



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Association of Pennsylvania

LEADING  
THROUGH  
VISION

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SERVING  
THROUGH  
EXCELLENCE

**2023**  
ANNUAL REPORT





## **The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP)**

is the voice of Pennsylvania counties. CCAP provides county leaders with information and guidance related to legislation, education, media, insurance, technology, and many other issues that help create and maintain crucial services for residents throughout the state.

CCAP supports county leadership that is responsive to the needs and circumstances of citizens. CCAP stands firmly against state and federal actions that limit fiscal, administrative or programmatic authority over those developed locally.

### **Our Mission**

CCAP advocates as the unifying voice of all Pennsylvania counties and provides leadership and support for excellence in county government.

### **Our Vision**

CCAP is the recognized leader for Pennsylvania county government.

*Founded in 1886, CCAP is an affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo).*

Cover Photo: Venango County Courthouse, Home County of CCAP 2023 President, Chip Abramovic.



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### What does public service mean?

By its very name, it means, of course, to serve the public. To dig a little deeper, though, that service means countless selfless hours putting others first. It means creating and nurturing a community and constantly looking for ways to make lives a little better within the realm of your responsibility.

Think of a county official or a county employee, and public service is automatically the term that comes to mind. Counties serve their residents in so many ways that aren't often seen or realized unless people have a reason to come in contact with them. From 911 dispatch to election administration to maintenance of county bridges, to mental health and substance abuse services, support for the homeless and veterans, farmland preservation programs and so much more, counties touch the lives of Pennsylvanians every single day.

Here at CCAP, we strive to support excellence in our counties every day, offering the training, resources, and services that make it easier for counties to fulfill that commitment to public service. We value the role we play behind the scenes, making connections, answering questions, facilitating conversations, sharing best practices, and providing solutions that in their own meaningful way contribute to the impact counties have throughout the Commonwealth.

Our vision is for CCAP to be the recognized leader for Pennsylvania county government. To better define that vision, beginning with our 2023 action plan, we identified five long-term priorities - member

engagement, policy advancement, empowering county leadership, financial health and operational stability, and talent and wellbeing. As you'll see in this 2023 annual report, we took significant steps in this past year to move forward in each of these areas.

Our revitalized districts are creating important connections among our members. Not only do the districts create opportunities to build relationships and network, but in 2023 we saw the districts actively engage in significant grassroots efforts that were critical in moving the needle on important legislation. We thank our district representatives for their commitment to creating a strong link within their regions and fostering more engagement between our members and the Association.

A new governor and a new legislative session also offered counties renewed opportunities to advance their legislative priorities. While activity was stalled at the Capitol for much of the year, counties saw small but significant wins with the first increase in mental health funding in 15 years. The 911 statute was also reauthorized before the January 2024 sunset, and while the increase in the surcharge was less than counties would have liked to have seen, it is still an achievement in a legislative atmosphere that is more typically resistant to any increase at all. But our work is not done. These initial steps mark the beginning, and there's a lot more to achieve on these and other county priorities as we move forward into 2024.

We continue to provide premier educational offerings not just at our



conferences but also through our insurance and technology sessions. Membership calls allow for updates and time to connect regularly throughout the year. Our insurance programs and vendor partnerships provide important resources to support counties so that they can run as effectively and as cost-efficiently as possible.

CCAP cannot meet the many and varied needs of our counties without the talents and experience of our dedicated staff. Each of them, like each of our counties, inspires thoughtfulness, creativity, and a shared vision of a brighter future for Pennsylvania and the residents we ultimately serve.

In 2024, we'll keep moving forward in each of our priority areas. Significantly, we welcome 76 new members to CCAP and look forward to learning more about their unique backgrounds. Many have already participated in our Newly Elected Officials Workshop at the 2023 Fall Conference, joined a committee, or have otherwise connected with our staff. Their backgrounds and interests will add to the breadth and depth of our Association, springing us to an even greater height.

It takes all of us working together to reach this vision and to truly embrace what it means to be public servants. We hope you will reflect on all that we accomplished together in 2023 and be inspired for what is to come in 2024 as we Lead Through Vision and Serve Through Excellence.

