



2011 40th & A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Address: _____ District #: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

I am interested in donating my time to:

- Deliver newsletters
- Help with clean-up
- Serve on the Board
- Organize garage sales
- Planning events /socials
- Other _____

Annual Membership Categories:

Student\$1.00

Individual\$5.00

Family \$10.00

Business \$15.00

Contributing.....\$25.00

Make checks payable to:
40th & A Neighborhood Association

Send address changes and membership forms to:
 Susie Dunn
 4000 Garfield
 Lincoln, NE 68506

Office Use Only
 Check No: _____
 Date Rec'd: _____
 Cash: _____

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the 40th & A Neighborhood Association is to provide a means for citizens living in the neighborhood to plan and work together for a better community.

The Association offers the opportunity for residents to meet and become acquainted with one another, become more informed and express views about the issues impacting our neighborhood community and cooperate with other citizens and community organizations.

2011 BOARD MEMBERS

President	Treasurer	District 3 Representatives	New Heights Board Rep.
Tracy Corr 1001 S. 37th • 310-7069	Susie Dunn 4000 Garfield • 484-5202	Angela Stueckrath 3905 Everett • 890-6215	Steve Duvall 1015 S. 40th • 432-1448
Vice-President	District 1 Representative	District 4 Representative	Newsletter Editor
Michael Reimiller 3782 Garfield • 601-4501	Doris Carpenter 3705 D • 488-1994	Oak Williams 4335 Washington • 202-9095	Tracy Corr 1001 S. 37th • 310-7069
Secretary	District 2 Representative	BOARD OPENINGS	
Sheila Wall 913 Clark • 488-1321	Nancy Intermill 4240 G • 314-7567	Spring Clean-Up Coordinator Business/Church/School Liaison District Representatives	

40TH & A

NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors:

I read this inspiring article by Laura Wiese of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association and thought it would be perfect for our Dues News as we now have many openings to serve on our Board. A big thanks to Laura and Witherbee for allowing the reprint! (Witherbee is located on our northern boundary from 33rd to 56th Streets between Randolph and 'O' Streets.)

—*Tracy*

Why I Choose to Be Involved

Ah, 12:11 on a Sunday afternoon and our toddler has just drifted off. The next two precious hours are when my husband, John, and I can choose to whatever we would like to do. I choose to write a column for the Witherbee Buzz. You must think I am crazy.

Yes, since having a baby I have let some things go. The floors do not get scrubbed as often as I would like. The flower bed weeds are a little bigger before I get around to pulling them. The nail polish on my toes does not get changed quite as frequently as it used to. But these are small compromises that in the long run do not really mean too much, at least in my opinion. There are other things we have chosen to put priority on now that we have a family.

One evening, before our son Colin was born in August of 2008, John and I sat down with paper and pen over a cup of tea. First we wrote down as many values and characteristics as we could think of that we would like to foster in our son: confidence, good work ethic, compassion for others, civic and social responsibility to name a few. Then we thought about and discussed what we as parents could do to create an environment and offer experiences that cultivated these characteristics.

Among other things, we kept coming back to the idea of volunteerism, charity work and community involvement. While over the years John and I have participated in small and various ways in our community, it was not something that was an on-going or regular part of our life. We knew that for us to pass these values on to our son we needed to make a commitment to others and our community as a family.

We talked about our dreams for a family Habitat for Humanity project, spending Thanksgiving serving meals at a homeless shelter or having a special piggy bank just for charitable contributions. But Colin would have to be a little older before we could really begin to incorporate these things into our family life.

It was clear to us that for any meaningful value-transfer to begin we would first have to model that behavior ourselves. We decided to become involved in our neighborhood association. Witherbee already seemed like an active organization that would be easy to slip into. We had been impressed with the events and services it provides to the neighborhood since moving here in 2004.

We started by going to a couple monthly meetings. It must have been fate that placed us at the first meeting we attended. Curtis Wood, president at the time, opened the meeting with round robin introductions. He asked everyone to say their name, where in the neighborhood they lived and what act of giving they had participated in within the past month. My only answer was that this was the very reason I was at the meeting – I could not think of any charitable act I had done recently.

I have a hard time keeping my opinions to myself, so by the second monthly meeting (probably at the first) I was piping up while John kept Colin busy in the hallways of Tabitha when he got squirrely. It was about this time that some of the board member's terms were coming up and one evening I got a call from Curtis. He asked if I would consider joining the board.

At first I was a bit skeptical and asked what the time commitment would be and what kinds of things would be expected of me. He told me the minimum commitment was four board meetings a year and probably an hour's worth of time each month, plus the monthly meetings when I could come to those. He was sure to add that I was welcome to become more involved than that, if I wanted. Having a toddler at home gave me pause, but wasn't this the kind of opportunity John and I had talked about? Besides, the Witherbee folks were very nice and the issues we discussed were important to me. So I said yes.

Less than a year later I can not imagine what our monthly routine would be without our commitment to Witherbee. John and Colin enjoy their "boys' night" every first Thursday of the month when I am at the meetings. I enjoy the fellowship and the satisfaction of knowing I am doing my part to make our neighborhood and community a better place.

As for our original goal of instilling values and good characteristics in our son? That was validated just yesterday. Upon my return from meeting with other Witherbee folks to discuss the issue of the newsletter, I was greeted with a big toddler smile. After showing me the truck he and dad had just built, Colin asked "mommy backa meeting?" I know that Colin is seeing, from a very early age, that his parents have placed a priority on caring about our community and being involved. I have no doubt we are on our way to helping ensure he feels and acts the same way.