

**National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Ohio Buckeye Chapter Dinner of Champions Gala  
Historical Fact Sheet**



**OHIO BUCKEYE CHAPTER DINNER OF CHAMPIONS**

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cleveland Dinner of Champions**

**Christopher M. Connor, Honoree**

Chairman & CEO, The Sherwin-Williams Company

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Executive Caterers at Landerhaven

**3rd Annual Akron/Canton Dinner of Champions**

**Thomas J. Strauss, Honoree**

President & CEO; Summa Health System

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Quaker Station at Quaker Square

**PURPOSE**

Christopher M. Connor and Thomas J. Strauss will be awarded the Norman Cohn Hope Award for their dedicated commitment to community service. Proceeds from the Dinner of Champions are used to provide programs and services to the more than 15,000 people with MS and their families in Ohio as well as to support research efforts to find the cause of and cure for Multiple sclerosis.

**EVENT HISTORY**

**Past Cleveland Dinner of Champions honorees:**

- 2008 Thomas F. Zenty III, CEO; University Hospitals
- 2007 Maria Miller; Samuel H. & Maria Miller Foundation
- 2006 Henry L. Meyer III, Chairman, President & CEO; KeyCorp
- 2005 Delos "Toby" M. Cosgrove III MD, President & CEO;  
Cleveland Clinic Health System
- 2004 Robert J. King, Jr., President & CEO; Fifth Third Bank
- 2003 Bishop Anthony M. Pilla; Cleveland Catholic Diocese
- 2002 Kent W. Clapp, CEO, Chair & President; Medical Mutual of Ohio
- 2001 David A. Daberko, Chairman & CEO; National City
- 2000 Umberto P. Fedeli, President & CEO; The Fedeli Group
- 1998 Alex Machaskee, Publisher, President & CEO; The Plain Dealer
- 1997 A. Malachi Mixon III, Chairman & CEO; Invacare Corp.
- 1996 Robert W. Gillespie, Chairman & CEO; KeyCorp
- 1995 Floyd D. Loop, Chairman, Board of Directors & Executive Vice  
President; The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

**Past Columbus Dinner of Champions honorees:**

- 2009 Jim Tressel, Head Football Coach, The Ohio State University
- 2007 Cheryl Krueger, President, CEO & Founder; Cheryl&Co.
- 2006 Carl Kohrt, President & CEO; Battelle
- 2005 Fred Sanfilippo MD, CEO, The Ohio State University Medical Center

**Past Akron/Canton Dinner of Champions honorees:**

- 2008 Anthony J. Alexander, President & CEO; FirstEnergy Corp.
- 2007 William H. Considine, President & CEO; Akron Children's Hospital

**Christopher M. Connor, 2009 Honoree, Cleveland Dinner of Champions**

Christopher M. Connor is Chairman and CEO of The Sherwin-Williams Company, an \$8 Billion Global Leader in the Paint and Coatings Industry.

His community engagements include the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, The Playhouse Square Foundation, United Way Services of Greater Cleveland, The Commission on Economic Inclusion, Team NEO, Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University, the National Manufacturers Association and The National Paint and Coatings Association. Mr. Connor is past Board Chair for Keep America Beautiful, University Hospitals Health System and Walsh Jesuit High School.

**Cleveland Dinner of Champions Committee**

**Co-Chairs**

Alexander M. Cutler, Eaton Corporation  
Donald Misheff, Ernst & Young  
Thomas F. Zenty, III, University Hospitals

Umberto P. Fedeli, The Fedeli Group  
Ed Hartzell, Antares Management Solutions  
Arnold King, The King Group  
Henry L Meyer, III, KeyBank  
Doug Price, Capital Advisors, Ltd  
Charles A. Ratner, Forest City Enterprises  
Tony Weber, Glazen Creative Studios  
Robert M. Wolff, Littler Mendelson, PC  
Alan Zang, KeyBank

**Committee**

Paul Carleton, Carleton Advisors LLC  
Margot Copeland, KeyCorp  
Lori DeVore, DeVore Technologies, Inc.  
Terrance C.Z. Egger, The Plain Dealer

**What is Multiple Sclerosis?**

Multiple sclerosis interrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body and stops people from moving. Every hour in the United States, someone is diagnosed with MS, an unpredictable and often disabling disease. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are moving us close to a world free of MS.

**National MS Society Contact**

Deborah Dey Emrick  
Corporate Relations Coordinator  
6155 Rockside Rd., Ste 202  
Independence, OH 44131

Ph: 216-503-4184  
Fax: 216-696-2817  
Deborah.DeyEmrick@nmssoha.org