**Lisa Schaefer**  
Executive Director



# UNLOCKING THE POWER OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT: FOSTERING CONNECTION, PARTICIPATION, AND COLLABORATION

In 2023, CCAP integrated engagement strategies and prioritized member involvement across the organization, emphasizing the significant role each member plays in shaping the Association. CCAP highlighted the value of active participation in its policy committees and policy-setting process, ensuring members understood how their input directly influences decisions. Additionally, CCAP prepared to onboard new commissioners and council members elected in November 2023, creating comprehensive programs to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge while fostering a smooth transition as they take office in 2024.

The district representative's role was reinvigorated in 2023 as well to help provide a stronger connection between CCAP and its members, bringing counties together on shared interests while learning from one another. Members' contributions were recognized and valued, further fostering a culture of involvement and ownership within the organization.



*Chief Leadership and Engagement Officer, Todd Snovel, addressing the newly elected officials during CCAP's Fall Conference.*

**4** major  
conferences  
with more  
than  
**1,100+**  
in attendance

Total attendance at the  
**4** major conferences in  
2023 was **1,191** which  
included members,  
vendors, and guests, with  
**592** members present at  
all **4** conferences.





Representation on the 7 insurance programs Board of Directors, Trustees, and Subscriber Advisory Committees



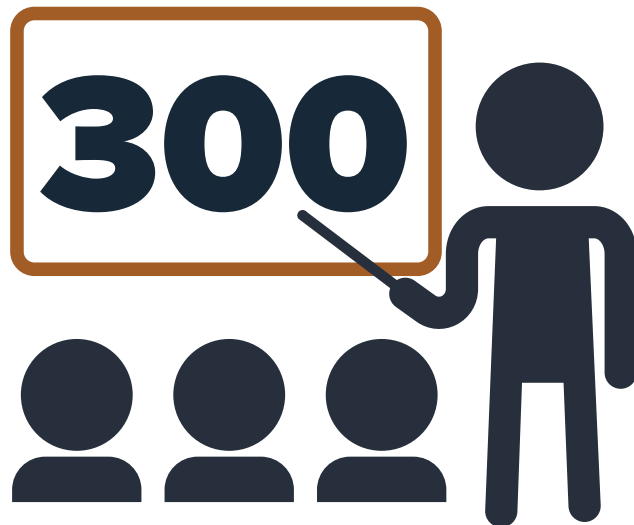
board and committee meetings and 3 board retreats



Conducted in-person and virtual voting for CCAP business during conferences.



60% of newly elected officials attended the November workshop in Hershey



meetings at the CCAP office

30,903 LocalGovU courses were taken by members of our Insurance Programs, and the 28 risk management workshops had a total of 949 in attendance.

