



OACAA News

OACAA 2012 Annual Summer Conference a Successful Journey



The OACAA 2012 Annual Summer Conference reached the end of the line on June 20, as another successful conference came to a close. The journey began on June 18 with sessions by the Office of Community Assistance, offering attendees the opportunity to meet new and recently-promoted staff members, learn about OCEAN software enhancements and the PIPP Plus program.

During lunch on Monday, OACAA Executive Director Phil Cole discussed the creation of the Ohio Veterans' Program by six pilot CAAs. This is a powerful program that has been endorsed by various legislators and the Kasich Administration. He also discussed the formation of a legislative posse that will meet with legislators both in Columbus and their home districts to discuss relevant issues and how it affects them. All are welcome to join.

Mr. Cole also requested that members create a Local Economic Impact Statement to share with legislators and local businesses. He said the input of local businesses to decision-makers is a great endorsement of your CAA. Our agencies need to show how many jobs are created and how many businesses and jobs are supported by the work we do and the funding we bring into our communities.



He also spoke with the membership about the importance of supporting the National Community Action Foundation. This support would be individual contributions to the CAP-PAC and support for NCAF. Each executive director should strive to be a member of CP-PAC's Club 199. If anyone has a question about this, they can contact Phil at (614) 224-8500 or phil@oacaa.org.

The day ended with district meetings, then participants were whisked away to the Greek isles, well at least in décor, as we bid a fond farewell to Nick Sunday, recently-retired deputy chief of OCA. Many members took the opportunity to present Mr. Sunday with gifts showing their appreciation for his over 30 years of dedication to Community Action.



On day two of the conference, attendees got on the right track by attending workshops in six specialized tracks geared toward different Community Action staffers. There was an Executive Director Track that included workshops on leading change management, building a legacy, media management and public sector messaging and advocacy. The Program Managers Track taught the basics of project management, leadership and employee motivational reward systems and techniques. A track for family development and intake workers included a customer service workshop, a workshop on Money Habitudes and Style Play, and one on Time Style. The Fiscal Conference Track included a roundtable discussion, a workshop on understanding the rules on property purchased with federal funds, a workshop on fraud prevention with HEAP, and one on fiscal management and execution using project management basics. The Human Resources Conference Track covered changes to FMLA, ADA,



PDA and WC. There was also a track for Board members that included a workshop on understanding and fulfilling CSBG and Head Start board requirements, one on board roles and responsibilities,

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getting the most from your board service, and parliamentary procedures.



During lunch on Tuesday, William Murdock, chief of the Division of Community Services explained the changes to the Department of Development and the role of JobsOhio. He discussed changes in HWAP, changes in personnel and his interest in learning more about the day-to-day work of Community Action Agencies.

Elections for officers were held during the OACAA Membership Meeting. Current officers were re-elected. Congratulations to President Gwen Robinson, First Vice President David Brightbill, Second Vice President Bo Chilton, Treasurer Ruthann House, and Secretary Janice Warner.

Tuesday evening, IMPACT Community Action Agency hosted an evening aboard the CAA Express at Martha's Soul Food Bistro & Ultra Lounge. Attendees were treated to the hilarious antics of comedian and former IMPACT employee Jack Sheppard, played fun games like the Family Feud, and enjoyed delicious soul food.



The conference reached its final destination on Wednesday with a brunch and special guest speaker David Bradley. Mr. Bradley explained how the atmosphere in Congress is the most partisan he has ever seen. But while the Obama Administration has often worked against the interests of Community Action, he has found bi-partisan support in Congress. We do face many challenges, especially with Weatherization funding. He continues to work to develop the CSBG Reauthorization bill, which he said is strong and he hopes to finish in a couple of weeks. Mr. Bradley concluded by saying it is a tough year, but he is not discouraged and he thinks we can win.

We hope you enjoyed the conference. Please take a minute to complete our survey and let us know what you thought. Click to complete the survey

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Thank You To Everyone Who Attended. We Hope You Enjoyed the Trip!

From the OACAA Staff