

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

January 2010

January President's Message

By Will Michaels

It is a distinct honor to be elected your CONA President for this coming year. I appreciate your support and look forward to serving you in the months to come. I also want to congratulate the rest of the new Board officers on their election. I will be depending heavily upon them to work as a team to help move CONA and the many neighborhood associations we support forward in 2010. Also, thanks Barbara Heck for her outstanding efforts on CONA's behalf these past three years.

There are several important activities that are now pending. Please remember to renew your association CONA dues for 2010. The rates are \$35 per association plus an additional \$15 if you want to take advantage of the CONA Bulk Mailing Permit for your association mailings. Dues may be sent to CONA at POB 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693. Also, please update and send in the contact information form available on the CONA website (conastpete.org). Also, we need to further grow CONA's membership. Barbara Hawkins of Greater Pinellas Point is doing a great job as our Membership Chair. Nevertheless, there are a number of associations that are not yet CONA members. If you know of such an association, please encourage them to join, or email me about it and we will contact them.

Our Leadership Program began January 11. This is one of CONA's most outstanding contributions to our community. It is the way to assure new talent for the future of member associations, CONA,

and our city. One of my personal goals for this year is to accelerate and enlarge the participation of our CONA Leadership Program participants in CONA's activities. Thanks to Ingrid Comberg from Historic Uptown for her long-time outstanding work with this CONA service!

All associations should have at least one representative at the CONA Goals Workshop on Saturday, Feb 6, from 9AM to 1PM. The workshop will be held at the Main Library, 3745 Ninth Avenue North. This is where we will set our goals, advocacy program, and activities for the year. Please RSVP to our Secretary Conrad Weiser at conrad33702@verizon.com or 522-5008. Thanks to 1st VP Mike Gulley from Coquina Key for agreeing to coordinate this year's workshop!

Also, it is important for every neighborhood association have a participant on at least one CONA Committee in addition to attending the CONA Board meeting. The on-going work committees include: Court Watch, Cityscape (Digital Signs), Energy and Environment, Land Development & Historic Resources, and Public Safety. Please plan to sign up someone from your association on one of these committees at the Goals Workshop. You do not need to be a CONA Board Member to serve on a committee.

The next CONA meeting will be Wednesday, January 20, 7PM, at the Sunshine Center. See you there!

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, January 20, 2010

The **SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.**
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Items:

Installation of Officers

Presentation: Florida Alliance for Renewable Energy

Update on City Energy Savings Activities—Karl Nurse

Presentation: Affordable Housing--St. Petersburg Housing Authority

Leisure & Community Services Administrator—Clarence Scott

Boyd Hill Nature Preserve—Judy Ellis

Neighborhood Open Forum

Important Upcoming Events:

Feb 4 - City Council Hearing on Designation of Historic Detroit Hotel as a Local Landmark (8:30 AM, City Hall)

Feb 6 - CONA 2010 Goals Workshop (9AM-1PM, Main Library)

Feb 17 - CONA Board Meeting (7PM, Sunshine Center)

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Meet Your New CONA President

Will Michaels is no stranger to CONA, having served as CONA VP for the past three years and as Bahama Shores CONA Board representative before that. During his time with CONA he served as Chair of the Land Development and Historic Resources Committee. This Committee addressed many issues important to CONA including reforms in the city Land Development Regulations, height limits on new developments in the city's residential neighborhoods, the proposed stadium on the Waterfront, rezoning of Al Lang Stadium as parkland rather than commercial use, and preservation of historic resources.

Will is the former Executive Director of the St. Petersburg Museum of History. He previously served as Deputy Director and Interim Executive Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) of Pinellas County and as the founding Executive Director of the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. Both of these organizations are independent county agencies. He has also served as General Manager of local life care and nursing home facilities for seniors. Currently retired, he holds a Ph. D. in Applied Anthropology from USF and graduate and undergraduate degrees from George Washington University in Washington, DC. He is also a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserve (Military Police). He has lived in St. Petersburg for 37 years.

Will has served on numerous community boards and committees and currently serves as Chair of the Design Committee for the City's Pier Advisory Task Force, President of St. Petersburg Preservation, and Vice Chair of the Woodson African American Museum. He teaches a course in local history at St. Petersburg College. He plans to step down as President of Saint Petersburg Preservation and as Vice Chair of the Woodson in order to devote more time to CONA.

Will has been married to his wife Kathy for 43 years. He has three adult children and four grandchildren. His family attends St. Matthew's Episcopal Church at Pinellas Point.

Land Development and Historic Resources Committee

The City Community Preservation Commission (CPC) unanimously approved the designation of the Historic Detroit Hotel as a local landmark on a 7-0 vote at its November meeting. The proposed landmarking now goes before the City Council for a final hearing. The Council will hold their hearing on Thursday, February 4th, 8:30AM at City Hall.

