



Each quarter we feature a photo of one of our members. This quarter: The Centerville-Washington Park District

Highlights of this Issue:

- Annual Survey Results Uploaded
- West Chester Remembers Aaron Wiegand
- Administrative Professionals Luncheon Takes Place
- Elected Officials Training Coming Soon



Regular Features:

Page 2: About Us
Page 2: New Faces/
New Places
Page 6: News Bits
Page 6: Calendar

The Center for Local Government Winter 2024 Newsletter

Governments Signing On for Discounts from Xavier University

In November, the Center for Local Government announced an agreement with Xavier University: Employees of participating Center member communities can receive a 25% tuition discount on the [Accelerated Degree Completion Program](#), 15% discount on all Masters Degree programs, including the [Xavier Executive MBA](#), and a 15% discount on all [Xavier Leadership Center programs](#).

In order for a CLG member government to participate in this program, they sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Xavier. The reason for the MOU is that it is up to the governments to verify that people applying for tuition discounts are employees. It also establishes a business relationship between Xavier and the participating government for items like marketing.

So far, Fairfax, Glendale, Greenhills, Miami Township (Clermont), Milford, Monroe, Mt. Healthy, Norwood, Sharonville, Springboro, Sycamore Township, and West Chester Township have signed MOUs. More governments are on the way. If you are an employee of one of these communities, there will be a **webinar about Xavier learning opportunities on January 17th at noon**. The sign-up link is here: <https://www.xavier.edu/corporate-partnerships/center-for-local-government>. Click on the "Explore the programs below and join us for one of two information sessions by submitting the Information Session Registration form" link below the list of participating governments to-date.

If your government is NOT a participant, there is no deadline to join this program. There is no financial commitment or credit hour commitment. If you would like more information or a copy of the MOU, please contact T.J. White at TWhite@C4LG.org.



Xavier University held an Info Session on the Employee Discount Program on January 8th.



The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

4015 Executive Park Dr. Suite 226
Sharonville, OH 45241
513-741-7999

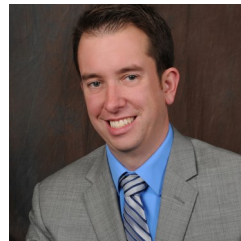
ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION:

The Center for Local Government (CLG) located in Cincinnati, OHIO is a unique non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, created in 1990 as a clearinghouse for inter-governmental collaboration, training and information sharing.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Amanda Zimmerlin, City of Clayton (President)
Vicky Earhart, Anderson Township (Vice President)
Jim Lukas, City of Sharonville (Secretary / Treasurer)
Michael Rahall, Village of Cleves
Jack Cameron, Village of Silverton

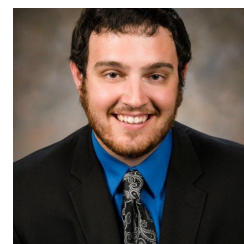
Effective Governance Through Collaboration



T.J. White,
Executive Director,
twhite@C4LG.org



Lori Stuckey,
Director of Operations,
lstuckey@C4LG.org



Cody Smith,
Assistant Director,
csmith@C4LG.org

Interesting Fact: The Center for Local Government now has 65 members from across the region.

Plenty of New Faces in New Places as 2024 Kicks into Gear

As 2024 kicks off, we welcome two new governments into our membership, with two more on the way. Our two new members are the **Centerville-Washington Park District**, and the **City of Cheviot**. Please reach out and welcome Park District Executive Director **Kristen Marks** (KMarks@CWPD.org), and Cheviot Safety-Services Director **Tom Braun** (TBraun@cheviot.org) into the fold. This brings CLG's membership count up to 65 governments– with the potential to expand to 67 governments in the coming weeks with two more applications in-work.

