

NUSA NEWS

A Publication of Neighborhoods, USA

Spring 2010



Little Rock Central High School, noted as one of America's most beautiful high schools, was the site of the 1957 integration crisis and is the only still-operating public high school within the boundaries of a national park.

Little Rock Readies for NUSA 2010

"Company's comin' and Little Rock is ready!" exclaims Joan Adcock, Team NUSA's coordinator for the 35th Annual Neighborhoods, USA Conference on Neighborhood Concerns coming to Arkansas May 26-29, 2010.

Ten separate committees of Team NUSA neighborhood residents have planned every phase of the conference, from selecting workshops, planning meals, scheduling transportation, designing neighborhood tours and booking entertainment and special events. Registration has been kept to a minimum this year - just \$180 for registering before May 1.

In addition to 60 workshops spread over six sessions on Thursday and Friday and 20 Neighborhood Pride Tours scheduled for Thursday evening, there are special events planned before, during and after the conference. Pre and post-conference side trips to nearby spa city Hot Springs, AR (Bill Clinton's boyhood town), "Graceland" (Elvis Presley's mansion) in home-of-the-blues Memphis, TN and to the casinos of Tunica, MS are available by reservation through private tour companies listed in the registration booklet.



The William J. Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Ark. features 20,000 square feet of exhibit space and chronicles American history at the turn of the 21st century.



Team NUSA looks forward to greeting NUSA attendees and says "get ready to rock in Little Rock!"

Wednesday night's reception, hosted by Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola at the Clinton Presidential Center, will be a treat for all.

Thursday's Opening Breakfast features keynote speaker Dan Kildee of Flint, MI, who is known as the "granddaddy" of the nation's innovative land bank programs. The excitement of seeing what other neighborhoods have done as improvement projects and what awards they have won happens at the Neighborhood of the Year Awards luncheon on Friday.

Friday night offers an exciting assortment of options. Attendees can choose from one of six popular scheduled tours with dinner provided (limited to 50 persons each), a night-on-your-own of shopping, or a full evening of festival fun at the Memorial Day Riverfest "down by the river." Saturday begins with a continental breakfast, followed by NUSA's membership meeting and culminates with the Best Neighborhood Program Awards being presented at the closing luncheon.

Conference registration booklets have been mailed to all NUSA members and an updated version is available online at www.littlerock.org. **To register online, go to www.NUSA@littlerock.org.** To talk with someone about registration, call "Penny" at 501-370-3237.

Discounted accommodations for the conference will be at four convenient downtown conference hotels: The Peabody, Holiday Inn Presidential, LaQuinta Inn & Suites and Comfort Inn. **All NUSA discount hotel reservations must be booked through the Convention Center's Housing Bureau - call "Connie" at 501-370-3231.**

For any other conference information, call 501-399-3400. To schedule a Table Talk time on a topic of your choice contact lindajmccconnell@aol.com.

Special In This Issue

Be sure to look over information inside about amendments being proposed to NUSA bylaws (p. 6) and become familiar with this year's slate of candidates running for election to the NUSA Board of Directors (pages 4-5.) **Both of these items will be voted on at the May conference during the all-day Friday electronic voting with results being announced at the general membership meeting on Saturday morning.**

NUSA Board of Directors Meeting



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Elton Gatewood

NUSA Membership:

Thanks for the opportunity to update you. The NUSA Board held its Winter/Spring meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, February 25-26 to discuss and make finishing touches to the 35th Annual Neighborhoods, USA Conference scheduled for May 26-29 in Little Rock, Arkansas. As time draws near, the stage has been set for an anticipated 1,300 attendees from throughout the U.S.A. and abroad.

NUSA, one of the nation's largest grassroots neighborhood organizations, in collaboration with the City of Little Rock, has planned one of the largest neighborhood conferences in recent years. In addition to offering best practices on building stronger communities, it will provide opportunities for learning, sharing, and networking with neighborhood-minded activists, practitioners, administrators, elected officials and non-profit organizations.

