

## Membership Corner:

### MEMBER BENEFITS

*Dr. Carmen Centanni, Orange Village Council*

As your community finalizes its 2009 budget and tries to pinch pennies for the coming year, please remember to include \$400 for your annual NOCCA membership. This is a very small price to pay for all of your council representatives to participate in the ONLY areawide Council association dedicated to the education, sharing and resolution of problems all our communities face. We ended 2008 with approximately 300 members from over 40 area communities!

NOCCA's four quarterly forums offer current information and networking opportunities with fellow council people regarding topics such as the foreclosure crisis, infrastructure problems, tax sharing and regional zoning issues, to name a few. Our new collaboration with the Fund for Our Economic Future places our local communities in a positive position to help plan the future of our region.

As current members, we need you to stay involved, attend AND participate in our forums and encourage other community leaders to participate by joining NOCCA. We need everyone to work together for the benefit of the entire region!



# Happy New Year!

Northeast Ohio City Council Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 34044  
Parma, Ohio 44134

## Forum Recap: (continued)

### BUSINESS GROWTH AND ATTRACTION

Assist high-growth entrepreneurs; strengthen existing industries; attract growing companies; and support innovation and technology commercialization to build growth industries.

### TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Prepare residents for present and future jobs and connect employers to qualified talent.

### GROWTH THROUGH RACIAL & ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Grow minority-owned enterprises and expand access to educational, training and business opportunities.

### GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION AND EFFICIENCY

Support government collaborations that strengthen economic competitiveness and implement regional planning to accelerate sustainable economic growth and enhance our quality of life.

## NOCCA NEWS

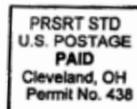
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### 2008 NOCCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:	Matt Zone, Cleveland
Vice President:	Chuck Germana, Parma
Treasurer:	Don Saunders, Bedford
Acting Secretary:	Debra Sarnowski, Garfield Heights
At-Large:	Jackie Albers, Maple Heights; Carmen Centanni, Orange Village Peggy Cleary, Fairview Park; Danita Love, Highland Hills
Nom. Committee:	Carmen Centanni, Orange Village; Al Foster, Shaker Heights Barbara Thomas, East Cleveland
Past President:	Steve Bennett, University Hts.

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P. O. Box 34044 • Parma, OH 44134

Linda Cross-Young, Administrative Secretary • 216.398.9941 or lcross000@cox.net



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Please visit our website at [www.nocassoc.org](http://www.nocassoc.org)

## President's Page:

### Energy Conservation/Idle Reduction

*Matt Zone, Cleveland City Council and NOCCA President*

Did you know that one out of every five people living in the greater Cleveland metropolitan area lives in a diesel "hot spot"? This is an area with chronically elevated levels of toxic air emissions from diesel engine exhaust. Those individuals are at a greater risk of suffering from asthma, cancer, and even premature death from diesel-related air pollution, according to the recent report titled; "Cleveland Diesel Hot-Spots, Dirty, Detrimental and Deadly".

According to the report, an estimated 466,000 people living in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties live in a diesel hot spot, 22% of the area's total population. The Dirty Dozen, or the top twelve communities with the most people living in diesel hot spots were Cleveland; Elyria; East Cleveland; Strongsville; Garfield Heights; Mentor; Maple Heights; Painesville; North Olmsted; Bedford Heights; and Lakewood with East Cleveland and Bedford Heights having over 60% of its citizens living in a diesel hot spot.

We can improve and reverse this trend but we need your help! In order to make our region more sustainable and healthy your city should consider adopting a "Fuel Conservation/Idle Reduction Ordinance" in your municipality. Under the leadership of the Northeast Ohio City Council Association (NOCCA); the Earthday Coalition; the American Lung Association; the Ohio Environmental Council; the Clean Air Task Force and the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA) collectively are partnering on a city by city initiative to improve our air quality by regulating vehicles that idle their engines unnecessarily.

