

# GrassrootsClippings

Monthly Newsletter of the Ohio Township Association

March 2010

## Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration

The Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration has been charged with drafting recommendations on ways to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local government operations in Ohio to achieve cost savings to taxpayers and to facilitate economic development.

The work of the Commission focuses on three areas:

1. Identification of options for encouraging and incentivizing local governments to collaborate
2. Identification of local tax structure changes which would encourage collaboration or improve service effectiveness
3. Identification of current/alternative service delivery models

The 15-member Commission is required to make their recommendations, based on a two-year study, to the General Assembly in July 2010. Co-chairs Anita Lopez and Daniel Troy spoke at the OTA Winter Conference in February. Lopez said the ultimate goal of the Commission is to save money and give citizens what they want. According to Lopez, this goal doesn't include eliminating townships.

Visit [www.ohioreformandcollaboration.org](http://www.ohioreformandcollaboration.org) for copies of meeting minutes, all testimony presented to the Commission and upcoming meeting dates. All meetings are open to the public. Please see below for a list of Commission members.

### Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration Members

**Anita Lopez, Co-Chair**  
Auditor, Lucas County

**Daniel Troy, Co-Chair**  
Commissioner, Lake County

**Michael Cochran**  
Executive Director, OTA

**Dean DePiero**  
Mayor, City of Parma

**Tim Downing**  
Attorney, Ulmer and Berne

**Jennifer Economus**  
Ohio School Boards Association

**Dan Foley**  
Commissioner, Montgomery County

**Martin Jenkins**  
Organizational Resource Group

**Chester Jourdan**  
Executive Director, Mid-Ohio Regional  
Planning Commission

**Mark Mallory**  
Mayor of Cincinnati

**Lynda Murray**  
Ohio Library Council

**Robert Roland**  
Attorney at Law, Day Ketterer Limited

**Charleta Tavares**  
Councilwoman, City of Columbus

**Tom Weidman**  
Sycamore Township (Hamilton County)  
Board of Trustees

**Larry Wolpert**  
Former State Representative, 23rd District

## Asphalt Pavement Preservation

It's been a long hard winter for townships and their roads, and many trustees may be wondering how best to maintain them in order to get the most bang for their buck.

The Ohio Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) is offering an Asphalt Pavement Preservation course in three locations this spring: March 23 (Columbus); April 21 (Bowling Green); and April 28 (New Philadelphia).

This workshop will address (a) basic performance characteristics of Hot-Mix Asphalt (HMA); (b) evaluation of common distress types and their causes; and (c) available maintenance and rehabilitation treatments. Surface treatments such as chip seals, microsurfacing and thin overlays will be addressed.

This course is ideal for road/street maintenance personnel, supervisors/managers and engineers.

The class is from 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. and the cost is \$45 per person. Call 877-800-0031 or 614-466-2120 to register.

## CPIM Conference Season is Here

The Treasurer of State's Office has many new and exciting Certified Public Investment Management (CPIM) courses this year which will assist you in managing and investing the public funds which have been entrusted to you.

The first full-day conference is March 25, 2010, in Dayton, Ohio. This will be followed by a conference in Wilmington, Ohio, on April 1.

The full-day conference is designed for you to earn the six hours of continuing education required annually for Ohio's public funds managers.

You may register online at [www.ohiotreasurer.gov](http://www.ohiotreasurer.gov) and click on "For Government" then "CPIM."

## 2010 Tire Amnesty Grant

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has been allocated funding from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) for Tire Amnesty Grants (TAG) to financially assist government agencies in order to design and establish tire amnesty collection projects. The funding can be used to collect scrap tires, develop/increase public awareness and education, or have targeted collection events in Ohio.

The intent of this program is to provide opportunities for municipalities and residents to responsibly manage scrap tires. Successful grantees will need to ensure that the tires collected, as a result of their TAG project, will be used as feedstock for a viable and technologically proven scrap tire end-use market or beneficial use as designated by the Ohio EPA. Projects shall include activities that have scrap tire collection drives, a drop-off effort during a specified period of time or be targeted collection events. Of these approved activities, grantees must include a component that integrates education about prevention and public awareness. These projects can either be coordinated solely by a government agency, and/or with the assistance of an Ohio EPA registered scrap tire transporter or licensed processing facility.

Under the parameters of the Tire Amnesty Grant Program, acceptable scrap tires include passenger, light truck, semi truck and agricultural tires. The maximum grant award amount per solid waste management district or government entity is \$20,000. The following graduated scale will determine individual funding amounts:

5,000 - 10,000 PTEs: maximum of \$10,000

10,000 - 15,000 PTEs: maximum of \$15,000

15,000 - 20,000 PTEs: maximum of \$20,000

Applications are available online at [www.ohiodnr.com/recycling](http://www.ohiodnr.com/recycling). The deadline is April 5 and recipients will be announced in June.

