



Message from the President

I hope everyone had a good holiday season, and I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. Your Executive Board and Officers are busy planning an exciting year of program forums that effect us all. Anyone who would like to suggest an interesting forum topic, please feel free to let one of your Officers or Board Members know and we'll look into it. I want to "Welcome" all of you who are new to City Council this year, as well as all who have returned. Congratulations on your election victory! It takes a special person to want to serve in a position of authority. You are the closest elected official that the electorate has. You are usually the first person contacted when a problem arises, and unfortunately, the first blamed when something happens that may be unpopular. Welcome aboard!

As members of NOCCA, we will keep you informed of topics and possible solutions which effect us all, in the hope that, if we do make mistakes, we make original ones. In an effort to keep you informed of issues effecting us, please be sure to visit NOCCA's new website at www.noccassoc.com for your NOCCA news. We are always looking for ways to stay informed and improve to make your jobs easier as a City Council member. This is your organization and the Board is here as your representatives to network across the area. Together, we can solve the problems that are thrown at us everyday in this ever-expanding world we live in.

Many of you indicated that the time of year the forums were held needed adjusting. Suggestions, such as forums held during the summer being tough to attend; the January annual meeting and forum being too close to the holidays; and January being a busy time in your cities while in the process of getting organized for the start of a new year, were heard. In response, the Board has decided to try a different time schedule for the forums this year. **This year's annual meeting and forum has been moved to February 16, 2006.** Hopefully, you have already received the notice about this change. The changing of the forum dates, however, does require a change in the Association's Constitution and Bylaws, which requires a vote at the annual meeting by the membership in attendance. The vote will take place, along with the vote for this year's Officers and Executive Board for the Association, during the dinner portion of the meeting. The following changes are proposed and will be voted on at the annual meeting on February 16th:

The NOCCA Constitution, Article 6-Meetings, Section 1 reference in the parenthetical which lists the months "(January, April, July and October)" will be deleted; Article 6-Meetings, Section 2 reference to the month "January" will be changed to "first quarter"; and in the NOCCA Bylaws, Article 7-Standing Committees the reference to the month "January" will be changed to "first quarter".

These changes will allow flexibility in the planning of forums, and avoid unforeseen conflicts that may arise. It will also allow time to hold at least four forums of interest during the year, as has been the practice in the past. These changes reflect the boards' proposed changes and some might have been inadvertently omitted in the letter that was sent last month along with the forum notice.

I hope to see all of you at the Annual Meeting. We have a lot to cover, and the Forum Topic should be of interest to all. The traffic implications resulting from this project will affect every community in Northeast Ohio for years to come.

Civically yours,
Donald Saunders
President, N.O.C.C.A., Inc.

NOCCA WEBSITE DEBUT

The new website of NOCCA debuted January 1, 2006. The website, developed and hosted by New Image Media, Inc., is available by accessing the address www.noccassoc.org.

The website is in the preliminary development stages and will continue to evolve and expand in preparation as NOCCA becomes the premiere organization for all Councils throughout this region. Included are details about the organization, membership information, forums, constitution and by-laws, executive board members and meeting dates, and the directory. There is also a section for newsletters, links to member city websites and chambers of commerce, and a way to contact the executive board.

We anticipate that the NOCCA website will eventually become the definitive source of information for anyone interested in our organization. We truly appreciate all of the time and work that has been put in to get this project underway which has been a joint effort between our organization and New Image Media. We are very excited to have it go live and invite everyone interested to visit the site and give us feedback.

Submitted by,
Danita Love
Highland Hills

PLAN TO ATTEND THE WINTER FORUM

THURSDAY,
February 16, 2006
Cleveland Marriott East
26300 Harvard Road
Warrensville Heights 44122
216-378-9191

**"The ODOT/I-77
Innerbelt Study"**

GUEST SPEAKER:

**CRAIG HEBEBRAND, Innerbelt
Study Project Manager**

Registration, Meet & Greet	6:00 pm
Welcome	6:45 pm
Dinner*	7:00 pm
Program	8:00 pm

*Dinner is Free of Charge for Paid Members. There is a nominal dinner cost for non-members and guests.

Failure to cancel a registration 24 hours prior to event will result in billing of members and non-members.