Over sixty workshops are scheduled, designed to meet the needs of individuals in newly formed organizations as well as intermediate and advanced attendees. In other words, there is something for everyone. Twenty-five Neighborhood Pride Tours will be offered to showcase Little Rock's diverse and historic neighborhoods, along with a special Youth Track for ages 16-19.

In order to continue our efforts in moving the organization to a new level, this year a Federal Partners Program was established with organizations that share our goals and vision. These partners are: HUD, FEMA, National Park Services, Clinton Presidential Center, and City Year.

I look forward to meeting you in Little Rock, exchanging ideas and experiences, and sharing information on building stronger neighborhoods and communities.

Submitted by Robert Gibbons, Secretary

The NUSA Board traveled to Indianapolis for its Winter meeting (Feb 25 - 26), where they were treated to some "good ole Hoosier hospitality" during their stay.

On the first day of meetings, the Board approved the minutes of its October meeting and the current financial report, and received an update from the City of Little Rock on the great things in store for everyone attending the annual conference May 26 - 29.

The Anchorage, AK representatives gave an updated report and presented the chosen theme and logo design for the 2011 conference. The Board spent time working on the initial steps of creating a business plan to guide the organization over the next few years.

After a break for lunch that included committee meetings, the Board reviewed the proposal from the RFP/RFQ Work Group who had been charged with creating a request for proposal (RFP) to be used to contract for services to support the NUSA website. The RFP was approved and the Board will receive proposals until May 14, 2010. For additional information, see article at right, "RFP for NUSA Website Maintenance."

That evening, the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC) took the Board on a tour of the city which included four neighborhoods that had been finalists in the Neighborhood of the Year competition in previous years, including the Old Speedway Neighborhood which was the 2007 Neighborhood of the Year Grand Prize winner. The tour included a "progressive" type dinner throughout the different neighborhood communities of Indianapolis. A special thanks to Ann Marie Taylor and her staff at the INRC for a wonderful evening out and about in Indianapolis.

Friday began with the Steering, Budget and Finance Committee meeting which reviewed the Committee's policies and procedures, followed by a meeting of the full Board which included receiving updated reports from the Board Committees which saw the approval of recommended bylaw changes from the Bylaws and Rules Committee; the adoption of the action plan/time-table for the RFP for website maintenance; and approval of the theme and revised logo design for the Anchorage conference.

Having finished its work on Friday, the Board adjourned till its next meeting on Wednesday, May 26th in Little Rock.

RFP for NUSA Website Maintenance

Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) invites qualified and experienced agencies to submit competitive bids for provision of managed web site hosting and maintenance services for the organization's web site. Information and guidelines for submittal of said proposals can be found on NUSA's website at:

www.nusa.org/PDF/2010_RFP_NUSA_Web.pdf

Bid proposals must be submitted electronically to Karen Harber, NUSA Administrative Assistant, at kharber1@woh.rr.com by 5 p.m. (Central Standard Time) on May 14, 2010.

Bids will be evaluated and a contract awarded on such factors as: prices offered; reputation and performance capabilities of bidder, quality of product offered and the ability to meet the conditions and requirements as set forth in the bid proposal.



Little Rock Prepares for NUSA



Members of the West Baseline Neighborhood Association prepare for NUSA as they begin landscaping the Mann Road Alert Center, which will be part of Neighborhood Pride Tour #5. In partnership with local businesses, everything for the project was donated - even lunch for these residents was provided by McDonald's.

Financial Report

Balance on Hand (10/15/09)	\$33,314.21
Income (10/15/09 - 2/24/10)	\$ 1,720.87
Less Expenses (10/15/09 - 2/24/10)	\$ 9,508.19
Balance on Hand (2/24/10)	\$25,526.89

Bylaws Amendments Proposed

A number of amendments to the bylaws, having been approved by the NUSA Board of Directors, are being proposed for consideration and approval by the general NUSA membership at the annual conference in May.

