



Each quarter we feature a photo of one of our members. This quarter we feature the Village of Yellow Springs.

**Highlights of this Issue:**

- 2026 Leadership Academy
- Staff Retirement

**Training Updates :**

- Training Recaps
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- AP Luncheon

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- Annual Survey
- PWMA



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# Center for Local Government Spring 2026 Newsletter

## Longtime CLG Director of Operations, Lori Stuckey, Retires

On March 26th, 2026, CLG’s longtime Director of Operations, Lori Stuckey, retired after twenty years of service to the Center for Local Government and its members, beginning in 2006. In her role, Lori held many different titles, including Administrative Assistant and Program/Data Coordinator. At CLG, Lori handled a variety of tasks, such as the Annual Pay Data requests, Administrative Professionals Luncheons, Newsletters, and day to day operations, among other duties.

Graduating from The Ohio State University with a BS in Business Administration, Lori has a background in insurance. From working as an Underwriter with Motorists Insurance and a Systems/Product Development Analyst at Great American Insurance Company, Lori worked in analytics frequently, and led a variety of CLG initiatives and projects. During her tenure, Lori tracked CLG’s website analytics, found newer digital ways to track pay data, helped onboard CLG’s online database, and assisted through two website redesigns. She also helped improve CLG’s programming, assisting in the start of the Leadership Academy in 2013, revamping the Administrative Professionals (AP) Luncheons and their topics, and helped onboard new members with more materials. Finally, Lori led the redesign of the CLG newsletter, and helped make it what it is today. We wish Lori the best in her retirement!

Position Opening: [Communications and Member Relations Coordinator Job Opening](#)



## 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

Mike Thonnerieux, Washington Township (President)

Jim Lukas, Sharonville (Vice President)

Vicky Earhart, Anderson Township (Secretary / Treasurer)

Noah Powers, Norwood

John Lewis, Liberty Township

## Effective Governance Through Collaboration



Drew Tilow, Executive Director,  
[dtilow@C4LG.org](mailto:dtilow@C4LG.org)



Ziah Huett ,  
Assistant Director,  
[zhuett@C4LG.org](mailto:zhuett@C4LG.org)

## New Faces in New Places

As we are a quarter of the way through 2026, we want to acknowledge some new faces and leadership changes in and around CLG's membership network. Our newest member, the Village of Yellow Springs, brings **Johnnie Burns** (Village Manager) and **Elyse Giardullo** (Assistant Village Manager) to the network. Simultaneously serving as the village's Public Works Director, Johnnie began in Yellow Springs in 2014 as the Electric Superintendent, and has been serving as Village Manager since February 2024.

We would also like to congratulate **Joshua Rauch**, City Manager of Riverside, on his appointment as the next city manager for the City of Hilliard. Having served in Riverside since 2021, Joshua has about 15 years of experience in municipal government and will start later this month. Also, congratulations to **Tom Smith**, former Director of Development with the City of Monroe, on his appointment as the new Community and Economic Development Director for the City of Middletown. Tom had been with the city of Monroe for nearly 4 years, which was preceded by positions in Loveland, South Weber City, and Orem.

Finally, we would like to congratulate **Wayne Davis**, City Manager of Centerville, on his upcoming retirement in September. Although the city of Centerville isn't a CLG member, we have worked closely with them on a variety of projects, and they have served as the host of our Leadership Academy for multiple years.

If we missed anyone, please let us know, and we will be sure to feature them in our next newsletter.



## 13th Annual Leadership Academy Class Underway

The CLG Leadership Academy began on March 25, 2026, with Local Government 101. This session gave attendees an introduction to the Leadership Academy and an overview of local government, such as their history, structure, and laws. Students participated in group discussions where they assumed the role of administrators and other government officials dealing with ethics, open government, and complex scenarios.

We would like to thank Michael Hinnenkamp, the Executive Director of the Ohio Plan, for presenting, and to Benjamin Gunderson (City Manager, Milford) and Justin Habig (Village Administrator, Cleves) for discussing their Leadership Academy and career experiences.

