



February 1, 2002

Greetings to all of our neighborhood associations:

CONA is excited about the beginning of this new year and the work that we have set out for ourselves. We completed the Update in November and are trying to implement several programs and activities right from the beginning. The complete Update is on the website ([www.conaonline.org](http://www.conaonline.org) under ABOUT CONA).

First of all, your membership is important to CONA. This organization can be only as strong as its number of member associations. We need all of you, returning members and new members. If you are now a member of CONA, we have made some changes that we hope will benefit the process for both your NA and for CONA. Renewal of membership dues will occur in the month the dues were paid the year before. Because associations have varying meeting schedules, we thought this renewal schedule would be better. So if you did not pay your dues until May of last year, your dues will not be up until May of this year. I will indicate on the renewal sheet in what month your dues were recorded.

The minutes of CONA are going to reflect the member associations that are at the table and then the representative of the NA. Some members do not have representatives at the meeting and this is something CONA would like to change; we really need all voices to be heard.

Also included in this packet is information about IN-KIND contribution of time spent in doing neighborhood or CONA work. It is important that people in your neighborhood who do things for the neighborhood get a form so that they can record their hours spent on behalf of good neighborhoods. PLEASE make sure these are circulated so that we can show the community how much time people do spend keeping their neighborhoods good places to live.

In the Update, CONA has created some committees to aid in the work to be done. One is entitled the Action Team Committee. This is a committee that never meets because the folks on it take an obligation to observe various governmental meetings and report back to CONA (form provided) those items of potential interest to neighborhoods. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS. Look on our website for the governmental groups we are trying to cover (under GETTING INVOLVED). If you are interested in covering one, please give us a call (333-6377) or email ([cona@bloomington.in.us](mailto:cona@bloomington.in.us)) or just contact us through the website.

Other committees that we have formed include a Membership Development Committee, a Financial Sustainability Committee, and a Marketing Committee. All of these committees have very specific assignments. If ANYONE in your neighborhood is interested in helping out, that is tremendous. In fact, make your association aware of these possibilities. CONA needs people involvement in order to be successful. If we all do a little, then a lot can be done!

The grant that allowed us to encourage Neighborhood Watch programs also allows for us to fund activities involving youth and adults together to create positive experiences for our young people. Think about projects that your NA might pursue. It also allows the development of new neighborhood associations or just greater unification of a neighborhood (get to know each other). So if you have any thoughts in either of these areas, contact CONA. We are countywide so encourage your county friends to establish associations and join us.

Nancy Lumbley  
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