Landmarking of the Detroit Hotel has been a long-time CONA priority. The Hotel is the oldest and most historic building in the city, dating from the city's birth in 1888. For many years it served as the city's social and cultural center and helped launch St. Petersburg's early tourist and development economy. The hotel was built by city founders Peter Demens and John C. Williams, Sr. Its guests have included such notables as William Jennings Bryan, Clarence Darrow, Will Rogers, Babe Ruth, Eleanor Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, the St. Louis Cardinals, and Jim Morrison.



Photo courtesy of the City of St. Pete.

Individual CONA members are urged to send an email in support of the landmarking to the City Council at Council@stpete.org. For more information on the Detroit Hotel see www.stpetepreservation.org.



2010 CONA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION
ANNUAL DUES \$35 - Please send before January 31, 2010
Mail to: CONA, P. O. Box 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693

Association Name _____
Annual Election Date _____
Meeting Time & Date _____
Meeting Location _____
Boundaries _____

Households _____ **# Residents** _____ **# Members** _____
Website _____

President Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

CONA Representative _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

CONA Alternate _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Bulk Mail Permit (Optional) – Annual Fee \$15
Mailings per Year _____
Newsletters per Mailing (200 Minimum) _____

Crime Watch Contact _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Have you completed **Neighborhood Plan?** _____
Have you completed / implemented **Traffic Calming Plan?** _____
List your neighborhood issues that need help from CONA _____

Application also available as a download from www.conastpete.org



**COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS (CONA)
INVOICE for 2010 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

2010 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES **\$35**
January 1 – December 31, 2010

*Note: Option available to Members
2010 ANNUAL BULK MAIL PERMIT USE **\$15**
January 1 – December 31, 2010
Minimum 200 pieces per Mailing

Please send completed 2010 Renewal Application with your check
for \$35 or \$50 before January 31, 2010 to:

CONA
P. O. Box 13693
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693

Thank you for joining CONA, the Citywide organization of Neighborhoods.
Please call, email, or visit the website www.conastpete.org if you need any
further information.

Barbara Ann Hawkins
Membership Chair

**Please print this out and use as the invoice
for your association treasurer.**

Conquer the cold without breaking the bank

When temperatures dip to frigid, wintry levels (at least by Florida's standards), it's difficult for many to resist the urge to turn up the heat. That's why Floridians tend to use the most energy when it's cold outside. Think twice before adjusting the thermostat to ensure your energy bill won't give you chills long after the cold front passes through.

Unsure where to start? Follow a few simple tips to generate substantial energy savings:

- Change your thermostat from 74 to 70F in the winter and save \$65. Better yet, set your thermostat at 68 to 70F during the day and 60 to 65F at night. Every degree under 70F saves 10 percent on the heating portion of your electric bill.
- Use portable heaters sparingly. Running a 1,500-watt resistance heater 24/7 costs \$149 a month.
- Test your air ducts for leaks. Seal any leaky ducts, and you could save up to a third on your heating and cooling costs. That could amount to an annual energy savings of up to \$280. Progress Energy offers a rebate that covers half the cost of the test and helps with repairs, too.
- Don't make your water heater work overtime. Set it to 120F instead of 140F to save up to \$85 a year without spending a dime! Want to keep additional energy savings from trickling away? Install low-flow shower heads to save water and electricity.
- If you only follow one energy-saving tip this winter, make it this one: Turn down your thermostat when you leave home for more than a few hours.



The best way to identify opportunities for energy savings in your home is to sign up for a free Home Energy Check. Through this service – which can be performed in person, online or over the phone – a Progress Energy Florida energy advisor will provide customized, energy-saving advice specific to your home and determine your eligibility for valuable company rebates toward energy-efficient home improvements.

After all, through Progress Energy Florida's energy-efficiency programs, our customers have saved more than \$1 billion in energy costs since 1981. That's one savings statistic that can make almost anyone feel warm and fuzzy inside.

For more than 100 energy-saving tips or to sign up for a free Progress Energy Florida Home Energy Check, visit www.SaveTheWatts.com.

