



Every quarter we feature a photo from one of our member governments. This quarter: Springfield Township (Police Department)

Highlights of this Issue:

- Newly Elected Officials Training Coming Up
- New Datacenter Launched
- Electricity Consortium Pricing Soon
- Investment Insights



Regular Features:

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The Center for Local Government 4th Quarter Newsletter

CLG Continues to Grow as we Enter 2020

As we wrap up 2019, all of us at the Center would like to thank you for your continued support. 2019 was a year of growth for us, and we look forward to carrying this momentum into 2020. Some of the highlights of our progress in the last year include:

- We now have 114 CLG Leadership Academy graduates. To date, 42 governments from across Southwest Ohio have sent a person through the Leadership Academy. In addition to providing training on leadership and management, this has helped strengthen cross-jurisdictional networks. Indeed, the biggest helper to intergovernmental collaboration is positive personal relationships and trust between governments.
- The City of Trenton joined the Center in August. We have two new members coming aboard in January of 2020 as well. This will bring our membership total to 57 communities, which is our highest membership total in our 29 years of existence.
- Our Public Works Mutual Aid Pact added 3 members in 2019. The Pact now has 36 communities across the Cincinnati and Dayton areas.
- 260 people attended a CLG training in 2019. This is a 36% increase from 2018. CLG partnered with Lindner Center of HOPE, the Hamilton / Clermont Cooperative Information Technology Center, the US Census Bureau, and Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) throughout the year to provide professional development opportunities.

As we move into 2020, we look forward to using our growth in 2019 as a springboard. We will be renewing one of our Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse Consortium contracts this year, as well as our facility electricity consortium. Planning is underway for our 7th Leadership Academy class. We will be conducting our 2nd semi-annual Newly Elected Officials Training later this month. As we commence outreach visits, we will be able to identify other new programming opportunities to continue to fulfill our mission.

Finally, 2020 will be CLG's 30th anniversary! We are going to combine our Annual Meeting and Fall Luncheon this year into a larger 30th Anniversary celebration. We have come a long way since we were a small organization of 14 governments in 1990, and we look forward to celebrating how far we have come, and how far we have yet to go.



The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

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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 57 local government in 6 counties.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Effective Governance Through Collaboration



STAFF (L to R)

T.J. White, Executive Director, twhite@C4LG.org
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Best Wishes for a wonderful 2020 from CLG!

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING PLANNED FOR JANUARY 11TH

The Center for Local Government and Hamilton County Planning Partnership are excited to team up again to offer our semi-annual Newly Elected Officials Training. This training covers some of the basics that either a newly elected official or an incumbent who wants a refresher will need for their new positions.

This session will cover four major topics: Ethics and open records (understanding the law); governance (e.g. the Council/Manager form versus Strong Mayor versus Township versus Statutory etc.); land use and economic development (planning and zoning, regional economic development agencies like REDI or HCDC); and finance (local government budgetary practices, debt, fund accounting, etc.). Each of these sessions will last an hour, with a brief opening and closing to the day.

Our trainers all come from a local government background. Our finance class is taught by two local government Finance Directors who also teach for the CLG Leadership Academy. Our governance session is taught by a Chief Administrative Officers from a city and a township. The ethics and open records sessions are taught by a city and township solicitor. Representatives from Hamilton County and our regional economic development agencies will teach the ED and land use classes.

This event will also provide an opportunity for newly elected officials to get to know their peers from other jurisdictions. Knowing your fellow elected officials helps communities work together on problems, and this session will help newly elected officials build those relationships early. This is especially important as more and more of our the threats and opportunities we face are regional in nature.

To RSVP, please contact T.J. White at TWhite@C4LG.org no later than January 9th. The cost of the event is \$20 per person (payable in advance, at the door, or by invoice). The Sharonville Convention Center is located at 11355 Chester Rd. Sharonville, OH 45246.



Attendees listen to a presentation during the 2018 CLG / Hamilton County Planning Partnership Newly Elected Officials Training



The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

CENTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACILITY ELECTRICITY CONSORTIUM TO BID SOON

The Center for Local Government Electricity Consortium is a group of 11 governments who bid their facility and streetlight accounts together to attempt to obtain better electricity rates. This program has been around since 2010, and its current contract (signed in 2017) runs until May of 2020. The participating governments have been working with CLG and their broker, Affordable Gas and Electric, to set the groundwork to obtain new electricity pricing early in 2020.

Through this program, governments have the option of obtaining a facility only or streetlights only electricity price, or a combined facility/streetlights price. This distinction is made because street lighting tends to be a consistent load and is easily predictable by suppliers, and therefore cheap. If a community has a high number of street lights, it may make sense to price them separately to try to leverage as much savings as possible. Participants receive a price estimate for both the “combined” facility/lighting rate, and the separate facility and lighting rates. The participant can then decide which option provides the most savings. Additionally, all of the electricity options above are available both as renewables or non-renewables. While there is a pricing difference between renewable and non-renewable, in the 2017 contract, it was evident that even renewable rates were a savings over the previous contract. (Note that for this program, renewables are credits for Texas wind).

