



# CCAO

## MEMBERSHIP GUIDE





“Our strength is rooted in our shared commitment to building thriving communities. Now more than ever, the state-county partnership plays a vital role in delivering essential services - from justice and public safety to child care and infrastructure improvements. Together, we can drive meaningful progress and make a lasting impact for the people of Ohio. County leadership beats for the heart of us all.”

**David Painter**  
**CCAO President and Clermont County Commissioner**

# Welcome to CCAO

## Welcome New CCAO Member!

Congratulations on taking the bold step of serving your county in public office! It is my privilege to welcome you to the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO).

As a member-driven organization of your peers from all 88 counties along with talented association staff, we are here to help you succeed with a host of educational resources and training; advocacy with state leaders on policy decisions affecting county government; and service programs specifically tailored to meet the needs of counties.

CCAO's mission is to support YOU in your leadership role and to unite you and your colleagues in one organization with the shared vision of building stronger counties.

CCAO has had much success over the years and is highly respected today because we bring together county commissioners, county executives and county council members, as well as county professional staff, each with an array of expertise and experiences. Together, this group constitutes a powerful force for implementing positive change for county government and the citizens it serves.

As you join the ranks of dedicated public leaders, we at CCAO look forward to supporting YOU as you learn more about the complexities of county government, face various challenges ahead and chart a positive course for your county into the future.

Best wishes for much success!

**Cheryl Subler**  
CCAO Executive Director



**Cheryl Subler**  
CCAO Executive Director

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### WHO WE ARE: UNDERSTANDING CCAO

CCAO is here to support our members in a host of ways, such as:

- Legislative advocacy
- Education and training opportunities
- Technical assistance and research
- Promoting the importance of county government
- Quality service programs that save counties money

Every aspect of our association is driven by member engagement. The direction and priorities are established by our leadership team, which consists of our Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

Our Executive Committee consists of the five CCAO officers: (president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, secretary and treasurer) as well as two appointed members. The officers are elected at each annual winter conference.

Our board of directors consists of up to 35 members, most of whom are elected, while some are appointed by the president.

“Our county’s membership in CCAO has and continues to pay dividends. The CCAO Legislative and Policy Team combine to give the counties of Ohio a strong voice at the legislative and executive levels of state government. The 88 counties of Ohio, as an association, are so much stronger together than we ever could be individually.

I often say your best friends, as a commissioner, are the commissioners in the many other counties and their staffs who are always willing to offer feedback, suggestions and ideas in solving problems and making good things happen.”

**Tim Bubb**  
**A CCAO Past President and Licking County Commissioner**

Eight members of the board are elected to two-year terms in each even-numbered year, and seven more members are elected in each odd-numbered year. Nine members of the board are appointed by the president each year for a one-year term.

Additional members of the board are the CCAO immediate past president and, if they elect to serve, the five most recent past presidents who currently hold the office of county commissioner, county executive or county council member.

CCAO is partially financed through membership dues paid by counties. Dues are established by the CCAO Board of Directors. Dues are an expense that may be legally paid from the county general fund (Ohio Revised Code 325.21).

All commissioners, county executives and council members are automatically members of one of the five district associations.

- NW Ohio Commissioners & Engineers Association
- NE Ohio Commissioners Association
- SW Ohio Commissioners & Engineers Association
- SE Ohio Commissioners & Engineers Association
- Central Ohio Commissioners & Engineers Association



## STATE ADVOCACY

### Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

Ohio's 88 counties serve as the arm of state government charged with providing vital services on the state's behalf. Counties are given this specific responsibility but limited authority by the Ohio Revised Code.

These state-mandated services include important functions such as elections, justice and public safety, infrastructure and human services. County commissioners, executives and council members provide funding and establish a budget for their operations and all the other county elected officials, including the court system, making them the nexus of all of county government and the services it provides.

As such, counties are heavily impacted by the Ohio General Assembly and Administration's actions, and it is essential that we continue to prioritize the state-county partnership.

CCAO works to continually strengthen the partnership by providing legislative advocacy on behalf of our members as well as updating our members about legislation and rules impacting county government. In addition to direct advocacy, CCAO works to generate awareness among state leaders about why counties matter and how they operate.

CCAO publishes a Candidates Briefing Guide for legislative candidates and state officials, which includes valuable information about how county revenue streams have evolved and the importance of a strong state-county partnership.

You can find this document on our website under the **News & Publications** tab.

Finally, CCAO works within the legal system to stand up for the interests of its members. CCAO often files amicus (Friend of the Court) briefs in lawsuits where legal precedent is likely to be established that could affect the future administration of county government.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR STATE ADVOCACY

CCAO develops the association's Legislative Priorities and Platform for each biennial session of the Ohio General Assembly. This process begins with a survey to all members. These surveys are reviewed by the standing committees, who make recommendations based upon their subject areas for the CCAO board of directors to consider.

The CCAO board then submits the platform and priority recommendations to be approved by the full membership at the CCAO Winter Conference.

To view the current Legislative Program, click the Legislative Platform link under the Advocacy tab on our website. A copy is mailed to our members in January of every odd-number year.

### Policy Team Contacts:

**Kyle Petty, Managing Director of Policy**

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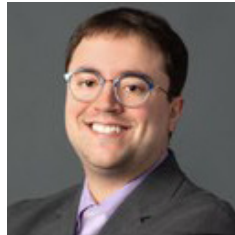
Liaison: Justice & Public Safety Committee; Joint Committee on Administration of Elections; Jobs, Economic Development, and Infrastructure; Taxation and Finance



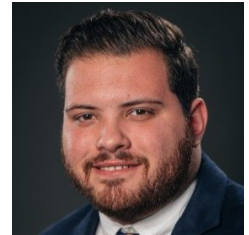
## CCAO Policy Team



**Cheryl Subler**  
Executive Director



**Nick Ciolli**  
Research Analyst



**James Kennedy**  
Policy Analyst



**Rachel Reedy**  
Outreach & Member  
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Liaison: Metropolitan and Regional Affairs

### FEDERAL ADVOCACY AND NACo PARTICIPATION

Our nation’s counties stand together to leverage our collective strengths to meet future challenges. CCAO allies with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to address important county issues pending in the U.S. Congress and executive agencies. CCAO has a long history of NACo engagement.

61 Ohio counties are members, four Ohio commissioners serve on their board and various members serve on NACo standing committees.

NACo also holds a legislative conference early spring in Washington DC and an annual conference in July that offer county officials the chance to learn about innovative county programs and discuss issues impacting counties across the country.

NACo also offers important educational opportunities for members along with important research and resource materials.

To learn more about what NACo has to offer, visit [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).



## PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

Our publications provide relevant information to commissioners, county executives, county council members, staff and other county officials and include the following:

**CCAO Roster** - Our annual CCAO Roster of members is an excellent photo directory of county commissioners, county executives and council members. It also identifies all other county elected officials and contains other pertinent county information, helpful legislative maps and contacts.

This is CCAO's most popular publication, and it helps connect county officials, state officials, the media and vendor partners with our members.

