

# NOCCA NEWS

A newsletter published by the  
Northeast Ohio City Council Association, Inc.  
Volume 1, Issue 4 September, 2004

**NOCCA**

Northeast Ohio City Council Association, Inc.



## Message from the President

**W**elcome to fall and its bright colors, in the meantime, can someone tell me what happened to summer? With the fall comes our annual nominating committee request that anyone with interest in serving on the Board of Directors to further the mission and goals of the organization contact one of its members. The work of the board requires commitment, diligence, and enthusiasm. Typically, we hold a monthly breakfast meeting on the second Saturday of each month, with an occasional change if too many members have a conflict. The meetings are held at the Independence Holiday Inn.

The Nominating Committee Members are: Mary Ann Drobnick of Valley View; Michelle Stys of Parma; Brian E. Parker of Shaker Heights; Steven Bennett of University Heights; and Dorise Thompson of Warrensville Heights.

The Nominating Committee Members can discuss with you the position descriptions and their view of the current and projected work for the board members. The NOCCA organization continues to grow in visibility and stature as simultaneously the need to have more voices engaged in the dialogue about the challenges and opportunities facing the region has reached a critical state. Additionally, we want to encourage every member city to encourage a neighbor city that may not be a member to join NOCCA and take advantage of our wonderful programs four times per year.

Civically yours,

**Kathryn E. Gambatose**  
President, N.O.C.C.A., Inc.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER FORUM

**THURSDAY,  
November 11, 2004  
The City Club  
of Cleveland  
850 Euclid Avenue**

*"Collaborative Relationships:  
Why They Are Needed and  
What Already Works for  
Local Governments in  
Cuyahoga County."*

## JULY 2004 FORUM HIGHLIGHTS - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, PHASE II: WHAT ARE THE REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES?



Andrew J. Reese, P.E. Vice President for AMEC Earth and Environmental, shared his 25 years of experience as it relates to stormwater management with the members and guests of the NOCCA at its July 2004 dinner forum. He educated us on the issues challenging municipalities on stormwater management and how

it may affect the future of municipalities.

In most American communities, the municipal role in waste management has grown considerably since the 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. This task, according to some authorities, was left to "unreliable contractors". Unlike the case of electricity and natural gas, where many of the cities that provide these utilities operate simply as distributors, cities often must take on a much greater responsibility in water and sewer management.

The facts:

- Storm water is a runoff that occurs with natural precipitation such as rain and snowmelt.
- A stormwater inlet can be a curbside opening or a grate that drains stormwater from streets, yards and sidewalks.
- Common pollutants found in urban areas include: oil, grease, and other fluids from roadways and parking lots, pesticides, fertilizers, lawn clippings, sediment from construction sites, soil and dirt, trash and debris, cigarette butts and metals. These are prevalent pollutants found in stormwater sewers.
- Runoff from municipal areas contains a mixture of pollutants from parking lots, streets, and rooftops. Although municipal storm sewer systems are efficient at conveying water to avoid flooding, they also transport polluted runoff directly into nearby lakes and rivers

without the benefit of wastewater treatment.

- Stormwater drains are used for quickly diverting stormwater away from urban areas to prevent flooding and water damage.
- Stormwater can become a body of water such as a stream, creek, lake or river.

The future of most municipalities depend on economic growth; it depends on jobs for all who want to work; it depends on keeping the city an affordable place to live; and it depends on an attractive and enjoyable quality of life. However, what we sometimes forget is all of these things – growth, jobs, affordability and quality of life – depend on something even more fundamental. They all depend on clean water. Cities must aggressively put programs in place to ensure that we have clean drinking water and clean water for our neighbors downstream. We owe this to our neighbors, children and the environment.

We all live in a watershed. It is the area of land that catches rain and snow, which then drains into a common body of water. When pollutants are washed into streams, ponds and river water, quality may be harmed. Stormwater management is a fast evolving field.

Mr. Reese has special skills and experience in the assessment of municipal stormwater programs, development of program growth and improvement strategies, cost of service analyses, facilitation of citizen groups, and development and implication of public education and involvement. The information and education that Mr. Reese shared with NOCCA was invaluable and so much more than can be compressed into a short written article. "Keep it clean...we all downstream."

*Submitted by  
Danita Love  
Village of Highland Hills*

## MEMBER CORNER

### STRONGSVILLE YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Three years ago, Councilman Mike Gallagher started a service group of young leaders in the City of Strongsville that has taken on far more than envisioned. In a short period of time, the Commission has expanded its service to the whole community.

