

Hot off the press / NOV 2014

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The Cincinnatus Association ©

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Cincinnatus member and Freestore Foodbank President Kurt Reiber, center, joined with students at Vermont Elementary School to promote the Rubber Duck Regatta, his agency's annual fundraiser.

Hidden but no less real

Hunger in Cincinnati isn't something to ignore

Kurt Reiber loves his job. As president and CEO of the Freestore Foodbank, he gets to work with a great team of employees and volunteers. And it's all for a good cause. But it is a cause that can break your heart.

"The Cincinnati metropolitan area ranks second in childhood poverty out of 76 major areas in the United States," Kurt says in this month's Cincinnatus Q&A.

"The Tri-State has roughly 300,000 food insecure individuals – that is, folks who don't know where their next meal is coming from. Approximately 100,000 are children."

It's not that people aren't trying their hardest. But living paycheck to paycheck on low wages sometimes leaves families short.

"They end up at our food room on Liberty Street or at one of the 275 food pantries that we support," Kurt says.

Our October meeting at the Freestore's distribution center raised our awareness of this community need. Kurt's full Q&A delves more deeply into the matter. Read it on the Cincinnatus homepage.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER / BOB SCHRAGE

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS GETTING A FRESH LOOK

Recently, I appointed a committee to review the Cincinnatus Association's constitution with this four-point charge:

- **Voting issues:** What changes can be made to incorporate modern technology, such as electronic voting and addressing/reviewing voting at meetings and the number of members necessary for a quorum? For example, should the number to pass a position be based on who attends a certain meeting and votes? Or should it be based on the total membership, even if not attending or voting?
- **Executive committee:** Is the current voting process of the executive committee appropriate? There are voting members of the executive committee including president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and five at-large members. Panel chairs and the past chair attend for informational purposes, but do not vote. Is this the best arrangement?
- **Other modernizations:** It is expected the committee may find old provisions that are obsolete, ambiguous or otherwise outdated.
- **Your input:** The Executive Committee would like a survey conducted of members to gather your views on relevant constitutional issues and potential changes.

Jill Schiller has agreed to chair this committee. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know. We want your input as recommendations come forward. Of course, all proposed changes will come before the membership for final approval.

Reach Bob at bschrage10@gmail.com.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS: Tom Cooney and James Yunker are our newest members. Take a moment to say hello.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT: Currently, we have 77 active members, 37 service roll members, 11 inactive members and three honorary member.

REMEMBER YOUR DUES: Dues are due. You can pay online.

NEXT MEETING: It's our holiday party on Dec. 9, 5:30 p.m., at the Skirball Museum on the campus of Hebrew Union College. They are hosting Rosenthal, Ransohoff & Rosen: Documenting Cincinnati's Neighborhoods, a photographic exhibit.

Recruiting: Serious problem, simple solution

By Elliot Grossman

Serious problem. Simple solution. It's an easy way to explain our new membership recruitment initiative.

What's the serious problem? Our membership numbers have been too low for too long. It's affecting the financial stability of The Cincinnatus Association. Plus, a vibrant Cincinnatus needs a diverse membership base along with the fresh ideas and energy new members bring.

What's the simple solution? If every member of Cincinnatus would recruit just one new member, our problem would go away.

To demonstrate how seriously the Executive Committee views this situation, each Executive Committee member has pledged to recruit one new member by Dec. 31.

"The Executive Committee is leading by example," said President Bob Schrage. "We couldn't ask the members at large to step up their recruiting efforts without taking the lead. But it's the responsibility of every member of the Association to nominate new members. That's what our Constitution says. And our members are our most effective recruiters anyway."

So we're urging you – our members – to introduce Cincinnatus to your best and brightest friends and colleagues. Ask them to attend a meeting, ask them to visit our website or tell them why you're a member. Then, ask them to join.

If they're interested, give their names and contact information to Roger Smith, our executive administrator: 513-293-4621 or Cincinnati_assoc@hotmail.com.

If you're having trouble recruiting, enlist the help of an Executive Committee member. Or go to our new web page devoted to recruiting: www.cincinnatiassoc.org/recruit.

The web page has tips, reminders and explanations for you about recruiting. And it has information you can give to membership candidates that will help them learn more about Cincinnatus and the responsibilities of our members.

And remember, when you consider who to invite, go beyond asking people who are like you. Remember your friends and colleagues of various ages, genders, racial backgrounds, professions and so on.

By recruiting just one new member, you'll help Cincinnatus remain strong. And you'll help to carry on our distinguished legacy.

Over four generations, a family has valued public service

Four generations of public service are represented by the John Y. Brown family of Kentucky: A father. A son. A grandson. A great-grandson.

The senior Brown, who died in 1985, was a congressman and speaker of the Kentucky House. His son, John Y. Brown Jr., first made his mark in business by launching the Kentucky Fried Chicken empire, then entered politics in 1979, when he became Kentucky's 55th governor, pledging to run the state as a business.

His son, John Y. Brown III, is a former Kentucky secretary of state, and candidate for lieutenant governor, and is now a successful business consultant.

His son, John Y. Brown IV, is a college student in Louisville, majoring in political science and economics — and planning to enter public service after graduation. He also is a Republican in a family of Democrats.

The former governor, his son and grandson will discuss the family's commitment to public service on Dec. 4 at 7-8:30 p.m. at Northern Kentucky University ballroom. This is a free event, put on by our frequent partner, the Northern Kentucky Forum. Come hear from this fascinating Kentucky family. More at nkyforum.org.



Time to pony up for the pig ... our pig

\$30 is what we're asking from each member to cover the cost of repairing Lucius Quintus Pigasus, the Big Pig Gig porker that once graced Sawyer Point but fell into disrepair and was removed to storage.

We sponsored Lucius, aka "Lucky," originally. Now we'd like to get back on the public stage. You can give a check to Roger Smith, donate online or mail to: Cincinnatus Association, PO Box 19191, Cincinnati, OH, 45219.

What about Northern Kentucky?

As we discuss shared services in Hamilton County tonight, you might be wondering: Is there any discussion of this topic in Northern Kentucky? There is. For the past five years, a citizens committee has been examining options for structural change in Kenton County, which is Northern Kentucky's largest county. The group published its findings in a book, *Kenton County Together: A Call to Action*, that is available at civicengagement.nku.edu. With the book as its guide, a new committee appointed by the mayors of all 19 cities is considering next steps.

Silent auction items needed for Dec.

We still need donations for our second annual silent auction at the holiday gathering next month: a bottle of wine, a gift certificate, a unique item. Let Roger or Bob know what you can donate. All proceeds go to the Association.

Chuck Judd was a community steward

Charles M. "Chuck" Judd died Oct. 18. He was 98. Active in Cincinnatus in the 1950s and 60s, he was more recently an honorary member who personified our values.

A longtime executive at the Brenehan Co., he was a founder of Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME). He also was a board member of the Citizen School Foundation, which Cincinnatus started.

Don't forget our Facebook page: Be a friend of Cincinnatus

Cincinnatus has a Facebook page but it isn't getting much traffic. In fact, just 27 people are members. Are you on Facebook? If so,

join the Cincinnatus page and post to it. It's a great place to share and discuss civic matters.

