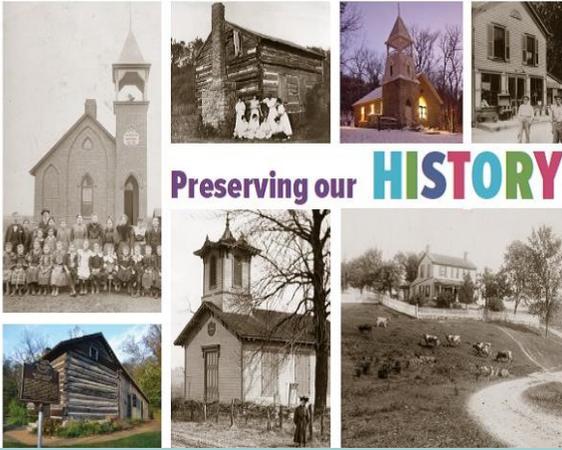


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Preserving our HISTORY

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Every quarter we will feature a photo from one of our member governments. This quarter: **Anderson Township**

## The Center for Local Government Newsletter

2nd Quarter 2018

### Center Works with Greater Cincinnati Waterworks on Lead Service Line Replacement

It is estimated that there are over 4,700 lead service lines on private property in suburban communities that are serviced by Greater Cincinnati Waterworks (GCWW), and thousands more in Cincinnati itself. These lines can cause lead to leach into a house's water supply if they are disturbed or if they do not have water flowing through them for an extended period of time. This presents an ever increasing public health problem in an era with vacant or foreclosed homes and with aging public water infrastructure needing to be replaced. Over the past months, the Center for Local Government has been working with GCWW to find a way to combat this issue in our member communities.

In 2017, GCWW enacted a policy that they would no longer connect lead service lines to their public infrastructure as water mains are replaced. They also created a lead service line replacement program, which provides a grant of up to \$1,500 for a property owner to replace their lead service line, with the rest of the cost (average \$5,000) being paid out in a special property tax assessment. Although the \$1,500 grant is open to all homeowners, the property tax assessment can only be applied to Cincinnati residents. CLG has been working with GCWW and interested communities to find a way to help homeowners who cannot take advantage of the tax assessment to affordably replace their lead lines.

Right now, a number of plans are simultaneously being worked on to help this cause. Some communities are going to enact similar special assessment programs and enter into intergovernmental agreements with GCWW. Other communities are working with GCWW and Hamilton County to identify private funding and grant sources. There is also an effort to enact a legislative solution at the State level to streamline the process of other communities opting into a special assessment program similar to what Cincinnati operates. CLG is helping facilitate the conversation for each of these solutions, and will continue to hold meetings and keep interested governments informed of progress.

If your community is not on the Center's lead service line replacement program e-mail list, and would like to be included (for information about upcoming meetings and/or progress on the plans listed above), please contact T.J. White at [TWhite@C4LG.org](mailto:TWhite@C4LG.org).





# The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

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## STAFF

T.J. White, Executive Director, [twhite@C4LG.org](mailto:twhite@C4LG.org)  
Lori Stuckey, Program and Data Coordinator,  
[lstuckey@C4LG.org](mailto:lstuckey@C4LG.org)

## ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION:

The Center for Local Government (CLG) located in Cincinnati, OHIO is a unique non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, created in 1990 as a clearing-house for inter-governmental collaboration, training and information sharing. CLG membership consists of 54 local government in 6 counties.

## Effective Governance Through Collaboration

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vicky Earhart, Anderson Township  
Jim Lukas, City of Sharonville  
Kristen Bitonte, Liberty Township  
Michael Rahall, Village of Cleves  
Jack Cameron, Delhi Township



CLG Staff from L to R: Lori Stuckey, Program & Data Coordinator; T.J. White, Executive Director; Andy Lanser, Program Development Director

## CLG HOLDS FIRST LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ALUMNI TRAINING EVENT

On May 17th, CLG hosted its first “Leadership Academy Alumni Luncheon.” This new series of lunch and learns will provide CLG’s 75 Leadership Academy graduates a chance to continue their education, while simultaneously offering convenient and cost effective leadership training opportunities to the CLG member population at large. CLG’s intention is to hold these twice a year— once in spring, and once in fall.

