

The June meeting of the 2011 Ohio Lobbying Association convened on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Items of interest to the general membership are as follows:

### ***House Bill 153***

The bill includes a requirement, ORC 101.711, that a public office that hires a legislative agent for a cost exceeding \$50,000 must obtain approval from the controlling board. The following concerns have been identified by the board. Members are encouraged to share their thoughts on this provision with legislators:

- 1. It gives the Controlling Board undue authority to determine who employs a lobbyist. The OLA is concerned with the language and the negative precedent it sets for allowing a state legislative body to begin to dictate which lobbyists are awarded contracts and which are rejected.*
- 2. Spending by public entities is already available due to public records laws.*
- 3. It sets a precedent of giving the State legislative body authority over private contracts, even if state dollars are not used.*
- 4. The language singles out legislative agents from any other business who contract with a public entity.*
- 5. It expands both the authority and the reach of the Controlling Board.*

### **Annual Legislative Staff Reception**

This event will once again be held at Bar Louie in the late summer or early fall. The date will be determined and announced once the Legislative Calendar is publicized.

### **OLA Scholarship**

OLA awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to students of the John Glenn Institute at Ohio State University on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Certification Classes**

The Board will be working with Rob Eshenbaugh and his committee over the next few weeks to finalize work on classes for lobbyist certification for August 2011 through January 2012. The goal is to hold two to three 1-hour classes each month and will include PAC's/Campaign Finance, Grassroots, Lobbying 101, Procurement, Communications, Ethics, etc. Final topics will be announced to the membership via email next month once the dates and locations are finalized.

### **Mentorship Program.**

The board reviewed the Mentor and Mentee applications and matched them up according to requested parameters. Those involved will be emailed the week of June 13<sup>th</sup>. The membership is reminded that this is an ongoing program and they are invited to submit applications in either category at any time.