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**CRITCHFIELD
CRITCHFIELD
& JOHNSTON**
ATTORNEYS

Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston, Attorneys at Law, work in nearly every area of the law, except for criminal defense and domestic relations. They handle the range of personal matters for individuals to complicated commercial transactions for major corporations. Critchfield is unique in that they are capable of providing the same services one would expect only from firms located in metropolitan areas.

The firm traces its roots back to the Civil War era when Lyman Critchfield served as Attorney General of Ohio. Since that time, they have grown to five offices in smaller cities in Northeast and North Central Ohio with approximately forty attorneys. Their Medina office opened in 1999. As evidenced by their active civic involvement, the firm hires attorneys who care about the communities in which they live.

To view their locations and areas of practice, visit the website at www.ccj.com.

Member Meeting Recap

MCEDC's December Membership Meeting featured an insider's look at federal issues from Brian Hicks of Hicks Partners. After a productive career in public affairs in a variety of roles in federal and state government and on campaigns, Brian founded Hicks Partners to provide services to



**Member
News**

Please welcome our newest member!

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public relations goals. Considered to be among “Ohio’s most powerful unelected officials” according to multiple media outlets, Brian was involved in virtually every aspect of managing the State of Ohio while service as Chief of Staff to Governor Bob Taft.

Hicks offered insight into the current federal budget situation, reporting that prior to the most recent election, funding was continued for about half of the federal government. The remaining half is in flux at the moment, with the biggest concerns regarding Homeland Security.

Assuming some temporary resolution will soon be reached regarding the budget, the next thorny issue is the debt ceiling, which would need to be increased in early to mid-March. Hicks said that many conservatives will not be comfortable raising the debt ceiling, so the President will need to work with Democrats to do so.

While the media has been quick to report out what is going wrong in Washington, Hicks wanted to highlight some legislation that has passed. Bump stocks are now banned after the shootings in Las Vegas. A Space Command has also been created, and the Farm Bill has passed. This important legislation includes a great deal more than just farming issues. Also, a crime bill was passed to make it easier for felons to reintegrate into society.

For 2019, Hicks expects that funding

[Medina County](#) Board of Trustees as Treasurer. Congratulations on this appointment!



Cuyahoga Community College was awarded a state grant from the Ohio Department of Education to help students receive workforce training. This money targets the skills gap. Read more about this [here](#).

[Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston](#) hired three new lawyers. Samuel J. Warden and Cameron M. Hilling joined the Wooster office and Bradley J. Proudfoot works in the Medina office.

Congratulations to the [Ashley Group](#) for being named as one of the top 20 Best Places to Work in Insurance in the Small Employer category by Business Insurance and Best Companies Group.

[Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs](#) scored a win for the Cincinnati Reds when the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that promotional items are resold as part of ticket purchases making them exempt from Ohio sales/use tax. This decision benefits Ohio businesses that provide giveaways as an incentive and condition upon the purchase of its products or services.

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the need for infrastructure, so he feels a bill will be forthcoming. The concern for Ohio is the Ohio Department of Transportation. As the major funder of infrastructure projects in Ohio, ODOT has already announced they will run out of funding for new projects in 2020. Typical federal infrastructure funding requires the states money or contributions to projects, so state elected officials will find a way to fund new projects if they want to access federal infrastructure dollars.

This will be top-of-mind for newly elected Governor DeWine, as he will have to find a solution early in his first term. The Ohio gas tax has been discussed, which has not seen an increase since 2003. There has not been an increase in gas tax revenue since 2006 and yet with inflation, projects cost more today than in 2006, so ODOT is getting hit in multiple ways. The concerns raised on the gas tax often revolve around electric cars not paying the tax but still putting wear and tear on infrastructure. Currently, gas tax money cannot be used for public transportation, which is also a concern.

It will be important for businesses to monitor the appropriations process as that is where major policy changes can happen that affect business. Hicks stressed the importance of being involved in government. "Don't just elect them – let them know what's important" was Hicks' key message. Participate in fly-ins, work with their staff, and pay attention to what's going

Washington Street, Medina in early December. This nonprofit, an arm of [Jobs for Ohio's Graduates](#), helps economically challenged and displaced women with business attire and skills for job interviews. Click [here](#) for more.

Ron Paydo of [Huntington Bank](#) was recognized for his 15 years of service on the Medina County Port Authority Board. He received a proclamation from the Medina County Commissioners and plaques from the Port Authority Board and the Medina County Fiber Network for his commitment to their efforts.



New U.S. Census data was released December 6, and it shows that income and housing are growing in Medina County. Click through to read the [article](#) in the Medina Gazette.