Our first Alumni Luncheon covered the topic of Emotional Intelligence Quotient, or EIQ. Our speaker was recently retired Green Township Administrator Kevin Celarek. Mr. Celarek covered a wide range of topics during this training, including the cognitive triangle between emotion, behavior and thought, personal and social competences, and steps to improve emotional intelligence on a day to day basis. These include finding a mentor, making sure you have time for work life balance, and other similar techniques. CLG thanks Mr. Celarek for taking the time to speak to our group. His powerpoint presentation is available by e-mailing the Center if there are any follow-up questions.

The next Leadership Academy Alumni training will take place in the fall. CLG will be working with current and former Chief Administrative Officers and other trainers to identify an appropriate topic. Like the first training session, this will be open to all CLG, MVRMA or MVCC members, although Leadership Academy Alumni will be charged a discounted price.

We hope to see you there!



Kevin Celarek discusses Emotional Intelligence with guests at Parkers Grill in Blue Ash



## PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ANDY LANSER MOVING ON

After almost three years working for CLG, Program Development Director Andy Lanser recently moved on to a new position with Novak Consulting. During his time at CLG, Andy was instrumental in improving our spot survey program, developing our service delivery benchmarking pilot project, working with communities on special projects such as a drug incinerator, helping connect interns from our region's MPA programs to our local communities, and organizing numerous training sessions.

In his new role with Novak, Andy will still be based in the Cincinnati area, but will be traveling on occasion to work with Novak clients. He is still a CAMA member, and may even be assigned to local projects, meaning you may still run into him from time to time. Andy will also be assisting CLG in interviewing new Program Development Director candidates. We thank him for taking the time to do this as he transitions into his new job.



Andy leaves big shoes to fill in the Program Development Director role, and CLG is currently interviewing four finalists to replace him. It is anticipated that a new Program Development Director will be in place by mid August. We look forward to introducing you to the new person in next quarter's newsletter.

On behalf of CLG and all of its member communities and partners, we sincerely thank Andy for his service to the Center. He will be missed!

## NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR TO TAKE CHARGE OF SECRET SHOPPER PROGRAM, INFORMATION SHARING OVERHAUL, AND OTHER PROJECTS

CLG's new Program Development Director will be jumping into the deep end of the pool when it comes to starting new CLG services. Toward the end of Andy's tenure, he was working on the early stages of a number of projects, including an overhaul of CLG's pay and benefits data system, a secret shopper program, and a drug incinerator. Each of these potential programs will be under the purview of the new Program Development Director, and CLG members will be hearing from the new person shortly after their hire, as we ramp these projects up once again.

- **Secret Shopper:** This program enables governments to use secret shoppers— either from other governments or through secret shopper services, to provide quality control checks of customer service in participating governments. Prior to Andy's departure, a taskforce had been formed of interested communities, and they began to formulate what direction they wanted the program to go in. When the new Program Development Director begins employment, they will be tasked with holding a second taskforce meeting, getting clarification on the direction for this program, and execute it accordingly.
- **Information Sharing Overhaul:** CLG last overhauled its pay and benefits database in 2014. As technology has advanced, especially in the user interface space, it is time to revisit how we provide data to our communities. The goal of this program is to simplify the system. This includes eliminating unnecessary annual survey questions, eliminating unnecessary columns from CLG's spreadsheets, making the search function more intuitive, potentially adding graphics (charts / graphs) to the mix, and identifying ways to increase the accuracy of the data that our governments provide. The Program Development Director will work with CLG staff and representatives from the member governments to identify areas to streamline our surveys, and to identify methods (software, web based, etc.) to simplify the way data is displayed.
- **Incinerator:** CLG has been working with Evendale to potentially help them purchase an incinerator for drugs and other items. At this point, this project is on hold pending permitting, internal discussions at Evendale, and other factors. As this project moves forward, the new Program Development Director will be on-hand to assist Evendale as needed.