Proposed amendments to the bylaws are presented to current NUSA members prior to the conference by notice placed in the NUSA newsletter. All attendees will be provided full copies of bylaws with proposed amendments upon registration at the conference.

Because of space constraints of this newsletter and the fact that several of the proposals are minor changes or mere grammatical corrections, we are herewith describing only the primary proposed changes and strongly urging all NUSA members to read the proposed changes in their entirety, in context with the complete bylaws, which are posted on the NUSA website www.NUSA.org (**For those without internet access, you may contact Judy Martinson, Bylaws Committee Chair, to receive a full copy of the bylaws with proposed changes indicated.**) Proposed changes are indicated below in red letters with a dashed line through the original wording.

Section 6-B: Board of Directors – Number and Election

i.) There shall be ~~27~~ **21** members of the Board of Directors. The immediate Past President, if not otherwise a member of the Board, shall be a non-voting, ex officio member in an advisory capacity.

(Rationale for this recommendation: For the past 5 years, the Board has not been able to recruit or encourage enough applicants to apply to be placed on the ballot to fill vacant positions. With the number of unfilled vacancies, reducing the number of Board Members would be a logical approach to having a full Board. Economic conditions and personally having to cover the cost of travel expenses for attending Board meetings has deterred members from applying to run for the Board.)

ii.) Efforts will be made to encourage a regional balance; **(and shall not exceed more than two Board members from the same city.)** *(Rationale: to encourage more of a regional balance)*

Section H: Quorum

~~Fourteen (14) Board members present constitutes a quorum.~~ **A quorum shall consist of more than 50% of the Board Member seats filled at the time of said meeting.** *(Rationale: Consistent with Robert's Rules of Order where a quorum is defined as simple majority (more than 50%.)*

Section 7-A: Officers of the Board of Directors - Designation of Officers

4.) **delete "Parliamentarian" from the list of official board members** *(Rationale: The Parliamentarian is traditionally not an elected office. The Parliamentarian should be knowledgeable of Parliamentary Procedures, and certified if possible. These services can be secured through a contract or appointed at the discretion of the President and/or Executive Committee.)*

7-E Duties and Powers of Each Officer

ii.) The Treasurer shall ensure that the books are ~~audited annually by a Certified Public Accountant without any conflict of interest and submitted to the Board of Directors~~ **reviewed annually at the time of taking office and at the time the annual IRS 990 filing is prepared. Additionally, the books shall be audited every five (5) years by a Certified Public Accountant without any conflict of interest. The audit report must be submitted to the Board of Directors, and made available to the membership upon request.** *(Rationale: This change is to comply with IRS requirements, and is consistent with the recommendation of the current NUSA accountant.)*

12. Amendments to Bylaws

The said proposed amendment(s) shall be published in the NUSA NEWS prior to the annual conference, and copies made available during the conference. The said amendment(s) shall be included on the ballot, and shall be voted on during the conference by the membership during the regularly held election at the conference.

(Rationale: Amends the process by which the Bylaws are changed to take advantage of the electronic voting during the regularly held elections.)

Making Communities Safer for Pedestrians

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promote pedestrian safety. It provides several Community Success Stories that highlight successful community-oriented pedestrian safety projects and programs.

The Guide also contains several Resource Sheets, including fact sheets, worksheets, and sample materials. These materials can be adapted to meet the needs of a particular community, or distributed to others working to improve pedestrian safety.

The Guide provides a thorough introduction to pedestrian safety and includes many references to other resources and materials for those interested in more in-depth information.

The Guide is organized into five major, user-friendly sections:

1. How can I identify problems with walking conditions in my neighborhood?
2. Who can help me make my neighborhood a safer place to walk?
3. How can the safety of my neighborhood be improved?
4. I need more information!
5. Resource Materials

To access the Resident's Guide, visit:
http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/ped_cmunity/ped_walkguide/index.cfm.

In addition to the Resident's Guide, FHWA's Pedestrian Safety Program has a lot of excellent information available on its website: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/

For more information please contact: Tamara Redmon, 202-366-4077 or Tamara.Redmon@dot.gov.