Below is the roster for this year's Leadership Academy class:



<b>Lindsay Deaton</b>	<b>Ohio Plan</b>	<b>Sarah Sibcy</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>
<b>Michael Ott</b>	<b>Lockland</b>	<b>Emily Dengler</b>	<b>Wyoming</b>
<b>Daniel Gilligan</b>	<b>Cleves</b>	<b>Preston Herring</b>	<b>Blue Ash</b>
<b>Heather Murdock</b>	<b>Hamilton Township</b>	<b>Nicholas Flick</b>	<b>Springfield Township</b>
<b>Jason Knollman</b>	<b>Liberty Township</b>	<b>Allison Bahr</b>	<b>Miami Township (Clermont Co.)</b>
<b>Monica Dexter</b>	<b>Monroe</b>	<b>Amy Tinsley</b>	<b>Mason</b>
<b>Will Ring</b>	<b>Miamisburg</b>	<b>Taryn Radford</b>	<b>Springdale</b>
<b>Tanner Bussey</b>	<b>Yellow Springs</b>	<b>Ryland Reed</b>	<b>Golf Manor</b>
<b>Olivia Abrams</b>	<b>Sharonville</b>	<b>Joshua King</b>	<b>Washington Township</b>
<b>RJ Strange</b>	<b>Norwood</b>	<b>Nicholas Smith</b>	<b>Beavercreek</b>
<b>Tara Songer</b>	<b>Milford</b>	<b>David Peters</b>	<b>Colerain Township</b>
<b>Diana Wood</b>	<b>Fairfax</b>	<b>Eli Davies</b>	<b>Anderson Township</b>
<b>Joel Brinson</b>	<b>Indian Hill</b>		

**Interesting Fact: Nearly 60 different communities from 8 counties have sent at least one or multiple employees to the Leadership Academy since its inception.**



## Information & Resource Sharing/Program Updates

Since the start of the new year, CLG has updated a few of its Information/Resource Sharing databases. In January 2026, the Public Works Mutual Aid manual was updated and posted, with 28 out of 38 (74%) participants sending updates. If you are interested in viewing this manual, it can be found via CLG's member login. Similarly, we published the Annual Survey data from the 2025 survey, which helped us gain updated valuable information on member communities' employees and benefits. On that same note, we have updated pay data information in the CLG Datacenter, and will be uploading more information from our Spring CAO Pay Data request once the response period closes. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out!

The Center for Local Government is also proud to offer favorable electricity rates for municipal facilities to our members through our Energy Consortium. Our partner, Priority Power, assisted us last month with a five-year renewal of the contract at a fully fixed rate of \$0.0829/kwh. Members are eligible to join this program at any time, but rates will depend on market conditions at the time of joining. Please contact Drew Tilow ([dtilow@c4lg.org](mailto:dtilow@c4lg.org)) for more information.

## CLG Training Recaps and Reminders

The Center for Local Government began 2026 with a variety of training and learning opportunities for its members and their staff. On January 6th, we provided payroll administrators the chance to speak with two subject matter experts from Clark Schaefer Hackett on the most recent legislation regarding taxes on overtime. That same month, we hosted the first Water Forum, where attendees who operated water systems met to discuss pertinent topics in the field, such as lead and PFAS.

In February, CLG partnered with the Ohio Department of Transportation's Gary Browning to deliver an overview of snow and ice removal responsibilities, preparation activities, winter maintenance operations, and other weather basics. Following this, CLG hosted the Spring 2026 Payroll Forum in March, gathering 18 attendees from 12 different jurisdictions. At this meeting, Payroll Administrators discussed more about the "No Tax on Overtime" and compensation time. During that same week, CLG brought back its Local Elected Officials Training, as we helped elected officials in our membership network learn more about local government laws and structure, finance and economic development, and maintaining relationships with their Chief Administrative Officers.

Please keep an eye for reminders regarding CLG's upcoming HR and AP Luncheons!





## Investment Insights: Knowledge From Our Portfolio Management Partners

The Center for Local Government [Treasury Asset Management Collaborative \(TAMC\)](#) offers an opportunity for member government to take advantage of professional portfolio managers with ample experience in public sector finance. Since 2011, CLG has partnered with SJS Investment Services and RedTree Investments, to provide participating governments with financial management expertise.

