

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

We've gained six new members since we last met:

Charles Graves - Gary Meisner - Annie Ruth Napier - Susan Noonan - Edith Thrower - George Wharton
To suggest a new member, contact Membership Co-Chair Barbara Henshaw at hrmhenshaw@fuse.net.



Photo courtesy of *The Cincinnati Enquirer*

Editor Carolyn Washburn is overseeing change at *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

RETHINKING THE ENQUIRER

Carolyn Washburn grew up in Cincinnati, but left after college to begin her career in journalism. Now back to edit her hometown newspaper, she's determined to assure quality storytelling and reporting.

Two things are evident when you first meet tonight's speaker, Carolyn Washburn: She loves newspapers and she loves Cincinnati.

"It's great to be home," she wrote in a column in January 2011 as she was named editor and vice president of *The Cincinnati Enquirer*. "I am privileged to be the new editor of the *Enquirer*. I never dared dream I would someday be editor of my hometown paper."

She arrives as the *Enquirer* struggles with all of the challenges facing newspapers in the 21st century, as new media makes a bid for readers' attention and online businesses eat into ad revenue.

A veteran editor (most recently of *The Des Moines Register*), she was well-

versed in those challenges before coming back to Cincinnati.

To keep readers, she decided to listen to readers - what are their expectations? What do they want from the *Enquirer*? Town hall meetings, focus groups and polling followed.

One message is that readers want and expect watchdog journalism, and Ms. Washburn has offered assurances that public interest investigations will be an important part of the *Enquirer's* reporting.

"There are very clear messages of what people want from us, and we're really gratified that those are things we love to do, too," Washburn told a Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce gathering this summer.

MEET A NEW MEMBER

RUTH CRONENBERG

Retired from nonprofit management

Q: What drew you to Cincinnati?

A: A friend mentioned Cincinnati and asked if I was interested. Knowing what I did about some of the dedicated members over the years and the importance of the service Cincinnati has provided to this community, I felt honored to be asked. It truly is a working organization promoting change while protecting current rights thus making the future look more exciting and secure.

Q: What, in your view, is the most pressing need in our city?

A: We need better communication from local government and need to keep a close eye on our assets. But I think one other very pressing issue is how we view our city. We have so much to be proud of and to preserve as we move into what could be an exciting future.



Q: You've been active in civic affairs. What's been particularly satisfying?

A: Working with members of the Woman's City Club is particularly satisfying. This group of creative, active, dedicated, feisty women encourages each other to become more involved in community action.

MORE ON PAGE 2: SEE RUTH: Q&A

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A TIME TO REFLECT ON AL DEJARNETT'S LEGACY

I can't give you my first President's message without writing a few good words about our immediate past president, Al DeJarnett, whose personable demeanor may distract attention from his achievements.

In the last two years, Al led a number of changes to our association. Let me highlight a few of these improvements:

- Early on, Al recognized that the association's members routinely do a lot of good work to better our community, but that work is often not broadly recognized within our membership. So he spurred efforts to improve our internal communications. This newsletter is an example, as will be a more attractive and useful website.
- Al insisted that we ask our members about what they want. He initiated surveys and "listening" sessions with old, new and retired members. He found that our

OUR WINNING HOST: MARK SILBERSACK



Cincinnatus President Mark Silbersack hosted the Cincinnatus Association Executive Committee at the Reds vs. Diamondbacks game on July 17 ... and delivered a Cincinnati win, 4-0.

members want to keep doing what we've done well but also focus on taking action creating a real community impact on one or more major issues each year.

- We had to deal with a longstanding issue of inadequate facilities. We'd all heard members grouse about the audio-visual problems at our home base. Al and Roger Smith did something about it (with an assist from several members who had some influence at the University Club).

- Al eliminated or streamlined processes that were a bit hidebound. He moved administrative minutia off the Executive Committee agenda so monthly meetings can now focus on more important matters. We don't waste time on mere reports; we mostly debate strategy issues.

As Al graduates to what he calls "senior status," he leaves us with a stronger association. We are most grateful for his accomplishments and his efforts.

NEWS ... NEWS ... NEWS

NEW TREASURER

Bob Schrage was recently appointed treasurer of Cincinnatus by the Executive Committee, replacing Barbara Henshaw, who was serving as vice chair and treasurer. She remains vice chair.

Bob retired from Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission in 2010 and now is director of administration at Transitions, Inc.

"As Treasurer, I hope to

pay careful to our finances and devote my efforts to exploring new opportunities for funding beyond the traditional dues structure."

CPS LEVY

Tonight, Cincinnatus will consider endorsement of the renewal levy for the Cincinnati Public Schools. The levy, on the November ballot, will not increase the taxes of property owners, but is 11% of the CPS operating budget.

That budget was cut last year by \$41M even though, in the words of one national educator, CPS has made more progress than any other urban school district in the country.

TIMES EDITOR AT NKU

New York Times deputy science editor James Gorman will speak at NKU's Budig Theater on Oct. 22 at noon. Cincinnatus members are invited. It's free. His topic is science and journalism.

NEXT MEETING

OCT. 9 @ UNIVERSITY CLUB

The Excellence in Government Panel is studying ballot issues that will be presented to voters this fall.

First is the proposed city charter amendment to lengthen City Council terms from two to four years.

Second, the panel is reviewing two Hamilton County tax levies, for mental health and senior services.

The panel will consider asking the membership to pass resolutions to endorse or oppose these issues at the October meeting.

In addition, panel representatives are working with other civic organizations to put on a forum and take other steps to educate the general public on the city charter amendment.

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RUTH Q&A

Q: You took a very direct interest in the post-riot dialogues in Cincinnati. Do you find things improved significantly since April 2001?

A: I wish I could give a resounding yes. Changes have taken place. Not enough and not visible enough.

Q: Trapped on an island: Skyline, Graeter's, LaRosa's?

A: Tough decision! LaRosa's has both pizza and spaghetti – and their sauce is one of the best.

Q: Your favorite ticket is: Reds, Bengals, CSO?

A: More tough decisions. I have been a long time subscriber to both Playhouse and Shakespeare so give me a double ticket!