

# CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

December 2012

## President's Message

CONA has been active this year. We have been working behind the scenes to build coalitions that can better serve a broad range of neighbors. Worked with a number of groups to form the St Pete Urban Agriculture Coalition and St Pete together and the Peoples Budget Review

We have supported the Green Council of the Chamber of Commerce's effort to put re-cycling bins downtown and working with both the Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women's voters on some broader Recycling issues

Worked with the City on the contentious sign issue and broadened our base with some internal surveys that indicated Digital billboards were not as unpopular as our original position... Lots of passion on both sides of the issue. We have advocated for neighborhoods on the rezoning of MLK & Roosevelt, keeping the historical designation on the YMCA, and advocated for the Foreclosure Registry.

We worked with the City through our environmental committee on the Campbell park restoration and spent 3 days raising funds and getting to know each other at the Grand Prix.

Our "the new Jim Crowe" event was an awareness initiative. Even though the subject matter is somewhat controversial, a great deal of conversation on various innovative solutions. We have to make sure people are not disenfranchised and we have to work harder on breaking the cycle children growing up without mentors. Another project is scheduled in early December at the Carter Woodson Museum.

Most of these initiatives were engaged with the premise that they had the potential of engaging neighbors in the community – regardless of whether they were in organized groups..

We are still struggling with that piece, but are building a base...

Make sure you sign up for membership next year. The application is found elsewhere in the newsletter, as well as a fillable version at [www.conastpete.org/](http://www.conastpete.org/)

CONA leadership is starting its 21st year. If you have not taken the course, there is still time to sign up. The application is found in the newsletter as well as a fillable version at [www.conastpete.org/](http://www.conastpete.org/)

We Electing officers at our December 19 meeting. Mike Gulley and Kurt Donley have been nominated for President; Tim Martin, First Vice President; Ali Montsho, Second Vice President; Secretary- TBD; April Gausman, Treasurer; Tom DeMint, Membership; Judy Landon, Land Development & Resources; Faye Jackson, Audit; Lisa Wheeler Brown, Public Safety; Court Watch, TBD; Susan Heyen, Nominations; Ingrid Comberg, Leadership

We had two brief presentations. (1) Volunteer/Grant opportunities for the MLK day of service, January 21, 2013. There are a number of \$10,000 grants associated with this event and several workshops on how to apply listed on the flyer. CONA may attempt a project and we certainly encourage neighborhoods to apply. and (2) Making Urban Landscapes Cleaner and Healthier - a project dedicated to transforming blighted city neighborhoods into beautiful urban oasis. We voted to co-partner with MULCH on a MLK day project--- Stay tuned.

See you at the next General Board Meeting, December 19 at the Sunshine Center.

Mike Gulley

## CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, December 19, 2012

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

### Agenda Items:

Housekeeping (Minutes, Treas. Report, etc)  
Election of Officers  
New Business

January 16, 2013, 7PM - Next Regular CONA Meeting

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*We welcome articles, items of interest and meeting reminders. All submissions to the CONA Newsletter may be edited for clarity, taste and length.*

# CONA Nominations Committee

## Election of Officers

We will elect officers for the 2013 year at our December 19, 2012 General Board meeting.

The following slate of officers was presented at the November 28, 2012 meeting.  
No additional nominations were received from the floor and the nominations are closed.

## Executive Committee

<b>President</b>	Mike Gulley Kurt Donley
<b>First V.P.</b>	Tim Martin
<b>Second V.P.</b>	Ali Montshu
<b>Secretary</b>	TBD
<b>Treasurer</b>	April Gausman



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## Standing Committee Chairs

<b>Audit Committee</b>	Faye Jackson
<b>Court Watch</b>	TBD
<b>CONA Leadership</b>	Ingrid Comberg
<b>LDR &amp; Hist. Preservation</b>	Judy Landon
<b>Membership</b>	Tom DeMint
<b>Nominating</b>	Susan Heyen
<b>Public Safety</b>	Lisa Wheeler Brown

Each CONA Member neighborhood cast its vote at the Dec 19 General Board meeting.



