

Small Business Matters

i Want more information and resources on this week's topics, ideas and events? Go to www.cose.org/smallbizmatters.



Small Business Big Impact

COSE's job is to raise your voice with policymakers and elected officials to ensure Ohio is a place your business can thrive. Every two years, we convene small business owners to set our priorities for the upcoming legislative sessions in Columbus and Washington, D.C. The experiences of those small business owners, the challenges they face and the issues they believe will be at the forefront, help us to form a hit list of issues and opportunities in the work we do advocating on your behalf.

In addition to proactively reacting to issues that surface without a lot of warning, we'll also be working to push several important priorities to the top of the pile of issues and conversation among our elected officials. COSE's legislative and regulatory goals for 2015-2016 will focus on:

Energy – More support for small businesses that want to reduce their costs through energy efficiency; more energy choices for small business that stabilize costs; and more opportunities for education, technical support and project financing for small business energy efficiency.

Health Care – Achieve greater uniformity between state and federal health care laws; support state payment reform initiatives that reduce the total cost of health care claims.

Rules and Regulations – Ensure effective implementation of the entrepreneur-in-residence pilot program; continued representation on Ohio's Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Small Business Advisory Council; and champion new and proposed revisions to rules and regulations that remove unnecessary barriers to doing business in Ohio.

Taxes – Make taxes easier to understand and simpler to administer and comply with, including simplifying the way small businesses have to report local taxes; ensure state tax reforms don't penalize small business or ignore



the benefits small business owners get from personal income tax reductions.

Workers' Compensation – Provide more training program support for employers and more safety education for workers; get rid of rules that put a former building occupant's workers' compensation liability on the new occupant of a building when there is no relationship between their businesses.

Workforce Development – Improve the support that state workforce programs provide to small employers—especially as it relates to workers getting training and education on the skills and support capabilities small businesses need right now.

i To view COSE's complete *Public Policy Agenda for 2015-2016*, visit www.cose.org/publicpolicyagenda or call 216-592-2392 to request a printed copy.

Get on the Bus!

Join us for COSE Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, May 12 and take advantage of the unique opportunity to meet with policymakers and discuss ways in which we can work together to enhance the small business climate in Ohio. Our day in Columbus includes meetings with legislative leadership, presentations from elected officials and a chance for informal conversation with other small business owners, legislators and their key staff during our end of day cocktail reception. Round-trip transportation and meals are included. Save your seat on the COSE bus by contacting Adina Magda at amagda@cose.org.



COSE Volunteers: Leading the Way Since 1972

In recognition of National Volunteer Week April 12-18, COSE would like to recognize the outstanding volunteers who dedicate their valuable time and enormous talents to drive the organization's initiatives. Since 1972, Northeast Ohio small business owners have served as the lifeblood of COSE. We thank you for your expertise, insights, and most of all, your passion for helping other small business owners succeed.



#14 - Raise Your Voice

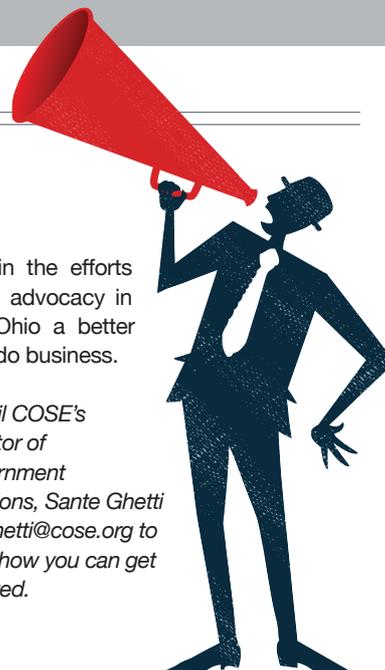
Now, more than ever before, there is a recognition of the importance of the contribution of the small business community to the broad economic performance of our country and to the specific ability of our most urban and rural communities to create jobs and build wealth. In many cases, a small business owner's ability to identify a unique opportunity in the free market and to respond to it with ingenuity, hard work, and dogged persistence is enough for them to achieve success. Often, however, well-

intended public policy initiatives or forces beyond what the market can address, limit the way small business owners can pursue opportunity.

When small business owners in Ohio band together and raise their voice on common issues that affect their ability to run successful businesses, they can make a real difference. Working with elected representatives, they can collectively take action to support the kind of environment in which these owners and their employees can thrive. To raise your

voice, join the efforts of COSE advocacy in making Ohio a better place to do business.

i E-mail COSE's Director of Government Relations, Sante Ghetti at sghetti@cose.org to learn how you can get involved.



PRESENTED BY



council of smaller enterprises

April 6

By The Numbers

2,000

State of Ohio
Business-Related
Rules & Regulations
Filed on Average
Annually

Connection Calendar

OHTEC PITCH NIGHT

Hear pitches on some of the coolest new tech businesses, products and ideas in NEO.

MONDAY, APRIL 13

5:30 – 8:30 PM

LockKeepers, Valley View

Cost: OHTec (formerly NEOSA) and COSE Members \$25; Non-Members \$40

Register at www.cose.org/events.

LINKING IT TALENT TO OPPORTUNITY

Presented by the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP), this event connects job seekers to opportunities in the tech space.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

1 – 4:30 PM

Independence Civic Center

Cost: Free for GCP, OHTec (formerly NEOSA) and COSE Members; Non-Members \$150

Reserve your space at www.gcpartnership.org/events.

BEST OF TECH AWARDS DINNER

Honoring the top technology companies in our region.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

5:30 – 9:30 PM

Red Space at HotCards, Cleveland

Cost: OHTec (formerly NEOSA) and COSE Members \$35; Non-Members \$50

Reserve your seat at www.cose.org/events.

WEBED SERIES: CONTENT MARKETING - CREATE A MINI-PUBLISHING EMPIRE

Presented by Kevin Cesarz, Thread Group

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

11 AM - NOON

Register at www.cose.org/events.

Check out www.cose.org/events for all the latest happenings.