



The Cincinnatus Association

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Executive Administrator
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Winton Hills Academy students with emcee Courtis Fuller
at the 2019 Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of America Awards

2018-2019 Annual Report

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.

Message from the President & Past President

Dear Members,

July 2019

The Cincinnatus Association is transforming into the premier civic organization that our community needs right now. We are channeling our expertise in inclusion, education and government by **focusing on one goal – helping all our neighbors achieve the American Dream.**

Let's celebrate the accomplishments that you created over this past year. You are the life blood of this 99-year organization. When you read this annual report, you will see all that we have done as citizen crusaders for our region. We hope are in awe as much as we are.

We ask you to help us grow our ranks. If you know an excellent candidate, please reach out to him or her about what you have gained as a member. 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.

Cincinnatus is stronger than ever, both financially and in leadership. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I thank you for your commitment to our treasured Association and to our beloved region.

Sincerely,



Mark Neikirk

92nd President

The Cincinnatus Association

cincinnatuspresident@hotmail.com



Melissa Currence

Immediate Past President

The Cincinnatus Association

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 inclusion in 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.

2019-2020 Executive Committee

President: Mark Neikirk
Vice-President: Susan Noonan
Secretary: Sarah Gideonse
Treasurer: Rhonda Holyfield Mangieri

Members At-Large

Sam Brewer
Alpacino Beauchamp
Arlene Herman
John Norwine
John Young

Past President

Melissa Currence

Executive Administrator

Jill Claire

Panel Chairs

Community Inclusion Panel:
Sam Brewer & John Young
Excellence in Education Panel:
Kent Friel & Jeffrey Stec
Excellence in Government Panel:
Melissa Currence & Connie
Roesch

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Kent Friel & Jeffrey Stec
Excellence in Government Panel:
Mark Silbersack & Connie Roesch

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.



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.

Highlights from 2018-2019



Aaron Parker (right) 2019 Cincinnatus & Woodward Trust Distinguished Teacher Award
with students from Aiken High School

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.

Highlights from this past year:

- **Ensuring success of universal pre-school.** A task force headed by Larry Williams was formed to ensure we are providing proper oversight of the pre-school program in the Cincinnati Public School district. Among their activities, the task force is trying to ensure all relevant data is being collected and published for the community
- **Leader to Leader.** Cincinnatus oversees a program in collaboration with CPS, now in its 12th year, that matches business leaders with school principals and other CPS administrators. For the year, 17 business leaders aided the principals/administrators in leadership and management and the principals/Administrators helped business leaders better understand public education.
- **Ambassador program.** In collaboration with CPS Communications, the Panel finds independently published articles that reflect positively on the District and, by use of Social Media, through a number of "Ambassadors" who used their networks to broadcast the information to thousands of households.
- **Awarding Educational Excellence.** In collaboration with the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University, Northern Kentucky University and Mt. St. Joseph University and the Woodward Trust, Cincinnatus selected outstanding educators and volunteers for annual awards. Cincinnatus provides an award for administration, teaching in the Cincinnati Public School District and for a volunteer in the Region.

- **Student engagement.** Led by Panel member Jeffrey Stec, the Panel collaborated with HEAT, an organization led by new Cincinnatus member Tara Robinson, to engage voices of high school students around the area. The focus is to allow students to speak to their peers and adults about the issues they are most concerned about.
- **Creating an educational vision.** Jeff Stec is leading a task force that is drafting an education vision for Cincinnatus.
- **Monthly presentations.** The Panel schedules organizations or individuals that are involved in areas relevant to public school education to present at the Panel's monthly meetings

Submitted by Kent Friel, Education Panel Co-Chair, Cincinnatus Association

Highlights from 2018-2019



HCDC Inc. wins the ASPA Greater Cincinnati 2019 Cincinnati Government Cooperation Award

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.

Highlights from this past year:

- Researched State and Local issues on November, 2018 ballot and prepared resolutions endorsing the following (all subsequently endorsed by Executive committee and general membership):
 - Ohio Issue 1 – Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Amendment
 - Hamilton County Issue 9 – Children’s Services Levy
 - Cincinnati Charter Amendment Issue 12 – Allowing City Council to conform to Ohio Open Meeting Laws
 - Cincinnati Charter Amendment Issue 13 – Barring anonymous donations by Limited Liability Corporations
 - Planned October general membership program featuring presentations by City Councilmembers Greg Landsman and Christopher Smitherman. Mr. Landsman presented a case for staggering 4-year terms for members of City Council; Mr. Smitherman presented the case for returning Council terms to two-year terms from four-year terms. Cincinnati Association did not endorse either proposed Charter amendment related to terms of Council.