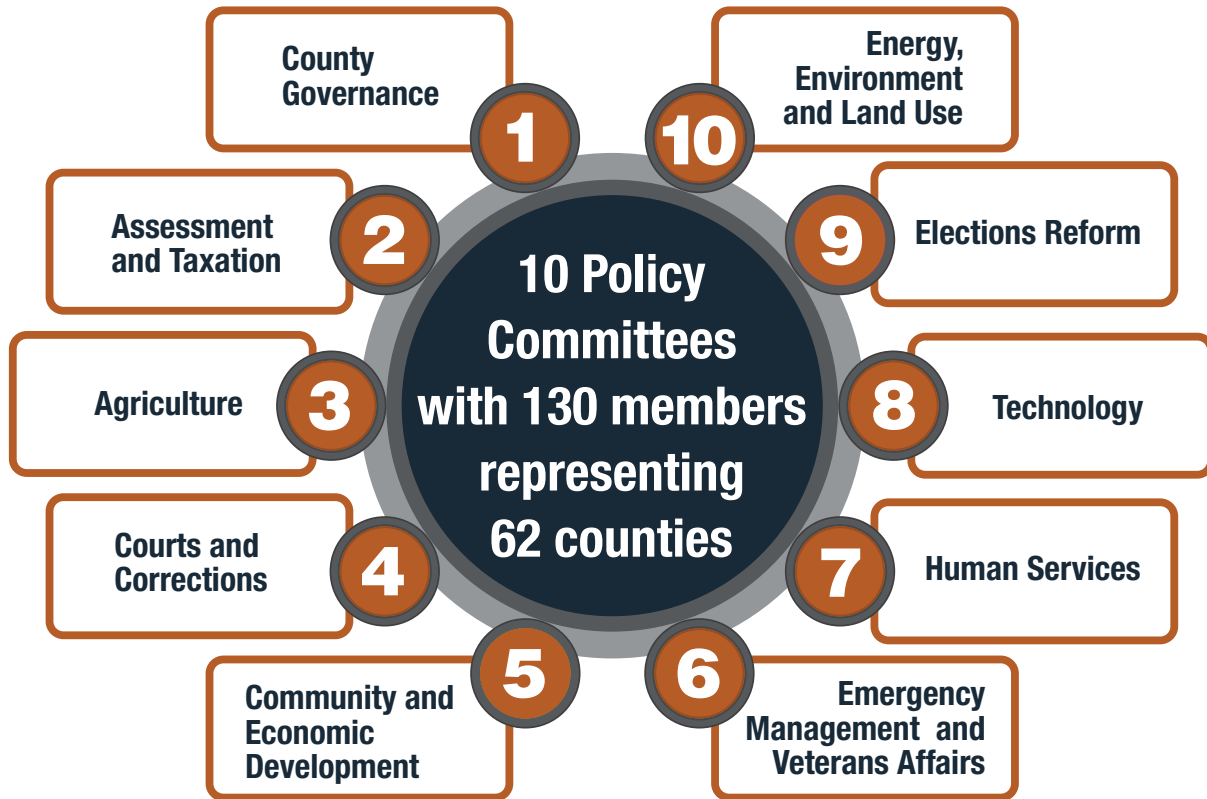
250+ member visits in 2023





## Member Engagement

A record number of members – **122** (36%) from **52** counties – voted on CCAP’s policy priorities during the Fall Conference. Across both the summer and fall voting sessions, **57** of the **67** counties were represented.



County IT leaders networking event.

**420** Technology list serve conversations, with **6** IT networking and collaboration events held in Adams, Clarion, Perry, Crawford, and Susquehanna counties.





*Commissioner of the Year award – CCAP President Chip Abramovic presents award to Dauphin County Commissioner George Hartwick.*



*Friend of County Government – Eric Brewer, Beaver County.*



*Chief Clerk/Administrator of the Year – Ronald Seaman, Berks County.*



*John DiMattio of Erie County Human Services accepting the award for Affiliate of the Year, PACHSA.*



*Technology and Innovation Award – Dauphin County Commissioners George Hartwick and Chad Saylor accepting the award on behalf of the county.*

## EXCELLENCE AND COMMITMENT TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- Commissioner of the Year – George Hartwick, Dauphin County
- Chief Clerk / Administrator of the Year – Ronald Seaman, Berks County
- Solicitor of the Year – Thomas Wagner, Elk County
- Friend of County Government – Eric Brewer, Beaver County
- Affiliate of the Year – Pennsylvania Association of County Human Services Administrators (PACHSA)
- Technology and Innovation Award – Dauphin County Parks & Recreation Department



## COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE COUNTY PRIORITIES

CCAP's government relations team and its members collaborated as a team to cultivate connections within the General Assembly, ensuring active representation concerning matters pivotal to county operations. This year, the Association's primary focus revolved around securing essential funding for 911 and mental health initiatives, prompting unprecedented member engagement. Together, CCAP fostered personal rapport with legislators, forged alliances with the new administration, and harnessed the potential of media outreach.

A tangible validation of these efforts emerged during public debate in the fall, as legislative leaders emphasized how imperative it was to listen to counties and their associations regarding the localized impact of policy decisions. This recognition underscored CCAP's pivotal role as the unifying voice of county governments and counties' influence within the legislative landscape.

- More than 15 calls to action related to budget, 911, mental health, Medicaid inmate exclusion, and the presidential primary date change in the state of Pennsylvania.
- Tracked and monitored more than 800 pieces of legislation that impacted counties throughout the Commonwealth, representing 29% of those introduced.
- Conducted meetings with 120 of the 253 legislators or their staff with multiple visits throughout the course of the year.
- Obtained a \$20 million funding boost for county mental health, marking the first increase in 15 years.
- Secured an increase of the 911 surcharge, which had not been adjusted since 2015, from \$1.65 to \$1.95, overcoming attempts to reauthorize the 911 law without any increase.
- Testified or engaged with ten policy committees through eight legislative pieces and wrote 30-plus formal communications on topics and issues important to counties.



