

St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO) NEWS AND EVENTS



March, 2015, #18

2014 HIGHLIGHTS SHOW SLACO ON THE MOVE

The numbers show impressive increases in SLACO activity in 2014 as compared to 2013. As the St. Louis metro area's coalition of neighborhood associations, where neighborhoods come to share knowledge and experiences, we are positioning ourselves to become an important resource for making common cause at the grassroots.

We thought you might enjoy knowing that:

- Our neighborhood association membership increased from 8 to 17 during the year,
- Attendance at our signature event, the annual conference, jumped from 150 in 2013 to 264 in 2014, and
- Our volunteers logged 1,023 hours on behalf of SLACO.

Other metrics show a similar rate of growth. In December our Board of Directors completed a new three-year strategic plan, which challenges us to:

- Continue to increase our membership, leading to a more representative organization able to exert more influence in the region
- Facilitate the empowerment of St. Louis neighborhoods through excellence in leadership development, networking among community organizations, community forums, and neighborhood roundtables
- Organize and implement a campaign focused on a major designated issue that can galvanize many organizations interested in St. Louis area neighborhoods

- Strive for financial self-sufficiency with the goal of securing at least 62% of operating funds from dues and fee income and 21% from contributions, with no more than 17% of spending needs dependent on grants and limited draws on reserves

Lastly, in 2014 SLACO was able to employ Nancy Thompson as the first full-time Executive Director since 2010 and to attract Mike Reid as the first SLACO AmeriCorpsVISTA in a number of years. Let us know how we can be of service.

SLACO Members Now Represent 25% of the City's Residents

The latest two neighborhood associations to become SLACO members are West Pine Laclede Neighborhood Association and Marine Villa Neighborhood Association. This brings our total membership to 21, representing 25% of the population of the City of St. Louis.

20th SLACO Regional Neighborhood Conference Date: November 14, 2015

Once again we will be holding our annual Saturday conference for all St. Louis metro area neighborhoods at Harris-Stowe State University. This year's date is November 14. Please help us avoid conflicts.

This conference is appropriate for anyone who wishes to understand more about how to elicit positive change in a neighborhood or make a neighborhood association more effective. In addition to current and aspiring neighborhood leaders, neighborhood businesses, non-profits serving the City, concerned congregations, youth and students interested in community development, and subdivision trustees also would benefit from attendance.

Because of the outstanding energy and participation in 2014, the plenary sessions will move to the Emerson Performance Center, with breakout sessions in the nearby Clay Early Childhood Center. Planning is underway. Anyone who would like to volunteer to assist should contact the SLACO office, 314-361-9406.

City Schools 101: Discover your options

Southampton Neighborhood Association will host a free information session on Sat., April 11, 9-11 a.m. on City school options. Soon-to-be parents and parents of children 3-18 may want to come explore options in public, charter, parochial, and private education, with representatives of all of these types of schools present in answer questions.

This important event will be in the cafeteria at Bishop DuBourg High School, 5850 Eichelberger. Tina Siebert of Circa Properties is sponsoring this meeting open to all neighborhoods.

