



## Message from the President

It's hard to believe that November is here already. This year just seemed to go by so fast, even another Election Day has come and gone. Soon the holidays will be upon us.

Your Officers and Board are busy at work getting ready for our next forum, which should prove to be a very interesting topic on Utilities. NOCCA's Nominating Committee is also organizing and going over members for next year's Officers, Board Members and Nominating Committee Members to keep this organization moving forward, covering topics that effect all our communities. I know many of you are probably up for election next year or have many items on your plate, but we here at NOCCA are looking for a few good, hard working individuals for a variety of open positions. Here is your chance to make an impact on more than just your community. Have you ever thought that why doesn't someone cover a specific topic you might be interested in? Here's your chance to get involved as an Officer, Board Member or a member of the Nominating Committee.

The elections will be held at the Annual Meeting tentatively scheduled for February 1, 2007. Time and place and program to be to be announced in the future. Get more involved and help make some of the everyday decisions of this organization. NOCCA is here to serve you and your community - become a bigger part of it. Contact Steve Bennett from University Heights, Matt Zone of Cleveland or any other member of the Nominating Committee and submit your name.

We are also always looking for interesting topics for future forums, so even if you do not want to hold an office, let us hear from you. Visit our web site at [noccassoc.org](http://noccassoc.org) for your most up-to-date events and contact information for the organization. Your board and officers are here to serve your needs as they relate to the entire region. It's tough to go it alone in the world anymore, especially with decreasing revenue and increasing demand for services. Let's continue to work on solutions together and continue making the Northeast Ohio City Council Association our source for information. I wish everyone a good holiday season and hope to see all of you at Harry's Steakhouse on November 16<sup>th</sup> at our forum on Utilities.

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

### ATTENTION!

Please plan to attend and cast your vote on the proposed new amendment to Article V, Section 4 which addresses the Treasurer's duties.

Consult our website ([www.noccassoc.org](http://www.noccassoc.org)) to review the amendment.

## PLAN TO ATTEND THE EARLY WINTER FORUM

**THURSDAY,  
November 16, 2006**

**Harry's Steakhouse  
5664 Brecksville Road  
Independence, OH 44131  
216-524-5300**

**"Public Utilities: How  
Are They Regulated?"**

### GUEST SPEAKERS:

MAUREEN MILLER, Director of Communications, Ohio Consumers Council

LEIGH HERINGTON, Executive Director, NOPEC

JEFFREY MURPHY, Director, Pricing & Regulatory Affairs, Dominion EOG

ALSO INVITED: Representative from PUCO

Registration, Meet & Greet	6:30 pm
Welcome	7:00 pm
Dinner and Program	7:15 pm

Members ARE FREE!  
There is a \$20 cost for Non-Members.

Please make your reservations by  
Monday, November 13, 2006 to  
Danita Love  
Phone: 216.586.7724  
or 216.295.1193  
Email: [djlove@jonesday.com](mailto:djlove@jonesday.com)

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

## ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES DEREGULATION: SHORT HISTORY AND TODAY'S CHALLENGES

With the advent of deregulation of the electricity generating industry followed by that of the natural gas supply industry, northeast Ohioans began not only an era of opportunity for lower power generation rates, but also an era of confusion regarding these rates and the actual monthly utility charge.



For example, in electricity generation there is not just one residential rate and one business rate but many rates and discounts within each category. Some of these generation rates were not included in deregulation. "Apples to Apples" lists had to be published so that generation rates could be compared on an equal footing. Consumers received a dearth of mail offers from different power generation companies. For those who did not choose an electric generating company, the law provided that the utility that serviced the area with power lines, had to provide back up generation services for them as well as for others who might experience an unexpected power generation termination.

To clear up confusion and to provide rate negotiation clout many local governments in northeast Ohio formed a council of governments that has become the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council, (NOPEC.)

Just as northeast Ohio was getting better acquainted with electricity generation deregulation along came natural gas supply deregulation. This industry has more volatile rate increases and decreases than electricity and something called the gas cost recovery (GCR), soon to be called the Standard Service Offer (SSO). GCR or SSO is the recovery, dollar for dollar, of the cost of securing a natural gas supply.



In addition many of the new unregulated gas supply companies had similar names as the regulated gas suppliers (needed for back up supply) and natural gas transporters. NOPEC became involved in this industry, too, and eventually provided its customer base a negotiated natural gas generation rate.

Today's challenges to keeping electric generation rates affordable in this deregulated environment revolve around how will the need for increased electrical power generation plants be met, how will environmental regulations regarding acid rain coming from coal burning power generation stations be met, how will the reliability and state of repair of high power and local transmission line systems meet

increased loads, and how much more will consumers be expected to pay for nuclear plant costs.

In the natural gas supply market the main challenge to keeping rates down will come from the search for a way to dramatically decrease the affect of bad tropical storms in the Gulf of Mexico. As the cold winds off Lake Erie begin to blow, come inside to the NOCCA Early Winter Forum on Utilities on Thursday, November 16, 2006. Bring your questions for the speakers from each industry and a consumer advocacy organization.

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

## Remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice this Veteran's Day...



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James Wilson, *Brook Park*

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Kathryn E. Gambatese, *Richmond Heights*

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