During the school year, the Commission members tutor at the Recreation Center any and all students in the Strongsville School system in need of academic help. On Super Bowl Sunday, the members hold a "Senior Prom" for the many senior citizens in town. It was complete with music, food and refreshments provided by the Commission. Other projects have included helping neighbors in need of simple services such as grass cutting and garbage day assistance, to larger projects such as painting the house of a disabled veteran, and a "youth speak out" held in conjunction with Baldwin-Wallace College.

This year the Youth Commission will be holding a presidential debate at the high school on October 28th, featuring qualified students representing President Bush, Mr. Kerry and Mr. Nader. For more information please contact Sarah Arold at 440-878-6000.

### C.S.U. LEADERSHIP TRAINING STARTS SOON - SCHOLARSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE

C.S.U.'s Leadership Education - just ask Kirsten Holzheimer Gail of Euclid if it works (see article above right).

This year's program at C.S.U. begins November 4, 2004 and continues to May 19, 2005. It consists of nine curriculum units covered in three week intervals over the six month duration.

You can join other elected officials, senior administrators, and nonprofit executives in **Local Officials Leadership Academy XIV**. Expand your skills in: *communications, consensus building, government/business/nonprofit relations, intergovernmental relations, race relations, media relations, labor relations and more.*

NOCCA encourages Council members to participate in this excellent program. Two partial scholarships of \$1,000 are available from C.S.U., and \$500 scholarships are available through NOCCA.

Contact Dr. Vera Vogelsang-Coombs at C.S.U.'s Levin College at 216-687-9223 or email at vera@urban.csuohio.edu for more information. **Sign up now!**

## BECOME A BETTER LEADER!

If you are looking for a way to improve your leadership abilities and build organizational capacity, then the C.S.U. Levin College of Urban Affairs Leadership Academy may be the program for you. With great thanks to a scholarship from NOCCA and the Leadership Academy program, I was fortunate to be able to participate in the 2003-2004 Leadership Class. What made this academy so rewarding was the variety of topics covered, the quality of both the participants and instructors, and the blending of practical tested tools with experiential discussion.

*The purpose of the Leadership Academy is to bring elected officials, policy makers, senior administrators and community executives from the region together to work through their leadership challenges in a broader context. An expert in the field or a distinguished faculty member leads each session. It was impressive to me that a great number of the instructors were graduates of the program themselves and recognized as leaders in the community.*

Participants came from varied backgrounds in public, nonprofit, and community organizations. The 13th Leadership Class was comprised of 27 elected officials from several municipalities and senior administrators of state, county, regional, municipal government, and nonprofit community organizations. The mix of experience and fields represented greatly enhanced the level of discussion and the learning.

*"The Leadership Academy helped me to improve my leadership skills and taught me effective ways of dealing with many organizational issues."*

The Leadership Academy included nine modules over a six-month time frame. It began with an "immersion retreat" to help participants get to know each other better and build a team mentality. This retreat built the foundation for a greater level of comfort, sharing and friendship that would improve the level of discussion and learning that took place throughout the entire academy. The retreat did in fact help us see each other as a team -- learning and growing together. This team of leaders and friends will now serve as a resource network and base of support for each other.

The curriculum for the Academy encompassed a broad range of topics such as: Building Executive Teams, Governance Relationships, Leveraging Government and Business Relationships, Leveraging Community Involvement and Civic Engagement, Economic Development and Regional Strategies, Performance Measurement, Succession Planning, Management and Labor Relations, Leading Diversity and Race Relations, Critical Issues in Government and Nonprofit Relationships, Media Relations, and Organizational Development. The Academy ended with a capstone session, "Building the New Community Vision: New Days, New Ways." Each session was not only interesting and informative, but used examples and case studies that were both timely and practical. Continuing education and academic credit are also available.

The Leadership Academy helped me to improve my leadership skills and taught me effective ways of dealing with many organizational issues. The Academy helped to renew my faith and hope for our region. Building capable leaders will positively impact our communities, our organizations and our region. I look forward to seeing great things from the graduates of the 13th Leadership Academy. For more information about this program or to apply for the 2004-2005 class, call Dr. Vera Vogelsang-Coombs at C.S.U.'s Levin College at 216-687-9223.

*Submitted by  
Kirsten Holzheimer Gail  
City of Euclid*

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Northeast Ohio  
City Council Association, Inc.  
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*Compiled By  
Michael Gallagher  
Strongsville*

### ◆ 2004 EXECUTIVE BOARD ◆

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