

## ENOUGH WANDERING: IT'S NOW TIME FOR US TO SETTLE DOWN

Like the ancient Israelites in the Old Testament, the Cincinnatus Association has been wandering. For more than a year, we've been holding our monthly membership meetings in various places and at various times. We've had good reasons for doing so. First, the University Club is expensive for an organization with financial strains. Second, the lifestyles of our members, including those with children at home, suggest a need for options for the time of day. Member feedback indicates it is time to stop wandering. You want more consistency and predictability. We now have written guidelines:

- No breakfast meetings, except in unusual circumstances. Dinner will be our primary meeting time.
- We will hold more lunches. A year ago, we had great attendance at a lunch meeting.
- We will meet most often at the Freestore Foodbank, the United Way, the University Club, the Metropolitan Club, and the Taft Center.
- The site of our annual Education Awards dinner will continue to be determined by the host university.
- Our annual Spencer Awards will again be held at the Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel.
- Our annual holiday party will move from time to time. This year, it will again be held at Bromwell's Härth Lounge downtown.
- We will meet in other places that are relevant to our anti-poverty mission but do so sparingly.

We will keep listening to you, monitoring attendance, and minimizing our expenses. Please continue to let us know what you think.

*Questions, comments?*

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Need a refresher on Issue 44? View this WCPO video [www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wC0hZ4DwXo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wC0hZ4DwXo).

## A win for our town's children

We said yes to the CPS/preschool levy ... so did voters

### HOW WE ENGAGED

- ✓ **Led the effort** to get leaders of CPS and the Pre-School Promise to support a joint levy.
- ✓ **Staffed a levy phone bank**, urging support.
- ✓ **Delivered hundreds** of Issue 44 yard signs.
- ✓ **Recruited other** organizations to endorse the levy.
- ✓ **Hosted small groups** in our homes to talk about the importance of the levy.
- ✓ **Wrote rapid responses** to negative articles or letters.
- ✓ **Our "Ambassadors"** were a social media army to spread the word.
- ✓ **Got the word** out to voters on Election Day.

By Kent Friel

**A**t our September meeting, we overwhelmingly endorsed the Cincinnati Public School/Preschool Promise tax levy, known as Issue 44. We made a commitment to provide active support — urging community backing at every opportunity. Tuesday, we and our allies saw the fruits of this labor when Issue 44 passed with over 60 percent of the vote. This was not a routine endorsement by Cincinnatus. It came in the context of our commitment to the overall community effort to address poverty in our city, and espe-

cially to ease if not erase childhood poverty. Tuesday's vote is an important step toward that goal because supporting improved K-12 education offers more assurance that our children will graduate, get better jobs, and become productive citizens. Furthermore, quality universal preschool means more of our community's children will be "kindergarten ready," which will boost their K-12 success. To finish strong, children need to start strong. Passage of Issue 44 was not a given. Any tax increase faces opposition. Together, we made the case.

"Our Cincinnatus Association should be proud of its efforts to make this a very successful campaign."

## MEET JILL CLAIRE, OUR NEW EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

Jill Claire, who has provided administrative support to membership organizations and businesses for 20 years, is the new executive administrator of the Cincinnatus Association.

She replaces Roger Smith, who provided dedicated administrative support and invaluable guidance for a decade.

Claire owns Secretary to the Public LLC, the Cincinnati firm she launched after working as an executive assistant early in her career. Her firm has grown so much that she now has more than a dozen part-time associates supporting her and clients.

Like Smith, Claire will serve Cincinnatus on a part-time basis as an independent contractor. Though her associates will assist her behind the scenes, Claire will personally attend most Cincinnatus monthly membership meetings and Executive Committee meetings to provide administrative support. That support includes handling finances, dealing with membership matters, and organizing membership meetings.

"We are confident that Jill will help strengthen the administrative operations of the Cincinnatus Association," said Cincinnatus President Elliot Grossman. "She is smart, strategic, and enthusiastic. We know she will bring fresh, practical ideas to Cincinnatus, drawn from her extensive experience working with other membership organizations."

Her clients include Financial Executives Inter-



Jill Claire

national Cincinnati Chapter, the Cincinnati Child Poverty Collaborative, and the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the Association for Fundraising Professionals. She assists with AFP's annual luncheon on National Philanthropy Day, expected to draw more than 900 people this year at the Duke Energy Center.

One past president of AFP called Claire and her team "fantastic." Another past president said, "They do a great job for AFP from managing events to taking board minutes to taking reservations.... Competitively priced and worth every penny."

## Heroin: How is our community responding ?

### Facts from the Columbus Dispatch

- In 2014, Ohio reported more drug overdose deaths than any state except California (CDC data).
- Because of the death rates, many in law enforcement now carry naloxone, a life-saving drug that helps counter overdoses.
- Even when addicts are ready to seek help, they often can't find a treatment center that has room for them. In 2014, just 13.9 percent of Ohioans who needed drug treatment received it.
- The hospitalization rate for babies born with symptoms of drug dependency has soared.

Read more: [www.dispatch.com](http://www.dispatch.com)

Member **Susan Noonan** and the Women's City Club invites you to Crossroads Community Church, 3500 Madison Road, Cincinnati, for a discussion, "Innovative Strategies Gaining Traction in the Fight Against Heroin."

The panel will include **Nan Franks**, CEO of the Addiction Services Council; **Dan Meloy**, city manager of Colerain Township, which has a new "quick response team" to sup-

port addicts in recovery; **Judge Heather Russell** of the Hamilton County Municipal Court on her "specialty court"; and **Dr. Shawn Ryan**, medical director of of BrightView Addiction Treatment.

- The discussion is on Nov. 16 in the chapel off the main entrance of the church.
- Sandwiches and deserts are available at 6 p.m. The panel starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by Q&A.

## Let's tell our story ... it's a good one but to tell it we need you

Cincinnatus has a great story to tell. But in a mostly volunteer association, the telling takes all of us. Here's a how-to guide on contributing:

**NEWSLETTER:** This monthly publication welcomes your contributions. Take a look at the format. We have room for longer pieces (see the Q&A with new member **James Williams** last month ) and short items (customarily published here, in the "green" column).

Send items to Marketing Chair **Mark Neikirk** at [neikirkm1@gmail.com](mailto:neikirkm1@gmail.com).

**FACEBOOK:** A social media page only works if it attracts an active, contributing audience. Step one, "like" our page. Step two, when you see something of interest, post it. When you have a news tidbit, post it. When you want to comment (be civil), do so.

VP **Melissa Currence** attends to our Facebook page. But members should consider the page as a place where all of us actively share info.

**WEBPAGE:** Visit it. Explore it. And consider contributing to it. The message board includes important association news, so be sure and check it from time to time. It's password protected, as is other "members only" content. Need an account? **Jill Claire** can set you up with a log-in.

**RECRUITING:** We always are interested fresh voices. Tell our story one-on-one to potential members. Bring them to a meeting as guests. The website has a recruiting toolkit to help with this.

**MEDIA:** We want a presence in the local media, with stories, op-eds, and even "people on the move" blurbs. Ideas for coverage? Let President **Elliot Grossman** know.

**PARTNERS:** Our footprint is expanded, too, when we partner with other organizations, as we have for example with the Women's City Club and the Northern Kentucky Forum. What other partners would you suggest? Let President **Elliot Grossman** know.