*Press conference at the Capitol to announce the 2023 priorities in January.*

Tracked and monitored more than **800** bills representing **29%** of those introduced

# 2023 COUNTY PRIORITIES

- 911 Funding and Reauthorization
- County Inmates with Mental Health Issues
- County Mental Health Base Funding Increase
- Address the Needs of Children and Youth with Complex Behavioral Issues
- Broadband Access and Development
- Promote Election Integrity

Increase of  
**911**  
surcharge to **\$1.95**



*Snyder County Commissioner Joe Kantz provided testimony on 911 funding and reauthorization.*

**30+**  
Communications on issues important to counties



*Mike Pries, Dauphin County Commissioner and co-chair of CCAP's Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs Committee testifies on 911 funding and reauthorization.*



Met with  
**120**  
of the **253** legislators

*CCAP executive director Lisa Schaefer.*



**\$20M**  
\$20 million increase in funding for county mental health

*Melissa Gates, CCAP's government relations manager.*



# LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF CCAP MEDIA RELATIONS

After adopting a more analytical approach to media, using advanced metrics, CCAP was able to take its media efforts to the next level in 2023. The results exceeded expectations and CCAP became a go-to source for local, state, and national media outlets on several topics.

- Increase CCAP's digital presence with video responses, collaboration video segments, and social media to expand advocacy efforts.
- A May press conference at the Pennsylvania Capitol was orchestrated within a matter of weeks by CCAP members and staff to address 911 and mental health efforts. The press conference was heavily attended by the media.
- Multiple media training sessions were provided to CCAP members and affiliates throughout the year.



*CCAP President, Chip Abramovic, responds to budget.*



*From CCAP's official Twitter page, @PACountiesGR.*

.....

**2.5%**

increase in  
X followers

.....

**2,686**

video views on  
social media

.....

**CCAP was mentioned in local, state, national, and international stories reaching an estimated audience of 1 billion people. Publicity value = \$14 million.**

## PROVIDING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

CCAP members approved a restructuring of the newly named Education Committee in 2022 with an expanded charge to develop and oversee the curriculum, marketing and administration of the Association's key educational programs. Among the committee's efforts, it recruited another successful Center for Excellence in County Leadership (CEL) class, which graduated in June 2023. Consistent with the objectives established by the CCAP Board of Directors, the committee also evaluated new producers for the CEL program for the coming three years.

- 11 Center for Excellence in County Leadership graduates.
- Through the Door Checklist established for the 76 newly elected officials.
- Supported seven CCAP Districts through a series of six comprehensive meetings, combining both in-person and virtual sessions.



Center for Excellence in County Leadership graduating class.

## UP FOR THE CHALLENGE TO ENHANCE CYBERSECURITY

CCAP provided extensive training throughout the year to empower county leadership to face the challenges of today's cyber threats. The technology team conducted three in-county security awareness training courses. 47 counties implemented the use of Cofense for phishing exercises and cyber training, with an average of 16,281 county users participating in each CCAP-run phishing exercise.



Conducted **7** cybersecurity tabletop exercises, with **18** technology/cybersecurity webinars and **51** technology/cybersecurity conferences and educational sessions held in 2023.

The average number of participants in CCAP-run phishing exercises averaged **16,281**.



# ASSISTING COUNTIES AND COUNTY-RELATED ENTITIES IN SAFEGUARDING EMPLOYEES, PROPERTY, FINANCIAL ASSETS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

In 2023, CCAP's insurance programs disbursed more than **\$38,289,665** in claims, grants, and dividend returns, empowering counties to safeguard their employees, citizens, assets, and finances. The exceptional dedication of the insurance staff garnered impressive ratings from members, with PCoRP's staff achieving an overall 4.71 out of 5 on member surveys, underscoring their unwavering commitment to excellence and delivering top-notch customer service.

- In 2023, 62 counties were represented on the Boards of Directors/Trustees and the Subscriber Advisory Committees for COMCARE PRO, Health Alliance, PComp, PCoRP, PELICAN, PIMCC, and the UC Trust.
- All 67 Pennsylvania counties are members of and/or benefit from at least one of CCAP's Insurance Programs.