# The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

## SPRING ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS LUNCHEON HELD AT SUMMIT PARK IN BLUE ASH

The Spring 2018 Administrative Professionals Luncheon was held May 15, at Summit Park in Blue Ash, with food served from the Brown Dog Café. The Parks and Golf Maintenance Superintendent, Brian Kruse was the guest speaker. His presentation about the development of the park was very interesting and informative, and included a tour of the park. Summit Park was developed with lots of input from Blue Ash residents with careful attention to what types of activities and sights the residents would like in a park. The park was developed to be a regional gathering spot, a park that can be used 365 days a year and consists of 1/3 residential, 1/3 commercial (including restaurants) and 1/3 public space. It was built on the land where the Blue Ash Airport used to be located and developed using environmentally friendly technology. There is an observation deck that will be open this summer, walking trails, a children's playground, and a dog park. There is also a creek being restored in conjunction with the creation of storm water collection ponds that use natural features to mimic wetlands function in filtering stormwater before re-use on site.



Summit Park

CLG holds Administrative Professional Luncheons twice a year and they are open to all employees of CLG Member Jurisdictions, catering mainly to administrative support staff. Please contact Lori Stuckey at [lstuckey@c4lg.org](mailto:lstuckey@c4lg.org) if you would like to be added to the email distribution list for these events.

## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CLASS 5 IS HALFWAY THROUGH PROGRAM

As we hit the halfway point of 2018, the fifth group of CLG Leadership Academy participants has hit the halfway point of the program for the year. So far, our 19 participants have completed their Local Government 101 course, their Xavier University class experience, effective communications, and human resources management. Only the finance / budgeting and land use / economic development classes stand between the participants and an anticipated September graduation.

This year's Leadership Academy represents a change from prior curriculums. Notably, the economic development and land use session is new this year, and reflects CLG's desire to make sure Leadership Academy graduates have a knowledge of more of the major disciplines of



government. Additionally, the communications class and budgeting / finance class have new instructors this year, as we continue to try to evolve the curriculum. Finally, with 75 prior Leadership Academy graduates, and 19 more on the way, we now have a large alumni base, which has enabled us to form a Leadership Academy Steering Committee made up of half alumni, and to start our new "Leadership Academy Alumni Luncheon" training series.

Leadership Academy participants practice their public speaking skills



Douglas Duckett instructs Leadership Academy participants in the art and science of performance evaluation

If you are interested in the curriculum of the Academy, or are interested in participating in 2019, please contact CLG and we will provide you with details.



## NEWS BITS

### CLG is on Social Media

The Center for Local Government has entered the world of social media with a Twitter presence. We can now be found at [@C4LG2018](#). We joined Twitter because we thought that was the best platform to provide information to our audience of local governments and local government staff members / officials. This will supplement our normal communications tools, and will be a good way to get insights from our trainings, meetings, and other initiatives as they happen. We will also use this platform to help inform you about interesting news from our member governments.

### New CAMA Leadership Elected

CAMA elected new leadership at its June meeting. Mark Wendling, Fairfield City Manager, will take over as President. Dina Minneci of Indian Hill will move into the Immediate Past President role, Vice President is yet to be filled, and Loretta Rokey of Pierce Township will retain her role as Treasurer. CAMA thanks Dina for her service to the organization, and her excellent programming during the 2017/2018 CAMA year. Please also note—with a new CAMA year beginning, annual CAMA membership dues invoices will be distributed by CLG in August. Please watch your e-mail.

### CLG Annual Survey in September

CLG's Annual Survey will be conducted in September this year. Usually the survey is distributed in late July, but with our efforts to redesign our data sharing system, we will be delaying the survey to provide staff and our Annual Survey Simplification Taskforce (when it forms) a chance to review it. Pay data and spot surveys will not be affected by this change, as that information is collected independently of the Annual Survey. If you are interested in serving on CLG's Annual Survey Simplification Taskforce, an e-mail will be distributed to the membership soon.