- Continuing study of opportunities to improve transportation to jobs, education, and health care, including potential Hamilton County SORTA tax. (as part of Cincinnatus focus on poverty) Pete Metz attended October panel meeting and presented an update on the Chamber's Connected Region Vision, which Cincinnatus endorsed as a supporting partner in June, 2018. The Panel spent considerable effort developing a regional transportation forum for the March, 2019 general membership meeting with panelists lined up from SORTA/Metro, TANK, Cincy Chamber and Hamilton County Commission. Unfortunately, that program was canceled due to power issues at WCET, but the Panel hopes to hold a similar program during the 2019-20 program year.
- Partnered again with American Society for Public Administration – Greater Cincinnati Chapter for their April 12, 2019 Achievement Awards luncheon. Presented the Cincinnatus Government Cooperation Award to HCDC Inc. for their support of municipalities throughout Hamilton County, REDI Cincinnati, and other partners to advance economic development throughout our region.
- Ongoing monitoring of the City-County "settlement" relating to future MSD management (Possible program for 2019-20)
- Began researching new proposed State legislation for criminal justice reform. Stephen JohnsonGrove from Ohio Justice and Policy Center provided update to the Panel in April on Senate Bill 3, revisiting some elements of State Issue 1 which was soundly defeated by voters in November 2018. Also discussed bail reform with several Panel members volunteering at the local level on a United Way project on this topic.
- In April, the Panel discussed and supported that Cincinnatus Association sponsor a forum in conjunction with the National Issues Forum on topic of "A House Divided- How Do We Get the Political System We Want? What Would We Have to Give Up to Get It"? Bill Muse has graciously agreed to facilitate the forum which must be completed by December, 2019.

Submitted by Connie Roesch, Panel Co-Chair

Highlights from 2018-2019



Inclusion Co-Chair Sam Brewer leads a member discussion

Diversity and Inclusion Panel

The Inclusion Panel of the Cincinnatus Association was formed to ascertain how members of Cincinnatus could be most effective in our efforts to ensure that all citizens of the Cincinnati region are fairly represented in governance, commerce, education and other aspects of daily living. We come together in the belief that all citizens have strong assets to assist in building a fair, equitable and prosperous community. However, we acknowledge that the ability to contribute to the greater good and to enhance opportunity for a more sustainable future has not always been within the reach of all our neighbors.

Certain segments of our community have not had the same opportunity for success as others because of artificial barriers placed in their way such as color, religion, status, gender, sex, culture, disability, etc. This raises issues of inequity in the structure of our community and the Inclusion Panel recognizes the need to help to amend these inequities.

Highlights from this past year:

- Cincinnatus, through leadership of the Inclusion Panel, contributed the first \$1,000 to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund that was proposed by Councilman Mann and approved by city council.
- We advocated for the development of a broad and deep strategic planning process to identify the community's priorities for solutions to the affordable housing crisis. The framework for the development of such a plan is now under way.
- We invited a number of agencies serving low and moderate income individuals and families to present to us to learn about their efforts and the needs as they see them.

- We continue to gather information on the housing crisis and how it impacts our community and families and individuals. We learned that there is a shortage of some 40,000 housing units and that those making less than \$18 per hour find it difficult to afford adequate housing
- We have successfully negotiated with Metro to make it more accessible for those riders with disabilities and those over 65 to prove their eligibility and to receive their reduced fares.
- We are working with Councilman Landsman's committee to help mitigate evictions and/or assist tenants in relocating.
- We continue to research what other communities are doing to address their housing issues including forming broad community coalitions to seek funding, tax incentives, and forming set asides for affordable housing units in new developments.

Submitted by John Young and Samuel Brewer, Inclusion Panel Co-Chairs

Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of America Awards Dinner



The Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of America Awards Dinner is the Cincinnati Association's premier event that honors the legacy of Donald and Marian Spencer.

We are proud to have this unique opportunity to honor Donald and Marian Spencer, often called the "First Couple of Civil Rights in Cincinnati," by recognizing organizations that exhibit conspicuous and enduring contributions to inclusion and diversity.

History of the Spencer Awards

The Inclusion Panel started the Spencer dinner in 2015 with the idea of honoring a for-profit and 2-4 non-profits organizations for "exhibiting conspicuous and enduring contributions to creating greater inclusion and improving diversity in our community".

- In **2015**, approximately 200 people attended. Honorees were The Kroger Company, Willie Carden, Cincinnati Parks Dept., and Goodwill Industries.
- In **2016**, approximately 250 attended. Honorees were PNC Bank, Dr. Bleuzette Marshall and The Innocence Project
- In **2017**, Cincinnati decided to focus on the poverty issues in our region; consequently the Spencer Dinner Committee in alignment with our Cincinnati goal, decided to honor workforce development and support services non-profits. In 2017, approximately 235 attended. Honorees were Al. Neyer, Greater Cincinnati Urban League and Su Casa Hispanic Center
- In **2018**, Cincinnati honored City Gospel Mission, Venice on Vine / Power Inspires Progress (PIP), Freestore Foodbank, Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Programs and Nehemiah Manufacturing, Inc. We hosted 300 attendees.





2019 Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of America Award Winners

This Year's Awards

On May 21, the Cincinnati Association held our 5th Annual Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of America Awards.