SAVE THE WATTS
.COM

 **Progress Energy**

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - December 16, 2009

- President Barbara welcomed our guests and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag.
 - Dr. Eugene Webb, of the St. Petersburg Police Department, made several announcements about their new on-line facility of crime data.
 - A free software download is now available for I-Phone users to have full access to the Crime Reports.com web site.
 - Early testing is in progress to allow citizens direct input to the Crime Reports Data Base allowing inclusion of late reports that come after the normal 12 hour update schedule.
 - Speaking for the environmental group Twiggs & Leaves, Mike Manlowe explained their plan to provide free or inexpensive potted plants to encourage the greater use of air purifying greenery throughout our community.
 - He appealed for an opportunity to speak to our member neighborhood meetings.
 - Nominations Committee Chair, Judy Ellis, then reviewed our voting procedure for tonight noting that only the dues paid neighborhoods are qualified to participate.
 - Judy read the slate of uncontested officer candidates.
 - She then noted that we must elect a new Chairman for our Public Safety Committee, (PSC), from among the two candidates, Jeff Frank, and Steve Corsetti each of whom will be invited to make a four minute presentation of their qualifications for that Chairmanship.
 - Each of the PSC candidates then reviewed their background and qualifications as well as suggesting their future aspirations if elected to chair the committee.
 - The ballots were then collected by Judy and her committee, Heidi Summer, and Theresa McEachern.
 - President Heck next introduced our Mayor Elect Bill Foster. His remarks included the following points:
 - He intends to pursue the "Foster 40 Formula" he promoted during his mayoral campaign
 - He promised to schedule 8 public meetings in the Town Hall Tradition, one in each Council District, at which the Mayor and the senior executives of all major city departments will be available to answer questions from the residents attending.
 - He envisions a Crime Watch Program that will involve a much higher level of neighborhood involvement
 - All city Department Chiefs will be enrolled in a new Management Training Program modeled along the lines of a corporate business school. Improved Customer Service will be more receptive to citizen's needs.
 - Mayor Elect Foster then responded to questions from the floor.
 - Will your administration support curbside recycling? > Recycling is good, but Council will decide if the cost is appropriate. It may become a referendum issue. I will promote an Ecology Board and press for a higher LEEDS certification for our city.
 - Our neighborhoods need more and earlier involvement with development project certifications. > I understand your concerns. The hi-tech distribution of information by our city government is rapidly improving public involvement and transparency.
 - Our neighborhoods regret the abandonment of the old Community Police Officer Program. > The program I envision is somewhat of a hybrid merging the old CPO and the current CSO programs. I will ask the neighborhoods to decide on the needed features of the future system. Our Community Police Team should include representatives from all impacted city departments. Quality of Life is the paramount issue not just law enforcement.
 - Your coordinated department's team should address the long standing issue of illegal front lawn parking. > Enforcement is the crux of that problem.
 - I think our neighborhoods should be more proactive with mutual assistance in Crime Watch rather than current dependence on the Police Department. > My Administration support CONA's outreach efforts to encourage neighborhood resident's involvement. I think these CONA meetings should be filled with concerned citizens working to help.
- Barbara Heck called City Councilman Jamie Bennett to come forward to receive the award plaque of CONA's "Citizen of the Month". The Councilman recalling his nine years of service won a standing ovation of his award.
 - Councilman Karl Nurse rose to thank Jamie Bennett for his years of support when Karl was new to his office, noting that Jamie worked vigorously up to his last day of Council Service.
 - Judy Ellis, speaking for Nominations Committee reported the vote count for the CONA Public Safety Committee Chair as: eleven for Frank and eighteen for Corsetti who was declared the winner.
 - The President offered apologies for the absence of V.P. Will Michaels, and Treasurer April Gausman who could not be with us tonight.
 - Carole Griffiths, Chair of our CONA Court Watch Committee alerted us to read an update of their activities that will appear in the January CONA Newsletter.
 - Jeff Frank assured us that the work of the CONA Public Safety Committee will continue to expand as an effective force in our community.
 - Speaking for our Land Development and Historic Preservation Committee, Maureen Stafford rose to thank, for his years of effective work with the committee, their prior Chairman, Dr. Will Michaels, who is the new CONA President elect.
 - She also thanked retiring President, Barbara Heck, for her tireless commitment to representing CONA at countless government and neighborhood organization meetings. She won a standing ovation!
 - Barbara Hawkins, our Membership Chair reminded us that 2010 dues will be collected from all member associations. The application form is on our Web site: www.conastpete.org. She appealed for each association to provide full officer identification, even if new elections are anticipated early in the year.
 - Barbara conducted a drawing for prizes to those members that have already paid their dues early.
- Unfinished Business:**
- Travis Jarman reported for the CONA Cityscape subcommittee that City Council has been very receptive to our CONA recommendation to delay action on approving any changes to our sign ordinance.
 - The DRC met on December 2nd and found that the Mayor Baker sign proposal violates the city's Comprehensive Plan. They also voted unanimously to ask that City Council defer any action on the ordinance change.
 - The PVC met on December 8th and voted unanimously to recommend that City Council defer any permit or ordinance changes due to unanswered questions about the details of the Clear Channel agreement, the potential consequences of the proposed ordinance change, and the lack of an opportunity for