We are also welcoming a slew of new and familiar faces who have moved into new roles. **Jeff Wright** (jwright@hamilton-township.org) has moved from Miami Township (Clermont County) into a new role as Township Administrator for Hamilton Township. **Steve Kelly** (steve.kelly@miamitownshipoh.gov) takes over as Interim Administrator in Miami Township. **Corey Wright** (cwright@union-township.oh.us) is moving from Loveland to Union Township (Clermont County) to take over as their Township Administrator. Monroe is welcoming **Larry Lester** (LesterL@monroeohio.org) as their new City Manager. Mr. Lester previously served as Operations Director for the City of Hilliard. **Mike Lemon** (mlemon@vlho.org) is serving as Interim City Manager for the Village of Lincoln Heights.

Additional City Manager changes are taking place in the Dayton area. **Sonja Keaton** (SKeaton@brookvilleohio.com) is retiring as Brookville City Manager. CLG Leadership Academy graduate **Jack Kuntz** (JKuntz@brookvilleohio.com) from Clayton is taking over that role. **Amber Holloway** (aholloway@westcarrollton.org) is leaving the City of Vandalia to become the new City Manager of West Carrollton. Finally, CLG Partner Organization the Miami Valley Risk Management Association (MVRMA) welcomes **Mark Wendling** (mwendling@mvrma.com) as their new Executive Director. Mr. Wendling was most recently in Troy, and has also been with CLG members Silverton and Fairfield.

Please reach out and congratulate all of these individuals on their new positions!



Administrative Professionals Luncheon Talks Cyber Security

CLG hosted the Fall Administrative Professionals Luncheon at an old favorite, Montgomery Inn on December 14, 2023. Besides seeing colleagues and a great lunch, there was a wonderful presentation on a timely topic. Everyone benefited from hearing the terrific speaker, Katrina Biscay, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at the University of Cincinnati. A few of the main take-aways from the presentation were the importance of being vigilant in keeping abreast of all the new ways scammers can steal information. Some very intricate processes are used to deceive people through email scams among other things. Also, the importance of long passwords was emphasized as a great deterrent to scammers. All employees of member jurisdictions are welcome at these bi-annual luncheons.

Suggestions for topics or speakers are also welcomed. Please email Lori Stuckey at lstuckey@c4lg.org if you'd like to be added to the email invitation list or have a suggestion for a speaker or topic.



Information Technology versus Information Security slide from Katrina Biscay's Presentation

Interesting Fact: The Center for Local Government has held an annual elected officials training since 2018.

Newly Elected Officials Training Coming Soon

The Newly Elected Officials Training Series is back for 2024. The Center for Local Government is planning this year's installment of the training series designed to give elected officials from across our membership a refresher on topics vital to the role that these public servants play in local government. For the first time since 2020, this event will be held in-person. While we appreciate the convenience that the lunch-and-learn format affords our audience, we are excited to get back to an in-person single-day event and be able to take advantage of the benefits of holding a live event.

This year will see a revamped training curriculum. The morning portion will consist of a general session detailing local government 101 topics such as ethics, sunshine laws, roles of staff and council and other topics designed to allow the newly elected official to hit the ground running in their position. In the second portion of the event, attendees will break out into sessions led by practitioners from each form of local government. These sessions will drill down in more detail on the topics discussed earlier in the day, allowing each elected official to learn more about the specific form of government that they will be serving in.

We also highly encourage discussion and participation amongst the attendees and the presenters in order to cultivate a deep understanding of the material at hand, as well as a network of peers from around the region in various size cities, townships and villages.

This training will be open to any Center for Local Government member, any government from Hamilton County, plus member governments of the Miami Valley Risk Management Association or Miami Valley Communications Council. Please keep an eye out, as an official invitation and RSVP information will be out soon! You will find more details about this and our other training offerings on the CLG website events page.



The 2018 Newly Elected Officials Training



West Chester Township Remembers Aaron Wiegand

West Chester Township mourns the loss of beloved team member Aaron Wiegand, also known to the community by #ChiefStrong. Aaron passed away Dec. 26, 2023 after a long cancer journey that he publicly shared with the community and with his team West Chester family.

