



# Regional Neighborhood Network Conference

Veterans' Memorial Civic & Convention Center  
Lima, OH

October 2 - 4, 2008

## What is the Regional Neighborhood Network Conference?

The Regional Neighborhood Network Coalition (RNNC) is an organization of 20 cities in 5 states (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee) that has sponsored a conference for and about neighborhoods since 1987. The conference is run by neighborhood people for neighborhood people, giving attendees the tools to take back to their neighborhoods and continue to improve them. Lima, Ohio is host for the 2008 RNNC.

## Brief History of the RNNC

The Regional Neighborhood Network Conference was spawned as a regional network after the Neighborhoods U.S.A. conference in 1986. The network consists of 20 member cities in five states; Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee. Each member city appoints one representative to the RNNC steering committee, responsible for assisting with the planning of the conference each fall.

Regional Neighborhood Network Conferences draw between 400 and 500 neighborhood representatives, elected officials, city officials, business persons, and persons from a wide variety of backgrounds each year.

Costs to the attendees are kept to a minimum in order to allow as many neighborhood representatives as possible to attend. Neighborhood representatives participate in: an opening welcome reception on Thursday evening; a day-long series of workshop sessions presented by professionals from all five states on Friday; Neighborhood bus tours of the host city on Friday evening; an early Saturday morning session; experience the motivation of three keynote speakers; and have ample time to network with each other to learn about a variety of innovative programs and topics from other cities.

## Structure and Organization

A unique feature about the Regional Neighborhood Network is that it has existed for 21 years solely based on the commitment of its member cities. Members come from a variety of governmental structures, philosophies and political parties. Despite the diversity of its composition, the RNNC has endured through mayoral changes, liaison changes and fluctuating levels of commitment and participation by the member cities.

The Regional Neighborhood Network has no bylaws. The members pay no dues. There are no officers and all conference collaborations are conducted in a non-partisan manner. The interaction of the city representatives has transcended party politics and is based simply on trust, respect and genuine friendship that has evolved.

Representatives of the member cities meet about three times a year collectively, but interact one-on-one on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The only joint activity they participate in is the conference. Network members serve as a steering committee and each host city establishes its own local organization to run the conferences. The composition of the network includes cities of all sizes.

### **The Stella Stewart "Doing Good in the Neighborhood" Award**

The Stella Stewart "Doing Good in the Neighborhood" Award was established at the 2005 Regional Neighborhood Network Conference in Muncie, Ind. in honor of former RNNC Steering Committee member Stella Mae Miller Stewart, who died January 16, 2005. Stella was an Administrative Officer to the CAO in the Mayor's Office of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government for many years and was extensively involved in community volunteer work. In 2006, Debera Diggs of Columbus' Southside Community Action Network was the winner of the Stella Stewart Award.

### **RNNC Member Cities (2007)**

Bowling Green, KY	Indianapolis, IN*	Owensboro, KY
Cincinnati, OH*	Knox County, TN	Peoria, IL
Columbus, OH*	Lexington, KY	Richmond, IN
Dayton, OH*	Lima, OH	South Bend, IN
Decatur, IL	Louisville, KY*	Springfield, OH
Evansville, IN*	Memphis, TN*	Terre Haute, IN
Fort Wayne, IN	Muncie, IN	Toledo, OH

\* Original RNNC member cities

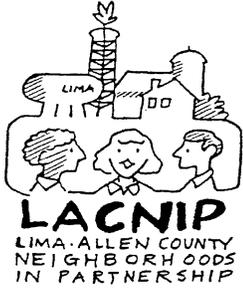
### **2008 Conference Location**

Veterans' Memorial Civic & Convention Center of Lima/Allen County  
7 Town Square, Lima, Ohio 45801

Map: <http://www.limaciviccenter.com/performanceHall/mapDirections/mapDirections.php>

### **For more information:**

- Visit the RNNC page on the Lima-Allen County Neighborhoods in Partnership (LACNIP) Web site at <http://lacnip.org/conference.html>
- Contact Jo Anne St. Clair of the Columbus Department of Development at (614) 645-5220 or [jastclair@columbus.gov](mailto:jastclair@columbus.gov)
- Contact City of Lima Neighborhood Specialist Connie Dershem at (419) 221-5177 or [connie.dershem@cityhall.lima.oh.us](mailto:connie.dershem@cityhall.lima.oh.us)
- Review the Web page for RNNC 2007 in Louisville, KY at <http://rnnclouisville.com/>



# Lima-Allen County Neighborhoods in Partnership

50 Town Square, Lima, Ohio 45801(419) 221-5177

Lima-Allen County Neighborhoods in Partnership (LACNIP) advocates for the improvement of safety and quality of community life through neighborhood partnerships and personal responsibility.



