans and Permits Division, of employee time sheets containing information on compensatory time earned and used. The city employees who brought the suit claimed that the supervisor deliberately destroyed their comp time records to impede their efforts to receive compensation for their unused comp time.

The case pivoted on this question: Is each page of a document to be considered a public record on its own, or is the entire document of which the page is a part to be considered a public record? The city of Akron asserted that each employee’s total comp time tally, recorded in each case on a large number of separate pages, composed merely a single record. The employees said that each individual comp time form submitted by each of them constituted a separate record in and of itself.

In a 4-3 decision, the court sided with the employees, holding that each comp time sheet had “independent meaning and function” in documenting the policies, functions, procedures, operations or other activities of the public office.
The court then concluded that the employees could recover a forfeiture from the city in the amount of $1,000 for each violation of the Public Records Law, which means $1,000 for the destruction of each individual comp time sheet that was contained within a larger document.

Justice Maureen O'Connor wrote the majority opinion for the court. Chief Justice Thomas Moyer and Justices Alice Robie Resnick and Paul Pfeiffer concurred. Dissenting from the majority decision were Justices Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Terence O'Donnell and Judith Lanzinger.

A memorandum released by the law firm of Downes, Hurst & Fishel noted that the two individuals who brought the suit were awarded $480,000 and $380,000, respectively, in penalties, awards based on the 480 and 380 individual comp-time sheets that were destroyed with regard to each respective employee.


FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

SENATE PASSES $2.8 TRILLION FY2007 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Late on March 16, the Senate narrowly passed (51-49) a $2.8 trillion budget resolution (S. Res. 83), after approving several amendments to add roughly $16 billion to the budget’s proposed $873 billion discretionary spending cap. The Senate cleared the budget resolution by a 51-49 vote before recessing until March 27. The budget resolution is a non-binding blueprint that guides the appropriations process by laying out large funding allocations. (See more about the amendments below.)

On the House side, 23 moderate Republicans wrote to House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) indicating they may oppose the still developing House budget resolution and subsequent appropriations bill unless Republican leaders agreed to increase non-defense discretionary spending by about two percent or $8 billion. The House is expected to continue consideration of their budget resolution once Congress returns from the St. Patrick’s Day recess on March 27.

SENATE APPROVES LABOR/HHS INCREASE TO THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

On March 16, the Senate approved S. 3048, a bipartisan amendment that would add $7 billion to the sections of the budget resolution that deal with the subcommittee’s jurisdiction. This $7 billion would technically come from an “advance” on appropriations. While the budget resolution does not provide specific funding for individual programs, this means that the appropriators will have a higher cap when it comes time to make those decisions. The programs that would benefit from this increase include many programs of interest to counties such as the Workforce Investment Act, the Community Services Block Grant, education programs, income security programs, the Older Americans Act and various health programs. The amendment passed by a wide margin of 73-27.

An amendment to increase the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funding to its authorized level of $5.1 billion was offered. This amendment also passed, but it was by a very narrow margin of 51-49.

METHAMPHETAMINE PROVISIONS TO BUDGET RESOLUTION

During the debate on the Senate budget resolution two bi-partisan amendments were successfully added to increase funding for meth related law enforcement. One amendment restored $900 million to the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program and another added $99 million for the Meth Hot Spots grants. The JAG program is a flexible grant that state and local governments can use for a variety of law enforcement, prevention, planning, treatment and correctional purposes. In many states, JAG resources have been used to fund multi-jurisdictional drug taskforces to combat the methamphetamine crisis. Currently, the Meth Hot Spots program is
earmarked funding that assists local law enforcement fight methamphetamine abuse.

SENATE VOTES ON CDBG BUDGET AMENDMENT

Last week, the U.S. Senate passed a Republican amendment to the Senate Budget Resolution on CDBG on a 60-38 party line vote. The amendment expressed support of CDBG but added no new money to the budget for the program. The Senate rejected a NACo supported Democratic amendment that would have restored the $1 billion cut to CDBG by raising the domestic discretionary funding cap through the closing of tax loopholes. Originally, the amendment was to be a bi-partisan amendment, but negotiations broke down by the beginning of the week. The Republican amendment is similar to an amendment passed last year that resulted in a 10 percent cut of the CDBG program.