## Program dividends returned to Members:

- UC Trust - **\$3 million**
- PComp - **\$3 million**

## Grants provided and paid out to Members in 2023:

- PCoRP Loss Prevention Grants = **\$1,847,912**
- PComp Safety Improvement Program (SIP) Grants = **\$1,389,411**
- PELICAN Grants = **\$59,960**

## The combined claims filed, closed, and paid in 2023 for COMCARE PRO, PCoRP, PComp, PELICAN, and UC Trust equal:

- **3,746** claims filed
- **2,289** claims closed
- **\$28,992,381.58** amount paid

## PCoRP covers **59** counties and county-related entities.

### Program liabilities and risks include:

- Property assets, with a total insured value of **\$8,417,058,170**
- Total payroll of **\$1,318,069,560**
- **4,234** vehicles

## CCAP Insurance Programs:

### **COMCARE PRO**

Behavioral Health Stop Loss  
Reinsurance Coverage

### **Health Alliance**

Health, Dental, Vision and  
Prescription Coverage

### **PACAH Bonds**

Patient Trust Fund Bonds for Nursing  
Homes

### **PComp**

Workers' Compensation Coverage

### **PCoRP**

Property and Liability Coverage

### **PELICAN**

Liability Insurance for Nursing Homes

### **PIMCC**

Prison Inmate Medical Cost  
Containment

### **Tax Collectors**

Tax Collector Surety Bond Program

### **UC Trust**

Unemployment Compensation  
Coverage

### **Volunteers**

Special Risk Accident Insurance  
for Volunteers



# OPTIMIZE VENDOR PARTNERSHIPS TO ENHANCE VALUE FOR BOTH MEMBERS AND VENDORS

CCAP's vendor relationships offer vital support to both the Association and its members. These partnerships facilitate quality opportunities for CCAP's members while granting vendors valuable exposure to county officials through events and programs.

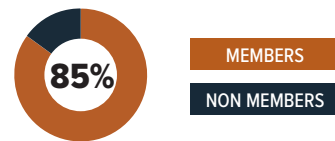
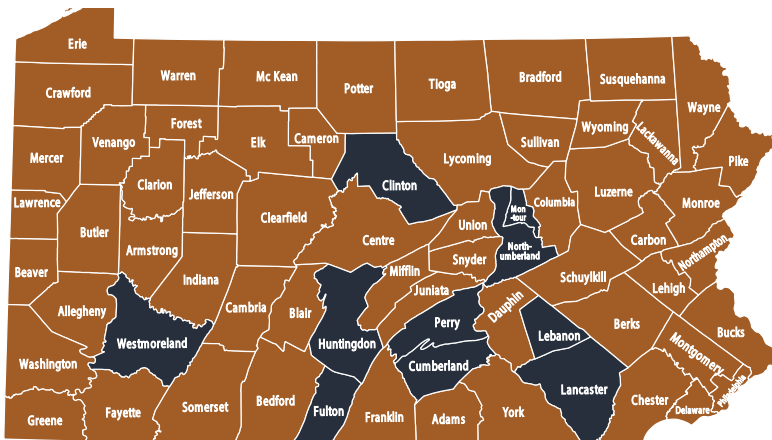
**Sponsorship Revenue**  
**\$235,924**



**Associate Members**  
**131**

**Technology Vendor Partners**  
**20**

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES PENNSYLVANIA MEMBER COUNTIES



**57 of 67** Counties are NACo Members



**Three+One**  
**10**

participating counties



**Live Healthy**  
**41**

participating counties **\$1,572,560** in **savings** for county residents (through October)

## Nationwide Retirement Solutions

**45** counties and **65** entities, including multiple county departments and county-related entities, participate in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has **29,581** participants investing more than **\$2** billion in assets.

## **BUILDING A STRONG FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

In 2023, CCAP's dues were restructured to expand the Technology CORE program to all 67 counties. The Technology CORE program offers counties:



- Access to IT assessments and strategic development assistance by the Association.
- Cybersecurity awareness services including tabletop exercises.
- Access to our IT quarterly meetings and newsletters, document template libraries, Cofense support services, and CIO meetings.
- County visits and technology trainings and webinars.

Previously, the Technology CORE program was available to counties for an additional fee, and 34 counties participated and spoke highly of the program. As technology infrastructure becomes more complex and security preparedness more critical, restructuring the Technology CORE program as part of the overall dues structure now offers this value to all counties, and not just as an add-on. We anticipate the growth of revenue from our Technology Vendor Partnership Program will continue to help offset the costs of expanding our Technology CORE program offerings as well.