Currently, Northeast Ohio fails to meet USEPA health standards for two air pollutants: ground-level ozone and fine particles. These USEPA

*continued on page 2*

## MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, February 5, 2009  
Harry's Steakhouse  
5664 Brecksville Road  
Independence, Ohio

### Your Air, Your Health, and Your Budget

Special Guest Speakers:  
Howard Maier, Exec. Dir. NOACA  
Dr. Sumita B. Khatri  
John McGovern, Earth Day Coalition

Registration/Meet & Greet	5:30 p.m.
Dinner	6:15 p.m.
Installation of Officers/Program	7:00 p.m.
Questions & Answers	8:00 p.m.

Members and one (1) invited city employee who RSVPs before Monday, February 2, 2009 attend FREE! Non-members, spouse and guests pay \$25.00 for dinner. Cash Bar!

Contact Linda Young at 216.398.9941 or via e-mail at [lcross000@cox.net](mailto:lcross000@cox.net) to make your reservation(s).

*Failure to cancel a registration 24 hours prior to the event will result in billing for members, non-members and guests.*



standards, or "National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (NAAQS), require our region to make progress toward reducing ozone and fine particles by a 2010

deadline to avoid further mandates and possible financial sanctions. Additionally, businesses find it difficult to locate or expand in Northeast Ohio because of the additional air permitting requirements placed on businesses in non-attainment areas such as our region. The Ohio Trucking Association states that to successfully educate its drivers, implementation of any idle reduction ordinance must be uniform and consistent across large regions.

Automobiles contribute about half of all emissions that cause these air pollutants to form. By reducing the unnecessary burning of diesel and gasoline created by idling, we can reduce these emissions and meet the NAAQS. One of the least complicated ways of enforcing fuel conservation is through a "Fuel Conservation/Idle Reduction Ordinance". Northeast Ohio continually receives a failing grade when it comes to the quality of its air. A major contributor to regions poor air quality comes from a highly visible source in diesel engines that transport the goods and people that make our region work. Unlike other sources of air pollution, diesel emissions pose a particular threat because they are released at ground level where they are easily inhaled by people.

Idle Reduction legislation will not only prevent further USEPA intervention, it will also benefit our region by improving our air quality. Poor air quality and idling directly impacts:

- **NE Ohio's smog violations of the Federal Clean Air Act.** Exhaust from motor vehicles causes both ground-level ozone and fine particles to form;
- **Reduced job opportunities.** When we are in violation of the Clean Air Act, as we are now, new businesses are discouraged from locating here because obtaining air permits is more difficult than in "clean air" regions;

- **Poor respiratory health for our citizens.** Air pollution aggravates asthma and breathing disorders, and can cause lung disease, heart disease, and premature death;
- **Wasted gasoline and diesel fuel.** Less idling helps business' bottoms lines; many local businesses already have adopted their own "fuel conservation policies" to reduce idling by their own fleets;
- **Wasted money.** Needlessly consuming fuel wastes dollars by citizens, businesses, and municipalities that could be put to more productive use in our local economies.

The good news is that something can be done to clean up diesel pollution in Northeast Ohio. The key is to simply turn your engine off when stopped for more than 10 seconds. Municipalities can do their part by adopting a "citywide" idle reduction ordinance. A citywide ordinance signifies that all vehicles traveling in that city are required to obey idle reduction regulations. Twenty states have statewide, county or citywide idling limiting ordinances. Every city in Northeast Ohio can and should consider a citywide idle reduction ordinance that targets non-essential idling. Significant emission and health risk reductions are expected to occur, especially in 'hot spot' neighborhoods where activity is concentrated.

Reducing vehicle idling cuts polluting greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, maintenance costs, saves fuel and prevents pollution. It will take driver education and practice to change old habits but it's cost effective, sustainable and will bring the rewards of a cleaner and healthier environment.