Aaron, 44, served as Community Development Director in West Chester overseeing planning and zoning and economic development, but even more than this, he was a cheerleader for West Chester and reminded us every day that public service should be unselfish, rewarding and fun.

"It is with a heavy heart and profound sadness that I share the news of Aaron's passing, but it is with profound gratitude that I will remember the profound impact he had on all our lives," said Township Administrator Larry D. Burks. "Throughout Aaron's time with us, he brought not only expertise and vision but also warmth and kindness to every interaction."



Aaron Wiegand

Aaron joined the West Chester Township team in 2017 first as economic development manager and was later promoted to lead the Community Development department. Previously he worked alongside his dad in the family's Mansfield construction business, for the city of Shelby and as Administrator for the Village of Lexington. He also had a long list of creative and crazy internships and jobs with stories that could keep you "in stitches" for hours.

Aaron always put family first - his beloved wife Jessica and sons Vance and Grant. But if you knew Aaron, you were a part of his family. He cultivated a loving and supportive work environment that reached beyond each West Chester Township employee and extended to each of our families. He celebrated and grieved alongside each one of us regardless of his own struggles.

Aaron was very open with his work family, and his community, about his cancer journey, sharing openly in staff meetings, offices and on social media. He didn't shy away from the hard stuff and did not hide how he felt after six years of surgeries, chemotherapy and every type of treatment imaginable. He faced it all heroically and with an unmatched sense of humor, while never missing a beat as a leader, friend, husband and father. He had an amazing zest for life and quickly made West Chester Township his home, embracing our community and his neighbors with wit, heart and his own brand of bigger-than-life love.

Aaron's West Chester family is poised to do "Aaron's work" and continue his legacy building a community that will make him proud. As a team, West Chester will continue to be inspired by Aaron's resilience, dedication and unwavering commitment to service.

Please read Aaron's complete obituary at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dayton/name/aaron-wiegand-obituary?id=53958941>. Keep his family in your thoughts.

CLG Recruiting Student Outreach Ambassadors

As we move into 2024, helping local governments find the next generation of employees and leaders continues to be a focus of the Center for Local Government. In order to help further this goal, **we are interested in working with YOU**. We need to build a cadre of ambassadors who are willing to talk about local government careers with students at all levels. This could include talking to a class or club, mentoring a student who is looking at a similar career path, or helping all CLG members recruit through job fairs. We will provide you with materials and talking points. We will also identify opportunities for you to volunteer as they arise.

If this is something you might be interested in learning more about, contact T.J. White at TWhite@C4LG.org.



CLG Pay and Benefits Data Center Updated

The newly refreshed CLG Pay and Benefits Data Center is now live. The data center contains all of the information that is collected during CLG's Annual Survey process, which goes out every fall for completion by our member jurisdictions, along with the pay data that is collected from our members on a quarterly basis.

The new data center contains information that was collected in 2022 and 2023, housing information from nearly 65% of our membership! We would like to thank everyone that takes time to fill out the Annual Survey and the pay data requests. Your contributions continue to make the Pay and Benefits data center one of the most utilized CLG programs!

To view the Pay and Benefits Data Center, please log into the CLG website and you will see the Knack link in the Member log-in section of our website. **There is no longer a separate password for the CLG Data Center.** Once you login to the CLG website, you will have access to the Data Center!

There is now also an additional way to get pay data on the CLG website. Directly beneath the link for the CLG Data Center, there is a link for a new Google Sheet. This sheet is keyword searchable and allows for all comparable positions pay data to be obtained in a single step. We encourage all of our members to explore all of options available to obtain pay and benefits data, and to reach out to us with any questions that they may have.

Please contact CLG Assistant Director Cody Smith at (513) 741-7999 or CSmith@C4LG.org with any questions related to the CLG Pay and Benefits Database or the Annual Survey.

CENTER MEMBERS QUICKLINKS

CLG now offers an alternative to utilizing Knack to retrieve pay data. We have implemented a Google Sheet that allows our members to search by their title for a position and immediately receive all comparable positions, regardless of actual title. Please click the Google Sheet link below to see how it works. If you have any questions, please call Lori or Cody at (513) 741-7999.