**County Commissioners Handbook** - The Handbook is a comprehensive reference source for county commissioners, county executives and council members. To access the Handbook, click on the "Commissioners Handbook" link on the front page of our website. This extensive overview of county government is second in popularity only to the CCAO Roster.

**Counties Current** - This weekly electronic publication contains pertinent information tailored to county government interests, ranging from federal activities, training opportunities, available grants, and much more. It also contains links to timely news articles about counties around the state. The publication is emailed Monday mornings.

**Statehouse Report** - This weekly electronic report keeps our members and affiliates apprised of legislative activities at the Ohio Statehouse that could impact county government. It is an essential publication for county advocacy. The Report is emailed Fridays.

**Action Alerts** - The CCAO Policy Team sends "action alerts" via email for time sensitive legislative matters that need immediate attention.

**County Leader** - CCAO's e-magazine, provides an in-depth look at the news, programs and policies affecting Ohio's 88 counties. The e-magazine also showcases our members, offers best county practices as well as ways to enhance the state-county partnership practices and shares the offerings of the association



**County Advisory Bulletins (CAB)** - The online advisory bulletins provide explanations on topics of specific concern to counties and recently enacted state legislation.

**County Data Exchange Bulletins (CDE)** - Issued online, county data exchange bulletins provide a county-by-county analysis of issues of importance to counties, from an overview of governance of various agencies within the counties, to taxation and finance issues and options, to general historical information.

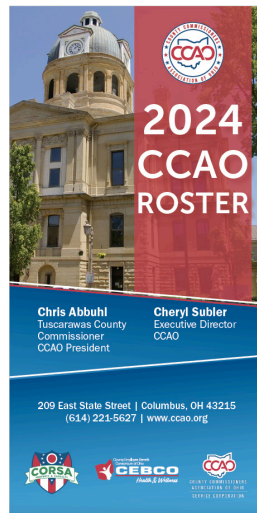
## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CCAO is committed to providing learning opportunities for all members in an array of venues, such as:

**Annual Conference** - CCAO hosts an annual Winter Conference in conjunction with the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO) in Columbus in early December. The three-day event includes opportunities to network with your peers, hear keynote speaker presentations, attend breakouts filled with timely and valuable information as well as enjoy social events that facilitate relationship building.

**Webinars** - On the second Wednesday of every month, CCAO hosts a webinar on a topic of interest to counties. These programs are free to members and are generally one-hour in duration.

**Regional Meetings** - CCAO schedules regional meetings as needed to keep members informed of new developments in Ohio law that affect the operation of county government. CCAO presents such regional meetings either on our own or in partnership





with law firms, NACo, OSU Extension or other associations.

**Consultations & Information Requests** - CCAO provides on-site visits to member counties along with written, phone and e-mail consultation for members and county staff who need assistance upon request. Members and county staff are urged to contact CCAO whenever a question or need for information about any aspect of county government arises.

## AFFILIATES

CCAO knows that county officials rely upon their well-informed county staff, and CCAO works to support these individuals through affiliate memberships. As an affiliate, they receive our weekly publications, space at our winter conference, access to the CCAO Policy Team, meeting space at the CCAO office and other services. The following organizations have been approved by the CCAO board of directors:

- County Administrators Association
- County Commissioners Clerks & Engineers Administrative Professionals Association
- Ohio County Dog Wardens Association
- Family & Children First Coordinators Association
- Ohio County Home Association
- County Loss Control Coordinators Association
- County Planning Directors Association
- County Sanitary Engineers Association of Ohio
- Organization of Solid Waste Districts of Ohio



## IMPORTANT WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED TO CCAO

### Online

With the many hats a commissioner, county executive or council member wears comes a variety of important information that affects elected officials and the counties they serve. Visit [ccao.org](http://ccao.org) for a one-stop location for news, grants and funding opportunities as well as policy updates that impact your county.

CCAO also has a social media platform to provide the latest information affecting county government, including policy updates, service programs' offerings and organization news, as well as stories about what's happening in Ohio's counties.

Follow CCAO on Twitter at "OHCounties" and "County Commissioners Association of Ohio" on Facebook and LinkedIn to get breaking news and share what's happening in your county.

### Call us!

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at (614) 221-5627.

We will put you in contact with the best person to get you answers and provide assistance in any way we can.

### Visit Us!

Any time you are in Columbus and have questions about policy, county news or just want to visit, please stop by our office at:

**209 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215.**

Free parking is available at our building. The entrance to the lot is off State Street, just east of the building, through the iron gate.

## ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

Let CCAO know how you would like to get involved with the association and help steer the organization's success into the future. Options to consider include:

### Request to serve on a Standing Committee to help develop policy positions

Every January, CCAO invites members to serve on one or more of CCAO's nine Standing Committees and special committees. Members complete and return a form and then are notified which committee(s) they will serve.

### Consider leadership opportunities on the Governing Board

Every September, CCAO sends a mailing to all members detailing the process on to how to become a member and serve on the CCAO Board of Directors. Board members are elected by the General Membership in December during our Annual Business Meeting. The incoming CCAO president also nominates nine additional presidential appointments to serve on the CCAO Board.

### Request to serve on an Enterprise Service board

A cornerstone of CCAO is innovation and harnessing the power of all 88 counties to make each county stronger. Saving money while improving quality is also an important part of the CCAO tradition. The CCAO board of directors at different points in our history have identified a county need and charged CCAO to create enterprise service programs to meet that need.

Today, CCAO spearheads several distinct and respected service entities created by counties for counties. There are several opportunities for members to help strengthen our enterprise service programs including:

County Risk-Sharing Authority (CORSA), a property and liability risk sharing pool, was established when traditional liability insurance for counties was either unavailable or unaffordable. It is governed by and for counties to



meet counties' unique needs.

CCAO also operates the County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio (CEBCO), CCAO's



health care division, to assist counties with obtaining employee health benefits. The member-owned, self-insured purchasing pool offers members stable and competitive costs, financial strength and a wide variety of wellness and health management services.

CCAO formed the Service Corporation to sponsor and develop services designed to benefit county governments by saving costs, helping to better serve your constituents, and supporting your county employees.



CCAO offers three major programs - a deferred compensation program for county employees, workers' compensation group rating programs, and energy and natural gas supply programs for county facilities and government aggregation programs - and each of these three programs are advised by a committee comprised of commissioners and/or their designees.

The Service Corporation also has several other endorsed partnerships with vendors who are exclusively recommended to our members. Service Corporation activities are overseen by the CCAO Board of Directors.

More detailed information regarding the Service Corporation programs can be found in a separate section of this book.

# CORSA

County Risk Sharing Authority



## WHO WE ARE: UNDERSTANDING CORSA

CORSA is a property and liability risk sharing pool that was established in 1987 when traditional liability insurance for counties was either unavailable or unaffordable.

The vast majority of counties, municipalities, townships and school districts in Ohio and most states obtain their property and liability coverage through risk sharing pools. Risk sharing pools offer cost stability and risk management services tailored to meet the needs of their members.

