

Hot off the press / MARCH 2015

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Volume 6, Issue 7 — March 10, 2015



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Thank a teacher...

Our annual education awards inspire us again

The 2015 educators honored at last month's awards dinner are equally well described by nouns as adjectives.

Those who know them best, their colleagues who nominated them, employed both.

- Nouns? Leader. Innovator. Go to person. Mentor.
- Adjectives? Kind. Diligent. Focused. Realistic. Imaginative.

But to really know them, it was best to listen as they described their "calling" –

as if education were their destinies. It's not a career they chose for money. It's one they chose with their heart.

"I want to work with kids. It's just who I am," said veteran teacher Jackie Butts, one of the awardees.

She and the other award winners light up when they describe the joy of coming to their respective schools in the morning and seeing the bright smiles of the children as they arrive. They commit to this idea: I will not let the children fail.

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Our next meeting will focus on our future: Next month (April 14th) will be an important meeting. We'll have a nice dinner, and then discuss how we can secure the future of the Cincinnatus Association. See President Bob Schrage's column at right.

NEWEST MEMBERS: None this month. Remember to recommend new members. A toolkit for recruiting is on our website.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER / BOB SCHRAGE

FOR CINCINNATUS, THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

Our April 14 meeting may prove to be the most important in a long time. As I mentioned last year and several times since, Cincinnatus is facing financial and other issues that we must address this year.

The Executive Committee has been analyzing the problems and has developed some possible solutions. The main issue is our operating deficit, which we are facing again this year. Other issues include making sure we are providing programs that fulfill member expectations, and assuring a full complement of members allowed by our constitution. In addition, engaging our members is an important challenge.

To be blunt, our current business model may have worked in the past. It is not working now.

Everything will be on the table. Near and long-term financial issues. Membership. Meetings. Panels. Influence & Impact. Focus.

We need your ideas and feedback. Don't miss this meeting. We will be using the format of the National Issues Forums (NIF), led by NIF President (and Cincinnatus member) William Muse. You will be receiving in the mail details from me on possible solutions and alternatives to start our discussion.

In a few short years, the Cincinnatus Association will be 100 years old. It will be a time for celebration of our past; however, more importantly, in the next few months, we will be positioning ourselves for a dynamic future. I am very excited about Cincinnatus and the possibilities. On behalf of the Executive Committee, we look forward to working with our members on this critical effort.

Reach Bob at bschrage10@gmail.com.

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The awards banquet, held this year at Northern Kentucky University's ballroom, was once again an inspiration and a reminder of the value of education's teachers, administrators, staff and volunteers. NKU President Geoffrey Mearns welcomed Cincinnatus and the honorees to campus.

"Our university is proud to join our colleagues in honoring these men and women who are changing lives far beyond their own classrooms," President Mearns said.

"They are leading with excellence and making a lasting impact on their students and our region. We thank them and all of the great teachers who are preparing our next generation of leaders and innovators."

Cincinnatus presented three of the awards:

- The Cincinnatus/Woodward Trust Distinguished Teacher Award was presented to **Alan Cruser**, a teacher at Woodward Career Technical High School.
- The James N. Jacobs Award for Outstanding Administrator was presented to **Tianay Amat**, principal, Hyde Park School.
- The John E. Pepper Award for Outstanding Volunteer in Public Education was presented to **Linda Bingham**, Saylor Park School.

Each year, Cincinnatus partners with NKU, the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University and Mount St. Joseph University to present additional awards, the C³ ("Conversations, Connections, Collaborations") Outstanding Educator Awards. This year's winners were:

• **Jerry Schrock**, a Mason teacher since 1989. He teaches American history, law and criminal justice at Mason (OH) High School.

• **Bill Morgan**, a social studies teacher at Newport Central Catholic High School since 1976. He announced he will retire at the end of the school year.

• **Jackie Butts**, a teacher at St. Pius X Elementary, Villa Madonna Academy, and James I. Tichenor Middle School since earning her B.A. in Education from NKU in 1986.

• **Danielle Foulk** has been a kindergarten teacher at Rockwern Academy since 2008.



Warmest congratulations to our 'sister' organization

In the second decade of the 20th century, an organization was founded by energized and civic-minded citizens of Cincinnati to foster civic reform and social justice.

In the century since, this organization and its members have identified and addressed the most significant issues affecting our region, promoted harmony among the diverse cultures making up our neighborhoods, and been instrumental in founding and supporting many of the key institutions that make Cincinnati a great place to live and work.

That organization is the Woman's City Club, in many ways our sister organization, founded in 1915, when women were uniting in their fight to secure the right to

vote. WCC served as a watchdog for city government and held public officials accountable. Every year, the club issued a report card for city government, which was published in the Cincinnati Post.

Throughout the next 100 years, they played the role of advocate for minorities, children, families, low-income women, and other victims of social and economic injustice.

Woman's City Club celebrated 100 years of service to our community with a gala last Friday at the Cincinnati Netherland Hotel.

Congratulations, sis, and here's wishing you all the best for the next 100 years! And let's keep thinking of ways to collaborate to improve our city, its civic affairs and its quality of life.

Our 1st Spencer Award to be presented May 19

The first presentation of the **Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of Freedom Award** will take place May 19 at the Cintas Center. This is not our regular meeting date, so please make note. The master of ceremony for the evening will be Curtis Fuller of WLWT Television. The evening's festivities will include a reception, dinner, and the award presentations.

Tax time is a good time for some good news?

A portion of your annual dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution: \$115 of Active member \$335 dues; \$100 of Service Roll \$275 dues.

Farewell to another of our Cincinnatus alum

Former member **Allen Elliott** passed away at age 88 on Feb. 12. Our sympathies go to his family and friends, and our gratitude for his service.

Memorials may be made to Sigma Chi Fraternity, 2617 University Ct., Cinti OH 45219. Allen was a U.S. Navy veteran (serving in both WWII and Korea) and, among other positions, worked in public relations at P&G.

What's new? Keep us updated about you

New job? New title? Recognition, award, or publicity? Work or civic project? Please send member news to Cincinnati_Assoc@hotmail.com. And we'll let the membership know who's doing what. Also, if you have Cincinnatus news for the newsletter, let us know that as well.

Social media tip: It only works if it's social

Our members told us they wanted a social media presence. So we started a Facebook page. Two problems: one, most of our members haven't "liked" the page and few of our members are posting. Gotta use it or lose it!