

Y BUCKEYE BULLETIN

A Newsletter for the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs

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A SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP WEEK

March 17-22 was the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs Leadership Week! We trained 35 staff in 5 different certifications as part of the Regional Training Event, 25 participated in Statewide Advocacy Day, 22 participated in the Multicultural Leadership Experience, 275 attended the Leadership Conference, along with 27 vendors and partners, and 263 High School students attended the Youth & Government conference. In addition, we witnessed the graduation of 18 Y Leaders from Cohort 4 of Leadership Academy, and recognized 8 Leadership Award Winners.

Multicultural Leadership Experience



Leadership Conference



Day 1 Keynote Speaker

Andre Young



Day 2 Keynote Speaker

Kristin Bock



Leadership Academy Cohort 4

Back Row: Craig Greenlee, Dave Klepaski, Amy Byers, Kelcy Lemke, Sierra Woodyard, Kelly Gastio, Ricky Lovell, Catherine Sampson, Mike Brown, Kendra Collins, Andrea Messer, Ruth Knous

Front Row: Sarah Savage, Tara Metzger, Crystal Tollstam, Julie Martin, Angie Mullen, Lora Kirkpatrick, Cara Robson, Kim Hess

2025 Leadership Award Winners



Mike Bramer
CEO of the Year



Suzanne Hall
Healthy Living



Tony Grimes
Social Responsibility



Yael Echeverria
Rookie of the Year



Melinda Moore
Branch Executive of the Year



Toy Pendleton
Youth Development



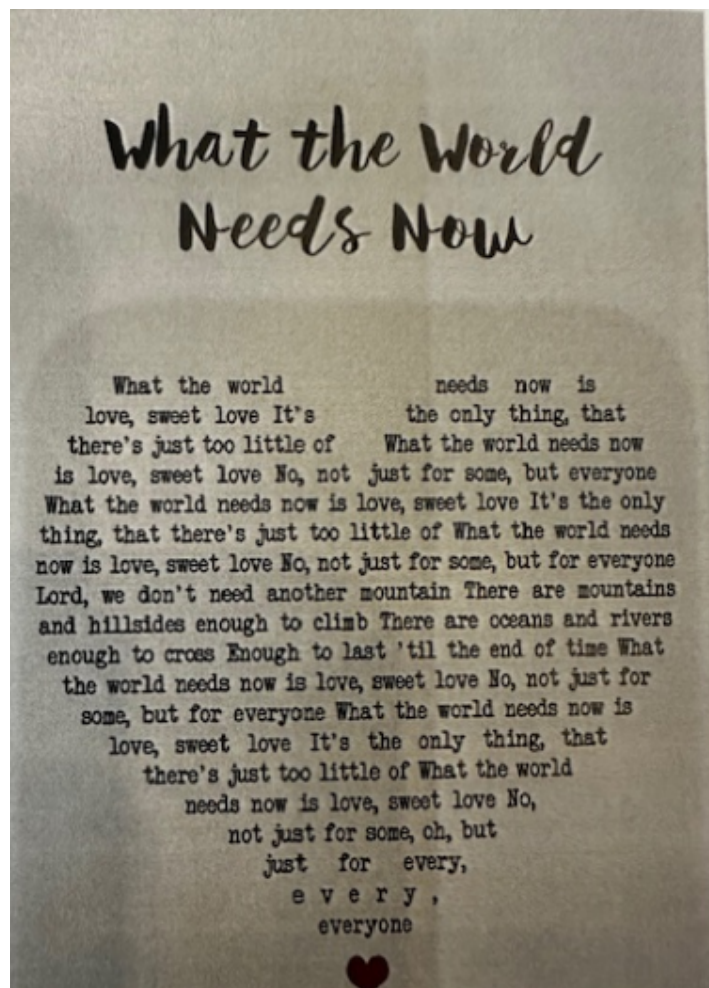
Carrie Guyton

**Member/Association
Support Services**



Lisa Hawker

Volunteer of the Year





OHIO VALLEY YMCA TO RECEIVE ODNR AMLER FUNDING

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is working to reclaim abandoned mine land and promote economic and environmental opportunities within historic coal mining communities around Ohio. Funding for the projects comes from the Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program.

