



# OCMA - STRAIGHT TALK

November, 2004

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A Season to Give Thanks  
By Sean Richards  
OCMA President

The Thanksgiving season is a good time to focus on the many reasons we have for giving thanks. Every year there are many things that don't go our way and if we focus on these negative things too much we lose sight of the things that are truly good in our lives. As you sat down with your family, friends and loved ones this past Thanksgiving, I hope you tried to think about the good things in your life and gave the bad ones a rest.

This Thanksgiving instead of focusing your thoughts on smoking bans did you focus on smoked turkey? The smoking bans will still be there the day after and you will have plenty of time for them to ruin your day. I'm not trying to make light of this serious issue, but everyone needs time to forget about business and take time to relax with family and friends. Hope you put your business concerns on the back burner with the dried up lima beans that nobody wanted and enjoyed the time you had with your loved ones.

This was the first Thanksgiving season my family spent without my grandmother (Bea Hughes). While we were sad that she is gone, we were all thankful for the many things she did to enrich our lives. In her 84 years she worked tirelessly to make things better for her family. Having grown up in a large family during the depression, she did not want us to go without as she did as a young child. I feel very fortunate to have had her in my life and hope that all of you have someone like her in yours.

So, during this Thanksgiving season give all your business worries a rest and take time to appreciate your family and friends. When you got back to work after the holiday, equipment was still overpriced and unreliable, customers were unsatisfied and legislation still threatens the very existence of your business but you have the good memory of time well spent with family and friends.

Hope your Thanksgiving was the best-ever !

**SERVICE**

**INTEGRITY**

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# 2005 Membership Roll of Honor



The strength of any organization is gauged by the Q & Q (Quality & Quantity) of its members. As OCMA begins its fourth decade of service to Ohio's operators and the general public we are proud to recognize these firms who've already remitted their 2005 dues and to enter their names on the 2005 Membership Roll of Honor:

- Associated Vending (Steve Robinson, Cincinnati)
- B & M Amusements (Bill Ferguson, Steubenville)
- Bell Music Company (David George, Akron)
- Bremer Vending (Jim & John Bremer, Toledo)
- City Amusement Enterprises (Richard Webb, Ironton)
- Coin-Op Vending (Ron Jones & Duane McCoy, Columbus)
- Gold Coin Amusement (John Dorn, Bellbrook)
- Pioneer Vending (Bill Westerhaus, Cincinnati)
- Tri-Area Amusements (Scott Sauvegeot, Follansbee, WV)

Look for more names in December's STRAIGHT TALK and in subsequent issues.



## With Deepest Sympathy

OCMA Officers, Directors, Members and Staff extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Tom Baldwin (President, Shaffer Services, Columbus) who passed away on November 20 after a long and valiant struggle. He leaves his wife Nan, two daughters and two grand-daughters.

Contributions may be made to his favorite charity, Kids N' Kamp, 3400 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus, OH 43202 in his name.



# The Latest Tobacco News

## Columbus Passes Smoking Ban

Voters have agreed with Columbus City Council to a ban on indoor smoking in public places. The ban passed November 2nd by a margin of more than 10 percent. The ban will take effect January 31, 2005.

The ban will prohibit smoking in all workplaces, including bars, restaurants, bowling alleys and bingo parlors. Smoking will be allowed in nonprofit private clubs such as veterans clubs and tobacco shops. Outdoor bar and restaurant patios with no more than two walls or four walls and no roof are exempt.

## Toledo Finds Way to Relax the Rules

Voters in Toledo have agreed to amend their city's smoking ban and to allow smoking in bowling alleys, bingo parlors, most bars and in restaurants with no more than nine employees (larger restaurants where smoking is banned, are allowed smoking lounges of up to 50 percent of the total square footage of the serving area). The amendment passed by a vote of 65,987 to 62,485. Support for the measure was strongest in downtown, eastern, northern and near-western precincts. According to officials the amendment will go into effect 30 days after all votes are certified by the Lucas County Board of Elections.

## Schools Struggle with Smoking Policy

Powell - School officials here are struggling with whether or not the schools smoking policy should be changed. Most school officials agree with the Olentangy Liberty High School Principal Eric Gordon that it's easier to warn students against cigarettes than to ask adults visiting the Delaware County campus to snuff out theirs.

The main consideration for school board members is whether to ban outdoor smoking on school property. Smoking already is prohibited in school buildings. Two unions representing the district employees have questioned how a campus-wide ban would affect teachers and staff. The district has separate policies for its employees and the public but officials are working to align the two. Olentangy employees currently may smoke outdoors in areas that are out of view and off-limits to students, near rear loading docks, for example. The issue is on hold while the district discusses it with employee unions. A check of other central Ohio school districts showed that many, including Columbus Public Schools, already have campus-wide smoking bans in place and others are considering it.

Under federal law, smoking is prohibited inside kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools that receive funding from the US government. The Pro-Children Act of 1994 was signed into law as part of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act.

# Ohio's State Legislative Races

## Buck National Trend in 2004

Bucking the national trend, Democrats picked up three seats in the Ohio House and held their own in the Ohio Senate. For the 126th General Assembly, there will be 60 Republicans and 39 Democrats in the House while the Senate split remains 22 Republicans and 11 Democrats.

