



The Cincinnatus Association

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Executive Administrator
Jill Claire
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2017-2018 Annual Report

Message from the President

Dear Members,

June 2018

The Cincinnatus Association is transforming into the premier civic organization that our community needs right now. We are channeling our expertise in inclusion, education and government by **focusing on one goal – helping all our neighbors achieve the American Dream.**

Let's celebrate the accomplishments that you created over this past year. You are the life blood of this 98-year organization. When you read this annual report, you will see all that we have done as citizen crusaders for our region. I hope are in awe as much as I am.

We ask you to help us grow our ranks. If you know an excellent candidate, please reach out to him or her about what you have gained as a member. By recruiting members, you'll help Cincinnatus remain strong and effective. And you'll help other local leaders put their passion for Greater Cincinnati to good use.

Cincinnatus is stronger than ever, both financially and in leadership. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I thank you for your commitment to our treasured Association and to our beloved region.

Sincerely,



Melissa Currence

91st President

The Cincinnatus Association

513-535-3242 | cincinnatuspresident@hotmail.com

About Us

The Cincinnatus Association is a membership organization dedicated to understanding the issues facing our community and encouraging progress. The lifeblood of The Cincinnatus Association lies in its ability to focus the efforts, energies and talents of its members on issues chosen by the Association. Our panels reflect categories of particular interest to us: Excellence in Education, Excellence in Government, and Diversity and Inclusion.

The Cincinnatus Association believes that the quality of life in the City of Cincinnati and in the Greater Cincinnati metropolitan area is among the highest in the United States and can be further improved.

The Association has focused historically on the structure of local government, the quality of public education and economic development. These issues continue to be the primary priorities of the Cincinnatus Association. However, other issues in which the Association has a major or unique ability to increase the quality of life can be pursued at the direction of the membership.

The Cincinnatus Association depends on its members to provide civic leadership in its efforts to improve the long-term vitality of the region.

Executive Committee

President: Melissa Currence

Vice-President: Kent Friel

Secretary: Mark Neikirk

Treasurer: Larry Williams

Members At-Large

John Young

Sam Brewer

Arlene Herman

John Norwine

Susan Noonan

Past President

Elliot Grossman

Executive Administrator

Jill Claire

Panel Chairs

Community Inclusion Panel: Sam Brewer & John Young

Excellence in Education Panel: Harry Blanton & Kent Friel

Excellence in Government Panel: Mark Silbersack & Connie Roesch

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Cincinnatus Association and its members to initiate, recognize, participate in and promote projects that improve the quality of life for all citizens in the Greater Cincinnati region through, among other things, the study of critical issues

confronting the region, the engagement of community leaders and the nonpartisan shaping of public policy.

Action Agenda

Fighting Poverty | Achieving the American Dream (adopted January 2017)

For the next few years, The Cincinnatus Association has narrowed its focus to one broad goal – fighting poverty and helping more people achieve the American Dream.

We do not believe Cincinnatus can fight local poverty in any broad, systemic way. But we believe that we can fight specific parts of the poverty problem -- one person, street, school, impoverished group or issue at a time.

Each of our three panels have identified action-oriented projects that will engage our membership while pursuing our primary goal.

Panels of the Cincinnatus Association

The lifeblood of The Cincinnatus Association lies in its ability to focus the efforts, energies and talents of its members onto its chosen issues. The functions and, to a large respect, successes of the Cincinnatus Association are coordinated and attributed to organizational sub-groups, each delegated a specific portion of the Association's overall mission. These are the panels of the Association.

- Every member of Cincinnatus Association is asked to serve on at least one panel.
- Each panel is headed by leaders appointed annually by the Executive Committee.
- Each panel meets on a regular basis, usually monthly.
- Each panel operates under the auspices and authority of the Executive Committee.
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Given the changing nature of significant issues affecting the quality of life in a large metropolitan region, it is understood and anticipated that new panels and project teams can and will be created to address select issues which are beyond the "scope" of an existing panel. Conversely, should the Association determine that an issue or area no longer warrants the significant attention of a dedicated panel, then an existing panel can be eliminated.

Highlights from 2017-2018

Excellence in Education Panel

This panel, focused on improvement and support of public education in the Greater Cincinnati Region, with an emphasis Cincinnati Public Schools, develops task forces to address various public education issues and sponsors organizations and events that can impact public education performance.