## Legislative Reception a Success

At the annual conference last month, the OTA sponsored a legislative reception for conference attendees and a number of the 128th General Assembly. The OTA would like to thank the following legislators for attending the event. If your legislator attended, we encourage you to send a note of thanks as well.

### *Senators:*

Steve Buehrer	Eric Kearney
Capri Cafaro	Sue Morano
Gary Cates	Thomas Patton
Keith Faber	Tim Schaffer
Bob Gibbs	William Seitz
Tim Grendell	Fred Strahorn
Jim Hughes	Chris Widener
Jon Husted	Jason Wilson

### *Representatives:*

John Adams	Dave Hall
Richard Adams	Marian Harris
Nan Baker	Cliff Hite
Troy Balderson	Jay Hottinger
Peter Beck	Thomas Letson
Louis Blessing	Matt Lundy
Terry Boose	Dale Mallory
Danny Bulp	Jerrod Martin
David Burke	Jeffrey McClain
Bill Coley	Matt Patten
Courtney Combs	Debbie Phillips
Tim Derickson	Margaret Ann Ruhl
Dan Dodd	Allan Sayre
Denise Driehaus	Mark Schneider
Stephen Dyer	Barbara Sears
Mike Foley	Todd Snitchler
Randy Gardner	Peter Stautberg
Nancy Garland	Matt Szollosi
Jennifer Garrison	Joe Uecker
Bruce Goodwin	Lynn Wachtmann
Jay Goyal	Jeff Wagner
Bob Hackett	Roland Winburn

## Thank You 2010 Winter Conference Sponsors!

### *PLATINUM*

Burnham & Flower Insurance Group

### *GOLD*

Center City International Truck  
Concord Road Equipment Mfg., Inc.  
Fire Safety Services, Inc.  
Frank Gates Service Company  
Integrays Energy Services  
Ohio Insurance Services  
Pontem Software  
Valley Ford Truck, Inc.

### *SILVER*

Coleman Data Solutions, Inc.  
Miami Valley International Trucks, Inc.

### *BRONZE*

America's Body Company  
APEX Companies, LLC  
Bricker & Eckler LLP  
D&D Emulsions  
Kleem, Inc.  
McBride Dale Clarion  
Mull & Weithman Architects, Inc.  
Ohio Oil & Gas Energy Education Program  
Pavement Technology, Inc.  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

## Safety Congress

The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo is one of the finest occupational safety and health events in the Midwest. This year's event will occur March 30 - April 1 at the Columbus Convention Center. Dynamic keynote speakers, a variety of educational sessions and displays of occupational safety and health products will all be a part of the event.

Free registration makes Safety Congress a valuable tool for your injury prevention program. Visit [www.ohiobwc.com](http://www.ohiobwc.com) for more information.

# 2010 Public Records Trainings

Per House Bill 9, passed by the 126th General Assembly, elected officials or their designees are required to take three hours of public records training per term served in office. The Ohio Auditor of State, as well as the Ohio Attorney General, have scheduled several sessions around the state for 2010. You may view training dates and locations, as well as register online, at [www.auditor.state.oh.us](http://www.auditor.state.oh.us) or [www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov). See below for upcoming trainings.

<b>March 17</b> Clermont County Engineer's Office Batavia, Ohio 45103	<b>April 9</b> Washington Township (Montgomery Co.) Washington Township, Ohio 45459
<b>March 18</b> Wright State University - Lake Campus Celina, Ohio 45822	<b>April 20</b> Stark County Morgan Auditorium Massillon, Ohio 44646
<b>March 24</b> Fort Piqua Plaza Banquet Center Piqua, Ohio 45356	<b>April 20</b> Guernsey County Administration Bldg. Cambridge, Ohio 43725
<b>March 29</b> Ashtabula County Courthouse Jefferson, Ohio 44047	<b>April 29</b> Williams County Era-Aro Auditorium Bryan, Ohio 43506

## BWC's Board Approves Employer Programs

On Jan. 22, the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors approved a Large Deductible Program that will be available beginning July 1. This program permits an employer to choose a per claim deductible level in exchange for a Premium Discount depending on the size of the company and deductible chosen. Companies in the program are billed by BWC for all claims costs paid on claims that occur during the program period up to the deductible level. The Large Deductible per claim levels are \$25,000, \$50,000, \$100,000 and \$200,000. There are already small deductible claim levels in place that are less than \$25,000 and those have been available since July 1, 2009.