Please make your reservations by
Monday, February 13, 2006

to

Blanca Salva

Phone: 216-939-1717

Fax: 216-939-7994

Email: councilward17@sbcglobal.net



THE YEAR 2005 NOCCA FORUMS IN REVIEW:

In 2005 NOCCA's four forum topics ranged from a County Commissioner's vision for the county, to state tax reform, to the Voices and Choices program, to hidden costs of identity theft to citizens and municipal governments.

The 2005 election of officers and annual dinner meeting was held January 27th at the Cleveland Holiday Inn South on Rockside Road in Independence. County Commissioner Jimmy Dimora administered the oath of office to the officers. County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones addressed the assembly. He stated that his vision for the county was one that centered around the challenge of finding ways that will make the county a community that our descendents will want to come to work and live in.

At the spring forum held April 28, 2005 at the City Club, the Hon. Sally Conway Kilbane spoke on "What Can Your City Expect from State Tax Reform?" Medicaid (40%) and K-12 Education (35%) comprise 75% of the state's budget. Three billion dollars has been put into school funding over the last three years. Ohio has been slow to recover from recession so that other areas of the budget are lower than they were in 2002. The result is that cities will have to continue to tighten budgets

while seeking creative ways to create new revenue streams to replace the decrease in LGF funds.



The summer forum on the "Voices and Choices" program was held July 28, 2005 at CSU's Wolstein Center. There are 10 major metro areas (regions) in the U.S. that out-produce 31 states. If Cleveland/Northeast Ohio wants to be the 11th area (region), it has to create some sort of regional council or body to promote, plan and run its economic growth program. Over the next year and a half the Voices and Choices program plans to gather ideas and information about regionalism in the area, as well as promote dialog amongst all interested groups and individuals. At the end of that time, the program will develop and present a consensus on ideas and recommendations for implementation of a regional plan for the area.

At Parma's Senior Center on October 20, 2005 the fall forum topic was identity theft. Other than guarding the President, the Secret Service also handles identity theft cases. Did you know that in this

age of computers, ipods, and electronic wireless gadgets, that someone can be sitting in a car at a shopping mall capturing your credit card information as it is transmitted over a wireless network from the "cash" register or that the credit card you just used at a restaurant was scanned twice? Once to pay for the meal and a second time through a small hand held device. Both capture your credit card data. The captured information is then used to "recreate" your identity and open a credit card account that will quickly have charges on it that you did not make or authorize. On a personal level, you can defend yourself against identity theft by guarding your social security number. It is the key to your credit and banking accounts. Do not print it on checks and only give it out when necessary.

As you can see, the forums of 2005 covered a wide area of interests, and 2006 will start off with a presentation on ODOT's plan for the I-77 corridor. Plan to come to the Marriott Cleveland East on Harvard Avenue just off I-271 on February 16, 2006 and hear firsthand how the I-77 corridor construction could affect your community, not only traffic-wise but economically as well.

*Submitted by
Steven D. Bennett
City of University Heights*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT



The Nominating Committee is happy to present the 2006 slate of candidates for officers and at large members of the NOCCA Executive Board and the three elected Nominating Committee positions.

President Donald Saunders appointed board member at large, Steve Bennett, and immediate past president, Kathryn Gambatese to work with the elected members of the committee, Michael Gallagher of Strongsville, Ron Lisy of Bedford, and Matt Zone of Cleveland.

The committee managed their work successfully via electronic communication. The needs and focus of our search for candidates were determined and communicated to the committee members. Additional help was sought from former board members to identify potential persons. A strong effort was made, but not achieved, to seek persons for the at large positions from member cities of the western portion of the county. There is substantial east side representation currently.

One position remains open on the nominating committee and nominations will be accepted from the floor at the annual dinner & election. It remains a hope that a west side councilperson will step forward.

The Nominating Committee Slate is included in this mailing and we highly recommend these volunteers for your acceptance. Their commitment and skills as leaders will further the goals of NOCCA. My deepest thanks and appreciation to my fellow committee members for their diligent work.

*Submitted by,
Kathryn E. Gambatese
City of Richmond Heights*

NOCCA NEWS

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*P.O. Box 241246
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❖ 2005 EXECUTIVE BOARD ❖

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Chuck Germana, *Parma*

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Matthew Zone, *Cleveland*

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