The auditors provided unmodified opinions for all of CCAP's programs and affiliates during their 2022 audits (conducted in the calendar year 2023). This signifies that our financial statements were prepared in full compliance with accounting standards and applicable regulations, demonstrating accuracy and adherence to all material aspects.





## GROWING THROUGH DIVERSITY

The CCAP staff retreat included a program by Leadership Harrisburg on effective communication and leadership skills. Staff had the chance to volunteer in activities such as assembling nightstands, planting seedlings, creating gift bags for children, and writing thank-you cards to the military. Additionally, CCAP staff members were recognized for outstanding service.

In November, 42 CCAP staff members participated in a Wellness Fair with 21 vendors providing valuable information on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Throughout the year, CCAP employees participated in 2,438 individual wellness activities, such as exercise and step tracking, critical preventative screenings, immunizations and exams, and educational events.



**42**

**CCAP staff members**  
participated in  
the Wellness Fair

.....

**CCAP staff members**  
were recognized for  
outstanding service

.....

**2,438**

**Wellness activities**  
completed by CCAP staff



## STRENGTHENING COUNTY SUPPORT BY PROVIDING A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES

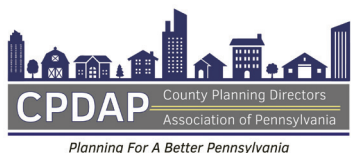
CCAP has eight affiliate associations that support county staff with a range of services that include assessment, planning, mental health, drug and alcohol, health care, children and youth, and human resources. This highly collaborative team ensures that the association and affiliate goals continue to progress. Their work touches every corner of the Commonwealth with members in all Pennsylvania counties. This year, the CCAP affiliates provided feedback on hundreds of pieces of legislation and conducted educational sessions, conferences, and webinars supporting state agencies.



- Trained over 50 county assessment personnel in AAP's pre-licensing program.
- More than 300 assessment professionals, vendors, and exhibitors attended AAP's two 2023 conferences.
- AAP members were invited to join the Utility Scale Solar Task Force to contribute insights on the expanding challenges in solar power.



- Coordinated coalition and advocacy group efforts for the Hospital Association, NAMI, and provider associations.
- \$20 million funding increase for county mental health base dollars.



- Members actively contributed to CCAP's Broadband Task Force and Utility Scale Solar Task Force.
- Workgroups around land use regulation, county planning capacity, housing, and energy helped to advance the Association's strategic plan.
- Met with new state agency secretaries to build partnerships.



- 52 Members, representing 54 Counties.
- 7 Webinars, 10 Board Meetings and 3 Conferences.
- Recipient of CCAP's Affiliate of the Year Award.



- PACAH members comprise the majority of top-ranked nursing homes in Pennsylvania.
- Nearly \$700 Million in increased state and federal funding in the last two years.
- Total funding secured for long-term care - \$182 million.



- Representing all 67 Counties.
- Substantial growth in both vendor and conference attendance.
- Affiliate Services Manager placed to better serve membership.



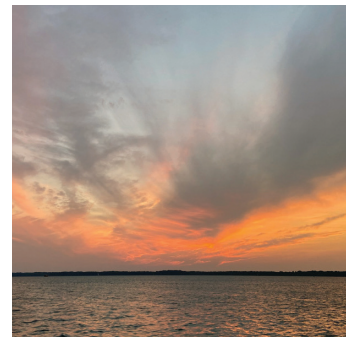
- Hosted the ninth annual Recovery Advocacy Day at the Capitol.
- 250 people from across the state celebrated recovery.



- 66 Members, Representing 59 Counties.
- 6 Webinars, 1 Conference.