Highlights from this past year:

- Ensuring success of universal pre-school. Since the passage of the recent levy providing universal pre-school in the Cincinnati Public School (CPS) district the Panel was involved in several activities to ensure the successful implementation of pre-school.
- Leader to Leader. Cincinnati oversees a program in collaboration with CPS, now in its 11th year, that matches business leaders with school Principals and other CPS administrators. For the year, 14 business leaders aided the Principals/administrators in leadership and management and the Principals/Administrators helped business leaders better understand public education.
- Ambassador program. In collaboration with CPS Communications, the Panel finds independently published articles that reflect positively on the District and, by use of Social Media, through a number of "Ambassadors" who used their networks to broadcast the information to thousands of households.
- Awarding Educational Excellence. In collaboration with the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University, Northern Kentucky University and Mt. St. Joseph University and the Woodward Trust, Cincinnati selected outstanding educators and volunteers for annual awards. Cincinnati provides an award for administration, teaching in the Cincinnati Public School District and for a volunteer in the Region.
- Support of UC IT collaboration with local high schools. Panel members recruited high schools to participate in a new IT program that allows students to achieve one year of college credits in IT while in high school. It is also helped publicize the program.
- Leadership in 2017 CPS tax levy campaign and school board candidate forum. After endorsement of the 2017 CPS renewal levy, members of the panel were involved in leading and supporting the levy campaign. Also, it collaborated with other organizations to sponsor a forum for candidates for the CPS Board
- Student Salon Series. Led by Panel member Jeffrey Stec, the Panel sponsored a series of engagements with students of CPS's Gamble Montessori HS in discussions of race & equity. The series involved discussions among students and adults.

Submitted by Kent Friel, Education Panel Co-Chair, Cincinnati Association

Excellence in Government Panel

This panel, focused on the effectiveness and efficiency of local and state government with particular emphasis on the urban core of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, seeks to

identify regional and urban core issues that cause or contribute to the inefficiency of government, and to identify judicious initiatives for improving local and regional government. The panel may inform the members of ballot issues and initiatives effecting our region, and may organize forums and invite speakers to address the issues to the panel and/or the membership and/or the general public.

Highlights from this past year:

- Continuing study of opportunities to improve transportation to jobs, education, and health care, including potential Hamilton County SORTA tax. (as part of Cincinnati focus on poverty)
- Study and endorsement of Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's transportation strategies, and agreement to support efforts to develop community support for the strategies.
- Co-sponsoring two Cincinnati City Council candidate forums.
- Developed October, 2017 Cincinnati program – debate on pros and cons of the Ohio Drug Price Standards Initiative (State Issue 2 – Nov., 2017)
- Vetting and recommending endorsement of Hamilton County November 2017 and May 2018 tax levies supporting health and hospitalization, mental health, senior services, the Zoo, and the Public Library. Provided information for May, 2018 State Issue 1 – congressional redistricting (gerrymandering)
- Ongoing monitoring of the City-County “settlement” relating to future MSD management.
- Sponsorship of the Cincinnati Association Award for Regional Cooperation to the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services at the annual ASPA luncheon.
- Ongoing review of opportunities to amend the Cincinnati City Charter to improve the governance of the City, including discussions with the Charter Committee.

Submitted by Mark Silbersack and Connie Roesch, Panel Co-Chairs

Diversity and Inclusion Panel

This panel focuses on uniting all members of the community across racial, ethnic, economic and religious boundaries in planning and improving our future by going beyond both individual behavioral transformation and organizational identity transformation toward the vision of a community of caring people, intentional inclusion, and shared power where systemic racism does not exist.

Highlights from this past year:

- We have successfully rebooted the panel's focus to one connected to the poverty interest of the Cincinnati Association emphasizing action steps in partnership with local organizations interested in inclusion efforts. Due to this repurposing, panel membership is increased and energized.

- We have adopted a research modality by inviting community leaders to help us understand where our efforts will be most fruitfully directed.
- We have been able to connect community leaders with each other where their common interests are likely to improve their mutual efforts to make us a more inclusive community.
- We have and continue to gather dozens of signatures supporting the Ohio Justice and Policy Council's petition drive to place an initiative on Ohio's November ballot. If successful, a constitutional amendment will reduce penalties for certain drug possession offenses from felonies to misdemeanors and repurpose funds attached to prison incarceration of drug users to provision of addiction treatment services in Ohio's communities.
- Advocating with QC Metro to make their reduced fares program more accessible for persons with permanent disabilities and for riders older than 65.

Submitted by John Young and Samuel Brewer, Inclusion Panel Co-Chairs, Cincinnatus Association

Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of America Awards Dinner

The Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of America Awards Dinner is the Cincinnatus Association's premier event that honors the legacy of Donald and Marian Spencer.

History of the Spencer Awards

The Inclusion Panel started the Spencer dinner in 2015 with the idea of honoring a for-profit and 2-4 non-profits organizations for "exhibiting conspicuous and enduring contributions to creating greater inclusion and improving diversity in our community".

