



The Cincinnatus Association

P.O. Box 31206
Cincinnati, OH 45231
Email: admin@CincinnatusAssoc.org
Web: www.CincinnatusAssoc.org

Executive Administrator
Jill Claire
(513) 939-2652

Member Handbook

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Find the following addendums to this handbook at the Member Section of our website at cincinnatusassoc.org

- Constitution
- Membership List
- Leadership List
- Brief History and Significant Accomplishments
- Past Officers
- Calendar

About Us

The Cincinnatus Association is a membership organization dedicated to understanding the issues facing our community and encouraging progress. The lifeblood of The Cincinnatus Association lies in its ability to focus the efforts, energies and talents of its members on issues chosen by the Association. Our panels reflect categories of particular interest to us: Excellence in Education, Excellence in Government, and Diversity and Inclusion.

The Cincinnatus Association believes that the quality of life in the City of Cincinnati and in the Greater Cincinnati metropolitan area is among the highest in the United States and can be further improved.

The Association has focused historically on the structure of local government, the quality of public education and economic development. These issues continue to be the primary priorities of the Cincinnatus Association. However, other issues in which the Association has a major or unique ability to increase the quality of life can be pursued at the direction of the membership.

The Cincinnatus Association depends on its members to provide civic leadership in its efforts to improve the long-term vitality of the region.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Cincinnatus Association and its members to initiate, recognize, participate in and promote projects that improve the quality of life for all citizens in the Greater Cincinnati region through, among other things, the study of critical issues confronting the region, the engagement of community leaders and the nonpartisan shaping of public policy.

Follow Us on Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/cincinnatusassociation/>
<https://twitter.com/cincinnatusassn>

Contact Information of Members

Contact information is available at www.cincinnatusassoc.org. The direct Link is <https://cincinnatusassoc.org/about/list-of-members/>

Contact information is confidential and is only to be used for Association business.

Action Agenda

Fighting Poverty | Achieving the American Dream (adopted January 2017)

For the next few years, The Cincinnatus Association has narrowed its focus to one broad goal – fighting poverty and helping more people achieve the American Dream.

We do not believe Cincinnatus can fight local poverty in any broad, systemic way. But we believe that we can fight specific parts of the poverty problem -- one person, street, school, impoverished group or issue at a time.

Each of our three panels have identified action-oriented projects that will engage our membership while pursuing our primary goal.

We consider the projects below a great start. We will continue to think of ideas we can put into action. New panels -- or ad hoc groups -- can be formed to tackle other projects. Non-Cincinnatus members are welcome to participate.

Excellence in Government Panel

PROJECT: The Government Panel intends to work on improving public transportation, with the specific objective of providing better access to job opportunities for low-income workers.

ACTIONS: The Panel will explore Metro service expansion and how well an expansion would help workers get to jobs.

- The Panel will meet with SORTA, Metro, the Metro Futures Task Force, City, and County leaders to discuss these issues.
- The Panel will examine an anticipated ballot issue and educate our members and the general public about it.
- Depending on what the Panel finds, we may recommend that Cincinnatus actively support a ballot issue, as it did with the 2016 Issue 44 Education Levy, aka Preschool Promise.

EXPLANATION: Public transit in Hamilton County is provided mostly by SORTA, an independent government entity that operates the Metro fixed-route bus service, Access for people with disabilities and the downtown Connector streetcar.

SORTA is governed by a volunteer board of trustees. Its primary public source of operating funds is the Cincinnati earnings tax. Most of SORTA's service is in Hamilton County.

SORTA's services are an important factor in talent attraction and retention, especially for Millennials, and for the overall competitiveness of our region.

In March 2016, a Metro Futures Task Force of community and civic leaders found that Metro's services are not sustainable at current funding levels, that there is a need for expanded services, and that this will require permanent, increased government funding via a sales tax extending to the county borders or beyond.

The SORTA board decided in June 2016 to explore a 2017 Hamilton County ballot issue for a sales or property tax, citing financial sustainability concerns and recent reports that increased and improved service is needed to support access to jobs.

Excellence in Education Panel

PROJECT: The Education Panel intends to focus much of its efforts on implementation of the Preschool Promise so more children get a great start on their education.

ACTIONS: The Panel will help to ensure that the Preschool Promise is implemented so it meets its goal of expanding access to high-quality preschool for children.

- That means such things as assuring underserved communities are included.
- That programs not meeting Ohio's 3-Star threshold are given proper professional development and resources to meet that standard.
- That outcomes are properly measured and adjustments made to ensure the program is meeting community expectations.
- That communication to the community allows a clear understanding of the progress being made.
- That all parties are being held accountable for the progress and program outcomes.

EXPLANATION: For two years, the Panel studied a proposal for expanded access to preschool as a major step in educational improvement, particularly among children living in poverty. With the passage of the Preschool Promise/CPS tax levy in November 2016, funding is in place to fulfill that promise in Cincinnati.

OTHER ACTIONS:

- The Panel will continue our efforts to mentor school administrators in our Leader to Leader program.
- The Panel will continue our Ambassador program to convey relevant articles to the public about progress in the Cincinnati Public Schools.
- The Panel will continue to provide awards to outstanding educators at our annual Education Awards banquet.

