



Slow Food Northern Ohio Membership Meeting, March 2, 2010

Members of Slow Food Northern Ohio gathered on Tuesday, March 2 at the Happy Dog for our membership meeting. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to share a beverage, sample Happy Dog's hot dogs and their 50 creative toppings, and to get to know fellow Slow Food members a little better. Our thanks to the Happy Dog for their hospitality and to all who participated in this meeting.

A brief agenda included: introductions, background about Slow Food Northern Ohio, an update about several opportunities for members to get involved in Slow Food, and a discussion of 2010 event and program ideas.

Slow Food leaders happily announced that membership in our Convivium has nearly doubled in the past year. The Northern Ohio convivium currently has over 200 members, the largest number of since our founding in 1998. With so many new members and opportunities galore, 2010 is going to be a year of getting ourselves organized, while also exploring and celebrating our Northern Ohio food community.

The meeting kicked off with introductions from participating members. Each shared what interests them most about Slow Food. These introductions revealed what a talented and passionate group of members we are. Members participating in this meeting included: a Community Supported Agriculture leader, several chefs and restaurant staff, a veterinarian and animal welfare advocate, political activists, gardeners, and of course passionate cooks and local food enthusiasts.

One of the most exciting new opportunities for member involvement is the formation of Slow Food Northern Ohio's Advisory Board. Members in good standing are encouraged to apply. Additional information is available on the Slow Food Northern Ohio blog and on the attached Advisory Board Application Form. This board will advise Slow Food's leadership team and assist with event planning and coordination. The board will be comprised of 2-4 members at large, 1-2 farmers, and 1-2 chefs or members of the food industry. You must be an active member of Slow Food Northern Ohio to apply. The application is attached and should be submitted by March 23, 2010.

Another way to get involved with Slow Food Northern Ohio is to help plan a Slow Food event. Ad hoc event planners are always needed and this is a great way to expand the variety of events and programs we offer. If you are interested in planning and/or hosting a Slow Food event, please let us know by sending an email to slowfoodnorthernohio@gmail.com with a description of the event.

From time to time, Slow Food Northern Ohio also shares information about other opportunities that may be of interest to our members. Tremont Farmers' Market has asked us to communicate information about their Volunteer Chef Coordinator position for Tremont Farmers' Market. Please see the position description and further information at www.TremontFarmersMarket.com.

2010 Event & Program Discussion

Much discussion ensued about possible Slow Food Northern Ohio events for 2010. Opportunities abound and help will be needed to coordinate. A sign up sheet was circulated with the request for volunteers interested in working on a variety of programs and events including the following:

Terra Madre 2010: Terra Madre, Slow Food's biennial gathering of thousands of sustainable farmers and food producers in Torino, Italy will take place this October in conjunction with the Salone del Gusto (public event). Slow Food Northern Ohio hopes to participate once again by sending a small delegation. As soon as additional information is available about the event, we will be gearing up to hold nominations and kicking off fundraising efforts. Many of our programs for the coming year will be focused on Terra Madre and expanding our network of local farms and food producers. The Salone del Gusto will take place in Torino simultaneously and is open to the public. More information will be available soon at www.SlowFood.com and www.SlowFoodUSA.org. Slow Food member, Douglas Katz will be leading a tour of the Piedmont region of Italy that includes a trip to the Salone. For information please see information posted on the Slow Food blog and in attached email.

Ethnic Explorer Series: Many members have expressed interest in exploring Northern Ohio's ethnic eateries. These events will be casual, come as you are events held throughout the year. Announcements will be sent by email. We'll be kicking off the series this weekend w/ lunch at Superior Pho. Slow Food members and friends are invited to dine between 1 and 3pm on Saturday, March 13. Our next Ethnic Explorer Event will be Korean. Date will be announced soon.

Slow Food Spring Kickoff Celebration: Film Festival Screening of *Ingredients* followed by Green Drinks and Lunch at the Greenhouse Tavern, Sunday, March 21. Details soon!

Great Lakes Cheese Tasting at l'Albatros (May): We are working with Slow Food member Brandon Chrostowski who is the sommelier and cheese expert at l'Albatros to organize a tasting of cheeses from the Great Lakes region. Details available soon.

Maple Syrup Event: If any of our members have connections to maple syrup producers or the Burton Festival, please let us know. We would love to coordinate something this spring.

Bakeshop Series: Members have expressed interest in touring Cleveland bakeries. Plans are in the works and we'll keep you posted on upcoming dates and times.

Cheesemaking Workshops: We are working on a summer cheese-making workshop at Lucky Penny Creamery and will share information as soon as it is available.

Food Policy Issues: Many of you are aware that Issue 2 which passed last November created the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board. Slow Food, like many other supporters of sustainable food and agriculture, have concerns regarding the Livestock Care Standards Board and will continue to follow the issue.

Ohioans for Humane Farms has just kicked off a campaign to collect the 600,000+ signatures required to include an amendment on the November 2010 ballot that would require the board to adopt minimum standards for preventing the cruel and inhumane treatment of animals, enhance food safety, and strengthen Ohio family farms.

Slow Food Northern Ohio is hoping to coordinate a forum to educate members about this complex issue and the proposed November ballot initiative currently underway. We will have more details for you soon. To learn more about the issue, please visit www.OhioHumane.com.

Summer Member Picnic/Potluck: Our next membership meeting will likely be this summer. We would like to plan a potluck or casual farm event that would offer members the chance to bring a friend to Slow Food. We are currently looking for a venue that can accommodate a larger group. If you have suggestions, please let us know.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the March 2 membership meeting. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Slow Food event this spring!