Current Pay Data and Annual Survey Data (Knack)
Current Pay Data (Google Sheet)
Spot Survey Archive
Membership Directory
Public Works Mutual Aid
State Employee Relations Board
Traffic Calming Lending Bank
CLG Board Meeting Minutes
Archived Pay Data and Annual Survey Data

JOB POSTINGS
NEWSLETTERS
CODE BANK
W.D. HEISEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
CENTER MEMBERS
OTHER RESOURCES

Grant Assistance Program Finishes Trial Run

In 2023, Hamilton County Planning and Development, the Northern Kentucky University MPA Program, the University of Cincinnati MPA Program and the Center for Local Government worked on a project to help low income communities in Hamilton County apply for local grant opportunities. Under this partnership, governments with limited staff capacity can be paired with MPA students to assist with writing or research for Hamilton County grant programs (e.g. Community Revitalization Grants, etc.).

During the fall semester in 2023, Elmwood Place, Mariemont, Cleves, and Colerain Township governments participated in the trial run of this program. There were a wide variety of projects. For example, in Mariemont, students put together and submitted a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant application.

With the trial run completed, we will soon convene with representatives from NKU, UC, and Hamilton County Planning and Development to identify what worked and what did not work about this initial effort. Based on that input, there will be tweaks to the program before potentially being offered again for fall, 2024.

Thank you to all of the students who worked on projects for the four trial governments, and thank you to the governments themselves for participating. For more information about the grant assistant program, contact T.J. White at TWhite@C4LG.org.

Interesting Fact: CLG tracks over 100 positions in the pay database, available in the CLG Pay and Benefits Data Center



News Bits

CLG Leadership Academy Registration Opens Soon

If you or any person from your community is interested in participating in the 2024 CLG Leadership Academy, the registration period will open toward the end of this month. Registration links will be sent to our Chief Administrative Officer list, our Training list, and our Leadership Academy Alumni list. If you would like it sent directly to you, contact TWhite@C4LG.org.

CLG Membership Dues

All CLG members: Please keep an eye out for your 2024 dues invoice. They will be distributed on Tuesday January 16th. Dues amounts will remain unchanged from 2023: \$7,500 for counties, \$3,825 for governments with operating budgets above \$4 million, \$2000 for governments with operating budgets between \$2 million and \$4 million, and \$1,225 for governments with operating budgets below \$2 million.

Find Us on LinkedIn

The Center for Local Government is now on LinkedIn! CLG's LinkedIn page is another way for us to connect with our members and to hear about training offerings, programmatic updates and other newsworthy notes about the operation of the Center for Local Government.

If you have not yet followed CLG on LinkedIn, please do so. We look forward to connecting with you all there!

CLG Calendar

Ask the Organizers 2024, January 10, 2024, 12:30-1:30 online, presented by Organizations Solutions LLC. Cost is free, [please click here to register](#).

Xavier University Educational Opportunities Employee Webinar, January 17, 2024, 12:00 online. Click <https://www.xavier.edu/corporate-partnerships/center-for-local-government> to register. Click on the "Explore the programs below and join us for one of two information sessions by submitting the Information Session Registration form" link below the list of participating governments to-date.

CAMA / NKCCMA Joint Meeting, January 19, 2024, 11:45am - 1pm, Covington Metropolitan Club. Cost: \$20. Register by e-mailing T.J. White at TWhite@C4LG.org no later than 2pm on January 12th.

CLG / Hamilton County Planning Partnership Newly Elected Officials Training: TBD

Ohio City / County Management Association (OCMA) Annual Conference, February 28 - March 1, 2024, Hilton at Easton (3900 Chagrin Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219). [Click here for more information](#). [Click here to register](#).

Governing Essentials for Local Elected Officials, six sessions between March 1 and April 26, 2024. [Click here for more information](#).