Diversity and Inclusion Panel

PROJECT: With its awards program, the Diversity and Inclusion Panel will honor support organizations and people that have helped historically underemployed populations, especially when it comes to employment-related support services.

ACTION: The Diversity and Inclusion Panel will continue to hold the Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of America Awards Dinner.

EXPLANATION: Cincinnati launched its annual Spencer Awards dinner in 2015. The first two years honored organizations and people for their efforts in fighting for civil rights. In the future, we will sharpen our focus by honoring organizations and individuals who have made conspicuous and enduring contributions that help more minorities enter and remain in the workforce with programs such as job training, transportation and childcare. We hope that as our event grows we can provide modest cash awards to our honorees.

Panels of the Cincinnatus Association

The lifeblood of The Cincinnatus Association lies in its ability to focus the efforts, energies and talents of its members onto its chosen issues. The functions and, to a large respect, successes of the Cincinnatus Association are coordinated and attributed to organizational sub-groups, each delegated a specific portion of the Association's overall mission. These are the panels of the Association.

- Every member of Cincinnatus Association is asked to serve on at least one panel.
- Each panel is headed by leaders appointed annually by the Executive Committee.
- Each panel meets on a regular basis, usually monthly.
- Each panel operates under the auspices and authority of the Executive Committee.
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Given the changing nature of significant issues affecting the quality of life in a large metropolitan region, it is understood and anticipated that new panels and project teams can and will be created to address select issues which are beyond the "scope" of an existing panel. Conversely, should the Association determine that an issue or area no longer warrants the significant attention of a dedicated panel, then an existing panel can be eliminated.

Excellence in Education Panel

This panel, focused on improvement and support of public education in the Greater Cincinnati Region, with an emphasis Cincinnati Public Schools, develops task forces to address various public education issues and sponsors organizations and events that can impact public education performance. —

Excellence in Government Panel

This panel, focused on the effectiveness and efficiency of local and state government with particular emphasis on the urban core of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, seeks to identify regional and urban core issues that cause or contribute to the inefficiency of government, and to identify judicious initiatives for improving local and regional government. The panel may inform the members of ballot issues and initiatives effecting our region, and may organize forums and invite speakers to address the issues to the panel and/or the membership and/or the general public.

Diversity and Inclusion Panel

This panel focuses on uniting all members of the community across racial, ethnic, economic and religious boundaries in planning and improving our future by going beyond both individual behavioral transformation and organizational identity transformation toward the vision of a community of caring people, intentional inclusion, and shared power where systemic racism does not exist.

Member Expectations

Membership in the Cincinnatus Association is a privilege and an impressive distinction. That distinction rests upon the history and reputation of the Association – and especially upon the active and proficient efforts of its past and present members. Each and every member of Cincinnatus is expected to maintain and endeavor to enhance that history and reputation. Members are expected to comply with the following standards:

Active Involvement

Association members will maintain a consistent, active and high quality involvement in community affairs. Social endeavors or involvement in career-oriented organizations are not sufficient. Leadership in community action is expected, as are civil awareness and a reasonable level of knowledge of significant issues facing the Greater Cincinnati community.

Professional Proficiency

Association members will maintain proficiency and accomplishment in their chosen profession. Members must show potential for leadership in the community and must have demonstrated leadership qualities, including the ability to build and accept consensus.

Diversity

The Association desires a diverse membership and requires members to value and respect inclusiveness. Members will eagerly participate with and work for individuals from all geographic and professional backgrounds and actively seek to build a membership with broad diversity (e.g. race, gender, religion, political affiliation, age, profession, etc.)

Action & Risk

Association members are action-oriented risk-takers, consistently looking to make things better. Members must actively participate in a panel or otherwise be significantly and actively involved in serving the Association and its mission (e.g., by serving on committees, special projects, etc.)

Time Commitment

Association members have time to participate actively. Members will anticipate and be willing and able to commit significant personal time and energy in the pursuit and fulfillment of our mission.

Personal Traits

Association members will possess strong and constructive attitudes and traits to supplement and complement one another, such as inquiring mind, imaginative and innovative, enthusiastic, and independent; being a thoughtful listener and a good communicator; following through and keeping commitments. Members will conduct themselves properly at all times, both in their direct Association activities and elsewhere, as it might reflect on their membership in the Association.

Membership Recruitment

Share Your Passion for Greater Cincinnati Recruit Other Exceptional Leaders to Join the Cincinnatus Association!

By recruiting members, you'll help Cincinnatus remain strong and effective. And you'll help other local leaders put their passion for Greater Cincinnati to good use.

Recruiting outstanding members who reflect the diversity of Greater Cincinnati is every member's responsibility. And it's the only way to carry on the distinguished legacy of The Cincinnatus Association.

To nominate candidates for membership, please confirm their interest in joining, then contact Membership Co-Chairs Susan Noonan and Kent Friel or Cincinnatus Executive Administrator Jill Claire at 513-939-2652 or admin@cincinnatusassoc.org.