## 2013 CONA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**ANNUAL DUES** Due by December 28, 2012 **\$ 35.00**  
CONA's Bulk Mail Permit **add \$15.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# Mailings/Year \_\_\_\_\_  
# Newsletters/Mailing (200 Min) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor Another Neighborhood\* **add \$35.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** CONA, P. O. Box 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693

Association Name \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Election Date \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting date/time \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Location \_\_\_\_\_

Boundaries \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

President Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

CONA Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

CONA Alternate \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Crime Watch Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



**NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Check your neighborhood issues that need help from CONA:

- Neighborhood Plan
- Crime Issues
  - Burglaries
  - Vehicle Thefts
  - Vandalism
  - Prostitution
  - Drugs/Nuisance Houses
  - Shootings
  - Panhandling
  - Juvenile Crime
- Mentoring
- Newsletters
- Historical Preservation
- Other
- Maintenance
  - Streets
  - Sidewalks
  - Alleyways
- Traffic Calming
- Codes Issues
  - Yard Parking
  - Abandoned Properties
  - Neglected Properties
  - Tree Trimming
  - Trash
  - Street Lighting
  - Speed Humps
  - Snipe Signs
- Increasing Membership
- Grant Writing
- Environmental Issues
- Other (Please list)

Return with your Membership Application to:

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



# CONA Leadership 2013

Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County  
Application Form

**Completed applications and tuition must be received by December 15, 2012**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone/Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood \_\_\_\_\_

## **Education/Training/Employment**

## **Special Skills/Talents**

On what boards, committees or groups have you been or are you currently active?  
What have you accomplished in these activities that you think is important?

What do you consider the greatest issues facing our neighborhoods today?

What would you like to learn from the CONA Leadership Program?

How did you learn about the CONA Leadership Program?

**Participants should attend all classes, including the historic bus tour, and complete all assignments, projects or requirement in order to graduate. Classes are held from 6-9 p.m. on Jan. 14, 28; Feb. 11, 25; March 11, 25; April 8, 22; May 6, 14 & Historic Bus Tour: April 13 from 8:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

Tuition for the program is \$125.00. This includes all classes plus the bus tour with lunch and the graduation dinner with diploma and CONA pin.

Completed applications and a \$125.00 check payable to CONA Leadership should be sent to:

**Ingrid Comberg**  
**620 Fifth Street North**  
**St. Petersburg, FL 33701**

*Questions or additional information, please contact:  
Ingrid Comberg 727-894-3048 & Leave Message*



# CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - November 28, 2012

- President Mike Gulley opened our meeting leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.
- Treasurer, April Gausman, reported an October 31st. balance of \$3,183.22.
- Nominations Chair, Ingrid Comberg, announced their slate of candidates for 2013 CONA Officers and Standing Committee Chairmen: For President- Mike Gulley and Kurt Donley, for First Vice President- Tim Martin, for Second Vice President- Ali Montsho, for Secretary- TBA, for Treasurer- April Gausman, Membership C.- Tom DeMint, Audit C.- Faye Jackson, for Public Safety C.- Lisa Wheeler Brown, Crime Watch C.- TBA, Nominations C.- Susan Heyen, Leadership C.- Ingrid Comberg, Land Development & Resources C.- Judy Landon
  - Ingrid shared a classic essay "Count Your Blessings" reminding us to be grateful for what we have and what we have achieved. CONA has existed for 55 years in our city. Mayor Fischer established the Neighborhood Partnership Office. We need to work cooperatively to improve our neighborhoods.
  - Nominations will be accepted from the floor for another hour this evening.
- We next heard a presentation by Crista Shaw, encouraging our participation in the upcoming MLK Day of Service, which will be celebrated this year on January 21st.
  - President Reagan established the January 21st. holiday, but President Clinton recognized that holiday as a national Day of Service.
  - The current program is based on award proposals for grants to neighborhoods or other civic organizations that can be as high as \$10,000 individually. [Project funding is at \$100,000.] The grants are to fund local projects, scheduled for implementation on January 21st. the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. The grant awards will be announced December 14th.
  - The deadline for this year's project award proposals is December 4th!
  - The judges will evaluate the proposed projects on the number benefitted as well as the number of volunteers committed.
- Our next speaker, Kurt Steinmann, provided a video of his work on the theme: "Making Urban Landscapes Cleaner and Healthier". His own project, on the south side, invigorating our native sandy plots could serve as a model for a joint effort with CONA pursuing an MLK Day of Service Grant.
  - His home project evolved from a flat lawn area that required watering, fertilizer, insecticides and mowing...all of which he rejected!
  - He began by contouring the flat space with 100 yards of mulch, (obtained free from a south side mulch dealer who delivered free).
- Through his involvement with the Chamber of Commerce, Kurt envisions applying this same restorative treatment to blighted south side properties. Plantings would be added where the residents are free to maintain them.
  - A weed stifling bed of cardboard, (also obtained free from a local paper recycling firm), is laid first, and then covered with the mulch.
  - Speaking of the mulching delivery crew, Kurt noted the need for this kind of work for ex-felons who can readily adjust to if not excluded by discrimination of convicts. They can be a valued community resource.
  - Kurt went on to outline a, MLK Day of Service project outlining volunteers working to add fruit trees and a vegetable garden to his yard project that will serve as a training site for the Boy's & Girl's Club next door.
  - The many community benefits of the program Kurt has initiated have one the support of County Commissioner Norm Roche. It is hoped that subsequent support will replicate this project on hundreds of county sites.
- CONA will host an organization meeting at Hospice, (3050 First Avenue S.), tomorrow night, 7 P.M., (11/19/12), to develop a related project plan

as a candidate for the MLK Day of Service Awards, (submission due Saturday).

- It was noted that Mr. Steinmann has supervised the development of 13 "Benevolence Community Gardens" in our city.

## Committee Updates:

- **Leadership Class**- Ingrid outlined some of the changes in the next class, including mentioning some of the Guest Speakers. She also invited Leadership Alumni to attend their annual reunion, (City Hall, 6 – 8 P.M., December 3rd.).
- **Membership** - Barbara Heck reported for Chair Tom DeMint that renewal solicitations have been sent to all neighborhood associations in St. Pete.
- **Land Development & Preservation** - Judy Landon reminded us that the Community Preservation Commission (CPC), will hold a special hearing Dec. 14th at 9 A.M. to consider a proposal to demolish the old YMCA.
  - Judy read the CONA Motion, (approved by the Exec. Comm.), urging that this historic landmark not be demolished. A hand vote this evening confirmed the CONA motion.
  - Judy also mentioned a January 24th hearing by City Council to consider a land use change regarding a property at Roosevelt Boulevard and Ninth Street. This is recognized as an unfavorable degradation.
  - She also recounted several "Last Minute" changes to the signage code before City Council noting that most of the CONA recommendations were included.
- **Pier Design Review** - Will Michaels announced a committee meeting December 3rd, 6:30 P.M. at the Historic Pennsylvania Hotel. They will consider a 100+ page revision submitted to the city by the architects. That meeting will also consider the city's "Master Waterfront Plan".
  - Will bemoaned the inadequate time span for civil groups, (e.g. CONA), to review revised proposals being submitted to Council and the City Staff.
- **Diversity** - Kurt Donley reported that "St. Pete Together" has had several meetings and elected officers. Kurt also spoke for his Public Safety Committee noting that violent crime in St. Pete. is down 9.9%.
  - Kurt spoke of the new armored surveillance vehicle of S.P.P.D.
  - His P.S.C. meeting, next Saturday, will discuss the distribution of the new surveillance cameras purchased after the RNC in Tampa.
- **Audit** - Faye Jackson provided a brief update.
- **Fund Raising** - Robby Thomson is still offering CONA T-Shirts for \$5.
- **Codes Coordination** - Robby Thomson has been promoted to Chair this committee activity. He phoned Gary Busch, (City Codes Inspection Dept.), to establish a working relationship with that department.
- **Nominations** - Ingrid Comberg, Chair, read again her slate of candidates and called for any additional nominations. She then closed the candidate nominations.
  - It was noted that our December election ballots will only identify challenge offices, all other candidates will be elected by acclamation.
- We heard a very encouraging account of a fund rising neighborhood garage sales promoted by young neighbors that raised an impressive contribution for a charitable gift in their neighborhood.
- There will be a free concert at Jannis Landing, December 2nd. at 6 P.M. to encourage support for the new Pier Lens Design.
- Moved adjournment at 8:35 P.M.

