



# OMEGA 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear OMEGA Members and Friends:

The year 2010 was one of change. The economy which had faltered in 2009 remained a consideration for all local governments. People questioned many of the basic institutions. Unemployment levels remained high.

During this same year, positive things were happening. The Middle Mile Connecting Appalachia broadband project was approved. Horizon was awarded \$66 Million dollars to run fiber optic cable from its main network to anchor points in 34 counties (including all OMEGA's counties). AEP announced a solar farm in the area south of Cumberland.

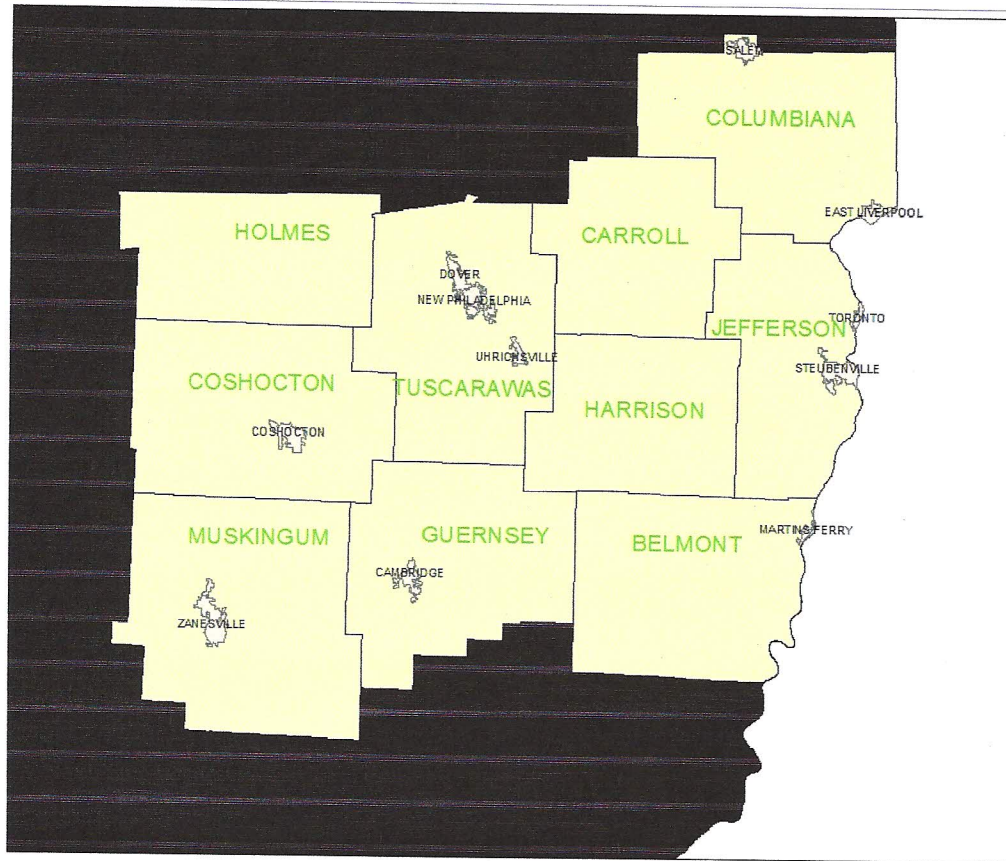
With the help of ARC dollars, Kent State, Tuscarawas, was able to open a state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center. Zane State announced plans to expand its Cambridge campus facilities and programs.

Appalachian dollars allowed a rail spur to be built near Byesville to retain 68 jobs, and create 100 new jobs. Another railroad spur in Carroll County will retain 73 full time positions and allow a new business to start up in the area. In Salem, the Chester Hoist Company renovated a building, and will be creating 90 jobs. Again, Appalachian participation was paramount to the expansion of this company's second plant in Columbiana County.

It is easy to become discouraged by the turmoil of change, but we must be proactive in the search for new economic opportunities in our region. Our area has two strong selling points. First, it has a reliable work force with educational institutions that can deliver training; and secondly, there is an abundance of natural resources including water supply, minerals, and recreational areas.

*Greg L. DiDonato*

## OMEGA MEMBER GOVERNMENTS



The member governments of OMEGA include ten county governments: Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum and Tuscarawas; and eleven city governments: Cambridge, Coshocton, Dover, East Liverpool, Martins Ferry, New Philadelphia, Salem (beginning in 2010), Steubenville, Toronto, Uhrichsville, and Zanesville.

OMEGA is a collaborative body of member governments that serves as a facilitator between state and federal government agencies and local entities to provide opportunities in economic and community development through networking, education, planning, research, and allocation of resources. OMEGA's main objective is to foster a cooperative effort in planning, development and implementation of local and regional plans, programs and projects which will increase the economic activity in the area and improve the quality of life of its citizens.