## MISSION STATEMENT

CORSA provides members with comprehensive property and liability coverage and high-quality risk management services at a stable and competitive cost. CORSA achieves this mission through the following objectives:

- Utilize the highest standards of ethics, oversight and transparency in all processes and decisions.
- Offer property and liability coverage designed to meet the unique and changing needs of Ohio county government.
- Provide a stable, financially secure and competitive risk financing system.
- Provide specialized, professional claim administration and litigation management services.
- Provide comprehensive loss control and loss prevention services.
- Promote retention of members and program growth that best serve the long-term interests of CORSA members.

## VISION STATEMENT

To be the leader in providing Ohio counties with exceptional value, service and protection of assets.



**John Brownlee**

Managing Director, Property and Casualty Insurance

## CORSA AT A GLANCE

- Owned by counties. Governed by counties. Service to counties.
- Stable and competitive costs.
- State-of-the-art risk management services that are not available from other risk pools and insurance companies.
- Local service provided by a local insurance agent designated by the county and approved by CORSA.
- Broad property and liability coverage tailored to meet the unique needs of counties and their elected officials, employees and volunteers.
- Financial Strength - Member Equity/\$57.8 million as of April 30, 2024. During the current program year, \$5.3 million of member equity dedicated to the return of dividends to members, risk management services, grants and subsidies.
- Claims administration is provided by CORSA - employed claim adjusters, who, along with outside legal counsel, are specialists in handling claims for county government.
- AGRIP Advisory Standards Recognition - CORSA has earned the Advisory Standards Recognition from the Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRIP).

# CORSA

The award recognizes pools that adhere to AGRIP’s Membership Practices Committee’s “best practices” relating to the governance and management of pools. Of the approximately 500 risk sharing pools across the country, CORSA is one of 52 risk sharing pools and the only pool marketing to Ohio counties that has earned this recognition.

- Governed by a nine member board of directors who are county commissioners elected by the membership. Directors are eligible to serve four, three-year terms.

## PUBLIC MEMBER – SPECIAL DISTRICTS

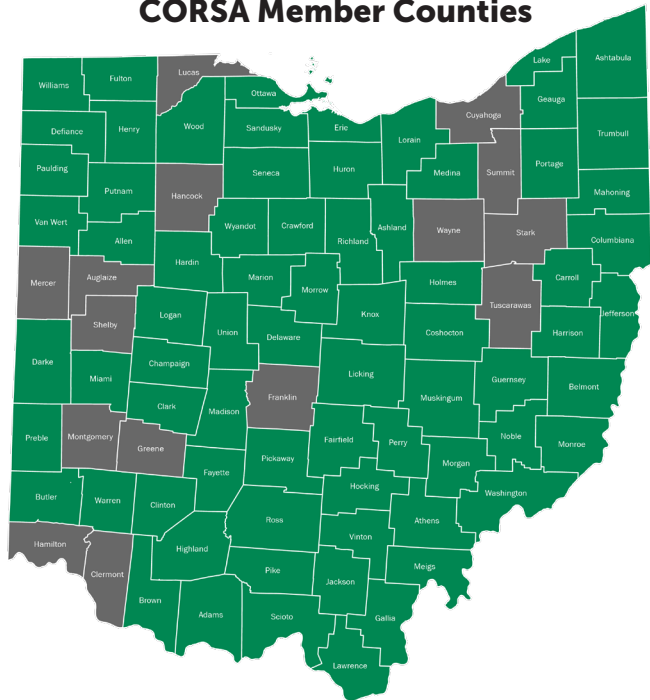
CORSA provides coverage for special districts with the permission of county commissioners and meeting certain criteria set by the CORSA Board. (e.g., Multi County Detention Facilities and Council of Governments)

## CORSA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES OVERVIEW (ALL PROVIDED AT NO ADDITIONAL COST)

### EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

**Human Resources Helpline** - Members can contact legal professionals who are knowledgeable in employment law for assistance with issues such as pending disciplinary actions, terminations, layoffs, FMLA and discriminatory/harassment actions.

## CORSA Member Counties



This service is provided at no additional cost to the member.

Personnel policies tailored to all county offices, boards and departments.

On-location training seminars for supervisors and elected officials on human resource topics, such as discriminatory harassment, disciplinary proceedings, hiring/firing, workplace investigation and FMLA. Seminars are conducted by attorneys who specialize in employment law.

## CORSA Board of Directors



**Row 1:** Dave Wilson, President (Guernsey County); Craig LaHote, Vice President (Wood County); Gary Merrell, Treasurer (Delaware County); Mark Stahl, Secretary (Ottawa County)

**Row 2:** Cory Noonan, Member (Allen County); Charlie Schilling, Member (Washington County); Harry Brady, Member (Huron County); Jim Justice, Member (Ashland County); Gary Scherer, Member (Pickaway County)

## FLEET RISK CONTROL

**Defensive Driving Courses** - National Safety Council certified courses tailored to the needs of county departments, taught by CORSA staff and consultants at county locations.

**On-Line Training Courses** and **Motor Vehicle Reports** are also available.

## RISK CONTROL FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY

Law Enforcement Risk Control Consultant works with sheriffs and correction facilities on training, policies and procedures, and adherence to best practices for law enforcement and detention operations.

Law enforcement Hot Line enables sheriffs and correction facilities to contact CORSA for questions on all aspects of criminal justice.

- Model Policies and Procedures for road and jail.
- On-Line training with over 100 topics on law enforcement liability.
- Decision-based training simulator for road and jail.
- Polygraph/Psychological testing for potential new hires.
- Jail Risk Management
- Regional Risk Management Seminars
- Direct subsidies for Body Scanners, Body Cameras and Pre-employment Polygraph and Psychological Testing.

## CYBER SECURITY

- Direct subsidies for IT Scans, Anti-Phishing Software, Preventive Services/Encrypting (Data Anchor).
- Grants available for member specific IT issues.

## ONLINE TRAINING (CORSA UNIVERSITY)

Members access nearly 300 courses on a variety of human resource, defensive driving, cyber or general risk management topics, including over 100 training sessions on law enforcement, from any Internet-connected computer with speakers.

## PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

CORSA contracts with FacilityDude to provide heavily subsidized preventive maintenance software to its members. Software is customized for governmental operations to improve operational efficiency and minimize risk.

## BROADCAST EMAIL

Members post questions or requests that are then forwarded via broadcast e-mail to other county professionals across the State of Ohio, including county commissioners, HR managers, loss control consultants, county clerks, JFS directors, Board of DD staff, etc.

Members have immediate access to expertise, policies and practices that have proven to be effective and adhere to best practices.

## DEPARTMENTAL RISK CONTROL TRAINING

Meetings with officials and directors of departments with higher than average exposure resulting in a higher potential for accidents and lawsuits (Engineer, Sheriff, Children Services, etc.) to review their operations as well as policies and procedures.

## LOSS CONTROL SURVEYS

A survey of designated county buildings and premises to detect hazards that could cause injury and damage to property.

## PROPERTY APPRAISALS

CORSA contracts with the HCA Asset Management to provide certified property appraisals to establish insurance replacement costs on all buildings and contents every 4-5 years, at no additional cost to members. A comprehensive report with pictures is included. Annual valuation updates for newly acquired properties are provided also at no additional cost to members.

## FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

CORSA contracts with Floodplain Consultants, Inc. (FCI) to provide flood zone determinations for

# CORSA

buildings of members. If a member believes the property is not in the floodplain, FCI will work with FEMA to obtain a revised flood zone determination.

## **COUNTY RISK SHARING AUTHORITY CLAIM ADMINISTRATION AND LITIGATION MANAGEMENT**

Responsive claim service and the use of defense counsel who are nationally recognized for their expertise in defense of state and federal claims are major benefits of CORSA membership. Claim service is provided by adjusters employed by CORSA who are accountable only to and work only for CORSA members.

CORSA claim staff establishes excellent working relationships with the various county departments and offices. They understand the complexities of county government, and they have expertise in the immunities and defenses available to counties. Many pools and insurance companies do not have claim staff in Ohio, but instead rely on out-of-state call centers and independent third-party adjusters for claim service.

If you have any questions, contact:

**John Brownlee**  
CORSA Managing Director  
(614) 220-7988 | [jbrownlee@ccao.org](mailto:jbrownlee@ccao.org)



“CORSA is so much more than just a “risk pool” or an “insurance provider”, they are a partner to and an advocate for their members.

Although it can be a very trying experience to be named as a defendant in a lawsuit or to be facing a loss of any kind, it is made that much easier with CORSA in your corner. From their outstanding staff, who are always available to provide invaluable information and guidance for their members, to the exceptional attorneys who provide members with a strong defense, they are second to none when it comes to making their members feel as though they aren't alone when facing such challenges.

The fact that CORSA is governed by County Commissioners and an experienced Managing Director, is an additional benefit because they understand the challenges we all face working in local government. Over the years, CORSA has created and continues to enhance a unique program which supports individual members while also considering the best interests of the pool as a whole.

Being a member of CORSA has made it possible for Richland County to navigate loss control and risk management challenges with confidence and peace of mind and we are grateful for this partnership.”

**- Kelly Christiansen, HR Director**  
**RICHLAND COUNTY**

## WHO WE ARE: UNDERSTANDING CEBCO

In response to requests from several counties, CCAO launched CEBCO in 2004 to assist with procuring employee health benefits. CEBCO is a member-owned, not-for-profit, self-insured purchasing pool. CEBCO offers members stable and competitive costs, financial strength, broad coverage and a vast array of wellness and health management services that are difficult to duplicate through any other risk sharing pool or insurance company. With the addition of Pike county starting in January 2024, CEBCO now has 48 participating Ohio counties serving over 15,800 employees and, with dependents, a total of nearly 35,000 members.

Leveraging the power of group purchasing, CEBCO provides concierge style customer service and discounted pricing that individual counties cannot achieve on their own. The plan includes a robust Wellness Program, Mobile App, ACA reporting, COBRA services, and pays ACA fees for member counties. CEBCO also offers optional dental, vision, life and EAP coverages.

## THE FINANCIAL MODEL

CEBCO offers many of the advantages of self-funding with an added level of predictability for member counties. Because it provides a set premium at each renewal for 12 months at a time, counties are isolated from potential fluctuations in claims. This premium plan provides the stability of a fully insured product, and CEBCO pays all claims and administrative expenses.

Each county has their own “pooling point” based on size, which ranges from \$100,000 to \$200,000. When calculating renewal increases, only those claims below the pooling point are used in the county’s rating for the coming year. Claims that exceed the pooling point are paid from a larger internal pool that is shared by all counties, up to \$1,000,000. CEBCO purchases stop-loss insurance for claims that exceed the internal pooling level.

This form of pooling offers each county and CEBCO



**Mike Kindell**  
Managing Director, Health and Wellness

protection from very large claims and allows flexibility to offer programs and services for the benefit of members. CEBCO’s Wellness Program provides grant dollars that can be used by each county for their own wellness initiatives. In addition, the new CEBCO Rewards Program enables covered employees and spouses to earn additional rewards for completing health and wellness activities.

## CEBCO Member Counties



# CEBCO

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CEBCO participation typically requires a three-year initial agreement, which is renewable in three-year increments. During the agreement period, CEBCO pays all claims, and if the county fulfills the agreement, CEBCO also pays any run-out claims. This is a unique feature not offered in most other self-insured arrangements. For the past 20 years, member counties have come to depend on CEBCO for keeping health costs in check with an average renewal increase below 5%, which is well below state

and national health care trend.

For more information, please contact:

**Mike Kindell**

CEBCO Managing Director

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## CEBCO Board of Directors



**Row 1:** Cory Noonan, President (Allen County); Harry Brady, Vice President (Huron County); Bryan Davis, Treasurer (Scioto County); J.P. Ducro, Secretary (Ashtabula County); Matt Aultman, Member (Darke County); Jeff Benton, Member (Delaware County);

**Row 2:** Lenny Eliason, Member (Athens County); Steven Hess, Member (Champaign County); Steve Robinson, Member (Union County); Jon Rupp, Member (Fulton County); Mike Welch, Member (Ashland County); Bartley Westfall, Member (Williams County)



The County Commissioners Association of Ohio Service Corporation (CCAOSC) was formed in 1991 to develop and sponsor services that assist county government. CCAOSC is a for-profit business corporation and is a wholly owned subsidiary of CCAO.

CCAOSC provides a variety of service programs that are focused upon helping counties:

- Be more efficient with their fiscal resources
- Offer programs to improve their community
- Enhance employee job satisfaction

All with one goal in mind – to help counties better serve their citizens.

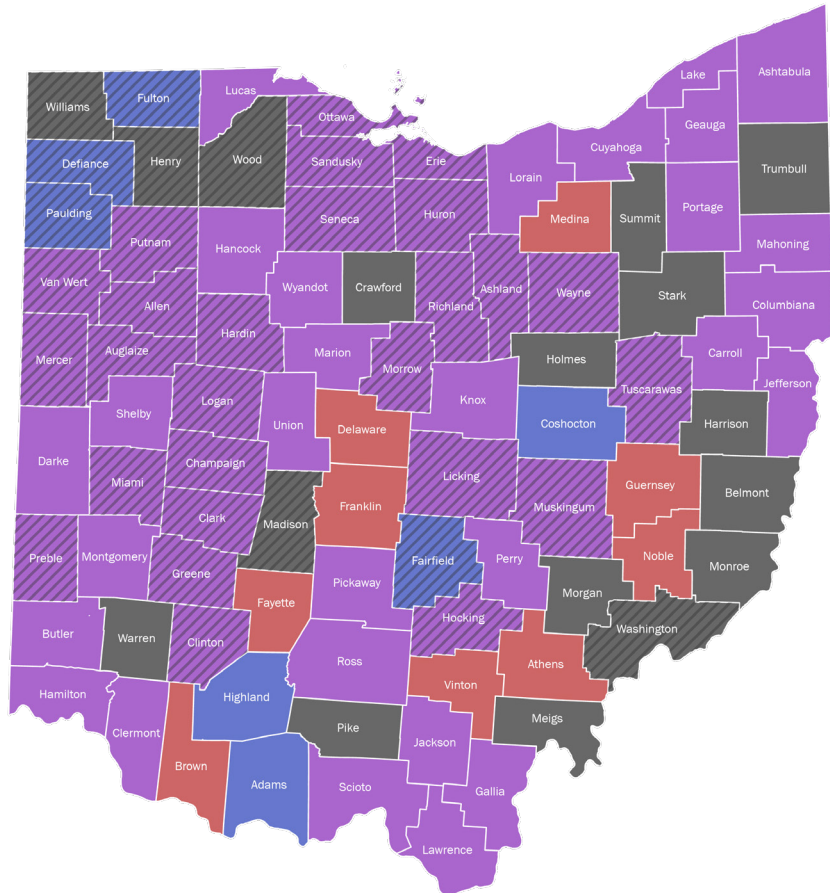
The CCAO Energy Program is one of our premier service programs.

