



MAYORS'
PARTNERSHIP

FOR PROGRESS

Annual Review

2025

OUR STORY

Since 1996, the Mayors' Partnership for Progress has brought together mayors and city managers from cities and villages throughout Appalachian Ohio to share information and resources and tackle common issues faced by municipalities throughout the region.

WHAT WE DO

- Share non-partisan information, concerns, advice, and resources.
- Facilitate funding opportunities and support for the betterment of our communities.
- Conduct informational forums regarding issues of potential impact and technical assistance.
- Provide a platform for local leaders to communicate with political stakeholders.

2025 MAYORS' PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS PRIORITIES

- **Infrastructure** including improvements and expansions in water and sewer systems, streets, sidewalks, and other public services.
- Promoting **Community Revitalization & Housing** through redeveloping, revitalizing, or repurposing aging buildings and housing.
- Prioritizing **Public Safety** by recruiting, training, and retaining first responder employees and volunteers.



2025 YEAR AT A GLANCE



- **Provided support across 80 externally contracted projects.**
- **Over 50 staff assisted projects including research on funding, grant writing and procedural support.**
- **Met monthly with the local development districts to ensure alignment on member priorities.**
- **Completed 170 individualized contacts with members.**

“The assistance the Village of McConnelsville has received has been instrumental in allowing for the enhancement of our lower income communities ability to be able to compete for funding with other communities that have larger budgets.”

-Tim Louis, Village Administrator, Village of McConnelsville

OUR REACH

In 2025, the Mayors' Partnership for Progress expanded its footprint from 25 to 27 counties in the Appalachian region.



27 COUNTIES COMPRISING OF 219 COMMUNITIES

195 VILLAGES

24 CITIES



“The support and exchange of ideas within the MPP have truly contributed to the betterment of Racine and strengthened our commitment to collaborative governance.”
-J. Scott Hill, Mayor of Racine

Becoming a member of this organization is one of the best choices I have made as the mayor of the Village of Frankfort.”
-Patti Cavender, Mayor of Frankfort

MONTHLY SUMMARIES



January

Meeting in Athens, Ohio University's Voinovich School Geographic Information Systems Analyst Jessica Schaudt was featured and presented the new GIS Hub created in partnership with the four Local Development Districts. This tool supports city and village grant applications.

February

The Mayors' Partnership met at the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission in Waverly, with Ohio Department of Natural Resources spokesperson Adam Schroeder discussing AML and AMLER funding programs.

March

The Mayors' Partnership met at the Ohio State House for Legislative Day. A number of special guests presented including OMA, OhioSE, JobOhio, Ohio EPA, Bricker Graydon, ORDA, Ohio Department of Development, and ODNR. Members also had lunch with the Appalachian delegation.





April

The Mayors' Partnership welcomed the month's guest speaker from the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal. Special Projects Coordinator and Grants Manager Ken Klouda shared grant and training resources for volunteer fire departments.

May

Guest speaker Julie Needs of the Sustainable Opportunity Development Center presented at the monthly Mayors' Partnership Meeting in Salem. The Center facilitates growth, advances vitality and improves quality of life for residents via economic development.

June

Convening in Portsmouth, Dr. Michael Raies, proprietor of Candyland Children's Museum, Kitchen Collective and Market Square Park presented on how civic groups work in partnership with the city.





July

From Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Senior Planner Eric Wade presented the new GIS Hub while the Mayors' Partnership met in Marietta. The Hub enables any member of the group easy public data access and mapping within a few clicks.

August

Meeting in New Concord, members hosted Pamela Boratyn, Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation, who presented on ODOT impact numbers along with department projects and available funding.

September

Guest speaker Dorinda Byers from the Ohio Secretary of State's Office led a discussion on handling difficult conversations. The Mayors' Partnership also thanked beloved staff member Misty Crosby's for her commitment and celebrated her announcement of retirement.



October

At the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association in Cambridge, Ohio Emergency Management Association Specialist Travis Roach spoke on preparing for disasters and recovery grant opportunities from the State. Fire Marshal Kevin Reardon shared funding opportunities and support for volunteer and municipal fire departments.