# 2023 RECAP: MOMENTS CAPTURED IN PHOTOS





# CCAP 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*Daryl Miller, Board Chair; Julie Wheeler, Treasurer; Chip Abramovic, President; Sherene Hess, Second Vice President; Michael Rivera, First Vice President.*

**Albert "Chip" Abramovic**  
President  
Venango County Commissioner

**Michael Rivera**  
First Vice President  
Berks County Commissioner

**Sherene Hess**  
Second Vice President  
Indiana County Commissioner

**Julie Wheeler**  
Treasurer  
York County Commissioner

**Daryl Miller**  
Board Chair  
Bradford County Commissioner

**Tricia Durbin**  
District 1 Representative  
Warren County Commissioner

**Daniel J. Vogler**  
District 2 Representative  
Lawrence County Commissioner

**Randy Phiel**  
District 3 Representative  
Adams County Commissioner

**Preston R. Boop**  
District 4 Representative  
Union County Commissioner

**Kenneth E. Lawrence**  
District 5 Representative  
Montgomery County Commissioner

**Lori Vargo Heffner**  
District 6 Representative  
Northampton County Commissioner

**Brian Smith**  
District 7 Representative  
Wayne County Commissioner

**Kevin Boozel**  
Past President  
Chair, Resolutions and Policy Committee  
Butler County Commissioner

**Erick J. Coolidge**  
Past President  
Chair, Agriculture Committee  
Tioga County Commissioner

**Mark L. Hamilton**  
Past President  
Co-Chair, Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Tioga County Commissioner

**Christian Leinbach**  
Past President  
NACo Representative  
Berks County Commissioner

**Jó Ellen Litz**  
Past President  
Lebanon County Commissioner

**Jeffrey Snyder**  
Past President  
Clinton County Commissioner

**Pamela Tokar-Ickes**  
Chair, Academy for Excellence in County Government  
Somerset County Commissioner

**Jeff Thomas**  
Chair, Assessment and Taxation Committee  
Huntingdon County Commissioner

**Robert Postal**  
Chair, Community and Economic Development Committee  
Mifflin County Commissioner

**Kimberly Geyer**  
Chair, County Governance Committee  
Butler County Commissioner

**Loretta Spielvogel**  
Chair, Courts and Corrections Committee  
Lawrence County Commissioner

**Joseph Kantz**  
Chair, Elections Reform Committee  
Snyder County Commissioner

**Mike P. Pries**  
Co-Chair, Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Dauphin County Commissioner

**Matthew G. Quesenberry**  
Chair, Energy, Environment and Land Use Committee  
Elk County Commissioner

**George P. Hartwick**  
Chair, Human Services Committee  
NACo Representative  
Dauphin County Commissioner

**Clifford Lane**  
Chair, Technology Committee  
McKean County Commissioner

## Non-Voting Ex Officio Members

**Paul W. Heimel**  
Chair, Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force  
Potter County Commissioner

**Crystal A. Natan, MSW, LSW**  
Representative, PCYA  
Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency

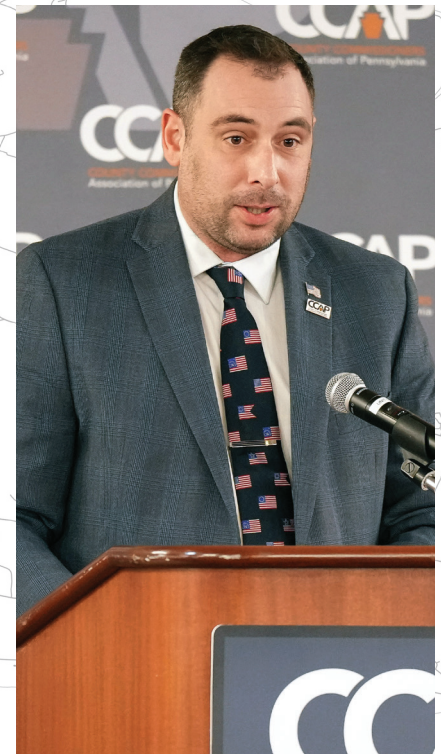
**Andrew Naugle**  
President, PACAH  
Centre Care Rehabilitation and Wellness Services

**Jennifer Pettina**  
Representative, AAP  
Centre County Tax Claim

**Tina Clymer**  
Representative PACA MH/DS  
Carbon-Monroe-Pike MH/DS

**John DiMattio**  
President, PACHSA  
Erie County Human Services

**Judy Rosser**  
President, PACDAA  
Blair Drug & Alcohol Partnerships



*Chip Abramovic, CCAP's 2023 President, speaking at the Fall Conference.*

# THANK YOU TO CCAP'S 2023 SPONSORS

## Sapphire Level



INVESTMENT



## Diamond Level



COMCAST



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Association of Pennsylvania

THE **VOICE** OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

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