CCAOSC has partnered with **Palmer Energy Company** to help manage our Natural Gas and Electric Energy Programs. Seventy-four of our 88 counties are members of our Energy Programs which provide consulting, contract negotiation, and program management services to secure the best energy pricing for county facilities and also to residences and small businesses in the member’s governmental aggregation program. By utilizing the strength of group buying, counties leverage their buying power when shopping the market to secure the best costs for their energy needs.

Palmer Energy Company’s independent energy professionals, on behalf of CCAOSC, utilize an RFP process that is consistent with all Ohio statutory requirements for competitive bidding to solicit and obtain the best price for electric and natural gas from various reputable suppliers, and then make a recommendation to the county which has the ultimate decision-making authority.

The Energy Program is overseen and reviewed by the Energy Program Executive Committee which is

## Natural Gas & Electric Program Members



comprised of commissioners and county facilities managers.

The Committee monitors current energy market trends, makes program recommendations, and provides advice regarding energy purchase price points to maximize county savings.

### COUNTY FACILITIES ENERGY PROGRAMS

Sixty counties currently participate in the CCAO Electric Facilities program. The program manages approximately 550 million Kilowatt hours of electricity. Estimated program savings since inception are approximately \$46.6 million.

Sixty-three counties currently participate in the CCAO Natural Gas Facilities program. This program manages approximately 1.5 Billion Cubic Feet per

# CCAO Service Corp.

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year of natural gas for county facilities. Participating counties have saved approximately \$14 Million under this program.

## GOVERNMENTAL UTILITY AGGREGATION PROGRAMS

Upon passage of a ballot issue, residents in the unincorporated area of the county can authorize the county to proceed with offering an opt-out governmental aggregation program. Aggregation is available for both electricity and natural gas, however, each program must be approved by a separate ballot issue. Once this is accomplished, the CCAOSC program provides the advocacy and expertise of Palmer Energy to assist counties in negotiating to procure electric generation or natural gas supply from a supplier that would offer the greatest customer savings.

The contracted supplier will provide the electric generation or natural gas supply necessary to meet the requirements of the aggregation program participants and provide savings to all eligible residential and commercial customers that elect to participate.

Palmer Energy works with the supplier to file the necessary aggregation paperwork needed to obtain and maintain certification with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), including revisions, filing certification applications, quarterly and annual reports with the PUCO and other aggregation services as needed.

CCAOSC currently manages thirty-four electric aggregation programs and fifteen natural gas aggregation programs. These programs have collectively saved residents who participate in them over \$150 million.

For more information about the CCAOSC Energy Program contact:

### John Leutz

CCAO Assistant Director

(614) 220-7994 | jleutz@ccao.org

### Kirkland Mizerek

Vice President of Palmer Energy Company

(419) 539-9180 | kmizerek@palmerenergy.com

## CCAO WORKER'S COMPENSATION PROGRAM

We offer counties assistance with their workers compensation and risk management in three ways: our group rating plans, workers' compensation

managed care, and self-insured claims management.

## GROUP RATING AND GROUP RETROSPECTIVE RATING PLANS

Since 1992 the CCAO Group Rating Plan has worked to promote workplace safety and reduce workers' compensation premiums, saving member counties over \$38 million. To be eligible for membership in the CCAO Group Rating Plan, a county must be credit rated, meet our payroll size guidelines, and agree to implement safety and loss control programs to reduce injuries, thereby containing costs for all members. Nine counties are enrolled in the 2022 Group Rating Plan.

In 2010 CCAO began sponsoring a Group Retrospective Rating Plan (Group Retro) in which members could combine their experience and earn refunds based upon good claims performance. The Group's claims are evaluated three times, and refunds can be earned at 12, 24 and 36 months following the end of the policy year. As of 2023 the Group Retro members have received over \$32 million in performance-based refunds, with total projected refunds of over \$38 million..

To be eligible for Group Retro, a county must meet underwriting guidelines for frequency and severity of claims, and have safety and claims management programs in place. CCAO Group Retro members receive safety consulting visits, training, and program support as part of their group membership. Fifty-eight counties are enrolled in the 2024 Group Retro Plan. CCAO contracts with **Sedgwick** to administer both Group plans.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION

BWC certified managed care organizations (MCO's) provide medical management services and establish health provider networks for workers' comp claims. A county may change MCOs only during the BWC open enrollment period, which is held every other year. Choosing an effective MCO has a significant impact on a county's workers' compensation claim costs. Since 1996, the CCAO Board of Directors has endorsed **Sedgwick Managed Care Ohio (Sedgwick MCO)** and its predecessor CompManagement Health Systems, Inc. as the preferred MCO for county government.

CCAO has continuously endorsed Sedgwick MCO because of their expertise in the medical

management of workers' compensation claims, their strength and stability as a consistent leader in the field, and their commitment to understanding the unique needs of county government. Sedgwick MCO has been certified by the BWC for medical management of workers' compensation claims in all 88 counties and has been a valuable partner to CCAO.

## CCAO BWC Programs (2024)



County Commissioners  
Association of *Ohio*

\*2024 BWC programs administered by Sedgwick



### EXCESS WORKERS' COMP PROGRAM

Since 2008 CCAO has offered a program to assist counties considering self-insuring their workers comp – the CCAO Excess Workers' Compensation Program. CCAO has partnered with **Sedgwick** to provide high quality claims administration services for counties choosing to self-insure their workers' compensation.

For excess insurance coverage, CCAO has partnered with **Excess Comp Specialists (ECS)**. Jim Arnold, ECS principal, and his company have over 30 years' experience placing excess workers' compensation coverage and provide our program with access to the most secure and competitive markets for the benefit of our members.

Generally, a county with strong financials (audit results, bond rating, etc.) and more than 400 employees can consider self-insuring workers' compensation. The process begins with a feasibility study prepared by Sedgwick. CCAO and Sedgwick can then assist counties in obtaining BWC approval, obtaining excess insurance and implementing their self-insured program.

