

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

January 2007

Meet your 2007 CONA Officers

President – Barbara Heck

Born and raised in St. Petersburg, Barbara graduated from Northeast High School and California State University with a degree in Marketing. Barbara worked for many years in the computer industry in California (Silicon Valley) and more recently at Tech Data (Clearwater). She has just completed her second two year term as Snell Isle Association President. Barbara writes for the Northeast Journal and also mentors other associations on grant writing. Barbara is active with the Woman's Club and also a member of the Fine Arts Museum. Barbara loves to garden and travel, especially to see her two children and two grandchildren on both coasts – South Florida and California.

First Vice President – Darden Rice

Raised in Charlotte, N.C., Darden moved to Florida in 1988 and graduated from Eckerd College with a BA in American Studies. Darden has worked for the national Sierra Club for 6 years, where she is currently the National Field Director for the Sierra Club's global warming Cool Cities campaign. Darden serves as Co-Chair of the Pinellas County Environmental Science Forum, is a founding officer of the Pinellas Living Green Expo, and serves on the Board of Directors for the League of Women Voters of the St. Pete Area. She and her partner live in the Old Southeast neighborhood, and enjoy biking and kayaking when not working on their 1924 bungalow or the backyard. They have a German Shepherd, as well as a cat which is seen briefly from time to time.

Second Vice President – Will Michaels

Raised in California, Will and his wife Kathleen of over 40 years have been St. Petersburg residents since 1973. They have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Will graduated from University of South Florida with a Doctorate in Applied Anthropology. Will is the retired Executive Director of the St. Petersburg Museum of History. He previously worked as Deputy Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) of Pinellas County

and was recently called back to JWB to serve as their Interim Executive Director.

Will is a member of the Adjunct Faculty of St. Petersburg College where he teaches a seminar in local history. In his spare time, Will writes articles on local history for the Northeast Journal and the South Beaches Journal. Will is also a member of St. Petersburg Preservation and Chair of CONA Committee on Historic Buildings & Landmarks.

Treasurer – Keith Locke

Born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas, Keith graduated from University of North Texas and is a CPA. Keith is an avid SCUBA diver and lists the waters off Cozumel as his favorite dive location. He also loves mountain bike riding, sailing, kayaking, bicycling and reading books. Keith and his wife Ana have two Sheltie puppies who are currently attending obedience school and a Birman cat that actually rules the roost. Currently Keith is involved in an extensive home remodeling project.

Secretary – Conrad Weiser

Born in Philadelphia, Conrad attended several Quaker schools. He received his degree in Physics & Mathematics from Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. He received a Ford Foundation Fellowship to Yale Graduate School. Conrad was a Computer Engineer at Philco Corp., Link Aviation and Reflectone of Tampa. He is also a registered representative at Raymond James & Associates. Conrad is the Founding President of Edgemoor Neighborhood Association.

In his spare time, Conrad is the Elected Secretary of all the following associations: Network Professionals Assoc., Sunrise Community Resource Center, Morningside Sanatorium, CONA, Pinellas Living Green Expo, Americana Cove- Boat Club, Computer Club, Renter's Assoc., Recreation Assoc., Crime Watch, and Olde Timer's Assoc. He is also the "Webmaster" of 4 websites and 5 listserv robots (listbot).

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, January 17, 2007

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 CONA's 2007 Officers
CONA Business – Treasurer's Report - Updates
By-Laws Update – Cathy Wilson
CONA Citizen of the Month
Julie Weston – Development Services Overview
President's Brag Night (delayed from December)

Important Upcoming Event:

February 14 – Valentine's Day
February 21 – CONA Meeting

On the inside

CONA Mentoring Program.....	2
President Corner Continued.....	3
CONA Membership Application	4
Welcoming David Metz	5
Street Lights.....	5
CONA Minutes	6-7
Citizen of the Month	8
CONA Board.....	8



CONA's Mentoring Program – New

CONA wants to help your Neighborhood Association overcome some hurdles you might face as you grow. We have a wonderful group of very knowledgeable people who are ready to help you. Over the past years, each Association has faced similar issues and found solutions appropriate to their needs. Below are just a few of the topics we cover:

- Neighborhood plans**
- Grant writing**
- Crime Watch**
- Codes issues**
- Annexation**
- Zoning issues**
- Traffic calming**
- Qualifying as a 501 c (3) – tax exempt**

Now, we won't be doing the project for you. However, we will give you sound advice on how to proceed. We can help you identify your options. We can provide appropriate City and business contacts. We will help you monitor your progress and we can review and proof your submissions.