NACo AWARD PROGRAMS

2006 ARTS AND CULTURE AWARD PROGRAM

Is your county working to foster an environment where arts can thrive and also contribute to the creation of more livable communities? Are you and other local leaders generating more public and leveraging more private sector resources for the arts and arts education? Would your county like to win the 2006 Arts and Culture Award? In 2005, Cuyahoga County certainly could say “yes,” because they won the award!

The 3rd Annual County Arts and Culture Award program is designed to recognize county governments for their efforts in enriching America’s cultural and intellectual life, promoting lifelong learning and protecting the national heritage by supporting local museums and other cultural institutions, supporting historic preservation, helping children succeed in school, work, and life through arts education, and supporting America’s nonprofit arts organizations.

Both on-going programs and one-time projects are eligible for the award, but must have been initiated since January 2002. County officials and/or staff, as part of their official duties, must have played a significant role in developing and implementing the program or project. Criteria for selection: demonstrated community impact, innovation, community/county partnership, leadership, and transferability.

Application deadline: April 14, 2006. For more information about the Arts and Culture Award Program please contact Christina Crayton, Research Associate, National Association of Counties, 440 First Street NW - Fl 5, Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 942-4228. You can print an application from NACo’s website at www.naco.org. Click on awards from the left menu and scroll down to the Arts and Culture Award category.

2006 NACIO AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE COMPETITION

Counties across the nation are invited to submit their best communication efforts for recognition by the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO), an affiliate of NACo. The deadline for entries for the Awards of Excellence competition have been extended to April 7, 2006. Awards will be presented during the NACo Annual Conference to be held in Cook County (Chicago), Illinois.

Entry categories: annual reports, brochures, internal publications, external publications, writing, graphic design, photography, audiovisual productions, special projects and computer media. Submissions must have been completed and distributed from January 1 to December 31, 2005. Entries must be primarily the work of the entrant with outside assistance strictly limited to support functions, such as typesetting and printing.

New for the 2006 Competition! In recognition of the growing number of Spanish-language publications and communications, NACIO is sponsoring a parallel awards competition for Spanish-language entries. For details about entry deadlines and procedures for the Spanish-language competition, see the link on the NACIO website: www.nacio.org.
Entry fee: $35 per entry for NACIO members or $50 per entry for non-members. Deadline: April 7, 2006. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.nacio.org. For more information please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

CONFERENCES

HUMAN RESOURCE INSTITUTE: HIRING & RETAINING GREAT EMPLOYEES

The Ohio University Human Resource Institute will present a conference on “Hiring & Retaining Great Employees” on be held on June 7, 2006. The Institute will be held at the Ohio University - Zanesville Campus, 1425 Newark Road, in Zanesville.

Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. followed by roundtable discussions at 8:30 a.m. and sessions at 9:00 a.m. Topics to be presented are Who’s Packing Your Parachute? - Land on Target with Great Employees, HR Legal Updates, Interviewing & Laws, Team Building, Sexual Harassment, Understanding Background Checks, Top Ten Ways to Retain Employees, Providing a Drug-Free Workplace, Labor Laws, and Employee Recognition.

Registration fees: $75 single registration, $55 for two or more from the same organization or $20 for a single session. For more information please contact: Office of Continuing Education, Ohio University - Zanesville, 1425 Newark Road, Zanesville, OH 43701, (740) 588-1401, fax (740) 588-1403 or ouzconted@ohio.edu.

OHIO HOMELAND SECURITY SYMPOSIUM

The Ohio Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security will host the “Ohio Homeland Security Symposium” to be held in conjunction with the Intergovernmental Technology Conference on May 10-12, 2006. The Symposium will held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 North High Street, in downtown Columbus.

The purpose of the Symposium is to bring together different disciplines and communities critical to the success of homeland security efforts such as police, fire, hospitals, healthcare, schools, political leaders, security, banking, insurance, transportation, agriculture, food distribution, and the information technology community. Goals of the Symposium include exchanging ideas between the public and private sectors to better coordinate, prepare and educate everyone involved in homeland security efforts.

Registration: $52.00 (advance) or $75.00 (on-site). At www.gov.resources.com/ohshomepage.html.

CLASSIFIEDS

PLANNER 2

The Wayne County Planning Department is seeking qualified candidates for full-time Planner 2. This professional position will develop and implement special projects and activities; establish and implement educational programs regarding land use, zoning and alternative development options; conduct research and data gathering; and provide technical assistance to various entities.