For more information about any of our workers' compensation programs, contact:

#### Tim Hoverman

CCAO Operations Manager  
(888) 757-1904 | (614) 220-7989  
thoverman@ccao.org

#### Steve Caraway

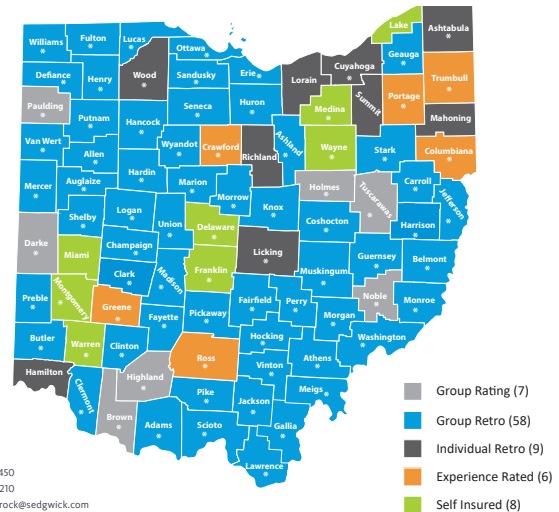
Service Corporation Manager  
(614) 220-7998 | scaraway@ccao.org

### ENDORSED VENDOR PARTNERS

*We recommend contacting these vendor partners who offer outstanding service and value in specific areas of expertise often needed by county government.*

### COST RECOVERY SERVICES

**MAXIMUS** has provided consulting services to Ohio counties for more than 27 years. Jill Popp and Thomas Hollett are seasoned project consultants



Tony Sharrock  
Phone: 614.376.5450  
Fax: 614.790.8210  
Email: Tony.Sharrock@sedgwick.com

[sedgwick.com/ohiotpa](http://sedgwick.com/ohiotpa) | 800.825.6755

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providing their professional expertise to counties with an emphasis on client service.

MAXIMUS' services to counties include Cost Allocation Plans, Special Elections' Cost Chargeback reports, rental rate calculations for federal programs occupying space in county-owned buildings, as well as preparing budget reports for services provided by court divisions performing child support enforcement services. MAXIMUS consultants prepare county space studies and rate studies.

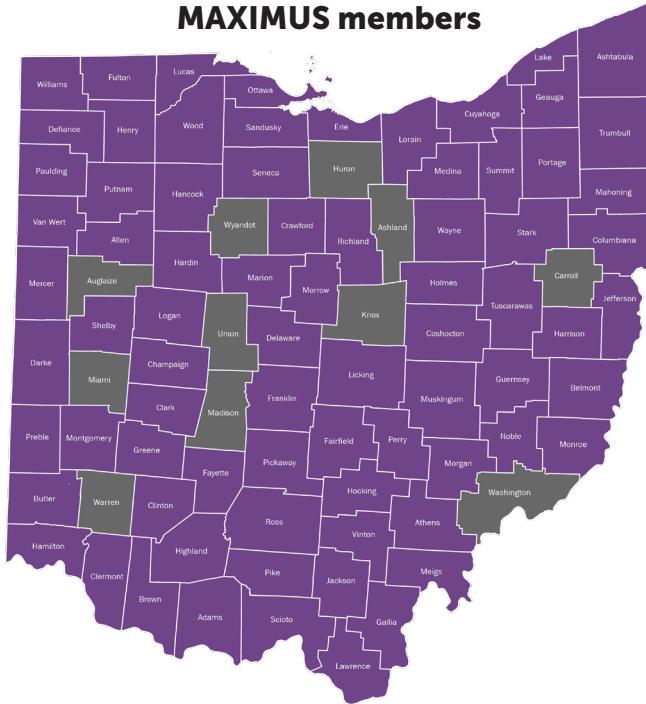
MAXIMUS files, negotiates and secures plan approval from state and federal agencies. MAXIMUS defends cost plans against federal and state audits.

Computer software utilized by MAXIMUS is designed to identify the largest dollar amount of return permitted by federal cost sharing regulations.

Clients receive personal and prompt responses on cost plan matters from service offices in Columbus and Northern Ohio. MAXIMUS currently provides cost plan services for 77 Ohio counties.

# CCAO Service Corp.

## MAXIMUS members



For additional information, contact:

**Jill Popp**

Manager Consultant in Ohio for MAXIMUS  
(800) 323-3536 | jillpopp@maximus.com

## CCAO CYBER DEFENSE

After hearing of multiple counties getting hit hard with cyber attacks, CCAOSC has decided to launch a County Cyber Protection Program.



According to Embroker, Cyber attacks have been rated the fifth top rated risk in 2020 and become the new norm across public and private sectors. This risky industry continues to grow in 2023 as IoT cyber attacks alone are expected to double by 2025. Plus, the World Economic Forum's 2020 Global Risk Report states that the rate of detection (or prosecution) is as low as 0.05% in the U.S.

Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted have released their CyberOhio program. While the CyberOhio program helps small government identify their cyber vulnerabilities, it does not remediate them. The CCAO Service Corporation is proud to partner with HG Consulting. HG Consulting will detect cybersecurity vulnerabilities and provide you with a solution to ensure you're protected against the bad guys.

To learn more about CCAO Cyber Defense, reach out

to CCAO's Tim Hoverman at [thoverman@ccao.org](mailto:thoverman@ccao.org)

## COUNTY BENEFITS+



CCAO offers a pioneering initiative aimed at enhancing the lives of the county workforce in Ohio. County Benefits+ is a new partnership between CCAO and Aflac. Through this partnership, assisted by NACo's Public Promise Insurance, county leaders and their employees will now have access to Ohio's premiere supplemental benefits program.

In an era where attracting and retaining talent has never been more challenging, County Benefits+ goes beyond a traditional supplemental benefits program by offering an all-encompassing solution that caters to the specific needs of both the county workforce and the leadership that support them. With the increasing costs of healthcare in America, supplemental benefits are built to help employees cover unforeseen expenses that a core medical benefit offering may not. These unforeseen medical events often add financial hardship to the lives of county employees and their families. Highlights of the "County Benefits+" program include:

Wide Range of Voluntary Supplemental Benefits:

- State-wide Underwriting
- No County Costs
- One-on-One Enrollment Support
- Enhanced Communication
- County Focus

Please take this opportunity to assess the value that a new or revised supplemental benefits program can bring to your county team.

For more information on County Benefits+, reach out to John Leutz, Steve Caraway or Tim Hoverman.

## COUNTY FIRM



At CCAO, we're not just listening – we're taking action to help shape the future of County operations! Inspired by the feedback from our member Counties, we're thrilled to announce County FIRM (Facility Investment, Retrofit, and Maintenance) – a proven team of former contractors, licensed professional

engineers, and other facilities industry experts that are using their expertise to support our counties in their endeavors around facility maintenance and facility capital projects (including jails).

Reduce and eliminate the headaches of unexpected HVAC failures, costly change orders, and the complex web of contractor management with unparalleled ease. County FIRM is a professional services provider that will act as an extension of your staff to assess facility needs, capital plans, manage contractors, provide technical support, procurement support, and many other forms of owners representative consulting.

We understand that no two counties are alike, which is why we're committed to delivering tailored solutions that perfectly fit your unique needs. County FIRM will be visiting your county soon to provide further insights on how we can make your day to day easier to focus on the task at hand of serving your constituents.

For more information, reach out to:  
Joe Sokol, Regional Manager – Professional Services  
Palmer Conservation Consulting  
330-592-3946

## AMAZON BUSINESS



amazon business

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) has a partnership with Amazon Business, bringing a host of exclusive benefits to all county offices and departments in Ohio. This collaboration aims to streamline procurement processes, enhance cost savings, and provide unparalleled convenience for county operations.