Please call Tom Killian (727-343-2041) or e-mail him at tomkillian@juno.com today to start the Mentor Program process for your neighborhood. Remember, we want you and your Association to be the very best it can be. We are one very large family and helping you is what we do best.



Knowledge is powerful medicine.

As part of our commitment to community education, Edward White Hospital offers FREE seminars on a range of topics, including stroke awareness and diabetes. We also provide free Blood Pressure Screenings and more.

For more information, contact Aimee Bennett, RN, Director of Marketing at 727-328-6245.

- 2323 9th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33713
- 727-323-1111 – Main
- www.edwardwhitehospital.com



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Brian Dean at
(727) 669-5747

www.callsunshine.com

President's Corner

By Barbara McCormick Heck

Welcome neighbors. 2007 is going to be a spectacular year for CONA. As I keep telling everyone, we are a new CONA and our # 1 charter is to work hand in hand with city staff, all neighborhood associations city-wide and all our wonderful residents. We will do our very best to better represent the interests of the neighborhoods of St. Petersburg. We all want the same thing – to make St. Petersburg even better !!!

First, let's take a moment to thank some very special people who worked so hard to help us meet our goals for 2006. Karl Nurse, thank you for leading us. Tom Killian, thank you for mentoring us. Annie McWilliams, thank you for keeping us solvent. Conrad Weiser, thank you for documenting us so meticulously. Ingrid Comberg and Patricia Guaveia, thank you for training our future leaders. Steve Plice, thank you for PLGE. Mo Eppley, thank you for making our newsletter, website and pamphlets look great. CONA members, thank you for making these successes possible. There is not enough space to individually list everyone's names. To all who worked so hard to make 2006 the success it was, we say

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU,
THANK YOU, THANK YOU !!!**

Your CONA officers have been busy over the holidays working with City Staff on a number of projects.

We hope to have a Neighborhood Retreat set up within the next two months for all Association Presidents to attend to discuss their concerns. We know you have a number of "hot" issues that need more than just a 90 minute discussion at our CONA meeting. Look for an update and an invitation very soon.

Each month we are inviting our City Departments to give a brief presentation of just what they do and then take questions from the audience. We will start with Julie Weston, Development Services. With the new LDR's in March, there are a lot of questions. As in the past, we also hope to regularly see our City Council members, County Commissioners and other elected officials at our meetings.

2007 is going to be busy. We need YOUR help and participation to represent YOU. It was only a few years ago when our US President was decided by a few towns in Florida. Time Magazine just named YOU the most influential person of 2006. YOUR attendance matters. The issues CONA focuses on and the work CONA does is decided by YOU. Help support YOUR neighborhood at CONA this year by voicing YOUR concerns. Do not miss this opportunity to be heard. Remember, the third Wednesday of each month is YOUR CONA time. **Make it in red on your calendar.**

See YOU at the next CONA meeting.

Please join in "working together for a better St. Petersburg."

St. Petersburg Police Department Notes

At our December CONA meeting, Chief of Police Charles "Chuck" Harmon introduced our new Community Service Sergeants (CSO) and Community Service Officers (CSS). Each District has a special phone line for non-emergency calls and questions. When called, these telephone numbers give the caller instructions on how to leave a message. Chief Harmon has committed that all calls will be returned within 24 hours.

DISTRICT 1 (SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE CITY)

Community Service Sergeant(CSS)
Community Service Officers (CSO)

727-551-3181

Larry Hordge

Candace Marklin
Mary Nguyen

Lesandro Santiago
Joe Smith

DISTRICT 2 (NORTH AND EASTERN PORTIONS OF THE CITY)

Community Service Sergeant (CSS)
Community Service Officers (CSO)

727-551-3182

Edward Borrelli

Jason Deary
Ray Merritt

Jennifer Lich
Joe Truong

District 3 (WESTERN PORTION OF THE CITY)

Community Service Sergeant (CSS)
Community Service Officers (CSO)

727-551-3183

Dale Moushon

Robert Arrison
Samora Oliver

Patrick Patterson
Patrick McGovern



2007 CONA Membership

2007 CONA Membership fees are now due. Please complete the form below and mail it to CONA, or bring it to the next meeting.

We will be using these forms to update our mailing list so be sure to include phone numbers and email addresses. Please include the names and addresses of people to whom we should be sending the CONA Newsletter.

2007 CONA Membership Application

Time to renew you CONA membership for 2007!

2007 dues are due January 1, 2007. Fill out this CONA Membership Application and mail it along with the Membership Fee to: C.O.N.A., P.O. Box 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693. Or you may bring it to the next Board Meeting.