November

Ohio EPA Director John Logue presented as guest speaker, sharing local water infrastructure support and plans for ongoing regional water studies. The group approved the 2026 slate of officers, including Mayor Fraunfelter of Logan as President Elect, Mayor Hill of Racine as President, and Mayor Ullman of Beverly as Treasurer.

December

The Mayors' Partnership met for its annual evening meeting, this year in Chillicothe. Shine on Chillicothe nonprofit representatives Lisa Wayland and Lesli Parker presented ongoing efforts to light Chillicothe park and the surrounding area, now in their 4th year.



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Awards and Funding

MPP was awarded funding for support through the state's biennial budget and the ARC READY Grant.

ARC Annual Conference

Amista Lipot represented the MPP at the Appalachian Regional Commission's annual conference.

Appalachia Ohio for Leadership Ohio participants.

Tracy Galway, along with Mayor Hill of Racine, Heather Rockwell, fiscal officer for Jacksonville, and Tim Louis, Village Administrator of McConnelsville represented the MPP as a panel discussion on local government in Appalachia Ohio for Leadership Ohio participants.



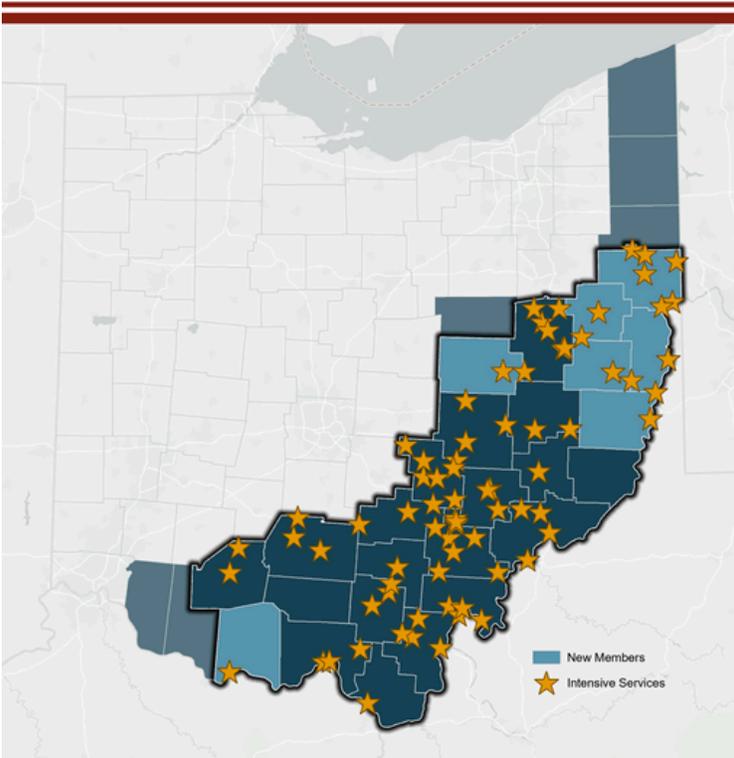
Staff Changes

MPP celebrated the commitment and service of Misty Crosby, who retired in October. The Mayors' Partnership also welcomed Erin Stevens and Adam Shriver both as Senior Project Managers in Member Services.

Trainings and Resources

Two training sessions on HR and employee manuals held. Additional training sessions included emergency management preparedness and fire marshal resources.

Engagement and Projects



Housing Toolkit

The Mayors' Partnership released a Housing Toolkit for municipal offices and staff with information in planning, funding, zoning and code enforcement, policy and regulation support, and more.



THANK YOU TO OUR LEADERSHIP!



President Jennifer Lyle
Mayor of New Concord



President-Elect Scott Hill
Mayor of Racine



Treasurer Jim Ullman
Mayor of Beverly

OFFICERS



Amista Lipot
Executive Director



Tracy Galway
Senior Project Manager,
Member Services



Sam Jurgena
Senior Project Manager,
Member Services



Adam Shriver
Senior Project Manager,
Member Services



Erin Stevens
Senior Project Manager,
Member Services

STAFF



IN MEMORY
Ted Cruiser, Mayor of Dresden

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