Key Benefits of the Program:

### 1. Free Business Prime Membership

All participating county offices and departments will receive a complimentary Business Prime membership (up to 100 users), valued at \$1,299. This membership offers a range of benefits, including fast, free shipping on eligible items and access to exclusive deals and discounts.

### 2. Pre-Approved Line of Credit

Participants will have access to a pre-approved line of credit of \$10,000 or more, with the option to pay by invoice. This feature simplifies the purchasing process and helps manage cash flow more effectively.

### 3. Significant Discounts on Essential Products

The program offers substantial savings on a wide range of products:

- 25% off 4,500+ office products: From paper and pens to office furniture, county offices can enjoy significant discounts on essential supplies.
- 25% off 4,000+ MRO (Maintenance, Repair, Operations) products: Ensure your facilities are well-maintained with discounted prices on maintenance and repair items.
- 25% off 2,200+ IT products: Upgrade your technology infrastructure with savings on computers, peripherals, and other IT essentials.

## COMM-CORE ENHANCES TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR OHIO COUNTIES



The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) has a strategic partnership with Comm-Core, a leading innovator in IP-based hosted voice and data solutions, VoIP, and surveillance systems. This collaboration is set to enhance the service offerings available to Ohio counties, helping them better serve their residents through advanced technology solutions.

Comm-Core specializes in providing robust VoIP and surveillance systems designed to enhance communication and security operations. Their expertise will be invaluable in supporting Ohio counties in becoming more efficient with their fiscal resources, offering community-improving programs, and enhancing employee job satisfaction.

“Keeping up with technology can be a daunting task, especially with the complexity of communications, physical and cybersecurity concerns” was the theme of a recent presentation from Mike Curtis - Partner and CRO with Comm-Core a division of Virtual Technologies Group (VTG).

VTG is a provider that can assist with integration and services to address how a county can communicate via VoIP system as a stand-alone service or with

# CCAO Service Corp.

Teams integration. The system not only addresses daily functions but more importantly using technology to assist in solving how the systems can support a county during an emergency. VTG / Comm-Core's focus is to solve complex business challenges via use of technology.

For more information on Comm-Core, reach out to CCAO's Steve Caraway at scaraway@ccao.org or by calling 614-220-7998.

## CLEARGOV



ClearGov, the leading budgeting and planning solutions provider for local governments, has been recognized as a CCAO Strategic Service Partner by CCAO.

ClearGov is already helping multiple counties in Ohio improve their budgeting process. This partnership will increase their exposure and enable the company to help even more counties looking to modernize their processes. Additionally, ClearGov has an exclusive partnership with NACo and several other state associations as the organizations' preferred budgeting solution. These partnerships further ClearGov's impact in transforming the budgeting process for local governments nationwide.

ClearGov's comprehensive Budget Cycle Management suite automates and simplifies the entire budget lifecycle from budget creation and approval to visual elements and publishing. The cloud software eliminates error-prone spreadsheets, increases collaboration, provides full transparency, and saves finance teams countless hours annually.

"County governments strive to make complex financial information accessible to every constituent," said Bryan Burdick, ClearGov President. "Building the annual budget and communicating it clearly is an immense undertaking. Our mission is to help counties of all sizes budget better through user-friendly, collaborative software that saves valuable time for more strategic work."

The complete ClearGov suite of budgeting and planning tools includes:

- Capital Budgeting – Automate the collection, organization and optimization of capital utilization.
- Personnel Budgeting – Budget salaries,

compensation and benefits, conduct scenario planning and what-if analysis.

- Operational Budgeting – Build a forecast and annual budget more efficiently and collaboratively.
- Digital Budget Book – Produce an interactive, GFOA award-winning budget book in a fraction of the time.
- Transparency – Tell a county's financial story to drive community support and engagement.

For more information on ClearGov, please contact:

Lewie Alfano

Senior Solutions Advisor

Cell/Text (978) 870-7720

lalfano@cleargov.com

## HUNTINGTON



# Huntington

Making  
Government  
Purchasing  
Easier!

Welcome.®

Last year, CCAOSC launched the Ohio County Commercial Card Consortium.

This card will make it easier to purchase, track expenditures and to protect against fraud and misuse, which are big reasons county governments have asked for this program.

Key Benefits:

- Improved Cash Flow: Counties will receive a rebate on the total spend of the consortium, which provides a higher rebate than standalone programs.
- Automated Processing: Eliminate purchase orders, paper-based expense processing, and the need for reimbursement check processing, which will free up employees' time for other tasks.
- Continuous Support and Training: Experience a streamlined onboard process facilitated by a dedicated team and learn how to customize the program to the specific needs of the county.

If your county would like to join this consortium, please contact Government Banking at Huntington: Eddie Baumann at 614-899-8236 or eddie.baumann@huntington.com.

## STRATEGIC SERVICE PARTNERS



amazon business



# OCERP



## OCERP (OHIO COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

Most county employees and elected officials benefit from one of Ohio's public pension systems. While a significant benefit, the income provided from these programs may not adequately cover all retirement expenses.

CCAO sponsors a tax-deferred retirement savings program and a Roth option to supplement this shortfall. OCERP is a 457(b) plan that can be a powerful and versatile tool to help county officials and employees reach their retirement goals.

Participants elect to contribute a portion of their paycheck into one of many investment options which can be self-directed or actively managed, providing retirement solutions leading to and through retirement.

Since 1985 OCERP has served the needs of county employees. More than 23,000 people throughout all 88 counties are currently saving for their retirement through this program.

OCERP is overseen by a committee of county officials who know the needs of their employees. They have selected industry leader **Empower™** to administer and market this plan with an emphasis on the highest levels of service and support.

Retirement Plan Advisors are located throughout Ohio with one primary objective: Help county officials and employees meet their retirement goals through one-on-one appointments, group meetings, seminars, and educational webinars. Plan members have access to a dynamic website designed to give them easy access to their personal financial information, monitor their investments, and customize their retirement strategy.

For more information, visit [www.ocerp457.com](http://www.ocerp457.com), or call Empower™ at 1-800-284-0444 and say "no" to the first automated prompt to obtain more information from a participant services representative.

For general information, contact:

**Steve Caraway**

OCERP Administrator

(614) 220-7998 | [scaraway@ccao.org](mailto:scaraway@ccao.org)

# R&E Foundation



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ASSOCIATION OF OHIO  
RESEARCH & EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION

## CCAO Research & Education Foundation

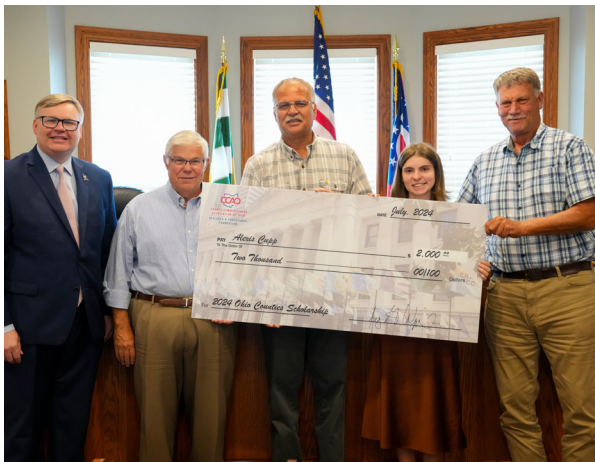


**Steve Caraway**  
Special Projects Manager

Founded in 1991, the CCAO Research and Educational Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that obtains grants and donations to provide the high-quality information, tools, and training that our members need, and the public deserves. CCAO has made a commitment to grow the Research and Educational Foundation to provide educational opportunities to our members and the students of Ohio.