Association Name: _____

Boundaries: _____

of Households: _____ # of Members: _____

Meeting Dates & Location: _____

President: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

CONA Representative: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Alternative Rep: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Add these names to the CONA Mailing List:

Name	Address	Zip
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Please include annual dues of \$35. If you would like to use the Bulk Mail Permit #, please add \$15 to your dues to help pay for the cost of the permit. Indicate below, the frequency of your mailings (monthly, quarterly, etc.), approximate mailing dates and # of pieces per mailing.

Frequency of Mailing: _____ (monthly, quarterly, etc.)

Approximate Mailing Dates: _____ # of pieces per Mailing: _____

CONA welcomes Deputy Mayor David Metz

CONA welcomes Deputy Mayor for Neighborhood Services David Metz. As you know, Dave is replacing Mike Dove who retired in December after many years in public service.

Dave is no stranger to us. Since 2003, he has been the director of the Downtown Enterprise Facilities Department that provides management of the Port, Albert Whitted Airport, the Marina, the beautiful new Mahaffey Theater and the Coliseum. His department also provides contract administration for The Pier, Tropicana Field, Sunken Gardens and Progress Energy Park.

Prior to this, Dave was employed by Pinellas County as the director of the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport. He also held the position of senior manager for business development with the Pinellas County Economic Development Department. Dave had previously been with the city of St. Petersburg where he held the position of marina and port director until he retired with 26 years of service in February 2000.

Dave is a graduate of the University of South Florida with a bachelor's degree in business and a master's in public administration. He has participated in many professional organizations within the Tampa Bay Area.

CONA Officers, Board and Neighborhood Associations welcome you and look forward to working closely with you on future projects.

CONA – check your overhead street lights now.

There are 30,000 overhead street lights in St. Petersburg. Some may be burned out. Some may incorrectly stay on 24hrs. The City of St. Petersburg pays for these lights whether they function or not. CONA is requesting each Neighborhood Association patrol their streets and report outages immediately **TO PROGRESS ENERGY**. Let's help bring down unnecessary costs for all of us.

Here is how you report the non-working street light:

1. Phone Progress Energy at 1-800-278-8485
2. Give street address of light's location
(do NOT give pole number)
3. Write down date and time you placed call for your records (and ours)
4. Progress Energy has 3-5 business days to fix light
(wiring above ground)
5. Wiring underground problem in cable – Progress Energy has 30 business days to fix light.

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CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - December 20, 2006

President Karl Nurse called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

- Our President welcomed several visiting dignitaries, Florida Representative Bill Heller, Pinellas Commissioner Ken Welch, Deputy Mayor Dave Metz, and City Council Members past and present- Jamie Bennett, Leslie Curran, Jeff Danner, Bill Foster, Richard Kriseman, and Herb Polson.
- As the introduction of our program to honor retiring Deputy Mayor, Mike Dove, we all viewed a video of Mike's tenure here titled "Take Back Our Neighborhoods".
 - Our First V.P. Barbara Heck presented Mike with several symbolic gifts of our appreciation described in a brief essay.
 - Second V.P. Tom Killian awarded Mike with a framed charcoal portrait.
 - Susan Ajoc, Neighborhood Partnership Director, gave Mike a "Citizen of the Decade Plaque", an honorary Jacket of Bob Gilder's N-Team, and offered a vocal tribute with a unique rendition of the pop tune "High Hopes".
 - Mike expressed his appreciation insisting that citizen's attitude, expressed through neighborhood involvement and empowerment, was the key to success of the programs he administered.
- Our resigning Treasurer, Annie McWilliams, offered her final report of a current balance of \$2,024.79 with a paid membership of 59 associations.
- Our Second V.P. Elect, Will Michaels, reported on the success of his neighborhood, Bahama Shores successful court challenge to a high rise development that they have opposed.
- The President opened the balloting for the election of our new Treasurer.
 - Candidate April Gausman and Keith Locke were invited to describe their qualifications for this elected position.
 - All attendees privileged to vote that did not receive a ballot at the door were invited to obtain one, at this point, from Tom Killian.
 - The collection and counting of the ballots then proceeded.
- Karl Nurse then introduced Police Chief Chuck Harmon to open his presentation on the major revisions to our Community Policing Program.
 - Karl recounted the past appeals of CONA to increase the CPO staffing.
 - He also noted our current appeal for an independent management study of the Police Department. City Council has concurred, (over department objections), with our suggested wide scope for this study.
 - Karl cited FBI crime statistics that reported dramatic crime reductions achieved last year in several other major Florida cities. Our improvements were less impressive. He insists we must do as well.
 - Recruiting and retention continue to be department staffing problems.
- Chief Harmon began his presentation with a history of our CPO Program from the time of his arrival in 1983.
 - Since its inception, 13 years ago, the CPO Program was not envisioned as a permanent structure in the Department.
 - Involving only 10% of the sworn staff, the CPO Program has always been a source of division and moral problems.
 - Most of the comparable cities that Karl mentioned have dropped their CPO Programs.
 - The new assignment of Community Service Officers, (CSOs), will replace the former CPO assignment. The new job description involves two responsibilities often neglected previously; 1) All telephone appeals to the CSO in each of our 3 districts will be responded to within 24 hours. 2) A Police officer will attend all regular neighborhood association meetings to assure an effective communication with the Department. Accountability for department responses to all calls for Police Service is a primary structure of our new CSO Program
 - All of our Police staff are being retrained to support this program.
 - Our recruiting program now allows experience credits for military service and prior police work.
 - We are currently planning for a Citizen's Police Retreat hoping for a diverse input from neighborhood leaders.