Qualifications are an Undergraduate degree in planning, public administration and/or related field and two years related experience. Salary available upon request. An application for employment may be obtained at the Wayne County Planning Department, 2nd Floor, County Administration Building, 428 W. Liberty Street, Wooster, OH 44691. Applications will be received through March 31, 2006 until 4:30 p.m. EOE.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Montgomery County’s Public Works Department has an excellent opportunity available for an experienced and skilled building maintenance manager.

Responsibilities include custodial services, renovation and repair of approximately 25 County buildings spanning over 1.5 million square feet. With the assistance of over 120 employees and 8 subordinate supervisors, the Building Maintenance Manager
develops and administers comprehensive buildings and grounds maintenance programs, including budgets, cost assessments, and inventory control systems. Thorough knowledge of engineering or construction management and the operating capabilities and maintenance requirements of large complex buildings and related equipment is essential. The department will soon be implementing a Computer Maintenance Management System.

The Building Maintenance Manager also provides oversight for the County’s 4 parks systems, covering approximately 700 acres. Upkeep of park facilities and shelters as well as involvement in the development and administration of year-long recreation program activities are included in these responsibilities.

Requirements: Undergraduate major program course work in engineering or construction management and 5 years experience in building maintenance and repair (i.e., HVAC, electrical and mechanical systems) or 2 ½ years management experience in all phases of building maintenance programs (i.e., HVAC, electrical and mechanical systems) is required. Basic computer skill and ability is highly preferred.

Salary: $62,421-$78,021 annually depending upon qualifications including a comprehensive benefits package. Email resume to recruiter@mcohio.org or mail/fax detailed resume immediately to: Montgomery County Human Resources, 451 W. Third Street, Dayton, OH 45422. 937-225-6496 (FAX). EOE .

DOG WARDEN

Seneca County Commissioners are seeking a full time Dog Warden; position requires training and experience, acceptable driving record, Seneca County residency, the ability to obtain insurance bonding, appropriate firearm training and certification, pay range between $11.00 and $14.00 and the satisfactory fulfillment of the physical agility standard. For consideration, submit an application/resume by March 23, 2006 to County Administrator, 81 Jefferson Street, Suite 3202,Tiffin, Ohio 44883. EOE.

911 DIRECTOR

Trumbull County is seeking a 911 Director to serve the 225,116 county residents and 24 townships and 11 cities/villages. See www.mercergroupinc.com for brochure. BS/BA required in Telecom, IT, Public/Business Admin/related field; five years experience in enhanced 911 center. Salary range $52K-$72K. Resumes by COB April 14, 2006, to James Mercer, The Mercer Group, Inc., 551 W. Cordova Road, #726, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Voice: 505-466-9500; Fax: 505-466-1274; E-Mail: mercer@mindspring.com. EOE.

SUPERINTENDENT/PROJECT MANAGER

The Wood County Engineer is accepting applications for a full time Superintendent/Project Manager for the Wood County Highway Garage. This unclassified, FLSA exempt, position directs, supervises, plans, and reviews the work of 35 highway garage personnel. The ideal candidate will possess management experience related to highway, bridge, culvert, sign, and emergency operations and services and strong computer skills; Specific examples of duties include maintaining county roads and bridges; preparing budgets; scheduling construction projects; staff training and evaluation; and maintaining positive working relationships within the county garage staff and with other governmental entities.

Starting Salary $48,000 with a review after a six month probationary period. Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma or G.E.D. plus a minimum of 5 years experience in highway, bridge, and culvert maintenance and construction with a minimum of 3 years supervisory experience or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. Requires a valid Ohio Driver’s license. Successful applicant must obtain CDL endorsement within 6 months of employment.

Applications are available on the County’s website, www.co.wood.oh.us, or visit the Wood County Engineer’s Office, Third Floor, County Office
Building, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Accepting applications until 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2006. EOE.

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

CCAO publishes the County Information and Data Service (CIDS) weekly. Classified ads will be published free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will run for two weeks if space is available. Please provide faxed or e-mailed copy of the classified ad by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday of each week. Transmit the copy to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, via fax at (614) 221-6986 or e-mail mjneiman@ccao.org.