Three incumbents lost: Republicans Marilyn Slaby (Akron) and Nancy Hollister (Marietta) and Democrat Daniel Sferra (Warren). In addition, two open House Republican seats also changed party: those of Reps. Jamie Callender (Willowick) and Ron Young (Leroy).

All five House members running for the Ohio Senate won: Gary Cates won Scott Nein's seat; Patty Clancy won Lou Blessing's 8th Senate seat; Tom Niehaus replaces Doug White in the 14th District; Tim Grendell takes over Robert Gardner's 18th Senate seat; and Charlie Wilson won Greg DiDonato's 30th Senate District. This lends further credence to the characterization of the Senate as "the House alumni association" in the era of term limits.

In the only reverse of that phenomenon for this election, Sen. Lou Blessing (R-Cincinnati) handily won the seat being vacated by Rep. Patty Clancy. He joins Rep. Merle Kearns (R-Springfield), who handily won her re-election to the House, as an alumnus of the Senate.

Another facet to the 2004 elections is that over 20 percent of the House races were unopposed: 13 Democrats and nine Republicans had no opposition. Of those running unopposed was appointee in the 125th General Assembly Courtney Combs (R-Hamilton) and newcomers Mike Mitchell (D-Columbus) and Joseph Uecker (R-Loveland).

Two of the 16 Senate races were also unopposed: those of Republicans Ron Amstutz (Wooster) and Larry Mumper (Marion).

Former Rep. Ron Hood (R) did manage to claim Speaker Larry Householder's seat in the 91st House District. Hood had previously represented a northern Ohio district. Also, former Rep. William Healy's son Bill Healy (Canton), who defeated Rep. Mary Cirelli in the 52nd House District Democratic primary, retained the seat for the Democrats.

In the Senate's most expensive -- and perhaps most bitter -- race, Sen. Joy Padgett (R-Coshocton), who was appointed to replace Jim Carnes in the 20th Senate District, defeated Democrat challenger Terry Anderson.

### Leadership Announced for the 126th General Assembly

Senate Leadership: Senate President: Bill Harris (R-Ashland); Senate President Pro-Tempore: Jeff Jacobson (R-Dayton); Assistant President Pro-Tempore: Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green); Majority Whip: Robert Spada (R-Cleveland); Unnamed Position: Steve Austria (R-Springfield); Unnamed Position: Jay Hottinger (R-Newark). Senate Minority Leader: C.J. Prentiss (D-Cleveland); Assistant Minority Leader: Mark Mallory (D-Cincinnati); Assistant Minority Leader: Robert Hagan (D-Youngstown).

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## State Legislative Races (continued from Page 4)

House Leadership: Speaker: Jon Husted (R-Kettering); Speaker Pro-Tempore: Charles Blasdel (R-E. Liverpool); Majority Leader: Merle Grace Kearns (R-Springfield); Assistant Majority Leader: Larry Flowers (R-Columbus); Majority Whip: Kevin DeWine (R-Fiarborn); Assistant Majority Whip: Jim Carmichael (R-Wooster). The House Democrats will choose their leadership team soon.

In some other interesting races, term-limited Sen. Robert Gardner ((R-Madison) and Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy) lost their bids for Lake County commissioner and Lake County treasurer, respectively.

According to the Hamilton County Board of Elections, it appears that State Treasurer Joe Deters will be elected Hamilton County prosecutor.

Sen. Dave Goodman (R-Bexley), who is not term limited, was unsuccessful in his bid to be elected a Franklin County Commissioner.

Former Rep. Amy Salerno (R-Columbus) was also unsuccessful in her bid for Franklin County Clerk of Courts.

House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) was elected as Perry County Auditor.

Former Rep. Ray Sines (R) retained his Lake County commission seat.

## 2005 Standing Committees

As is well known, OCMA is active on MANY fronts in on-going efforts to protect Ohio's operators AND the general public so the general public might continue to enjoy one of the few affordable entertainment venues available at a reasonable cost.

The Standing Committees are an integral part of this program. EVERY OCMA member is encouraged to join at least one as YOUR ideas, suggestions, general input are the ingredients that go into making up OCMA's Action Agenda. The Committees and their respective Chairs are:

Education	Dewey Laughlin Rodney Stebelton	Membership/ Membership Benefits	James Bremer David A. George
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Leagues: Darts	Sean Richards	MusikPac	All Officers & Directors
Foosball	Tom Elum	Scholarship	Mike Zappa
Pool	Mike Fowler		

Legislative: National	Andy Shaffer	Tobacco	Ronald Jones (COO)
State	James Comella		Joseph Abraham (NEO)
	William Westerhaus		Jim Bremer (NWO)
			William Westerhaus (SWO)



**STRAIGHT TALK**

Official Publication of the  
Ohio Coin Machine Association

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Dewey Laughlin	Vice President
Michael Fowler	Secretary
Rodney Stebelton	Treasurer
Dean DiCarlo	Board Chair

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James Bremer	James Comella
Phillip Elum	David A. George
Larry Van Brackel	William Westerhaus
Michael Zappa	

Staff

David Corey	Executive Vice President
Judith Martin	Executive Director
Kimberly Corey	Administrative Assistant



# Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!



## OCMA - STRAIGHT TALK

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