

# Hot off the press / NOV 2015

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The Cincinnatus Association ©

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At the 2015 awards dinner, Marian Spencer enjoys a selfie with emcee Courtis Fuller.

## LET'S DO IT AGAIN

Our inaugural Spencer Awards set the bar high



As we all know by now, the first annual Marian and Donald Spencer Spirit of America awards dinner was a great success.

It was an inspiring and informative evening as we learned more about the struggle for inclusion in our city, past and present.

And we celebrated those who have dedicated their lives and resources to erasing the barriers to opportunity and equality.

The awards are given to a nonprofit, a for-profit and an individual who exhibit "conspicuous and enduring contribu-

tions to creating greater inclusion and promoting diversity in our community."

This year the dinner will be held on our usual meeting night, May 10th, so no one has the excuse of another commitment!

We'll return to the Netherland Hilton Hall of Mirrors, with a reception preceding the program.

Please ask your company plan for the cost of a table in their budget, or plan personally to buy some tickets (\$65 each; \$600 for a table of ten).

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- We need volunteers to help solicit sponsors, sell tickets, design program, and work at registration and as greeters.
- Contact Susan Noonan at [snoonan@fuse.net](mailto:snoonan@fuse.net) or by phone at 378-4122.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER / BOB SCHRAGE

## THE TIME HAS COME TO SHARPEN OUR FOCUS

### WHY? TO MAXIMIZE OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

Our Executive Committee has been meeting to design a new plan for the Cincinnatus Association. The plan is based on feedback from you, the members, and provided last year in a session that examined what we are now, what we might become, and how.

With this input, the Executive Committee is recommending changes, including one related to emphasis. It is being proposed that, going forward, Cincinnatus will select one to three areas to focus on for three-year periods, with occasional reassessments to fine-tune and adjust as new issues and understandings arise.

The Association will attempt to balance long-term goals and objectives with the need to engage members through tangible, shorter-term progress.

The focus areas will be recommended by the Executive Committee and decided by the entire membership. The focus areas will guide our panels, so that all panels will be involved— tackling different aspects of each area— and, together, heightening the Association's effectiveness.

At tonight's meeting, a focus area for the next three years will be proposed, along with an overall plan for operations.

I speak for the entire Executive Committee as I express our sincere appreciation for your guidance and input. Those are reflected in this plan. I am hopeful the plan will set Cincinnatus on course to maximize our impact on the community.

## A CALL TO ACTION: THE PRESCHOOL PROMISE

Imagine a city that promises every child the same fair start. Decades of research by economists, neuroscientists and educators prove that investments in the first five years – including high-quality preschool – result in long-term gains for students and produce significant savings for governments and taxpayers.

The answer couldn't be clearer: If we want to improve outcomes for generations, fix our talent pipeline, strengthen our schools and communities, and produce long-term, meaningful savings to taxpayers, then we have to invest in quality preschool for all of our children. Cincinnatus member and Preschool Promise champion John Pepper provided us with a business and community perspective on this groundbreaking initiative at our October meeting.



The Preschool Promise is a high priority of the Cincinnatus Association and members have been involved in many aspects of the issue. At the October meeting, many members signed up to help and participate in Cincinnatus Association activities aimed at making the promise a reality.

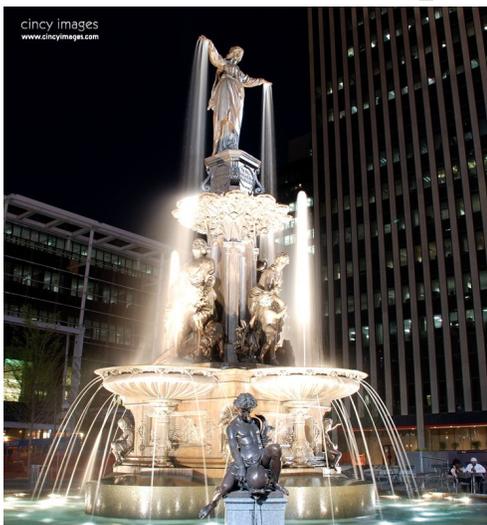
If you didn't get the chance to sign up to become involved in the efforts, it's not too late. If interested in learning more or to express your interest, contact Kent Friel at [kpriel@cinci.rr.com](mailto:kpriel@cinci.rr.com).

GET INVOLVED: [www.cincy-promise.org](http://www.cincy-promise.org)

## A Closer Look at Being Homeless in NKY

We've had some presentations on the Cincinnatus response to homelessness. But what about the south side of the river? There are two opportunities to learn more. On Nov. 12 from 4:30-6:30 p.m., the Children's Law Center will show a film at NKU in the Farris Auditorium. Then, on Dec. 10 at 6:30- 8 p.m., the Northern Kentucky Forum will host a panel discussion at the Kenton County Public Library in Covington. Both events are free.

## Confluence: Liquid Gold in Cincinnati



In 2012, Cincinnatus helped sponsor and support the newly founded Confluence: Water Technology Innovation Cluster. This organization, with Cincinnatus member Melinda Kruyer as its Executive Director, has been making headlines ever since with its efforts toward collaborations for sustainable, innovative environmental technologies. See what they're up to today as Woman's City Club presents a community forum **Liquid Gold: The Cincinnati "Water" Story** on Thursday, Nov. 12 at 6:30pm at the First Unitarian Church.

**Cincinnatus Executive Committee:** Bob Schrage, president; Elliot Grossman, vice president; Mark Neikirk, secretary; Crystal Faulkner, treasurer; members: Sam Brewer; Melissa Currence; Arlene Herman; Susan Noonan; and John Young.

## About tonight's meeting and a proposed focus

Tonight is an important meeting as we consider a recommendation from the Executive Committee to begin selecting focus areas for Cincinnatus. The first recommended topic is "The American Dream Theme." Although our region has made economic strides, too many of our neighbors continue to live in poverty. We are challenging ourselves to ask what we can do to change that. You will hear more tonight and be invited to help sharpen this important focus.

## Remember: Recruiting is an ongoing task

We have no new names to add to our association roster this month, but we did lose three members. It's a fact: We lose members. People move. Their time demands or interests change. To keep Cincinnatus strong, we have to keep recruiting. Please make use of the recruiting toolkit on our website and recommend new members.

## Understanding race in America, then and now

Daily headlines remind us that race relations in the United States continue to be a challenge. To understand today's issues, a historical perspective is invaluable. NKU history professor **Dr. Eric Jackson** will provide during a public lecture and Q&A at 6 p.m. on Nov. 18 at the Carnegie in Covington. More info and tickets at [sixatsix.nku.edu](http://sixatsix.nku.edu).