- In **2015**, approximately 200 people attended and the dinner net was \$3,500. Honorees were The Kroger Company, Willie Carden, Cincinnati Parks Dept., and Goodwill Industries.
- In **2016**, approximately 250 attended and the dinner net was \$5,400. Honorees were PNC Bank, Dr. Bleuzette Marshall and The Innocence Project
- In **2017**, Cincinnatus decided to focus on the poverty issues in our region; consequently the Spencer Dinner Committee in alignment with our Cincinnatus goal, decided to honor workforce development and support services non-profits. In 2017, approximately 235 attended and the dinner net was \$4,783. Honorees were Al. Neyer, Greater Cincinnati Urban League and Su Casa Hispanic Center

This Year's Awards



On May 15, the Cincinnatus Association held our 4th Annual Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of America Awards.

While Marian, a long-time civil rights activist and community organizer, was not able to attend, she was called by our Master of Ceremonies, television personality, Courtis Fuller, during the evening. During the presentation, we were able to share the story of the efforts of she and her husband over more than 70 years to promote the full inclusion of all people in the Greater Cincinnati community. Named a "Great Living Cincinnati" by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, Spencer served as Vice Mayor of the city of Cincinnati during her long and historic career. Through the determination of she and her late husband, Donald, many of Cincinnati's well known educational and recreational institutions became fully accessible and welcoming to all of the city's residents regardless of race.

The Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza was the perfect venue to honor our 5 awards winners: City Gospel Mission, Venice on Vine / Power Inspires Progress (PIP), Freestore Foodbank, Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Programs and Nehemiah Manufacturing, Inc. Thank you to all our sponsors for ensuring the success once again this year!

We hosted 300 attendees and the dinner net was \$ 5,721.

Next Year's Awards

The date for the dinner is already set for 2019 – Tuesday, **MAY 21, 2019**. Please put on your calendars!

The committee will most likely return to honoring any non-profit that meets the criteria. Our committee welcomes volunteers. Contact Susan Noonan at 513-378-4122.

Membership Recruitment

Share Your Passion for Greater Cincinnati Recruit Other Exceptional Leaders to Join the Cincinnatus Association!

By recruiting members, you'll help Cincinnatus remain strong and effective. And you'll help other local leaders put their passion for Greater Cincinnati to good use.

Recruiting outstanding members who reflect the diversity of Greater Cincinnati is every member's responsibility. And it's the only way to carry on the distinguished legacy of The Cincinnatus Association.

To nominate candidates for membership, please confirm their interest in joining, then contact President Melissa Currence at 513-535-3242 or cincinnatuspresident@hotmail.com or Cincinnatus Executive Administrator Jill Claire at 513-939-2652 or admin@cincinnatusassoc.org.

Financial Outlook

As was reported to the membership in March 2017, the Cincinnatus Association was expecting to end the year with a deficit. We reached out to the membership requesting a special assessment, and you answered the call. Over this past year, armed with cost cutting efforts and a focus on membership recruitment and retention, we are projecting to end our fiscal year with no deficit and in much stronger fiscal footing. We thank you for your support during this transitional time.

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<https://twitter.com/cincinnatusassn>

Cincinnatus Member Roster

Includes all active, service roll and honorary members

Richard Adams	Nazly Mamedova
Jane Anderson	Gary Meisner
Cear Baggett	Carolyn Miller
Alpacino Beauchamp	William Muse
Paul Bernheimer	Barbara Myers
Harry Blanton	Mark Neikirk
Douglas Bolton	Susan Noonan
Samuel Brewer	John Norwine
Vera Brooks	Jack Painter
Jeff Brokamp	John Pepper
Robert Buechner	Bruce Petrie
Michael Burns	Kurt Reiber
Edward Buyniski	Dusty Rhodes
Dwendolyn Chester	Lee Robinson
Charles Curran	Beth Robinson
Melissa Currence	Connie Roesch
Charles Downton	Mary Ronan
Robert Driehaus	Reno Runck, III
Daniel Driehaus	Ely Ryder
Lawrence Elleman	Jill Schiller
Kim Fender	Alice Schneider
Winston Folkers	Robert Schrage
John Frank, Jr.	Mark Silbersack
Kent Friel	John Simpkinson
Sarah Gideonse	Kim Slaton
Barbara Glueck	JT Spence
Elliot Grossman	Marian Spencer
Ken Gunkel	Jeffrey Stec
Estegenet Hailemekeal	Maurice Stewart
Darin Hall	Stephanie Stoller
Michael Harlow	Emily Thobe
Michael Hawkins	Nelson Vincent
Arlene Herman	Charleston Wang
Smith Hickenlooper, III	Lawrence Williams
Ronald Hitzler	H. James Williams
Craig Hockenberry	Michele Young
Rhonda Holyfield-Mangieri	John Young
Thomas Huenefeld	
Lawrence Johnson	
Jane Keller	
Larry Kissel	
Michael Krug	
Greg Landsman	
Ann Lugbill	
Bob Maly	