Our own Ohio Valley YMCA has received \$2,600,000 to remediate currently unusable land in Columbiana County to create outdoor YMCA facilities, infrastructure, and recreational opportunities. Hiking areas, recreation spaces, and renovation and expansion of existing housing structures will be included.

The organization is pursuing projects in the following Ohio counties: Athens, Belmont, Columbiana, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Mahoning, Morgan, Noble, and Tuscarawas. If you are located in these areas and have interest in partnering with ODNR, more information is available on the ODNR website [here](#).

YOU ARE INVITED! Y USA ANTI-HUNGER REGIONAL EVENT

The YMCA of Ross County is hosting an Anti-Hunger Regional Event on April 25, 2025. This in-person event will bring together individuals and organizations dedicated to making a difference in our region. Join the conversation about ways the YMCA is meeting the needs of our communities. There will be plenty of opportunities to learn, connect, and contribute to the fight against hunger.



Whether you're a long-time advocate or new to the cause, this event is for everyone who believes in a future without hunger. Join us as we come together, share our stories, and inspire each other to create positive change!

[Click here to RSVP to the event!](#)

COLUMBIA GAS PROMISE FUND GRANTS AVAILABLE TO NONPROFITS

For the third year, Columbia Gas is offering grants to support capital campaigns and annual events/fundraisers of nonprofit organizations that align with one or more of their four impact areas:



- Basic Needs & Safety
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Environmental Stewardship
- STEM Education & Economic Development

Grants of up to \$100,000, paid over two years, are offered for initiatives that are sustainable past the initial investment. The grant portal is open until April 30, 2025 on Columbia Gas's website.

DHS AND IRS DATA-SHARING AGREEMENT IMPACTS EMPLOYERS

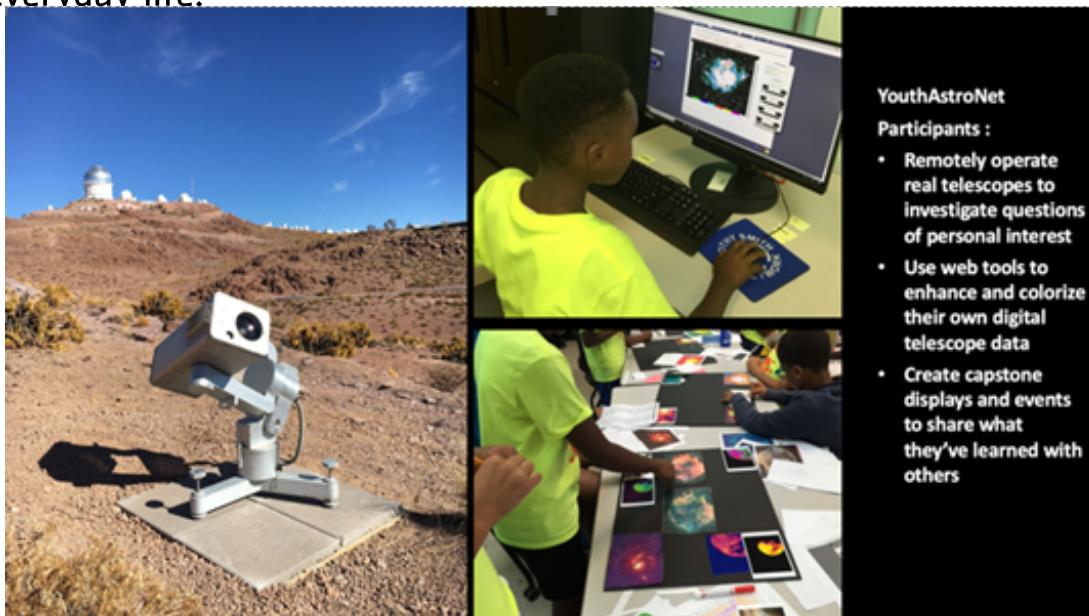
The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of the Treasury have issued a Memorandum of Understanding under which the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will work with the IRS to locate taxpayers without legal status who have final removal orders or are under criminal investigation.

Undocumented workers can apply for Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) to report their earnings to the IRS. However, because ITIN numbers have 9 digits just like Social Security numbers, employers are at risk of mistaking ITINs for Social Security numbers (i.e., legal status). Employers are cautioned to review their records to ensure that they are in full compliance with Form I-9's identity and work authorization requirements. [Click here](#) for more information and for developments related to this action.

