



**Cincinnatus
Association**

A Message from the President / Bob Schrage

Happy Holidays

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wanted to express our wishes for a very happy holiday season. Here is hoping you have a peaceful and joyous December and happy New Year!

Unanimous Vote

At the last meeting, the members present voted unanimously to endorse the new three years focus of the Cincinnatus Association. Specifically, the focus endorsed is as follows:

“The focus of the Cincinnatus Association for the Years of 2016-2019 is in essence a focus on the American dream of working hard, earning a decent living, buying a home, and saving for retirement. Poverty in Greater Cincinnati including Northern Kentucky is high and should be a priority for improvement. The Cincinnatus Association believes there is much going right in the region, but when an entire class of citizens is nowhere close to achieving the American dream, we have a problem. For example, Cincinnati has the highest childhood poverty rate in the nation. This difference between our citizens has a tremendous impact on so many aspects of the community. Likewise, part of the solution lies in local government, education, and inclusion; three traditional focuses of the Cincinnatus Association. Reducing the poverty rate, increasing income across the region, improving educational opportunities and quality, and developing and growing our economy all will reduce this disparity.”

Now the hard part! The Cincinnatus Association needs to work on our focus. What does this all mean?

- The focus areas will guide the efforts of our panels so that all panels tackle various aspects of the same focus area, heightening the Association's effectiveness. Panel chairs will be important in helping the officers and Executive Committee with decision-making and other leadership roles related to the focus area. While the Association pursues the major focus area, the panels could continue to undertake more specific projects that do not need the attention of the entire association.
- The Executive Committee, especially the officers, will take a stronger role than it had in recent years in deciding which projects as well as the number of projects -- the entire association will undertake.
- The projects undertaken by the entire association would be jointly overseen by the officers, the executive committee and panel chairs. Ad hoc groups could be appointed, as needed, to accomplish the association-wide projects. This approach would centralize leadership for major projects.

- The Executive Committee will undertake an annual assessment of the Association's progress in accomplishing goals and objectives related to the focus area by preparing a Report Card to the membership.
- All topics at general membership meetings of the Association will be tied to the focus area of Cincinnati as a whole.

As time goes forward, more specifics will emerge concerning implementation. In the meantime, if you have any ideas or recommendations on projects to help work on related to the focus, please let me know. The issues identified are very large and regional. I do feel strongly, it will be through partnerships and collaborations with other organizations where we will have our biggest impact. As an organization, we must now get engaged on this focus and seek opportunities to work with other players at the table.

Thank you!

-Bob

OUR NEW VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES STATEMENTS

VISION

Through our civic engagement, all Greater Cincinnatians will live the American Dream.

MISSION

We initiate, participate in and promote actions that improve the quality of life for all Greater Cincinnatians.

VALUES

Cincinnati members believe in, support, and demonstrate the following values:

- Awareness and understanding of the critical issues facing our region
- Belief that a well-educated and informed citizenry is essential for a strong democracy
- Commitment to engaging others to work with us to improve our community
- Leadership in educating citizens, creating collaboration, and promoting positive change happen
- Trustworthiness, honesty, independence of thought, and appreciation of diverse views
- Initiate action on important issues

Adopted November 2015