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Cleveland Section**

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**AIChE Cleveland Section February Newsletter**

**Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 6:00 PM**

Burntwood Tavern, Fairlawn-Akron

**Ohio's leadership in a Hydrogen-Fueled Zero-Emission Economy**

By **Kirt Conrad**, SARTA CEO, Stark Area Regional Transit Authority, Ohio [kconrad@sartaonline.com](mailto:kconrad@sartaonline.com)

**Abstract:** Mr. Conrad will update the Cleveland and Akron AIChE sections on the most recent developments with the Ohio Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2) that has received the green light to submit a full application for federal clean hydrogen hub funding from the U.S. Department of Energy this January 2023. The Ohio ARCH2 was led by Kirt Conrad, CEO of the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) and a founding member of OH2. He has successfully been operating a hydrogen fuel cell fleet of 22 buses in the Stark area for the past four years. The ARCH2 hub will be concentrated in Appalachian counties as defined by the Appalachian Regional Commission across West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. Of the 79 national groups that submitted concept papers to the DOE there were 33 groups that were encouraged to proceed with submitting a full application for federal funding. OH2 joined ARCH2 in 2022. ARCH2 is led by the Battelle Memorial Foundation, EQT Energy, GTI Energy, and Allegheny Science and Technology (AST). "The group possesses the knowledge, experience, technical expertise, and resources that will be needed to successfully compete with the other 32 entities seeking the federal funding," Mr. Conrad said.

The OH2 / ARCH2 effort is supported by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, Steve Stivers, President of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, J.P. Nauseef, President and CEO of JobsOhio, and Pat Tiberi, President and CEO of the Ohio Business Roundtable. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has \$1.2 trillion in the bill and has portioned an \$8 billion investment in hydrogen hub funding through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

**Bio:** Mr. Conrad is a senior executive in public transit with expertise in alternative energy and public policy. Has increased ridership over 30% and increased revenues by 20%. Has secured over \$50 million in competitive grants and managed construction programs from railroad rehabilitation to LEED certified building in the transportation industry. He led the purchase of 50 miles of railroad right-of-way and use of transportation infrastructure as a multi-modal corridor for both freight and commuter service. Currently, Mr. Conrad is working with a number of private sector companies to commercialize fuel cell based public transportation and researching the best business models to support public hydrogen infrastructure.

*Please email Joseph Yurko if you plan to attend the presentation. An AIChE Continuing Professional Development certificate will be emailed to you after the meeting. Thank you!*



**Meeting Location:**

**Burntwood Tavern, Fairlawn, Ohio**

3750 West Market Street

6:00 – 6:30 pm: Social Gathering

Fairlawn, OH 44333

6:30 – 7:30 pm: Dinner

[fairlawn@burntwoodtavern.com](mailto:fairlawn@burntwoodtavern.com)

7:30 – 8:30 pm: Presentation with Q&A

234-466-7372

**Cost:** \$26 members & guests, \$5 students

**Menu:** <https://www.burntwoodtavern.com/ohio>

Choice of two:

Lobster bisque, House salad or Caesar salad

Choice of three:

Salmon salad, French dip, Angus burger,

Chicken Milanese, Fish & chips,

California chicken sandwich



**RSVP by February 27<sup>th</sup>** with Joseph Yurko and AIChE: [yurkojoe5@gmail.com](mailto:yurkojoe5@gmail.com)



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