In addition to providing learning opportunities for our members, we also provide five scholarships to high school graduates across the state each year. Each CCAO district in the state has one winner each year in the amount of \$2,000 per scholarship. The scholarships are funded by a generous contribution by

CCAO and by fundraising events hosted by the foundation, like the annual County Classic Golf Outing and the Ohio Counties Collection merchandise.



Pickaway County Commissioners Gary Scherer, Jay Wippel, and Harold Henson with 2024 Ohio Counties Scholarship Central District winner Alexis Cupp



*Union County Courthouse*

Notecards from the Ohio Counties Collection are available for purchase of your courthouse and can be customized with your name. Proceeds from the sale go directly to the Ohio Counties Scholarship Fund.

You can always support the foundation with a personal or campaign account contribution at [ccao.org/foundation](http://ccao.org/foundation)

Or mail your contribution to:  
CCAO Research and Educational Foundation  
Attn: Steve Caraway  
209 E. State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215



# CCAO Leadership

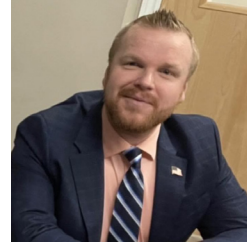
## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**David Painter**  
Clermont County  
Commissioner  
President



**Denise Driehaus**  
Hamilton County  
Commissioner  
1st Vice President



**Casey Kozlowski**  
Ashtabula County  
Commissioner  
2nd Vice President



**Ilene Shapiro**  
Summit County  
Executive  
Treasurer



**Joe Antram**  
Logan County  
Commissioner  
Secretary



**Tony Anderson**  
Fayette County  
Commissioner  
Member



**Glenn Miller**  
Henry County  
Commissioner  
Member

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Melissa Bell**  
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**Harry Brady**  
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**Scott Owen**  
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**Chris Ronayne**  
Cuyahoga County Executive

**Rachael Vonderhaar**  
Preble County Commissioner

**Donnie Willis**  
Jackson County Commissioner

**Melanie Flax Wilt**  
Clark County Commissioner

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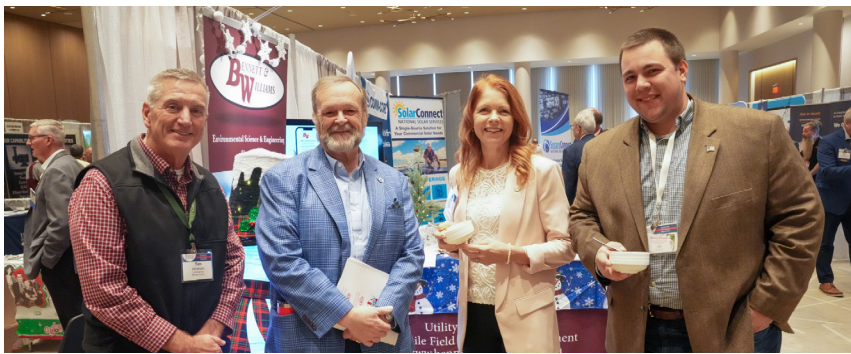
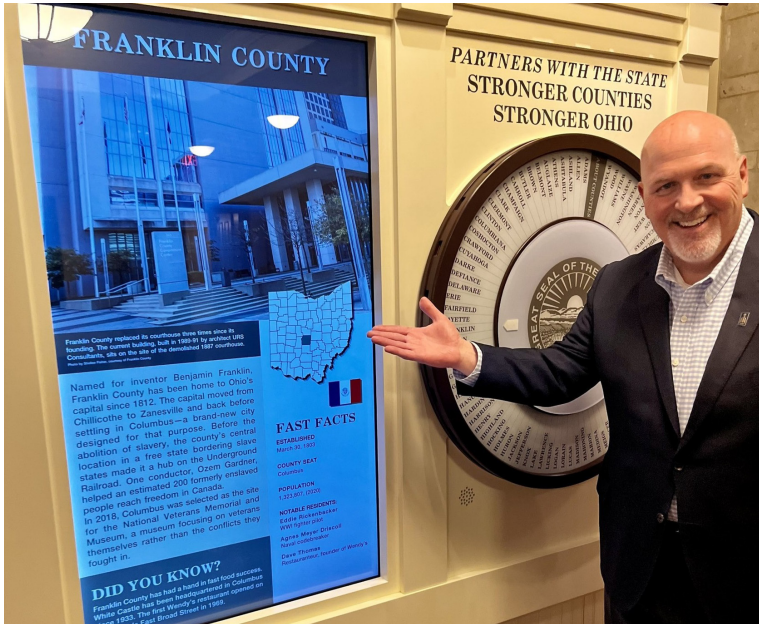
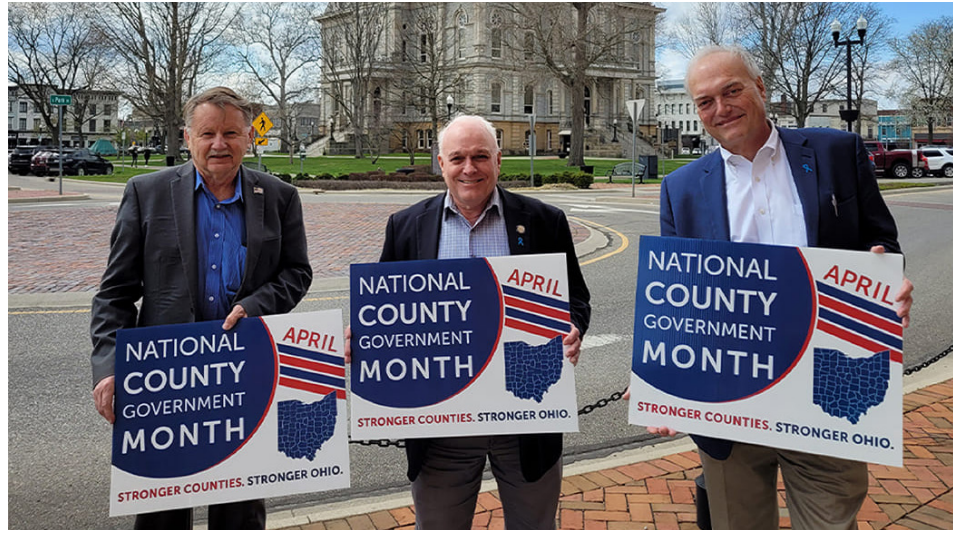
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**Cheryl Subler**, Executive Director  
(614) 220-7980 | csubler@ccao.org





COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

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SERVICE CORPORATION



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RESEARCH & EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION

209 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 221-5627

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