

Hot off the press / FEB 2015

VISIT US ONLINE AT CINCINNATUSASSOC.ORG

The Cincinnatus Association ©

Volume 5, Issue 6 — February 10, 2015



Photo courtesy of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport

How best to govern CVG?

Various voices weigh in on board restructuring

Few Queen City trivia questions are more common than this one: In what state is Cincinnati's airport located?

We all know the answer, and may also know that CVG is located in Boone County, Ky., but governed by Kenton County, Ky., which owns it.

The geographical peculiarities are behind the airport's flummoxing formula of governance. Though a regional asset, the composition of governing board is in the hands of one public official: the Kenton County judge-executive. That single official also appoints six of 11 members of the airport's advisory board.

This awkward structure has been quietly criticized for years. More recently, the criticism has grown louder, and the mo-

mentum is gaining to alter the structure.

Reporting by the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, a scathing report by the Kentucky state auditor, a lively debate during last year's Kenton County elections, a task force appointed by the new judge-executive, and, most recently, a bill filed in the Kentucky General Assembly have suggested the need for a different model of governance.

The bill would give others a say in appointing board members, although still

TAKE THE SURVEY

- **How do** you think CVG should be governed?
- **Click on** the survey link at www.nkyforum.org to add your voice to this important topic.

[See CVG / Page 2](#)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER / BOB SCHRAGE

WE SALUTE OUR 2015 CHAMPIONS OF EDUCATION

On behalf the Cincinnatus Association, I congratulate the winners of the 2015 Education Awards.

We are proud to partner with Northern Kentucky University, Xavier University, the University of Cincinnati, and Mount St. Joseph University to present these awards to teachers and administrators in our schools.

As Henry Brooks Adams says, "Teachers affect eternity; no one can tell where their influence stops."

The award recipients all have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in education and we are honored to be a part of recognizing their accomplishments. Read more about the winners on Page 2.

CINCINNATUS REVIEW

As I mentioned last year while serving as treasurer, Cincinnatus is facing some financial and other issues that we need to address this year. The Executive Committee this month will be meeting to analyze the problems and develop possible solutions.

The main issue is our annual operating deficit, which we face again this year. Other issues include making sure we are providing proper programs that meet member expectations and having the a full complement of members allowed by our constitution engaged in making Cincinnatus an engaged organization.

As the Executive Committee explores these issues, we pledge to make sure your input is obtained and any necessary plans are reviewed and approved by the membership. If you have any questions about this review, please let me know.

Reach Bob at schrage10@gmail.com.

Our next meeting will focus on CVG's governance. We partnering with Enquirer Media and the Northern Kentucky Forum for the program, which will be on March 10 at 7 p.m. at the METS Center in Erlanger. Our dinner meeting at 5:30 p.m. will precede the program.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS: Victoria Ames, Leslie Spence and Larry Williams.

not include any appointments by Ohio officials, though the state auditor recommended that.

Under the auditor's recommendations, the governor of Ohio, the mayor of Cincinnati, and the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners would each have an appointment to the board. Kentucky officials would still appoint the majority of the members, eight of 11. The existing advisory board would be eliminated and this new board, with voting powers, would oversee the airport.

The bill filed last week in the Kentucky House, however, follows a task force recommendation that does not include Ohio appointees. Instead, the new CVG board would have 13 members, with eight appointed by Kenton County. The judge-executive would appoint those but need confirmation by the county's legislative body, the Fiscal Court.

The other five members would be appointed by neighboring Kentucky counties (Boone County would have two seats; Campbell County and Grant counties one seat each), and the Kentucky governor (one seat).

Ohio officials would be invited to nominate two of the members appointed by Kenton County, but the final selection would be a Kenton County decision.

The bill reflects the reticence in Kentucky to give another state appointive power to a board that is managing a public facility owned and operated by a Kentucky body, even though the facility is a regional one.

The bill was introduced by state Rep. Diane St. Onge, R-Lakeside Park, and has support from most if not all of Northern Kentucky's representatives in Frankfort.

