

# CLEAN TIMES

~ Textile Care Professionals ~

June 2015

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## OCA and NCA Joint Seminar



Saturday, May 2, 2015, the Ohio Cleaners Association (OCA) and the National Cleaners Association (NCA) presented a seminar on "Avoiding Claims at the Counter" at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Thank you **Alan Spielvogel**, Director of Technical Services, NCA, for providing a wealth of information to our attendees.

**Director of Services**  
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## Member Benefits

*[House Strips Most Kasich Tax Proposals from Budget Bill](#)*

## House OK's 6.3% Income Tax Cut: Senate Studies Budget Issues



After weeks of studying the sweeping proposals from Gov. John Kasich in his executive budget for FY16-17, House Republicans passed their version that largely stripped out the proposed sales tax expansion to consultants and others as well as the severance, tobacco and CAT taxes and dedicated more money to school districts so that fewer will lose funds in the next biennium.

The House proposal will give a 6.3 percent across-the-board income tax cut beginning in Tax Year 2015 worth \$1.2 billion over the biennium, which will lower the top tax rate to 4.997 percent. They also made the 75 percent small business tax deduction that was adopted by the 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly permanent.

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) says he believes in the direction Kasich is trying to take the state long term, but said he wanted to give businesses tax certainty and get everyone on the same page as they move along the path that Kasich has laid out in his executive budget.

To that end, the House included the creation of the 2020 Tax Policy Study Commission, which will examine the state's tax policies in comparison to other states. Rosenberger said it will include members of the House and Senate as well as the tax commissioner and budget director to look at tax policies and make recommendations. Among the items that will be studied by the commission will be an increase in the severance tax, something Kasich has pushed for but which has been resisted by lawmakers and the oil and gas industry, who have argued for a much lower tax than proposed by the governor.

The Ohio Senate currently is taking testimony and is expected to unveil its version of the Budget on June 8 with a vote scheduled for June 17.

[Garment Analysis](#)



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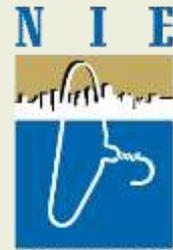
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**New UK Dry Cleaning App**

Young Irish Entrepreneur Jonathan O'Brien, has combined knowledge of working in his family Dry



Cleaners with a passion for computer science to create an innovative new app.

Set to launch in Manchester this week The Dry Cleaner App is the latest product to revolutionise the garment care industry "across the pond."

Jonathan, from Cork, has signed up hundreds of clothes care businesses across the UK and Ireland and is poised to go live with a two-week trial of 35 shops in Greater Manchester.

The app acts as a one stop shop to connect the customer to local cleaners, browse individual price lists and Schedule Collection & Delivery for their cleaning.

It helps to connect customers online to their nearest garment professional.

Jonathan, who has spent months visiting each business, says he wanted to create something that contributes and is useful for the industry.

Speaking at his MediaCityUK office in The Greenhouse, he said: "I wanted to build something that the shops could use without any cost to them.

"I feel that nowadays some people are always wanting to take a cut of any business and I believe there is another approach."

Jonathan started work on his app four years ago after receiving seed funding and has been fine tuning the service ever since.

After being introduced to the British-Irish Chamber of Commerce and UK Trade and Investment O'Brien moved his business to Manchester in 2012.

## Legislative Representation



He now employs two full-time and three part-time staff and wants to grow his concept across the UK and Ireland.

He said: "I invented this app so that I could prove that the ideas I

had for a mobile-based app for the garment care industry could be made to work effectively.

"The idea also had to be made to work seamlessly for any high street cleaner, whether large or small, for a single retail outlet or for one with several branches."

The free app, which is available for iPhone, Android and iPad, enables any cleaner to be in direct personal contact with their customers old and new, in order to receive orders for collection and delivery of garments.

The app can be downloaded from the App Store and Google Play.

It is due to roll out to key cities in 2015 including London, Manchester Dublin and Cork.

O'Brien said he was optimistic. He added: "Basically I'm taking the hundreds of websites across the UK and Ireland that provide this service and I'm bringing them mobile."

## BWC Approves Flexible Payment Plans

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors on April 24 approved a plan to allow private employers to pay for their annual workers' compensation premiums in two, four, six or 12 installments as part of its move to a new prospective billing system.

Under the new system, businesses will be billed prior to receiving coverage instead of the previous system of billing employers after they have received coverage. The signing of 130-HB493 (Sears-Henne) allowed for the transition to the new system.

"Prospective billing is not only the standard across the insurance industry, it will bring a number of benefits to Ohio employers, including the \$1.2 billion in premiums BWC will pay on their behalf as we make the transition," BWC

Administrator Steve Buehrer said. "We're pleased to offer more flexibility as part of our ongoing efforts to modernize our operations and provide the quality service that Ohio employers expect."

Businesses can expect to receive their first notice of estimated annual premium in early June for the 2015 policy year, according to a news release from BWC.

[Read more...](#)

## **BWC: 11,000 Employees Could Miss out on \$1.2 Billion Premium Credit**



Eleven thousand businesses and other employers insured by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) could lose their share of the statewide \$1.2 billion premium credit in the pending switch to prospective billing if they don't bring their accounts current by July 1, according to the Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC).

BWC has reminded private members of the state insurance fund of their obligation to make their payments for the second half of 2014 prior to the switch to prospective billing, for which the bureau will cover eight months of premiums.

Plan members must satisfy the previous year either through a cash payment or an agreed payment plan.

"We want to give employers every opportunity to receive eight months of free workers' comp coverage, so we're even allowing those employers that have fallen behind on payments to receive the credit if they set up a payment plan," BWC Administrator/CEO Stephen Buehrer said in a statement. "We encourage Ohio employers to review their policies and take action if necessary, and at the same time familiarize themselves with the new billing process so they're prepared when the new system is in place."

Under the new system, businesses will be billed prior to coverage instead of the current practice of billing employers in arrears. Private employers' first payment under prospective billing will be due Aug. 31.

To receive the premium credit, said Buehrer, employers with lapsed policies must take the follow steps:

- Report unreported payroll for currently lapsed payroll

periods.

- Pay any outstanding premium, late fees and penalties for assessed premium.
- Request a payment plan for any premium amounts that cannot be paid in full.

"Policyholders no longer operating their business should also provide the date their operations ceased, so BWC can cancel the policy and resolve any outstanding issues," the bureau said.