

Community Bankers Association of Ohio Announces Promotion of Aza Bittinger Jr. to COO



Columbus, OH, January 9, 2018 – [Community Bankers Association of Ohio \(CBAO\)](#), the financial trade association exclusively representing Ohio's community bank and thrift institutions, announces the promotion of Aza Bittinger Jr. to Chief Operating Officer effective January 1, 2018.

Mr. Bittinger has fully taken over the responsibilities for managing CBAO's daily operations including overseeing its subsidiary companies, managing membership programs, strengthening its services and offerings, and directing the CBAO team.

"Aza was identified as CBAO's future leader in 2015 and was hired as our Vice President to begin our Executive Leadership Succession plan," described CBAO's President & CEO, Robert Palmer. "Having transitioned to Senior Vice President in 2016 and now COO, Aza has continued to demonstrate his exemplary leadership and dedication to community banking."

Palmer continued, "Aza's deep experience in banking and talent for bringing a personal touch to relationships fuels his vision for Ohio's community banking association. His passion and commitment to serving our members continues to drive us forward."

As part of CBAO's long-term, strategic plan, Mr. Palmer's primary focus has transferred to championing the association's advocacy efforts at the state and federal level, as well as corresponding with state and national media outlets.

The association has been evolving to better serve the needs of Ohio's community banks and their service partners, as well as work with its sister associations across the U.S. to lead community banking into the future. Bittinger's promotion builds on the momentum of the association's progress.

"We recognize that the banking industry is changing and we are dedicated to supporting Ohio's community banks as they implement changes and create innovative experiences and solutions," Bittinger said. "By providing leading education and training, advocating at the state and federal level, and inspiring and recruiting community banking's next generation, we are committed to driving the future of independent banking. I am blessed to be working with a team as equally committed to the success of Ohio's community banks as I am. Together, we are looking forward to driving CBAO's invigorating future."

Mr. Bittinger has over 18 years of banking experience with a specialty in retail and small business development. Aza graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. He enjoys being involved in his community including being a past president and current member of the Rotary Club of Westerville, and serving five years as race director for the Rotary Honors Veterans 5K Walk/Run. He lives in Columbus, Ohio with his wife, Stacey, and two beautiful daughters. He enjoys rooting for the Buckeyes during football season, golfing when the weather is favorable and participating in marathons.

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