At the current juncture, all participating governments have authorized their Chief Administrative Officers to sign a contract once the pricing is completed, which is expected in the coming weeks. We will update the membership on the result of the pricing, since there will be opportunities for other governments to join the consortium at future junctures.

CLG WRAPS UP 2019 TRAINING PROGRAMS WITH HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS LUNCHEONS

CLG wrapped up its training year with informative sessions on workplace violence and the HR implications of marijuana. On October 15th, Miami Township Police Officer Skip Rasfeld presented on the realities around gun violence in the workplace. This included statistics on the actual likelihood one will be involved in a mass shooting and what steps should be taken in the event an incident occurs. Officer Rasfeld has conducted this training for a number of groups across the area, and we appreciate him speaking to our Administrative Professionals group. Contact Lori Stuckey (LStuckey@C4LG.org) for more information about the training or to obtain a copy of the materials.



Meanwhile in November, Alex Ewing of Frost Brown Todd presented to our HR Luncheon group about the implications of marijuana legalization on the workplace. In addition to marijuana, this presentation looked at products such as CBD oil. There are major differences currently between state and federal regulations pertaining to marijuana, and it creates a confusing and fluid landscape. Please contact TWhite@C4LG.org if you would like a copy of Mr. Ewing's presentation on the topic.

**Miami Township Police
Officer Skip Rasfeld**



Alex Ewing of Frost Brown Todd

45 governments sent a staff member or elected official to a CLG training in 2019



CLG UPDATED DATACENTER LAUNCHED

CLG's overhauled Datacenter was launched in November. The Datacenter, powered by Knack software, is where our most up to date pay data lives. It is also home to databases around employee populations, benefits, pay practices, budgets, and a host of other topics. The Datacenter is the first link you will find once you log into CLG's member log-in. Please note that both the member log-in and the Datacenter log-in (which is different), are provided to the Chief Administrative Officer of each government. Below, we will take a look at the improvements that we have made in the new Datacenter:

More specialized tabs in the Datacenter dashboard: The old system, with fewer tabs, was less intuitive for a user. Each tab in the dashboard exports into a single spreadsheet, so fewer tabs also meant larger spreadsheets with more irrelevant information.

- The old datacenter had *service profile, PTO, part time employee, pay practices, comp/overtime, longevity pay, health insurance plan designs health insurance general information, pay data and CAO pay data* tabs.
- The new datacenter has *profile, tax rates, budgets, employee census, part time employees, PTO, overtime/comp time, pay increase policies, holidays, health insurance general information, health insurance plan designs, dental, vision, life, pay data and CAO pay data*.

Primary source materials when appropriate: Whereas the old Datacenter had survey questions pertaining to budget and leave policies, the new datacenter simply asks for leave policy and budget *documents*. Providing primary source material eliminates transcription errors or misinterpretation of survey questions. JEDZ and JEDD agreements are also available (if applicable).

Data scrubbing: A best practice adopted by mature data operations involve auditing and "scrubbing" data submitted by the governments to ensure accuracy. The CLG Program Development Director called and followed up with communities who submitted data that did not seem to sync properly. (e.g. stating that an insurance deductible was \$20,000 instead of \$200.00 because a period was not included).

Data elimination: Any government who has not submitted pay data in the last two years will be eliminated from the pay data tab of the datacenter. We also added a column to our pay data tab called "Date Submitted to CLG" so that you can get an idea of the newness of the pay data in our system. We also provide contact information for who submitted pay data from each government in case you have follow-up questions.

Thank you for taking the time to look at the new CLG Datacenter. *As always, remember that as a new system, there are still bugs to work out that we may not have discovered.* If you come upon an issue, please let us know.

HEISEL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL CAMA / DAMA MEETING

The Cincinnati Area Manager's Association (CAMA) and the Dayton Area Manager's Association (DAMA) held their annual joint luncheon on December 6th at the Heatherwoode Country Club in Springboro. This meeting provides an opportunity for City and Village Managers, Safety Service Directors, Township Administrators, and anyone else in the profession of local government an opportunity to come along amongst their peers.

The Luncheon also provides an opportunity to recognize the winner of the W.D. Heisel Memorial Scholarship. The Heisel Scholarship goes to an individual in a local graduate level program who wishes to pursue a career in local government management. The scholarship is named for Don Heisel, who has been referred to as the "father of public administration" in Southwest Ohio. This year's recipient is Syeda Prem Ara Behar of Wright State University. We congratulate her and all of the previous Heisel Scholarship winners. Information about how to apply for the 2020 scholarship will be available in April.



Syeda Prem Ara Behar, MPA student at Wright State University, with (L-R) CAMA President Mark Wendling, CLG Executive Director T.J. White, and CLG Board President Jim Lukas.