Conrad Weiser, Secretary



**CONA 2012 Executive Committee Members**

**President**  
Mike Gulley - Coquina Key  
244-8374 - jmichael.gulley@gmail.com

**1st Vice President**  
Tim Martin - Historic Kenwood  
251-9979 - ftimothymartin@yahoo.com

**2nd Vice President**  
Ali Montsho Westminster Heights  
rmontsho@tampabay.rr.com

**Secretary**  
Conrad Weiser - Americana Cove  
522-5008 - conrad33702@verizon.net

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

**Audit Committee**  
Faye Jackson - Highland Oaks  
327-9844 - lfj@msn.com

**CONA Leadership Committee**  
Ingrid Comberg - Disston Heights  
894-3048

**Court Watch Committee**  
Donna Law - Central Oak Park  
lawholdingsinc1@yahoo.com

**Land Development & Historic Resources Committee**  
Judy Landon - Harris Park  
judylandon55@gmail.com

**Membership Committee**  
Tom DeMint  
422-1279 - tjd1@aol.com

**Nominating Committee**  
Open

**Public Safety Committee**  
Kurt Donley - Grand Central Association  
331-7373 - kurtndonley@msn.com

**Immediate Past President**  
Will Michaels - Bahama Shores  
420-9195 - wmichaelscona@tampabay.rr.com

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**OTHER CONA COMMITTEES**  
**City Budget Review Committee**  
Travis Jarman - Bayway Isles  
cona.mail@bayway.org

**Codes Committee**  
Open

**Energy & Environment Committee**  
Tim Martin - Historic Kenwood  
251-9979 - ftimothymartin@yahoo.com

**Diversity Committee**  
Will Michaels - Bahama Shores  
420-9195 - wmichaelscona@tampabay.rr.com

**Midtown Outreach Committee**  
Open

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**Frequently Called Numbers**  
Animal Control: 582-2600  
City Council: 893-7117  
Codes Compliance: 893-7373  
County Commission: 464-3377  
Mayor's Action Line: 893-7111  
Neighborhood Partnership Office: 892-5141  
Sanitation: 893-7334  
SPPD: 893-7780  
(non-emergency)

**Florida Abuse Hotline: 800-962-2873**

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

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# CONA LEADERSHIP 2013 APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE!!!

Our class, of 2013 begins with ORIENTATION NIGHT on January 14 and continues through GRADUATION NIGHT in May 2013. In between are ten exciting programs that help neighborhood leaders, professionals, as well as interested citizens to become even more effective advocates. During the course of the program, they'll meet people who shape our community and gain valuable tips on how and where to go for help and guidance.

We are looking for another outstanding group to sign up to participate in our 21st class. Classes cover topic, like city and county government, diversity, effective meetings, communication with the media, a (mock) quasi judicial hearing and more. Classes will be held at various locations throughout the city from 6 to 9 pm. on Mondays. The dates are as follows: January 14 & 28, February 11 & 25, March 11 & 25, April 8 & 22, May 6 and Tuesday May 14. In addition there will be a Historic Tour from 8 to 4 on a Saturday.

Tuition is for the program \$125. This includes graduation dinner with diploma and CONA Leadership Pin.

For information and/or an application contact Tom Killian at tomkillian@verizon.net or call Ingrid Comberg at (727) 894-3048 and leave a message.