Governments participating in the TAMC have a choice between both firms to determine which investment approach is most appropriate for their entity's investment needs. Each entity has the option to set up separate investment accounts with one of the firms. And no entity is required to ONLY invest with one of these two firms. To provide an introduction:

Since 2011, **SJS Investment Services** has been a trusted advisor in the CLG's Treasury Asset Management Collaborative, helping members manage investments with clarity and confidence. Our team supports public entities with cash flow analysis, navigating interest rate and bond market shifts, and aligning portfolios with each entity's goals, liquidity needs, and fiduciary responsibilities.

**RedTree Investment Group** is an independent investment advisory firm specializing in fixed-income portfolio management for public entities. We partner with local governments to develop customized investment strategies that prioritize safety, liquidity, and return. Our experienced team provides transparent guidance and dedicated service to help clients navigate the complexities of public funds investing.

*Each quarter, a representative from SJS or RedTree will use this column to provide money management insights to the CLG membership. This month, the column will be written by*



### Investing Through Uncertainty: Managing Cash Flows in a Changing Legislative Environment

Public entities across Ohio are entering a period where financial planning requires greater flexibility and awareness than in recent years. Changes to property tax policies and broader economic shifts have introduced new uncertainty around some revenue streams. While the exact outcome of legislative proposals remains uncertain, one thing is clear: local governments may need to prepare for greater variability in revenues and balances over the coming years. These concerns can have outsized impacts on capital planning and investment strategies.

#### Adapting to Changing Landscape of Cash Flows

In this environment, understanding and monitoring cash flow projections becomes even more critical. Maintaining updated cash flow forecasts allows for proactive rather than reactive planning, ensuring funds remain available for operations while still allowing surplus balances to be invested effectively.

One practical implication of uncertain revenues is the need to reassess portfolio liquidity. With more uncertainty and variability ahead, maintaining a slightly larger allocation to highly liquid investments may be prudent. Options such as STAR Ohio, short-term US Treasury securities, or other short-duration instruments can help ensure that operating needs are met without the need to prematurely liquidate longer-term holdings.

#### Diversification Still Matters

However, increasing liquidity does not mean abandoning the principles of diversification and disciplined portfolio construction. In fact, maintaining a diversified investment structure becomes even more important during uncertain periods. A well-designed portfolio often includes multiple layers: a liquidity bucket for near-term needs, a core ladder of securities providing consistent maturities, and selective extensions that capture higher yields when appropriate.



## Investment Insights: Knowledge From Our Portfolio Management Partners

### **Diversification Still Matters (continued)**

This tiered structure allows for a balance safety, liquidity, and return—the three pillars of public fund investing—while also providing flexibility when financial conditions change. Diversification across investment types and maturities reduces reliance on any single revenue source or market environment and helps smooth income over time. Even adjusting investment allocations toward slightly shorter maturities, maintaining a disciplined, laddered structure can still provide stability and predictable reinvestment opportunities.

### **Planning for Lower Interest Income**

Another factor local governments should anticipate is the potential for lower investment income in the years ahead. Over the past several years, rising interest rates created an environment where entities could earn meaningful income on cash balances. Many were able to lock in higher yields through treasury securities, agencies, or other permitted investments, generating a helpful supplemental revenue stream.

Today, that environment is shifting. Interest rates have begun to trend downward from their recent peaks, and many entities may also experience lower cash balances if operating budgets tighten. The combination of declining yields and smaller balances means that investment income—while still important—may not contribute to finances at the same level seen in recent years.

For that reason, it becomes even more important for finance directors to focus on efficiency and strategic planning within their investment programs. Every basis point matters more when revenue streams are tightening. Maintaining a thoughtful allocation strategy, regularly reviewing portfolio structure, and ensuring investments are aligned with anticipated cash flows can help make the most of available resources.

### **Knowledge and Experience Make the Difference**

Equally important is the role of experienced investment professionals who understand the unique regulatory and operational environment of Ohio public entities. Public fund investing is not simply about selecting securities, it requires knowledge of Ohio Revised Code investment guidelines, compliance requirements, reporting standards, and the practical realities of public entity funding mechanisms.

Working with professionals who specialize in public funds can assist in navigating changing conditions with greater confidence. Advisors who regularly work with finance directors stay informed on legislative developments, market trends, and regulatory requirements that directly affect local government investments. They can help adjust portfolio strategies, maintain compliance with investment policies, and provide reporting tools that support transparency and oversight.