While Marian, a long-time civil rights activist and community organizer, was not able to attend, she was called by our Master of Ceremonies, television personality, Courtis Fuller, during the evening. During the presentation, we were able to share the story of the efforts of she and her husband over more than 70 years to promote the full inclusion of all people in the Greater Cincinnati community. Named a “Great Living Cincinnati” by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, Spencer served as Vice Mayor of the city of Cincinnati during her long and historic career. Through the determination of she and her late husband, Donald, many of Cincinnati’s well known educational and recreational institutions became fully accessible and welcoming to all of the city’s residents regardless of race.

The Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza was the perfect venue to honor our awards winners:

Non-Profit

- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)**
- **Ohio Justice & Policy Center**
- **Shelterhouse**
- **The Reds Community Fund**

For-Profit

- **The Model Group**
- **P&G**

Thank you to all our sponsors for ensuring the success once again this year! **Champion Sponsor:** Alzheimer's Association. Benefactors Cincinnati Area Board of Realtors, PNC. Advocates: Cushman & Wakefield, Nehemiah Manufacturing, Fifth Third Bank. **Table Sponsors:** African American Chamber, Harry Blanton, Central Bank, Cincinnati Children's, Cincinnati Development Fund, Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co., Coney Island, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Rhonda Holyfield-Mangieri, HOME, The Model Group, NAI Bergman, NAMI Urban Greater Cincinnati, Reds Community Fund, Shelterhouse, SORTA-Metro, Susan & David Noonan, P&G, Preservation of Affordable Housing, UC Equity & Inclusion, Woman's City Club. **Patron Sponsor:** Xavier University.

Special thanks to our 2019 Spencer Committee members: Co-Chairs Susan Noonan and Rhonda Mangieri, Sam Brewer, Mike Burns, John Frank, Sarah Gideonse, Bob Maly, Nazly Mamedova, Alice Schneider, Emily Thobe, Larry Williams and John Young.

Membership Recruitment

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

By recruiting members, you'll help Cincinnati 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 Cincinnati Association.

To nominate candidates for membership, please confirm their interest in joining, then contact Cincinnati Executive Administrator Jill Claire at 513-939-2652 or admin@cincinnatiassoc.org.

Financial Outlook

It is with great pleasure we report the Cincinnati Association is expecting to ending its financial year (August 1 – July 31, 2019) with a positive year-end balance. As was reported in April 2017, the Executive Committee reached out to the membership requesting additional funds to keep the organization on sound financial footing, and you answered the call. Over these past two years, armed with cost-cutting efforts and a focus on membership recruitment and retention, we are in much stronger fiscal footing. We thank you for your support during this transitional time.

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Citizen Cincinnatus Award



Mark Silbersack (left) wins the 2019 Citizen Cincinnatus Award

The Citizen Cincinnatus Award has been awarded periodically by the Cincinnatus Association since 1994. The award recognizes 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 the Cincinnatus Association. The award is made at the discretion of the Association's Executive Committee.

In December 2018, the Citizen Cincinnatus Award was presented to Mark Silbersack for exceptional service to the Cincinnatus Association.

Our past honorees include Gus Morgan & John Simpkinson (1994), Richard Adams (1995), Mary Anne Christie (1996), Agnese Brienza (1997), Becky Meinberg (1998), David Crafts (1999), Louise Spiegel (2000), John Gilligan (2001), Charles Downton (2002), James Selonick (2003), Brandon Wiers (2004), Richard Pender (2006), Kent Friel (2007), Jan Leslie (2008), Larry Johnson (2011), Ron Miller (2012), John Frank (2016), and Carolyn B. Miller (2016).

Cincinnatus Association Member Roster

Includes all active, service roll and honorary members

Richard Adams
Jane Anderson
Cear Baggett
Alpacino Beauchamp
Paul Bernheimer
Harry Blanton
Douglas Bolton
Samuel Brewer
Vera Brooks
Robert Buechner
Michael Burns
Edward Buyniski
Ernie Ciambarella
Melissa Currence
Ramone Davenport
Marge Davis
Charles Downton
Lawrence Elleman
Winston Folkers
John Frank, Jr.
Kent Friel
Sarah Gideonse
Barbara Glueck
Elliot Grossman
Estegenet Hailemekeal
Arlene Herman
Smith Hickenlooper, III
Ronald Hitzler
Rhonda Holyfield-Mangieri
Thomas Huenefeld
Lawrence Johnson
Jane Keller
Larry Kissel
Michael Krug
Greg Landsman
Elisabeth Loring
Ann Lugbill
Bob Maly
Nazly Mamedova
David Mann
Gary Meisner
Carolyn Miller
William Muse
Barbara Myers
Mark Neikirk
Susan Noonan

John Norwine
Jack Painter
John Pepper
Bruce Petrie
Kurt Reiber
Dusty Rhodes
Beth Robinson
Tara Robinson
Connie Roesch
Reno Runck, III
Ely Ryder
Sonny Saeks
Joe Saylor
Jill Schiller
Alice Schneider
Robert Schrage
Mark Silbersack
John Simpkinson
JT Spence
Jeffrey Stec
Stephanie Stoller
Emily Thobe
Nelson Vincent
Nancy Walters
Sarah Warner
Charleston Wang
Lawrence Williams
H. James Williams
Michele Young
John Young