

## President's Notes

There has been some progress in finding CUE a new home. We got some really good ideas from the request to membership. Even APCUG, our parent organization, contributed with a list of the type of meeting places used by other User Groups. Tanya has been working her contacts at non-profits in the area. CUE's Board met on September 1 to review our options. First Lou Cioccio described the dire financial situation that his parish finds itself with the loss of revenue from GCAC. It looks like the Holy Rosary School building will be at least kept at minimum temperature starting very soon and closed to use during the winter. Lou believes we could continue to use the building as late as October, so we might have a two months to find a new place. Optimistically we can tack on 4 more months as the winter schedule kicks in and we do have locations for the winter.

We first reviewed the criteria: WiFi, ample parking close to the venue, handicap access, seating for at least 35, central location, and screen and projector desired but not necessary since we could provide them. We methodically examined each potential venue with respect to our criteria and ruled a number of them out based on our criteria. Once the possibilities were narrowed, Board volunteers said they would visit and report back on suitability, availability, and cost.

Those that passed the preliminary screening are:

- Wayside Presbyterian Church (near airport)
- Whole Foods CoOp (West 26<sup>th</sup> street near Tops market)
- Lifeworks Erie (Peach Street downtown)
- Mercy Hilltop Center (EastGrandview)
- Erie County Conservation District (Belle Valley)

Once we have information on all alternatives, the Board will decide on a meeting place and advise the membership. In the meantime, if you have any other places to suggest, please let me know.

During the discussion, three other items surfaced. First, the third Thursday is a popular date for all sorts of meetings that conflict with ours. At this point we don't know what day would be better but that could be a consideration. Second, the possibility of afternoon meetings year round was brought up. However, several of our very active members are still working and could not attend. And third, we would have more options if we were a registered 501 c (3) non profit. We have never pursued that since it was always described as too expensive, time consuming and a complex multistep process. The Board investigated further and found this was not a practical approach.

We discussed publicity to attract more members. However, that effort is on hold until we have a home. Right now we have 73 paid members making us one of APCUG's larger mid size user groups. Feel free to contact me about any of the information in this note.

John Fair  
October 2017