

CLEAN TIMES

~ Textile Care Professionals ~

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In This Issue

[OCA Website Has Taken A New Look](#)

[Ohio Minimum Wage Goes Up 15 Cents January 1, 2013](#)

[Dry Cleaners May Get Relief from Workplace Discrimination Laws](#)

[Dry Cleaners Support Municipal Tax Uniformity Bill](#)

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OCA Website Has Taken A New Look

www.ohiocleaners.org



Ohio Minimum Wage Goes Up 15 Cents January 1, 2013

Ohio's minimum wage will go up by 15 cents to \$7.85 an hour beginning Jan.

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1, 2013, according to the Ohio Department of Commerce.

For tipped employees, the new minimum will be \$3.93 per hour, plus tips, an increase of 8 cents an hour.

The state minimum wage is set annually because of an amendment to the Ohio Constitution approved statewide by voters in 2006. The amendment links the minimum age to the Consumer Price Index as applied to urban wage earners and clerical employees for a 12-month period ending annually in August. The CPI went up 1.7 percent from Sept. 1, 2011, to Aug. 31 this year, meaning the minimum wage is boosted by an equivalent percentage, rounded to the nearest 5 cents, the state agency said.

The increase for 2013 is half of the 30-cent jump this year. The increase for previous years was 10 cents in 2011, zero in 2010, and 15 and 30 cents in 2008 and 2009, respectively

The new year will also bring a slight change for companies that must pay minimum wage. As of Jan. 1, the wage will apply to businesses with annual gross receipts \$288,000, a \$5,000 increase over this year. Smaller companies, with gross receipts under \$288,000 must pay the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 and hour. The same rate applies to 14- and 15-year-old employees.

Information on the increases is available online at
http://www.com.ohio.gov/laws/docs/dico_2013MinimumWageposter.pdf

Dry Cleaners May Get Relief from Workplace Discrimination Laws

Legislation introduced Oct. 17 to reduce the statute of limitations on workplace discrimination lawsuits immediately drew fire from trial lawyers but also attracted strong support from the state's largest business group.

Sen. William Coley (R-Middletown), the sponsor of the bill (SB 383), said Friday its enactment would bring employment discrimination laws in line with federal statute. However he had to respond right out of the starting block to opponents who claim the measure would grant immunity to employers who discriminate.

[Read more...](#)

Dry Cleaners Support Municipal Tax Uniformity Bill

Dry cleaners would benefit by the passage of HB 601 which would establish a uniform municipal income tax system with one set of rules and regulations that apply to all Ohio cities that impose business and individual income taxes. It creates a simple, predictable and uniform municipal tax system that will make Ohio more business friendly.



In Ohio, nearly 600 cities and villages impose a municipal income tax on individuals and businesses and Ohio is the only state that permits municipalities to create their own definitions, rules and regulations, mandate use of their own forms, assess varied amounts of penalties and interest, and impose different reporting timetables for the collection of municipal income taxes.

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Frank Gates 2013 Group Rating Enrollment Reminder

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Again this year, OCA is sponsoring a workers' compensation group, so that our members can continue to receive significant discount off their workers' compensation premiums. The group administrator, Frank Gates, has sent out enrollment materials to all returning employers who qualify for the group.

If you have not enrolled in the program yet, the **deadline for Frank Gates to receive your enrollment materials is February 22, 2013**, but we strongly recommend enrolling as soon as possible to lock in your rate and make sure you don't miss out on the discount.

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Save the Date! 2013 Ohio Safety Congress

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The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo is one of the finest occupational safety and health events in the Midwest. The event, scheduled for April 9 - 11, 2013 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, will offer dynamic keynote speakers, a variety of educational sessions and displays of occupational safety and health products.

Free registration makes Safety Congress a valuable tool for your injury prevention program.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority can help dry cleaning businesses to stay compliant with state and federal environmental standards. For information on lower-cost financing for equipment purchases click the logo or call 614-224-3383.