**Regional Neighborhood Network Conference  
October 2 - 4, 2008  
Veteran's Memorial Civic & Convention Center**

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

2:00pm - 7:00pm

- 2:00pm - 9:00pm
- 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Registration

Shuttles run every half-hour to hotels

Welcome reception at Civic & Convention Center

- featuring culturally diverse foods
- cash bar
- entertainment provided by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

7:30am - 11:00am

7:30am

8:30am

9:00am

9:15am

10:15am

10:30am

11:30am

11:45am- 1:00pm

Registration

Breakfast Buffet Starts

Keynote Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

Break

Session #1

Break

Session #2

Break

Networking Lunch Buffet Starts: "best practices" tables set up to give participants an opportunity to network with others to learn about their special interests

-Presentation of Stella Stewart "Doing Good in the Neighborhood" Nominees /Presentation of 2008 Award

Session #3

Break

1:15 - 2:15pm

2:15pm

2:30 - 3:30pm

3:45pm

5:30

6:30pm - 8:00pm

7:00pm - 12:00am

7:30pm - 11:30pm

Session #4

Neighborhood Tours

Opportunity to stop at hotel before evening dinner & entertainment

Neighborhood Unity Dinner at Civic & Convention Center

Shuttle service to hotels

“Casino Night”

“Rally in the Square” at ArtSpace Lima

“Neighborhood Idol”

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4**

7:30AM

8:30am

9:00am

9:15am

9:30am

9:30am - 11:00am

11:00am - 11:45am

12:00pm

Breakfast Buffet Starts

Keynote Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

Decatur, Il invitation to RNNC 2009

- City Baskets Drawing

Break

RNNC Steering Committee Meeting

Special sessions

- Past - Allen County Museum

- Present - Historic Homes Preservation

- Future - New Technology

Conference Adjourns

Boxed Lunches



**Stella Stewart**  
**“Doing Good in the Neighborhood”**  
**Award**

**Eligibility Criteria and Requirements**

The Stella Stewart “Doing Good in the Neighborhood” Award recognizes the ongoing efforts of citizens in a participating Regional Neighborhood Network city who are making exceptional contributions to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Award recipients are those who embody the spirit of a true neighborhood leader. Your nominee might have implemented an innovative program targeting youth, or lead an effort to improve the aesthetics of their neighborhood, or provided meals to the elderly.

Below are some of the criteria your nominee will be judged on:

- Demonstrates efforts beyond their own citizen responsibilities. For example, checking in on a neighbor that they haven’t seen in a few days just to make sure everything is ok.
- Shows concern for their neighborhood’s well-being and the overall quality of life in their city. For example, leading an alley clean-up effort in their neighborhood or planting flowers along the corridors of their neighborhood.
- Overcomes obstacles or takes risks in pursuit of creating, developing, and furthering strong neighborhoods; often sacrifices time spent at home with their families to work on neighborhood projects, such as organizing the neighborhood yard sale or annual block party, or communicating regularly with their local law enforcement on suspected drug and/or illegal activities in their neighborhood.
- Encourages neighbors to participate in activities which benefit the entire neighborhood, such as forming a neighborhood watch club, or organizing a rally to STOP another liquor store from opening.
- Demonstrates results. For example, one who encourages or mentors neighborhood youth to take an active role in their community.
- Models the true spirit of citizenship, whether they are offering a friendly smile to the person walking down the street or volunteering at an area school without an expectation of recognition.

## THE STELLA STEWART

### DOING GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AWARD



#### 2008 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Nominations should be provided electronically to host city ([connie.dershem@cityhall.lima.oh.us](mailto:connie.dershem@cityhall.lima.oh.us)) by **APRIL 25, 2008**
- Host city will distribute to the Steering Committee by **MAY 16, 2008**.
- Each member city is limited to one nomination for an individual.
- One award will be given annually.
- Upon receipt of the nominations, each member city (NOT each committee member) should submit their top three choices to the host city by **JUNE 6, 2008**.
- Host city will tally votes and is responsible for paying for the award.
- Tie-breaker (if needed) to take place at the June 19-20 Steering Committee meeting.
- A nominee display booth is planned. Each Nominee will be recognized at the conference. Please send a photo of your Nominee to the host city by the **June 6** deadline.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Nominees should have contributed a minimum of five (5) years of volunteer service.
- The nominee's activities should be neighborhood based.
- Nominees should be still living.
- Nominees should be an active volunteer in a member city.
- The activities for which a nominee is being considered should be voluntary (i.e., not paid staff work), and should focus on improving/maintaining the quality of life in their neighborhood.
- Steering Committee members are not eligible for nomination.

#### APPLICATION:

- Nomination letter should be no longer than two pages.
- Nominations should be sent electronically to host city.
- Any photos of the nominee must be current.
- Attachments are acceptable, but should not exceed a total of five pages (including photographs).

#### DECISION MAKING:

- Host city forwards nominations electronically to each member city for their review.
- Each member city reviews nominations, selects three choices, and forwards to host city for tallying by **JUNE 6, 2008**.
- Any ties will be broken at **JUNE 19-20** Steering Committee meeting.



**2008 Stella Stewart**  
“Doing Good in the Neighborhood “ Award  
**Nomination Form**  
Deadline for entries is April 25, 2008

**Nominee:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Organization/Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Organization/Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list up to three reasons why you believe this person should receive the 2008 Stella Stewart Award.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

- What do you want the committee to know about your nominee, or what makes them unique?
- Please complete this page. You may attach a maximum of four pages including a narrative and photographs.
- Remember, the committee will not be able to ask you questions, so be as thorough and concise as possible.