Congratulations to Leadership Medina County's Excellence in Leadership award winners Suzie Muniak, Kristine Quallich, and Krista Wasowski.

The [Educational Service Center](#) of Medina County selected Mark Kollar as a new board member.

[RPM International](#) has announced that it is buying Canadian company Siamons International Inc. and its

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MCEDC Announces 2019 Board of Directors

MCEDC will welcome four new board members in January: Radiah Blanton of [Cuyahoga Community College](#), [PNC Bank](#) representative Elena K'Meyer, [Proximity Marketing](#)'s Mark Priebe, and [Soprema](#)'s Tim Kersey.

These members will replace outgoing board members Ron Paydo of [Huntington Bank](#), Dave Mueller of [RICO Equipment](#), Past President Vicki Tiff, and Denise Testa from [Medina County University Center](#).

As Immediate Past President, Dave Mueller will remain on the board as an Ex-Officio member, joined by Scott Miller of [Fifth Third Bank](#) in another Ex-Officio role. Don Simmons of [Simmons Brothers Construction](#) will be turning the corporate seat over to Bill Simmons. Terry Mazzone will be retiring from [Lorain Medina Rural Electric Cooperative](#) and Brian Barr will be filling that board seat. Finally, as Adam Friedrich's term as County Commissioner expires, Colleen Swedyk will be the new representative.



SAVE THE DATE



Companies who receive their natural gas supply through their utility or have allowed their supply contracts to expire to a monthly variable rate will be impacted by the 48% jump in the market pricing for December gas. **The December gas market has settled \$1.53 per MCF higher than November**, leaving homes and businesses alike paying more per unit of natural gas.

Protect yourself from these increasing seasonal prices by securing a low fixed rate. Email info@ceateam.com for more information.

Government Academy is back!

[Leadership Medina County](#) in collaboration with OSU Ext. is hosting this ten session event starting in **January 2019**. The Government Academy is a series of classes offered through the OSU Extension Medina County and Leadership Medina County for individuals interested in learning about the mechanics and philosophies that impact government action. Classes are taught by experts and faculty from The Ohio State University, local attorneys, elected officials and subject matter experts.

Learn more about this program and register [here](#). For more information

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MCEDC Annual Meeting

1004.

[Register](#)

Small Business Development Center Resources at Lorain County Community College

BUSINESS ADVISING - Are you looking for business advice? Someone to help accelerate your business goals? Someone to hold you accountable and give you direction? SBDC at LCCC is here to offer one-on-one advising in all areas at NO CHARGE. Call: 440-366-4370

FREE WORKSHOPS

Business Basics

Thursday January 10, 2019 | 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Marketing Class - Topic: Creating Stories that Sell

Friday January 18, 2019 | 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Business Model Canvas

Thursday January 24, 2019 | 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Ohio Development Services Agency, Export Assistance offers the following events

International Trade - A Changing Landscape: What you need to know about the next wave of tariffs and the new NAFTA

When: January 31, 2019

*Where: 26202 Detroit Road, Suite 312,
Westlake, Ohio 44145*

Kick off 2019 with full awareness of what the international trade landscape will look like and how your company can best prepare. This program is intended to both inform Ohio companies on the latest international trade developments, as well as to allow for discussion and collaboration among companies in order to learn strategies from each other on how to lessen the impact.

[For more information and to register, click here.](#)

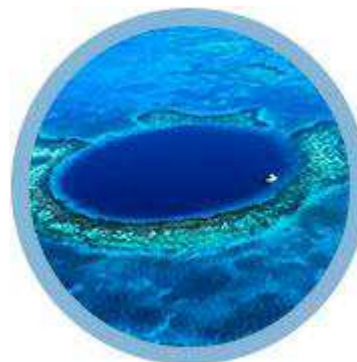


Doing Business in Belize

When: January 22, 2019, 1:00 p.m. EST

This webinar is designed to educate U.S. companies on market opportunities and key projects in Belize's best prospect sectors, including agriculture, information and communication technology, green and renewable technology, travel and tourism.

[For more information and to register, click here.](#)



Ohio Export Internship Program

Deadline to apply February 1, 2019

Applications are now available for companies to request a summer 2019 intern through the Ohio Export Internship Program. It is designed for companies looking to improve their export initiatives.

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College of Business Administration. The Ohio Development Services Agency provides a 50 percent reimbursement for intern wages, up to \$3,600.

For more information and to register, [click here.](#)



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For every dollar in the MCEDC budget,

\$431

in economic impact is returned to Medina County!



Want to know more? Check out this infographic to get all the information at: about-mcedc-rev/mcedc-impact-on-medina-county/

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