INVESTMENT INSIGHTS: INVESTING TIPS FOR 2020 BY REDTREE INVESTMENTS

The Center for Local Government Treasury Asset Management Program (TAMC) provides an opportunity for member communities to receive investment consultation from Redtree Investments and SJS Consulting. This consultation primarily revolves around local treasuries, but can encompass other topics as well. Twice a year, Redtree and SJS provide an Investment Insights article to the CLG Newsletter:

As we make the turn into a new decade, here are a few tips you can keep in your pocket throughout the coming year. Interest rates have changed quite drastically throughout the course of 2019. Interest rates near cycle highs at the beginning of the year did not last and now we are faced with a declining interest rate environment.

Tip #1: Set Expectations

This leads to our first tip: temper expectations of interest earnings on investments. We are not in the same rate environment as last year. You cannot use the 2019 play book for this year's game because the game has changed. Set expectations lower.

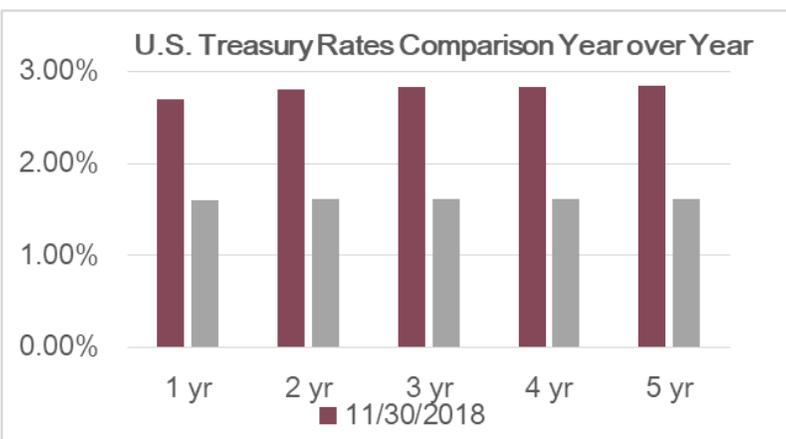
Tip #2: Investment Accounting

To dive a little deeper on this thought, we move to our second tip: buyer beware of premium bonds. A premium bond is one where you pay more in principal today than you will receive at maturity. Many bonds created during the higher interest rate environment we recently experienced will often carry higher coupon rates. Due to interest rates dropping and the price/yield relationship of fixed income, these premium bonds will now be pricing at a higher cost. In 2020, you may face this. It is important to be aware of the accounting and how to best handle it.

Tip #3: Interest Payments

Our final tip relates to the various investment account types that are available and their expected interest payout schedules. There are two we will compare, a money market fund account and a separately managed investment account. An important aspect to understand is how frequently the interest pays on each of these. We will start with the most common type of investment vehicle, a money market fund account. Interest is earned over the course of the month and is generally paid in the first few days of the following month. There is a constant stream of income that occurs every month over the course of the year.

In contrast, when owning individual securities, such as government agencies, this may not be the case. Often these accounts have irregular income streams, meaning one month may pay much higher or lower interest than another. It is important to make a distinction among these investment account types so you can set interest income expectations throughout the year.



About RedTree Investment Group:

RedTree offers customized fixed income investment solutions for municipalities. We are experienced, approachable and will work with you directly to earn your trust and provide accountability. To learn more, please contact Jennifer Trowbridge, CFA® at 888-596-2293 or jennifer@redtreeinv.com.

Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury

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NEWS BITS

CLG Membership Directory

Between the new CLG Annual Survey, the Public Works Mutual Aid Pact Update, and a higher than normal number of spot surveys, we have been asking our governments to provide a much higher amount of information than usual. Hence, we are updating the CLG Membership Directory internally this year. The newest iteration of the Membership Directory should go live during the second week of January. Since we are updating this ourselves, there are bound to be staff changes we may have missed. Once we release the Directory, if you catch an inaccuracy on your community's page, please contact us.

2020 Membership Dues

2020 CLG Membership Dues invoices will be distributed on January 21st. These are distributed by e-mail to the Chief Administrative Officer of each CLG member community. Our annual dues e-mail will also provide your CLG website username and password in case you have lost them or have had to change them in the past year. Dues rates for 2020 will remain the same as they were in 2019 for all governments who are at the \$1,225, \$2,000 and \$3,825 levels. In fact, we are happy to state that we have not had to raise our dues levels since 2007. Thank you for your continued membership in CLG.

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.

CLG CALENDAR

Newly Elected Officials Training, presented by CLG and Hamilton County Planning Partnership, January 11, 2020 at Sharonville Convention Center (11355 Chester Rd. Sharonville, OH 45246), cost is \$20/person. This training covers some of the basics that either a newly elected official or an incumbent who wants a refresher will need for their new positions, including: Public record and ethics, Governance, Finance and Budgeting, and Planning and Zoning. Please RSVP to T.J. White at CLG (twhite@c4lg.org) by January 9, 2020.

CAMA / NKCCMA Joint Meeting, Late January / Early February 2020. Location TBD. This meeting provides an opportunity for Ohio and Northern Kentucky managers to interact.

CLG 2020 Leadership Academy Registration Period: Opens on January 27th. Stay tuned for more information.

Stay abreast of all future CLG, MVCC and MVRMA events by checking out the events page of our website. [CLICK HERE.](#)