

# NOCCA NEWS

A newsletter published by the  
Northeast Ohio City Council Association, Inc.  
Volume 1, Issue 5 November, 2004

**NOCCA**

Northeast Ohio City Council Association, Inc.



## Message from the President

**T**his edition of our news finds us on the cusp of an election which has captured all of our energies and attention. The outcome of which is unknown at time of printing, but which surely will impact us who serve locally, the nation as a whole, and indeed this young century in indelible ways. "Will we still be friends in the morning?" comes to mind. Will we rise above the fears, the uncertainties, the threats, and above all, the incivility, and once again find the core of what still makes America strong and great.

One of the cherished attributes I find in our organization is the wonderful manner by which all of our members comport themselves when we meet and network and address mutual concerns, with little thought of partisanship. For my part, that will continue to be my quest and passion as we move forward. There is so much we can accomplish together.

Which brings me to the topic of our November forum. Once again the Plain Dealer is bringing to our eyes the proposed plans for the waterfront of Cleveland and many additional indicators of what is needed to propel this region to success.

The focus of our recent NOCCA Questionnaire, the survey done in collaboration with CSU and Dr. Vera Vogelsang Coombs, is meant to inform much of our discussion with Ed Morrison following his invaluable insights about the region. Though a complete analysis of the survey will not be ready by the forum, it will be provided for the membership at a later date. Some cooperative ventures as referenced in Steve Bennett's article in this edition, will be highlighted at the forum.

If your city has not completed and returned the survey, please do so. We don't know what we don't know, which makes the information you may have extremely important to us. Please plan to be present with us as we continue to seek solutions to making life better for all of our communities.

Civically yours,

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

## Member Corner

On October 11, 2004, the City of South Euclid passed Resolution No. 44-04 as introduced by Council President Sunny Simon and requested by Mayor Georgine Welo. Although council clerks receive and distribute these as a general rule, there are times when this type of resolution can slip by us. With that in mind, we submit a portion of the resolution for your consideration. If this is the first or only time you have seen it and wish to have your council pass similar legislation, a full copy can be had from the South Euclid Clerk of Council.

### A RESOLUTION

#### **A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE DRAFT HEALTH CARE PRESERVATION PLAN PROPOSED BY OPERS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, OPERS has recently drafted a proposed health care preservation plan ("HCPP") to preserve future healthcare benefits for retirees; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to HCPP draft, current retirees and current employees are negatively impacted; and

Continued on Page 2

## PLAN TO ATTEND THE FALL FORUM

**THURSDAY,  
November 11, 2004**

**The City Club  
of Cleveland  
850 Euclid Avenue  
2nd Floor  
Cleveland, OH 44114**

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

### GUEST SPEAKER:

**MR. ED MORRISON,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CENTER  
FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES,  
WEATHERHEAD SCHOOL OF  
MANAGEMENT, CWRU**

#### **Registration, Meet & Greet,**

<b>Light Refreshments</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Introductions &amp; NOCCA Update</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>Speaker followed by Q &amp; A's</b>	<b>7:15 pm</b>
<b>Meeting Concludes</b>	<b>9:00 pm</b>

NOCCA members attend and park free of charge. Nonmembers and Guests pay \$10.00 which includes parking. Individuals unable to attend who fail to give a 24-hour notice of cancellation will be billed.

Please make your reservations by  
Monday, November 8, 2004  
to Cheryl McNulty

Phone: 216-382-3456 Fax: 216-382-5105



## BENNETT'S MUNICIPAL CORNER

### THE COMING OF LIMITED REGIONALISM?

Does the move toward area cooperation amongst cities to cut costs on an operating level signal a gradual, but subtle move towards a "limited" regionalism?

In northeast Ohio the combined events of municipal and township revenue streams narrowing or failing to widen, and requirements from the federal and state level mandates increasing have provided the "moment of inertia" for many cities and townships to form operating level agreements with neighboring communities. These agreements range from sharing court expenses, renting jail space, the formation of area S.W.A.T. teams and Haz Mat response teams, joint

fire and EMS dispatch, to trash and trash transfer points and landfill transportation. In each of these agreements each "home rule" city had to give up some of its autonomy for the good of the whole and for providing the needed service at a budget palatable cost. During the recent Children's games, the "new" area of home land security required a great deal of cooperation between city, county, state and federal officials. All of the above examples are at the daily operating level. They prove that cities in northeast Ohio can work together and still maintain their own sovereignty. Can this cooperation to contain costs be carried over to

revenue, job producing economic development? In other words can the communities of Northeast Ohio plan and develop on a regional level? If so who and what will run the economic development? What will be the focus? Economic development through Innovation? Invention? Creation? Education? All four? Something else? Take an active part in your future, come to NOCCA's Fall 2004 the forum, hear what the panel has to say and add your thoughts, ideas or concerns for the future. For who can better plan and act for future of northeast Ohio than we who live here?

*Submitted by  
Steven Bennett  
City of University Heights*

### GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT'S DUE...

*NOCCA wishes to extend apologies to Dorise Thompson for her name's omission in the September 2004 Newsletter article she provided. Dorise was responsible for submitting the article "July 2004 Forum Highlights - Stormwater Management, Phase II: What Are the Regional Implications and Opportunities?"*

*We appreciate Dorise's in-depth coverage and reporting of the July Forum, and we again apologize for not acknowledging her as the author of the article in the September NOCCA NEWS.*



### MEMBER CORNER

*Continued from Page 1*

**WHEREAS**, any and all changes made pursuant to the HCPP should not adversely impact any current retirees or current employees, rather any changes should only be applied prospectively to all new hires.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of South Euclid, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio:

**Section 1:** The Council of the City of South Euclid wishes to express its opposition to the draft HCPP proposed by OPERS with respect to the reduction of benefits to all current retirees and current employees and urges the OPERS Retirement Board to not approve the draft HCPP to the extent that it provides for a reduction of benefits to all current retirees and current employees.

### C.S.U. LEADERSHIP TRAINING IS STARTING NOW - SCHOLARSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE

This year's Leadership Education 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 today!**

### NOCCA NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 5 November, 2004

*A newsletter published by the  
Northeast Ohio  
City Council Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 241246  
Lyndhurst, OH 44124*

*Compiled By  
Michael Gallagher  
Strongsville*

#### ◆ 2004 EXECUTIVE BOARD ◆

**President**

*Kathryn E. Gambatese, Richmond Heights*

**Vice President**

*Donald Saunders, Bedford*

**Secretary**

*Danita J. Love, Highland Hills Village*

**Treasurer**

*Cleve T. Svetlik, Pepper Pike*

#### ◆ MEMBERS AT LARGE ◆

*Steven D. Bennett, University Heights*

*Pamela E. Bobst, Rocky River*

*Michael J. Gallagher, Strongsville*

*Dorise Thompson, Warrensville Heights*

#### ◆ PAST PRESIDENT ◆

*James R. Cody, Bedford Heights*