

Hot off the press / MAY 2014

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The Cincinnatus Association ©

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Mike Hammons with his grandson, Henry Michael Scheper.

Catching up with our former president His early childhood ed advocacy comes from the head and the heart

We heard the case for early childhood education at our April meeting, held jointly with the Northern Kentucky Forum. It was a persuasive case, made with a powerful combination of passion and data.

In the audience was Cincinnatus member and president Mike Hammons, who is perhaps best known in our region for his years as president of Vision 2015 and its predecessor, Forward Quest.

Today, Hammons is director of advocacy at Children, Inc., a nonprofit based in Covington. We got to know the organization when its director, Rick Hulefeld, joined the panel discussion at the April meeting. But members might not know about Hammons' role at Children, Inc., where he became director of advocacy in November 2011. It's a role he has come to relish and, in typical fashion, to embrace with a passion.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Mark Silbersack



WE NEED YOUR COUNSEL, COUNSELORS

ANY LAWYERS IN THE HOUSE?

Twice in the last six months, our members were presented with a resolution for adoption at a general membership meeting. Twice, the lack of a quorum as specified in our constitution (i.e., 50 voting members) stymied the attempt to adopt the resolution.

Most recently, at our April meeting, a proposal to endorse a tax levy in Hamilton County to fund developmental disabilities services could not be voted on, despite overwhelming support by those in attendance, because we only had 47 members present.

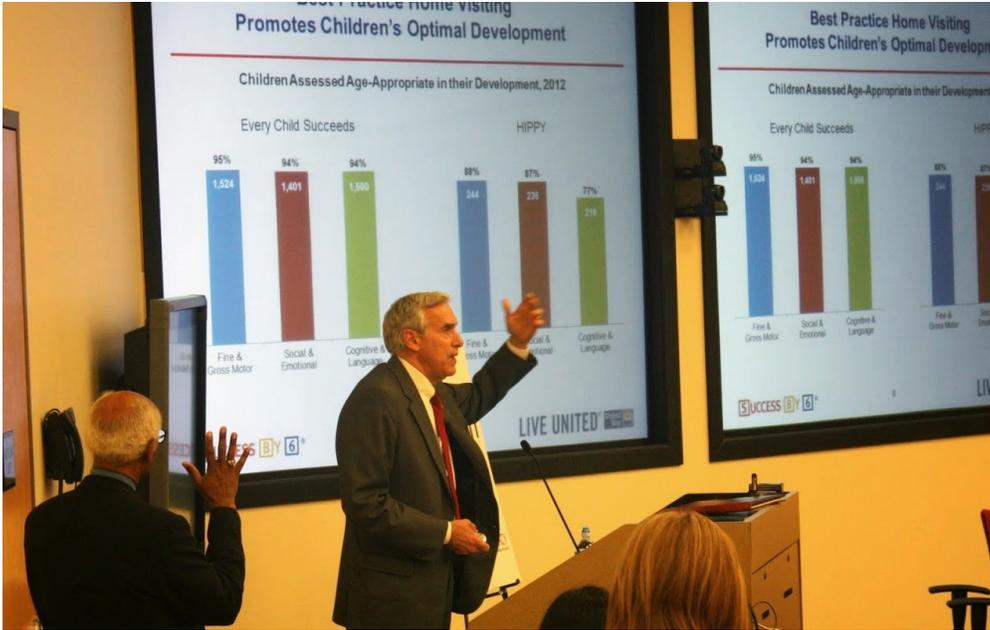
Our executive committee's initial reaction to this problem was to put the resolution to our members for approval via an electronic vote, a procedure often used by organizations in our area. But our constitution does not allow such a survey vote.

The executive committee discussed lowering the quorum requirement (e.g., from 50 to 40), and/or expanding the availability of electronic voting. But the committee believed that such matters need careful study and the preparation of appropriate amendments to our constitution.

Thus, we make the instant request to our members who may have some expertise in corporate governance matters of this sort. This shouldn't be a long or difficult task, but it is an important one. If you can volunteer to help on this project over the next 60 to 90 days, contact me or Roger Smith at your earliest convenience.

We hope to have a recommendation to put before our members for approval in our first meeting this fall, so that future good work by our Panels will lead to formal adoption of the resolutions they present.

- **TAKING THE SUMMER OFF:** Tonight's meeting is our last of the season. See you in September.
- **TAKE OUR SURVEY:** We need to hear from you. See story on Page 2.



With moderator John Lomax of Local 12 News asking questions, the United Way's Rob Reifsnnyder made the case for investing in early childhood education during our April meeting, held jointly with the Northern Kentucky Forum.

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"Governments cannot afford NOT to invest in early childhood," Hammons said in a Q&A with Cincinnatus.

"Investments in home visitation, childcare and preschool save money which would otherwise be spent on special education, remediation and drop-out intervention."

Hammons underscores many of the points made by our panelists during the April meeting, including by the United Way President Rob Reifsnnyder, whose brain scan slides and bar charts made it clear that an

investment in early childhood education pays dividends over time.

Hammons and Reifsnnyder also embrace the Preschool Promise (see below), which is one way Cincinnatus members can get involved. Are there other ways?

"First of all, members can become informed about child development. There's a tremendous amount of new research about how a child's brain develops and the implications on long term cognition and social and emotional health," Hammons said.

Read the full Q&A on our website.

Have you signed the Preschool Promise?

"We have to invest in quality preschool for all of our children."

So begins the call to action on the Preschool Promise website.

The promise is a powerful commitment to the children of our community: "The Cincinnati Preschool Promise will provide tuition credits for every child, regardless of income, to attend high quality preschool for up to two years before beginning kindergarten. Tuition credits will be provided on a sliding scale based on income, though the

vast majority of funds will be directed toward our city's low-income families. Parents will be able to choose where to send their children, to a public school or a private, community-based center."

On the Preschool Promise website, you'll find a button that invites you to become a Promise Ambassador. Wouldn't it be great if every Cincinnatus member signed on?

www.cincy-promise.org

Dollars & Cents: We want your input

Cincinnatus is fiscally sound but, like many nonprofits, is not flush. Each year, it is a challenge to balance our budget by July 31, as its fiscal year ends.

This year, for example, we need to close a projected deficit of about \$5,000. The Executive Committee is working on that, and tonight our treasurer, Bob Schrage, will provide more detail.

Moving forward, and in the interest of putting Cincinnatus on firmer financial footing, we would like your ideas. Please go to this online site and answer our survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/Cincinnatus2014

Tonight: CPS Students Present "Unsung Local Champions"

We welcome CPS students who will provide us with three presentations, each on a different "Unsung Local Champion for Justice," a project initiated by the Greater Cincinnati Commitment Alliance with funding from Cincinnatus members and the Woodward Trust. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and to make our guests comfortable.

Association Election: 2014-2015 Leadership

The Nominations Committee has proposed the following slate of leadership for 2014-2015:

President: Bob Schrage *
 Vice President: John Young *
 Treasurer: Crystal Faulkner
 Secretary: Elliot Grossman *

At-Large Executive Committee:
 Sam Brewer
 Melissa Currence
 Barbara Henshaw *
 Arlene Herman
 Susan Noonan *

* Current Executive Committee Member.