



Cincinnatus
Association

Hot off the press/OCTOBER 2013

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Tonight we'll lift the curtain on our new, improved website

Two years in the making, Cincinnatus new website goes public tonight. It's simpler and easier to navigate.

The site is the work of our marketing committee, which began by seeking proposals in 2011 from companies and freelancers recommended by our members. Our limited budget put us out of reach from some higher-end design houses — but we landed on our feet when former *Cincinnati Post* designer Ryan Ostrander (ryanostrander.com) teamed

up with Signal Networking (signalnetworking.com), an internet hosting firm based in Alexandria, KY. Ryan agreed to handle the design, and Signal the setup and hosting. Our project was their first collaboration — and we think you'll be pleased with the results.

To fund this project, the Executive Committee asked the membership to make contributions to cover about \$3,000 in costs. Many members did so.

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Covington City Commissioner Chuck Eilerman, who often turns his photographic eye on the city skyline, donated the photo that is our webpage's signature art.

MEET THE CPS CANDIDATES

CINCINNATUS, PARTNERS TO HOST PUBLIC FORUM

WHAT?

A nonpartisan forum featuring all nine candidates running for the Cincinnati Board of Education in the Nov. 5 general election.

Four seats are open, and only one is held by an incumbent seeking re-election. So this is a chance to get to know some newcomers.

WHEN and WHERE?

Oct. 23, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Mayerson Academy at 2650 Highland Ave. in Corryville. The forum will be in the Rosa Blackwell Interactive Learning Center.

THE CANDIDATES

Melanie Bates, Ericka Copeland-Dansby, Marcia Futel, Martha Good, Elisa Hoffman, Daniel Minera, Sally O'Callaghan, Betsy Shank and Victoria Straughn.

OUR PARTNERS

League of Women Voters, Citizens for Civic Renewal, Greater Cincinnati Urban League, Parents for Public Schools, Strive, Applied Information Resources and the Women's City Club of Greater Cincinnati.

Moderator: Dan Hurley

ANOTHER FAREWELL TO A PAST PRESIDENT: BILL KAGLER

Another Cincinnatus president ('81-82) and civic leader passed away since we last met. **Bill Kagler** died Sept. 15. Bill was 81. Here is an excerpt from his obituary:

"A journalism graduate of Syracuse University, William G. Kagler served two years in U.S. Army Counter Intelligence, primarily in the Far East. He later worked as a reporter for newspapers in Geneva, NY; Chester, PA; and Cincinnati, OH.

"After leaving *The Enquirer* in 1963, he served as a Congressional Fellow in Washington, D.C., and later as a press aide for Robert Taft Jr.'s senatorial campaign. He then returned to Cincinnati and began a long and successful career with the Kroger Company. Bill began in

Kroger's public affairs division and was named a senior vice president in 1977, a member of the Board of Directors in 1982, and president in 1983. He later served as president and CEO of Skyline Chili, before retiring in 1995.

"Bill gave generously to a variety of community groups, including the Cincinnatus Association, Commonwealth Club, Commercial Club, Syracuse University Alumni Board and Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation. In 1978, he headed the United Negro College Fund campaign in Greater Cincinnati. In 1980, he served as General Chairman of the SORTA Metro Campaign Levy. As a former honoree and Eagle Scout recipient himself, he served as the chairman of

the 1988 Dan Beard Council, Boy Scouts of America Legion of Honor Program.

"Bill loved to travel the world with his wife, daughters and dear friends; fish a beautiful trout stream; read an interesting book and recommend it to a grandchild; banter about politics with people still interested enough to care; dance with anyone willing to 'boogie'; and cry with anyone who needed to share a tear.

"In his final years, Bill was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and struggled with its complications. Throughout this time, he faced his challenges with grace and strength and was an inspiration to all who knew him."

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER: DR. CADY SHORT-THOMPSON, DEAN, BLUE ASH COLLEGE, UC

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and members of the Executive Committee matched those gifts.

The site is designed to serve both our internal and external audiences. For our members, there are "members only" features. These generally use the cloud-sourced storage web application Dropbox. To access, just create a Dropbox account using your email address on file with Cincinnatus.

Meanwhile, you will continue to get email notices about upcoming

meetings from Roger Smith, but you'll have the option to RSVP through the website's "dinner plate" portal.

As much as the site is designed for member use, it is also intended so that the public can quickly learn about Cincinnatus, its history and its contributions. Our panel sites, for example, while important to us as members, can be viewed by anyone. That way, the public can see quickly where our efforts are focused.

A few features of

the site are still under construction. Bear with us! This is big project. If you have suggestions or questions, email our marketing committee chair, Mark Neikirk at neikirkm1@nku.edu.

You can still give to this project. And we hope you will. Fewer than half our members donated, and we'd like to see that go to 100 percent. We still need funds to support updates and site maintenance. So seek out Roger Smith, and hand him a check!

Q: WHO HANDLES UPDATES?

Are you a panel or committee chair? If so, updates to your "page" on the new website are your responsibility. You'll be given administrative access and training.

Q: WHAT'S THE SPOTLIGHT?

The home page has a spotlight story that will change periodically. It's intended to feature a current Cincinnatus initiative. All members are welcome to make spotlight suggestions.

TONIGHT'S MEETING

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PENSION ISSUE ON THE 2013 BALLOT

The Excellence in Government Panel organized tonight's forum to explore the pros and cons of the proposed City of Cincinnati Charter Amendment (Issue 4), which was placed on the November ballot by initiative petition.

Our speakers will present the background of the city's retirement system and recent reforms to the system, as well as the case and arguments for and against the proposed Charter Amendment.

BACKGROUND

Citizens interested in reforming the City's Retirement System present this Charter Amendment as a solution to the difficulties of the city's pension fund. Opponents argue that this amendment will make the city's fiscal health worse and not solve the real problems in the pension system.

PRESENTERS

Paula Tilsley
executive director, Cincinnati Retirement System

Gary Greenberg
spokesperson, Cincinnati for Pension Reform Committee (proponent)

Christian Jenkins
spokesperson, Citizens for Responsible & Accountable Government (opponent)

MORE

The website ballotpedia.org (search "Cincinnati pension") has the proposed amendment's language and other resources.