## NEW FACES IN NEW PLACES

2018 continues to be a significant year for personnel changes within the CLG membership. Since our First Quarter Newsletter, Bellbrook City Manager Mark Schlagheck has moved into a new role with Jefferson Health Plan. Bellbrook recently hired Melissa Dodd as the new City Manager. Melissa holds a Bachelors Degree and an MPA from Wright State University. Prior to taking over as the City Manager / Finance Director in Bellbrook, she worked as the Assistant City Administrator for the Village of Yellow Springs. Through her role as Bellbrook City Manager, she will serve on the boards of the CLG Benefits Pool, and on the Solid Waste and Recycling Consortium (SWORRE) advisory board when that bid expires.

The second quarter of 2018 has also been a busy time for Assistant Administrators. Loveland recently hired Tom Smith as their new Assistant City Manager. Colerain Township hired Jeff Weckbach to the role of Assistant Township Administrator, and West Chester hired Lisa Brown into the same role.

Please take time to contact these individuals and welcome them to CLG! They can be reached at [M.Dodd@Cityofbellbrook.org](mailto:M.Dodd@Cityofbellbrook.org), [TSmith@lovelandoh.gov](mailto:TSmith@lovelandoh.gov), [jweckbach@colerain.org](mailto:jweckbach@colerain.org), and [lbrown@westchesteroh.org](mailto:lbrown@westchesteroh.org).



**Bellbrook City Manager Melissa Dodd**



# The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

## CLG CALENDAR

**Leadership Academy Class - Budgeting and Financial Principles, July 18, 2018** at Washington Township Fire Station (8200 McEwen Rd. Washington Twp. OH 45458), 9:00am-4:00pm

**Forklift Training– Sponsored by MVRMA– August 7, 2018** at Indian Hill Public Works (7100 Glendale-Milford Rd., Indian Hill, OH) AM session: 8:30a-11:30a; PM session: 12:30p-3:30p

**Leadership Academy Class - Land Use and Economic Development, August 8, 2018** at Hamilton County Administration Building (138 E. Court Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202, Room 710), 9:00am- 4:00pm

**Chameleon Communication / What Every Supervisor Should Know, August 9, 2018** at Mason Municipal Center, 6000 Mason-Montgomery Rd. Mason, OH) AM Session: 9a-12p; PM session: 1p-4p

**Fall Luncheon/CLG Leadership Academy Graduation, September 12, 2018**, location TBD

**Fall Leadership Academy Alumni Training:** TBD

**Fall Human Resources Luncheon:** TBD

**Fall Administrative Professionals Luncheon:** TBD

## CLG HOLDS 2018 ANNUAL MEETING AT LIBERTY CENTER

The Center for Local Government Annual Meeting took place at Sabin Hall at Liberty Center on Thursday April 12th. We updated our membership on all of the new events at CLG, to elect a new board member, and honored new faces and ones who are moving on to different positions. We are heard from featured speaker, Asanga Abeyagoonasekera, a visiting scholar and diplomat from Sri Lanka.

Jack Cameron from Delhi Township was elected to the CLG Board during the meeting, taking the place of Mark Schlagheck from Bellbrook, who resigned to take a position with Jefferson Health Plan. CLG would like to thank Board Member Mike Rahall for heading up the nomination committee, and vetting our new Board member. In addition to Mr. Cameron being elected to the Board, we also had a change in Officers. Anderson Township Administrator Vicky Earhart was elected CLG Board President. Jim Lukas from Sharonville was elected as Vice President, and Kristin Bitonte from Liberty Township was elevated to Treasurer.

Finally, we provided an update on CLG's activities and passed out our Annual Report from 2017. ([Click here for a copy](#)). Thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting this year. We will see you again at our Fall Luncheon and again next spring!