Streamlining relationships with knowledgeable professionals also improves efficiency. Rather than relying on multiple providers with differing approaches, many can benefit from working with investment partners who can provide consistent guidance, comprehensive reporting

### **Preparing for What Comes Next**

Ultimately, the coming years may require local governments to adapt their investment strategies to a new financial landscape. Property tax reforms and shifting interest rate environments will likely create both challenges and opportunities. By maintaining strong cash flow forecasting, adjusting liquidity where appropriate, and preserving the discipline of diversified investing, entities can continue to safeguard public funds while generating appropriate returns.

As always, the goal remains the same: protecting taxpayer resources while ensuring entities have the financial stability necessary to their communities. Careful planning, disciplined investing, and knowledgeable guidance will help ensure entities remain well positioned regardless of how the legislative and economic environment evolves.



## Guest Article: Taste of Silverton Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The Village of Silverton is proud to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of its signature community event, the Taste of Silverton, taking place on Saturday, June 20, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. This milestone event brings together residents, local businesses, and visitors for an evening of food, music, and community connection.

The Taste of Silverton has grown over the past decade into a cornerstone event that reflects the community's energy and pride. What began as a way to showcase local restaurants and vendors has evolved into a vibrant regional attraction. The Village closes Plainfield Road for the event, and we have a party in the street!

This year's celebration promises to continue that tradition while honoring how far the event has come. Attendees will enjoy a wide variety of local food vendors, opportunities to connect with neighbors, and, for visitors, a chance to experience Silverton in a welcoming, festive environment.

Live music will once again be a central feature of the event. The evening will open with a performance by the Michelle Robinson Band, followed by a headline performance from 2nd Wind, whose lively music will help carry the celebration through the night.

The Taste of Silverton is more than just a festival—it is an opportunity to strengthen community ties, support local businesses, and celebrate everything that makes Silverton a great place to live and visit.

The Village has a website dedicated to the event [www.tasteofsilverton.com](http://www.tasteofsilverton.com) where vendors and event information can be found. Attendees are also encouraged to scan the QR code featured for quick access to event information and updates.

As Silverton marks this important milestone, the Village looks forward to continuing this beloved tradition for years to come.





## News Bits

### Membership Dues

We would like to thank all of our members for their continued participation. Membership dues invoices were distributed in late January, and are due by early May. If you have any questions about your dues, contact Drew Tilow at DTilow@C4LG.org.

### CAO Pay Data Request

The Spring CAO Pay Data request was disseminated on Thursday, April 2nd. If you received this request, please submit your pay data to Ziah Huett (ZHuett@C4LG.org) by Thursday, April 30th, 2026.

### Website and Membership Directory Refresh

CLG is in the process of updating its website and Membership Directory. The new website will use a different host, and the directory will be updated using Knack, which is the host of our Pay and Benefits data. Be sure to stay tuned for more updates!

## Upcoming Events from CLG and Partners

**Free Online Training Courses:** [Ohio Ethics](#) and [Certified Public Records Training](#).

**Free Online Training from MVCC's On Demand Training:** [10 Minute Leadership Training](#)

**Xavier University Leadership Center, CLG members are eligible to receive discounted tuition** for the Public Sector Leadership Certificate (PSLC). [Please click here to see flyer](#) with more information and [please contact Michelle Debevec](#) if you have questions or would like more information.

**HR and Administrative Roundtable Discussions, February 16th and April 30th, 2026**, noon-2:00pm, presented by MVCC at MVCC (1195 East Alex Bell Rd. Centerville, OH). [Click here to register](#).

**Harassment Training, April 8th, 2026**, presented by MVCTG from 10:00am-11:00am at Centerville Police Station Training Room (155 West Spring Valley Pike, Centerville, OH 45458). Cost is \$40.00 for Members, \$50.00 for Affiliates, and \$60.00 for Non-members. [Please click here](#) to register.

**HR Luncheon, April 16th, 2026** at deSha's American Tavern (11320 Montgomery Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45249), presented by CLG. [Click here for details](#).

**Administration Professionals Luncheon, April 23rd, 2026** at March First Brewing and Distilling (7885 E. Kemper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45249), presented by CLG. [Click here for details](#).