- We ask your patient support of this new policing program during its first implementation. We anticipate there may be some revisions as problems are encountered and resolved.
- Assistant Chief Luke Williams then provided additional perspective of the CSO Program. He noted the command structure of the Police Majors in each of the 3 districts will supervise a district CSO Sergeant and four CSOs. [Most of the CSOs and their Sergeants were introduced to our meeting.]
 - Chief Williams announced the unique service call phone numbers with which to contact the CSOs in each police district.
- In closing this segment of our meeting, Chief Harmon declined to accept and questions from the floor, but promised to be available, outside the meeting room, for individual's questions as late as necessary to satisfy the inquirers.
- There were numerous objections from the audience as to why this far reaching department shift had not been discussed with neighborhood leaders, and why the Chief would not answer questions directly from the audience?
- Our President called for volunteers to form a CONA Committee to meet with the Chief to discuss this and related issues. Among those names noted were: Mary Darling, Scott Smith, Cass Rael, Ann Drakeford, Debbie McVay, Carole Griffiths, Mike Gulley, Jeff Frank, Caroline Franz, Patty Ford, Stephanie Pitts, and Lillian Bake-Bryant.
- It was suggested that all of our member associations invite their assigned CSO's to their next meeting to describe their new duties and services.
- President Karl Nurse announced the results of our election. Keith Locke, of Disston Heights, was named as our new Treasurer.
- Following a motion from the floor, Karl solicited questions from the floor that could be presented to the Chief in writing immediately.
 - The Secretary compiled the following questions proposed:
 - 1) Who will represent the neighborhood familiarity, (the good guys and the bad guys), formerly embodied in our CPO's?
 - 2) How long will the CSO's remain in their assignments?
 - 3) How consistent will the chain of responsibility for crime reduction in each district?
 - 4) How can 41 replaced CPO's suddenly reappear as 200 officers all committed and trained in the duties of the former CPO's?
 - 5) The nine page "Community Policing Philosophy" doesn't really seem to define this program as a strategy for crime reduction?
 - 6) How will service call responses and "Accountability" be reported to the public?
 - 7) Will the public's telephone access to the new CSO's be as expedient as the communications were to our CPO's? (Cell phones?)
 - 8) Will drugs, prostitution and the homeless continue to be the responsibility of our CSO's?
- Karl delivered these questions, in writing, to the Chief after the close of our meeting.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Conrad Weiser, Secretary



2006 Officers

President

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bg@racerrex.com

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560-2479
Darden.Rice@hotmail.com

Second Vice President

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MAOA1999@aol.com

Treasurer

Keith Locke
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rkeith1084@yahoo.com

Frequently Called Numbers

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

CONA Newsletter Deadlines

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30th of each month.

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CONA's Citizen of the Month

Karl Nurse

For the past three years as President, Karl Nurse has worked tirelessly on CONA related issues. Karl has been a champion of the neighborhoods, of our very successful Pinellas Living Green Expo (PLGE) and various projects in historic Old Southeast.

Karl's commitment to hold local government accountable and to improve city services has been unwavering. Many times Karl chose the more difficult path to help us see what needed to be done.

CONA thanks you for being our watchdog. We thank you for providing strong leadership and guidance. We thank you for daring to take the road less traveled when necessary.

CONA Officers, Board Members and Associations salute you. January 2007

**The Council of Neighborhood
Associations of South Pinellas County
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