BWC had recently indicated they were planning to roll out a new program named the Individual Incurred Loss Retro Program. At the Jan. 22 BWC Board meeting BWC stated they were having actuarial problems with parts of the program and there was a chance the new program would not be available on July 1 as planned and may be available at a later date or possibly not at all if the issues could not be corrected. This program lets companies agree to be reviewed at three future dates and if their actual claims costs at those times are less than expected they can receive a premium rebate or if their claims costs are higher than expected they can receive a premium billing.

BWC is currently in the process of revising their Drug-Free Workplace Program and eliminating the Drug-Free EZ Program. At a BWC committee meeting on Jan. 21, BWC stated the new program will be named Drug-Free Safety Program and is expected to be available July 1. Nothing has been finalized yet, but potential highlights are one program with two levels (Basic and Advanced), reduced requirements and participation discounts that can be received every year the employers meet the requirements with no limit and no end to the program.

### Workers' Compensation Legislation:

**Senate Bill 213** - This law, passed Jan. 27, prevents BWC from taking the maximum discount below 65 percent for two years and eliminates the Break Even Factor which is a penalty that is being charged to Group employers for July 1, 2009, and July 1, 2010. The bill also requires any dividends BWC wants to give to first be approved by the Senate and House of Representatives.

## Upcoming Events

Columbiana County  
March 3

Hancock County  
March 3

Pickaway County  
March 9

Pike County  
March 9

Auglaize County  
March 10

Butler County  
March 11

Franklin County  
March 11

Holmes County  
March 11

Huron County  
March 11

Scioto County  
March 11

Fairfield County  
March 13

Ashtabula County  
March 18

Clermont County  
March 18

Crawford County  
March 18

Lorain County  
March 18

Mahoning County  
March 18

Stark County  
March 18

Morrow County  
March 20

Darke County  
March 23

Champaign County  
March 24

Washington County  
March 25

Shelby County  
March 26

Muskingum County  
March 28

# Spring Safety & Hygiene Courses Announced

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) sponsors more than 60 occupational safety, health and ergonomics courses. Classes are held in 11 locations throughout the state as well as online. The division offers these courses at no extra cost to Ohio employers with active workers' compensation policies. Visit [www.bwclearningcenter](http://www.bwclearningcenter) for a list of classes.

## **Congratulations to the newly elected OTA Board of Directors**

*Board of Director elections took place at this year's Winter Conference and the OTA would like to welcome its new officers and six new board members.*

Greg Hanahan, President, German Township/Montgomery County  
Tom Willsey, 1st Vice President, Ross Township/Butler County  
Don Barzak, 2nd Vice President, Johnston Township/Trumbull County  
Connie Fink, Secretary-Treasurer, Springfield Township/Muskingum County

Tim Cassady, Goshen Township/Champaign County  
Roy Hollenbacher, Bath Township/Allen County  
Ed Huff, Jr., Brown Township/Darke County  
Ron Miller, Holmes Township/Crawford County  
Darrell Shafer, Washington Township/Carroll County  
Robert Wakefield, Green Township/Ross County

*Congratulations to the following board members as well, who were reelected for another term.*

Shirlee Bostdorff, Plain Township/Wood County  
Perry Brock, Fayette Township/Lawrence County  
Deana Detwiler, Canaan Township/Morrow County  
Janie Spade, Austinburg Township/Ashtabula County  
Dennis Tippie, Swanton Township/Lucas County

# Public Construction Contracts in Ohio

Bricker & Eckler LLP is presenting an interactive workshop titled "Bidding for Public Construction Contracts in Ohio," April 7, at The Conference Center at OCLC in Dublin, Ohio.

The program will blend a traditional morning session of instruction with an interactive afternoon session working in groups to experience the competitive bidding process. Each work group will have the opportunity to experience the public competitive bidding process through mock bidding, with immediate feedback from the speakers and through questions and answers from the entire class.

The early bird registration fee (before March 15) is \$199 and regular registration is \$239. You may register online at [www.bricker.com/seminars](http://www.bricker.com/seminars) or by phone at 800-750-1525. Contact Amy Abbey at 800-750-1525 or [aabbey@bricker.com](mailto:aabbey@bricker.com) with any questions.

The workshop is pending Supreme Court Continuing Legal Education hours in the amount of 6.75.



**March 2010 Grassroots Clippings**  
**Ohio Township Association**  
**6500 Taylor Road, Suite A**  
**Blacklick, Ohio 43004**