- review by the public.
- As CONA, the DRC, and PVC have recommended the City should now hold a “Vision Workshop” on the billboard issue to get public input on the city’s future skyline, which might or might not include billboards, digital or otherwise. We are hopeful that incoming Mayor Foster will agree to this visioning process. Once the community agrees on what our city should look like then we can develop an appropriate sign ordinance.
- A Federal Highway safety study is underway, (the first phase due to be published in March). The first stage will determine if digital display highway billboards are distracting to drivers. The second study reviews the detailed specifics of what elements of the signs (brightness, message duration, etc.) constitute a hazardous highway distraction.
- “Rope A Dope” was described as a common tactic of the billboard industry, where a sign company offers to swap existing billboards for a fewer number of new billboards. This allows the billboard company to remove old, unprofitable billboards and replace them with new, high profit digital billboards. In St. Petersburg’s case the negotiation between Clear Channel and the city was done to the exclusion of other billboard companies and gives preference to Clear Channel. This is probably illegal and could allow CBS or other billboard companies to challenge the ordinance, which if found to be invalid would then give all companies free rein to exploit the community with new signs.
- President Heck thanked Travis and his wife for their many hours devoted to researching and challenging the proposed imposition on our local quality of life.

New Business:

- There being no response to the call for New Business, the President invited our neighborhood presidents present to offer their success stories for 2009. The following neighborhoods offered their recaps:
 - Jeff Frank speaking for Live Oaks Neighborhood Association
 - Mort Sherman speaking for Crossroads Area Homeowner’s Association
 - Kai Warren speaking for Historic Roser Park Neighborhood Association
 - Jeremiah Rohr speaking for Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association
 - Tom Killian speaking for Jungle Terrace Civic Association
 - David Hoover speaking for Riviera Civic Neighborhood Association.

Our meeting concluded at 8:40 p.m.

Conrad Weiser, Secretary

WE’RE LOOKING AT POWER IN A NEW LIGHT.

INTRODUCING A **BALANCED SOLUTION** FOR THE FUTURE.

At Progress Energy, we’re using innovative and environmentally responsible solutions to meet our area’s growing energy needs. We are expanding our energy-efficiency programs to help you save energy and money.

We are supporting advanced technologies like solar power and plants fueled by vegetation waste. We are investing in existing power plants to

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY
STATE-OF-THE-ART PLANTS



ensure their safe, efficient operation while assessing the need for new plants and better ways to get electricity to you. The result is clean, reliable, affordable power – for today and tomorrow. To learn more

about our bright thinking,
visit progress-energy.com.





**2010 Officers and
Executive Board Members**

President

Will Michaels - Bahama Shores
420-9195 - wmichaels2@tampabay.rr.com

First Vice President

Mike Gulley - Coquina Key
244-8374 - jmgulley1@hotmail.com

Second Vice President

Cathy Wilson - Greater Woodlawn
823-0863 - catgwna@knology.net

Secretary

Conrad Weiser - Edgemoor
522-5008 - conrad33702@verizon.net

Treasurer

April Gausman - Historic Uptown
244-1896 - april@realestatebyapril.com

CONA Leadership

Ingrid Comberg - Historic Uptown
821-2192

CourtWatch Committee

Carole Griffiths - Disston Heights
522-7206 - cgriff6721@aol.com

Membership

Barbara Hawkins - Greater Pinellas Point
866-1747 - be.hawkins@verizon.net

Nominating Committee

Judy Ellis - Lakewood Estates
864-3957 - jellis5610@tampabay.rr.com

Public Safety Committee

Steve Corsetti - Riveria Bay
576-1506 - tranquilitysouth@verizon.net

CONA General Meetings

3rd Wed of each month

CONA Board Meetings

2nd Wed of each month

Frequently Called Numbers

Neighborhood
Partnership Office: 892-5141
Mayor's Action Line: 893-7111
Codes Office: 893-7373

SPPD Community Service Numbers:

District: 1 551-3181
District 2 551-3182
District 3 551-3183

CONA Newsletter Deadlines

Copy Deadline (NEW):
25th of each month

In Hand:
2nd Wednesday of month

Layout: Mo Eppley 686-2146
Coordinator: Mike Gulley 244-8374

**The Council of Neighborhood
Associations of South Pinellas County
P.O. Box 13693
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693**

Return Service Requested

Presort Std
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit #1084
St. Petersburg, FL

City of St. Petersburg Garbage Pick-up Holiday Schedule

Holidays will sometimes change your scheduled garbage pick-up day.
Here is the schedule for January and February, 2010.

- **January 18 - Dr. M. L. King Day – collection will be on Tuesday**
Tuesday collection will be on Wednesday
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday collections-no change
- **February 15 - Presidents Day – no change in schedule**

You can also access this information at
www.stpete.org/sanitation/residential_collection/index.asp