"This bill first and foremost ensures that Kenton County maintains majority control," St. Onge told Enquirer reporter James Pilcher.

Pilcher, who has written extensively about the airport's governance, will moderate a panel discussion on the topic next month for the program portion of the Cincinnati regular meeting. We are partnering with Enquirer Media and the Northern Kentucky Forum for this discussion, which will begin at 7 p.m. at the METS Center in Erlanger. The public is invited and the forum is free. A dinner meeting for Cincinnati will precede the public event; usual RSVP required.

The House Bill drew some quick criticism from Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune, who told Pilcher, "Yeah, they made their nods to Hamilton County and Cincinnati, so thanks for that, but this does not go nearly far enough. This just doesn't reflect the reality of the situation."

However, County Commissioners Greg Hartmann and Chris Monzel sounded more conciliatory. As Hartmann told Pilcher, "It is an obvious attempt to reach out to the region and to Ohio and to make sure there is some sort of say there."

The Kentucky General Assembly meets through March 24.

READ THE FULL REPORT FROM THE AUDITOR

http://apps.auditor.ky.gov/Public/Audit_Reports/Archive/2014CVGReport.pdf

Condolences to Bob White and his family

Please extend your sympathies to our member, **Bob White**, who lost his wife, **Mary Carmen Cupito**, 60, last week after her long and difficult battle with cancer.

Like Bob, Mary was a journalist and author. In 1992, she began teaching at NKU and became chair of the journalism program.

Known to her students for her tough love, she equipped them with today's digital media skills but also with a classic commitment to journalism's high standards of skepticism, fact checking and blunt clarity.

She was fond of one question above all others when told something by a source: "How do you know that?" It's a question her doctors heard over the past three years as they suggested this

treatment or that would be best.

The family requests memorials, if desired, to the Green Umbrella/Mary Carmen Cupito Tree Fund at 4138 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45223 or to the Mary Cupito Scholarship, NKU Foundation Inc., AC239, Highland Heights, KY, 41099.

Education Panel examines 'world of work'

At its February meeting, the Education Panel participated in a deliberation facilitated by Bill Muse on *Changing the World of Work*. The panel used the discussion guides produced by the National Issues Forum, which outline three options for higher education and its preparation for students to enter the workforce.

The highly participatory process was well-received, and the panel at its next meet will discuss the possibility of using the process regarding the community and preschool education.

Meet the winners of our education awards

Congratulations to our 2015 education award winners, who exemplify a commitment to making our region better by investing their time, intellect and energy.

- The James N. Jacobs Award for Outstanding Administration in Cincinnati Public Schools goes to **Tianay Amat**, principal, Hyde Park School. "In her two and a half years as principal of Hyde Park School and Cincinnati Gifted Academy, Ms. Amat has worked tirelessly to build unity among all stakeholders," a nominator wrote, "to create a vibrant, high-achieving school where both students and staff are happy to spend their days, and to achieve academic success."

- The John E. Pepper Award for Outstanding Volunteer in Public Education goes to **Linda Bingham**, Saylor Park School. A nominator wrote that Ms. Bingham has volunteered with Saylor Park for 35 years, donating her time as well as financial contributions to fund facility enhancements and shirts for students. She also runs the school's Rosey Reader program for primary students. "Linda is the epitome of an outstanding volunteer," her nominator concluded.

- The Cincinnati/Woodward Trust Distinguished Teacher Award for Cincinnati Public Schools goes to **Alan Cruser**, a teacher at Woodward Career Technical High School. One nominator wrote about Mr. Cruser's "innate passion for improving the quality and delivery of career-work readiness programs" at Woodward Career Technical High School. "Mr. Cruser is reassuring and encouraging to all teachers in our building by offering realistic approaches to educational and meaningful classroom instruction," the nominator added.

Also, congratulations to **Jerry Schrock** of Mason City Schools, **Bill Morgan** of Newport Central Catholic High School, **Jackie Butts** of Tichenor Middle School and **Danielle Foulk** of Rockwern Academy, winners of this year's C³ Outstanding Educator awards, presented tonight by our university partners.