A regional solution to this problem is critical. Air pollution does not respect geographical or political boundaries, so we must work together. I hope you will join me and your fellow NOCCA colleagues in taking part in this initiative. Nearly 30 cities through-out Northeast Ohio already have agreed to adopt a model ordinance, and we plan to have it in effect by October 1, 2009, following a broad public education campaign. I welcome your participation and strongly urge you to join us in this regional effort. If you have any questions, or want a copy of the model ordinance, please contact me at [mattzone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mattzone@sbcglobal.net) or 216-939-1717.

## Forum Recap:

### Now Is The Time!



*Matt Zone, Cleveland City Council and NOCCA President*

*On December 4, 2008 at Parma Council Chambers, supporters from Advance Northeast Ohio were our guest speakers and shared their initiative for our region's economic plan. Below is a brief overview and the entire forum can be viewed on our website via webcast*

Advance Northeast Ohio ([www.advancenortheastohio.org](http://www.advancenortheastohio.org)) is our region's economic action plan. The plan unites business, philanthropic, civic and government leaders to address four priority areas: Business Growth & Attraction; Talent Development; Racial & Economic Inclusion; and Government Collaboration & Efficiency.

In the global economy regions are the defining economic unit. Advance Northeast Ohio is our region's collective response to the demands of the global economy.

### BACKGROUND AND VISION

Launched in March 2007, Advance Northeast Ohio was developed through the input of 20,000 citizens who participated in Voices & Choices in 2005-6, leading economists and researchers, business, labor, government, education and civic leaders throughout the region. The Fund for Our Economic Future brought together the partners that crafted the action plan and continues to play a leading role in organizing the region to implement regional initiatives to address the plan's four priority areas.

More than 80 organizations, institutions and leaders from business, philanthropy, government and the civic arena are partners in the plan and share this vision for our region's economic future. Northeast Ohio is home to growing, innovative employers and healthy core communities; all of our residents have access to educational and economic opportunities; and our governments collaborate to accelerate sustainable growth.

### PARTNERS IN THE PLAN

Publicly – and in some cases financially – support regional economic competitiveness initiatives to strengthen our region; seek collaborations on regional economic competitiveness efforts; and align their institutional strategies and actions with Advance Northeast Ohio.

### STRATEGIES

Separate strategies in each of the plan's four action areas provide partners opportunities to take action to strengthen our region's economic competitiveness. Initiatives under these strategies range from community-based efforts to broad regional programs.

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## Bennett's Municipal Topic:

### NOCCA Membership: Its Purpose and Meaning

*Steve Bennett, University Heights, Immediate Past President*

The NOCCA Constitution proclaims that the purpose of this Association is to provide opportunities for its members to enhance their professional skills, to exchange ideas and information, to develop solutions to common problems and concerns, to facilitate communication among communities and from time to time endorse non-partisan issues of extraordinary importance. During the "meet and greet" time before each forum, attending individual Councilmembers update themselves on the happenings in other cities, exchange ideas on proposed legislation or solutions to specific problems or just plain enjoy the camaraderie of those who understand the trials and tribulations of Council life. For new Councilmembers these "meet and greet" sessions quickly bring the realization that Councilmembers from other cities are willing to share their experiences on how they solved a particular problem that his/her city is currently facing.

NOCCA also provides public notice and recognition of the role of Councils' in 21st century government through its forum topics and collaborative efforts and outreach to other organizations such as the Mayors and Managers Association and County/Regional Governmental entities. The early and late fall 2008 forums on Revenue Sharing presented by Hudson Mayor William Currin and the Advanced Northeast Ohio Program presented by Brad Whitehead bear this out. Check them out on the NOCCA website at [www.noccaassoc.org](http://www.noccaassoc.org) to view the webcasts.

Primarily, most Councils have seven (7) members, that's under \$60 per Councilmember. There are no additional fees for any Councilmember. Also, each member city is entitled to send one representative from its administration to any forum "free of charge".