Mayors’ Partnership for Progress  
January 10, 2013  
Leadership Conference Room  
Building 221, The Ridges  
Athens, Ohio

**Member**  
Member Mayor Jack Everson City of Chillicothe - President
Attendees: Mayor Mike Gerlach Village of Middleport – Vice President
Mayor Paul Wiehl City of Athens – Secretary/Treasurer
Mayor Doug Heitman Village of Zaleski
City Manager Randy Finney Village of Gallipolis
Mayor Gary Goosman Village of Amesville
Mayor Mike Lorentz City of Belpre
Mayor Martin Irvine City of Logan
Randy Heath City of Jackson

**Representative**  
Representative Jeanne Wilson Office of Senator Sherrod Brown
Attendees: Marilyn Ashcraft Office of Lt. Governor Mary Taylor
Jim Bernholtz Office of Ohio State Treasurer
Ray Foeller Ohio Consumer Council
David King Ohio-WV Youth Leadership Association
Doug Wetsch Ohio Youth Leadership Association

**Voinovich School:**  
Voinovich School Robert Gordon

**SUMMARY**

Mayor Jack Everson called the meeting to order. He welcomed the attendees and recognized the new officers: President - Mayor Jack Everson (Chillicothe), Vice President - Mayor Mike Gerlach (Middleport) and Secretary/Treasurer - Mayor Paul Wiehl (Athens)

Mayor Everson introduced David King and Doug Wetsch representing the Ohio-WV Youth Leadership Association.

**Preparing the Next Generation for Civic Responsibility**

David King, Interim Executive Director, expressed that the Youth in Government program was a structured high school legislature scenario. Students are challenged to explore and develop responsibility, character and service. The program assists communities facing the loss of their youth to larger cities. Doug Wetsch added that volunteerism and changing hearts/attitudes is at the root of their efforts. Communities and local governments have the opportunity to sponsor individuals. Formal organizations are not required. April 2013 will make the 62nd year of the Youth in Government Program.

Recent students participating in the program were treated to Speaker of the House, William Batchelder’s personal reflection of attending the Youth in Government program in 1959-1960. He recalled the seat he had occupied for the 1959 session. The illustration was uplifting to the young lady who was seated there. Who knows what opportunities await her?

The Youth Leadership Association also assists communities in establishing Youth Councils. Jackson County is currently the only active participant; however both Waverly and Gallipolis have recently shown interest. Other communities with an interest were given forms to fill in community contact information. The Mayors Partnership learned of similar efforts, at a local level, in Chillicothe and Logan.
In addition the Youth Leadership Association conducts Leadership Summits, organizes local Model UN Nation activities and maintains *The Center for Community Leadership* at Cave Lake in Pike County.

The Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association is a 501 c (3) not-for-profit organization that develops young civic leaders with a life-long commitment to engaged citizenship. Their home office is located in Point Pleasant, WV

Contact Information:
David King: david@yla-youthleadership.org
Doug Wetsch: doug@yla-youthleadership.org
Website: [http://www.yla-youthleadership.org/](http://www.yla-youthleadership.org/)

**Business Session**

**Approval of Minutes**
Mayor Everson called for the approval of the December 13, 2012 minutes. Robert Gordon noted a correction on the header date line.

Motion: Mayor Randy Heath  Second: Mayor Mike Lorentz  Motion: Passed

**Financial Report**
Mayor Paul Wiehl, Secretary/Treasurer reported the current treasury amount: $2,879.09

Motion: Mayor Randy Heath  Second: Mayor Doug Heitman  Motion: Passed

Mayor Wiehl further informed that invoices will be distributed for the 2013 membership dues.

**Old Business**

**2013 Meeting Schedule**
Members received the revised 2013 schedule reflecting the host communities for the evening meetings in May at Lake Hope Lodge (Wellston) and October at the Gallipolis Justice Center (Gallipolis).

**HB 523 and SB 254**
Mayor Goosman updated the members that the bills were combined and passed under HB 606. The bill sets the population limit at 200 for communities to be eligible to hold Mayor's Court.

**Report of Committees**

**Website Committee**
Partnership members were again reminded to send photos, bios, and other content to Robert Gordon, Kelsey Doyle or Mayor Goosman for inclusion on the website planning. Mayor Goosman proposed that the group move forward with the purchase of a web domain name.

Motion: Mayor Paul Wiehl  Second: Mayor Randy Heath  Motion: Passed

Each community will be asked to include a link to the Partnership page from their community site.

**NOTICE:** All members are asked to sit for a group photo during the February meeting.
New Business

February Meeting Topic
The Partnership requested a speaking invitation be sent to John Molinaro, President and CEO of the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG). If Mr. Molinaro is unable to attend then perhaps one of the newly hired Project Managers might be available to provide agency updates.

If APEG is not available to present the members would like to discuss the “LinkedIn” campaign to reinstate the Local Government Funds (LFG) from the State’s surplus dollars.

March Meeting Topic
Jason Wilson, Governor’s Office of Appalachia and Mary Richards Oakley, Economic and Appalachian Development Manager, Ohio Development Services Agency are scheduled to present agency updates on March 14, 2013.

Information Roundtable
Participants were invited to share information from their respective offices and communities.

Highlights
Logan: Vacant property registrations
Zaleski: Visit to review Amesville Sewer Plant innovations
Amesville: Well head protection planning
Senator Brown: Procurement Conference, Shale Development, Outreach to constituency groups
State Treasurer: Star Plus update
Consumer Council: Ohio Retail Electric Market under review
Middleport: Bio fuels off sewer lagoon, Multi-purpose trail
Gallipolis: Administrative Building slated for February completion
Athens: Sewer extension, Well head protection
Belpre: Infrastructure improvements related to medical facilities
Ohio Lt. Governor: Common Sense Initiative (CSI)

Members received a January Edition of the “Progress News” containing regionally relevant news and announcements.

Special Recognition
Mayor Everson recognized Mayor Heitman’s contribution as the Past President. He was joined by a round of applause from all in attendance.

Adjournment
Mayor Randy Heath offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.