



THAT VISION THING

What do we see for Cincinnatus and our community?

Over the past year or so, the Cincinnatus Association, guided by our Executive Committee, has been trying to set a course for the future.

How do we stay relevant? How do we keep our members engaged? How do we stay connected to our community's most pressing needs and issues?

As part of this, we are trying to recruit new members, including younger members and members to add to our Association's diversity.

We are trying also to find a more secure financial footing. A sharper focus. The right structure for meetings. A surer

OUR VISION
Simple, guiding

pathway to action and change in our community.

But it all begins with a vision statement. So we are looking for your ideas on what the Cincinnatus vision should be. Email your suggestions to us at: cincinnatus_assoc@hotmail.com.

Think long-term. Think like a founding father, imagining a nation where equality and freedom defined the future.

The fewer words the better. But pick words that matter. Words that set a course. Words to inspire us ... and our successors.

SOME EXAMPLES OF VISION STATEMENTS

- **National Multiple Sclerosis Society:** A World Free of MS
- **Habitat for Humanity:** A world where everyone has a decent place to live.
- **NPR,** with its network of independent member stations, is America's pre-eminent news institution.
- **Make-A-Wish:** That people everywhere will share the power of a wish.

WE'VE LISTENED TO WHAT YOU TOLD US

A PLAN OF ACTION IS BEING PREPARED

Welcome back. I hope your summer was great and you are looking forward to an excellent program year in Cincinnatus. During the break, our panels and Executive Committee were hard at work on important issues.

Our immediate focus continues to be on reorganization, and the Executive Committee has met regularly to hammer out some ideas. A final draft will be discussed by Executive Committee next week with the intent of presenting it at the November member meeting.

As drafted, Cincinnatus will select one major focus area to concentrate on over a three year period, with periodic assessments to fine tune and directionally adjust for new issues and changing understandings. This process will be presented in November.

We are looking for volunteers to participate in the discussion on the focus area. In addition, all panel chairs are encouraged to participate. The meeting will be Tue., Sept. 15, 4:00—5:30 pm. If interested in participating, let me know at bschrage10@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank the entire membership for your input. We've listened and are taking action. I am sure you will find our ideas helpful in engaging members and focusing Cincinnatus on more specific objectives; ones that reflect a balance between longer-term objectives and goals and the need to engage members through tangible progress and results.

REMINDER: MEETING AND DUES STRUCTURE HAVE CHANGED

Today's meeting as a lunch rather than as dinner reflects a change for this year, as we add more variety to our meeting structure, location and time of day.

We plan to have 10 monthly meetings (September to June). But unlike past years where the go-to structure was a dinner meeting, only two meetings will follow that model. The remaining eight will be "non-dinner" sessions as we explore whether a variety of meeting styles works better for us.

We'll try breakfasts, lunches and evenings with snacks. Be sure to provide feedback to members of the Executive Committee or to Roger Smith.

▪ **Dues:** The dues structure also is changing. For 2015-2016, member dues for active and service roll members will be \$300. Members will also be permitted two free guests per year. This ends our two-tiered structure. Dues this past year were \$335 (active) and \$275 (service roll).

SPENCER AWARDS FIRST YEAR WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS

BY SUSAN NOONAN

The first annual Marian and Donald Spencer "Spirit of America" Awards Banquet was a heartwarming and successful evening with over 250 people attending!

Awards are given to an individual, a nonprofit and a business for "exhibiting conspicuous and enduring contributions to creating greater inclusion and promoting diversity in our community." The winners were: Willie Carden, Goodwill Industries, and Kroger.

This year, Marian Spencer herself made the final choice of awardees. At 95, she is still a force to be reckoned with. We have started a tradition that we hope will grow each year and bring visibility to our

association. Of course, it also is an annual fundraiser. In its first year, it raised \$3,500. Thank you, sponsors and attendees.

The dinner is a Cincinnatus event organized by the Inclusion Panel. We are looking for committee volunteers to help plan next year's event. Contact Susan Noonan (snoonan@fuse.net) or Stephanie Stoller (steph@covap.com) if you are interested in participating on the committee.

Mark your calendar now for the second annual Spencer Awards: May 10, 2016 at the Netherland Hilton Hall of Mirrors, 6:00-8:30 p.m. And please put the cost of a table in your company's budget: \$600 for a table for 10 people.

UPDATES ... UPDATES ... UPDATES ... UPDATES

Citizen Cincinnatus Award: The Executive Committee is accepting nominations for the Citizen Cincinnatus Award of Excellence. This award has been given periodically by Cincinnatus Association since 1994 to recognize the exceptional contribution of an individual to the work of a panel, committee or a special assignment.

The intent is to both reward the past exemplary work of an individual, and encourage increased panel participation, which is the lifeblood of Cincinnatus.

Visit www.CincinnatusAssoc.org for a nomination form. Questions, see

Roger Smith or Bob Schrage. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 1.

Lucky the Pig: He's back, or almost so. John Simpkinson provides this Hot of the Press exclusive: "I just talked to the 'hospital' where Lucky has been for repairs. The staff reports he will be ready next week to go home to Sawyer Park next to his namesake's statue." The namesake is, of course, Cincinnatus, as Lucky's full name is Lucius Cincinnatus.

Contact John at jsynk@fuse.net /321-4467 to help with the reinstallation ceremony.

Please welcome our seven newest members

It's been an active summer for membership recruitment. Please welcome these new folks and their talents to Cincinnatus: **Wayne Lippert** (May); **Christy Neyer** (July); **Chip Harrod** (July); **Kathy Meinke** (July); **Martha Good** (August); **Craig Hockenberry** (August); and **Kim Slaton** (August).

Remember: It's the job of all of us to recruit new members. And there is a great toolkit to help you on our website, developed by **Elliott Grossman**.

Accessing the members section of the website

We continue to get questions about access to the Members Only section of our website. It is a simple user name and password system. Don't know yours? Contact **Roger Smith** at Cincinnatus_Assoc@hotmail.com. Meanwhile, visit the site often. There are great resources there, including to help you recruit new members and tell the Cincinnatus story.

Understanding voting in America today

Dr. Michael McDonald of the University of Florida operates the United States Elections Project, and is one of the leading experts on voting demographics and trends in voting rights, including efforts by some states to suppress voting rights and by other states to expand them.

Dr. McDonald will speak at the METS Center in Erlanger at 9 a.m. on Oct. 8 as part of a daylong symposium, "**I Count Because I Vote,**" for Greater Cincinnati college students. His remarks are open to the public. There is no charge. Parking also is free. RSVP via email to Cincinnatus member **Mark Neikirk** at neikirkm1@nku.edu.

Cincinnatus Executive Committee: Bob Schrage, president; Elliott Grossman, vice president; Mark Neikirk, secretary; Crystal Faulkner, treasurer; At-Large members: Sam Brewer, Melissa Currence, Arlene Herman, Susan Noonan, John Young. Association Chairs: Harry Blanton; Dan Driehaus; Kent Friel, Ray Kingsbury, Mark Silbersack, and Stephanie Stoller.