FREE STEAM LEARNING PROGRAM FOR SUMMER CAMPERS

YouthAstroNet is a FREE STEAM learning program in which students use remotely controlled robotic telescopes and easy-to-use image-processing software tools to enhance their own astronomical images. You can customize your program to focus on topics from astrophotography, to engineering design, to space exploration. YouthAstroNet is great for summer camps, after-school programming, family workshops and more!

Students learn that there are many ways to be a science person, by exploring the profiles of diverse STEM professionals, asking questions, and exploring simple hands-on activities to connect the science and stories of the night sky to everyday life.



Educators receive FREE online training (4-6 hours), all activity guides, and community support to help facilitate this program. To participate, please complete [this brief application](#).

You can find out more about the YouthAstroNet community [on their website](#).

The program is run by educators and researchers from the Smithsonian Institution and Harvard University at the Center for Astrophysics. Educators who participate in the project also contribute to research on STEM learning by having their students complete pre and post surveys and will receive \$250 for this participation.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact YouthAstroNet's Research Coordinator Sue Sunbury (ssunbury@cfa.harvard.edu).



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ohio Alliance of YMCAs 2025 Meeting Dates

Neighborhood CEO Meetings				
	January (Virtual)	April (In Person)	August (Virtual)	December (In Person)
Northeast	1/21 10-11 am Zoom Link	4/22 10 am – 12 pm	8/6 10-11 am Zoom Link	12/2 10 am-12 pm
Northwest	1/21 11:30-12:30 p.m. Zoom Link	4/23 10 am – 12 pm	8/6 11:30-12:30 pm Zoom Link	12/3 10 am- 12 pm
South/Central	1/23 11:00 – 12:00 pm Zoom Link	5/1 10 am – 12 pm	8/7 11:00 – 12:00 pm Zoom Link	12/18 10:00-12:00

Statewide CEO Meetings	
Statewide CEO/CVO Meeting	February 13 10 am – 12 pm
Statewide CEO Meeting	June 13 – Delaware YMCA 10 am – 2 pm
Statewide CEO Conference	September 11-12 Nationwide Event Center, Lewis Center, OH

Ohio YMCAs Events/Opportunities	
Ohio YMCAs Leadership Week	March 17-21, Columbus, OH
Leadership Academy Cohort 5	Launches August 2025
Ohio YMCAs Child Care Summit	September 10-11
Leadership Launchpad	April- June and September-October

National Meetings	
National Advocacy Days	March 3-5 Washington, DC
NAYDO	April 30-May 3, St. Louis, MO
Mid-Major Ys CEO/CVO Meeting	September 16-18
EMLE	June 19-20 Great Miami Valley YMCA
YNAN Ys CEO/CVO Meeting	February 19-21 and October 6-9

Statewide Peer Community Virtual Meetings (Click Meeting Title for Zoom Link)

	May	November
Aquatic/Swim Team	5/7 10-11 am	11/12 10-11 am
Membership	5/7 1-2 pm	11/12 1-2 pm
DEI	5/7 2-3 pm	11/12 2-3 pm
Health/Wellness	5/7 3-4 pm	11/12 3-4 pm
COOs	5/6 10-11 am	11/13 10-11 am
Property/Facility	5/6 11 am- 12 pm	11/13 11 am – 12 pm
HR	5/6 1-2 pm	11/13 1-2 pm
Youth Sports	5/6 2-3 pm	11/13 2-3 pm
Branch Executives	5/6 3-4 pm	11/13 3-4 pm
CVOs	6/6 11 am – 12 pm	11/14 11 am – 12 pm
Marketing	4/11 (in person) 10 am – 1 pm Delaware YMCA	10/9 (in person) 10 am – 1 pm Delaware YMCA

Child Care All at 1 pm (Click Here for Zoom Link)	
January 15	August 20
February 19	September 17
April 16	October 15
May 21	November 19
June 18	December 17
July 16	

Financial Development All at 2 pm (Click Here for Teams Link)
February 19
April 16
June 18
August 20
October 15
December 17

Ohio YMCAs Camping Group	
All at 11 am (Click Here for Zoom Link)	
January 21	September 16
February 18	October 21
March 20 (at Conference)	November 18
April 15	December 16
May 20	