

LEADER READER

A Message from our President:

Dear Friends:

On my way to the Clearwater downtown Public Library the other day I had an interesting “learning” experience. I discovered that there is a monthly leadership forum sponsored by Leadership Pinellas under the direction of Past President Scott Daniels '93 and **Pat Bauer '80**. I have certainly been aware of these meetings as advertised in the *Leader Reader*, but had not taken the time to attend. My loss.



Bud Elias '01
President

What a great concept! During these monthly lunchtime learning sessions we have a unique opportunity to vicariously experience the challenges, concerns, expectations, and disappointments of many of our community leaders.

For example, how many of you know anything about Tarpon Spring's sponge industry? I must admit that I knew very little about sponging other than what I see when visiting Tarpon's docks. Tarpon Springs Mayor **Beverley Billiris '00** was the guest speaker that day, and she shared her concerns about the current state of Tarpon's leading tourist attraction and staple industry, sponging. It was also interesting to learn that the mayor is the first female mayor ever to be featured in a nationally distributed magazine as she dons a deep water diving suit and submerges below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico in search of sponges.

Needless to say, I doubt that in the course of my workday I would have an opportunity to meet and talk with the Mayor of Tarpon Springs. For that matter I suspect it is true of most of us that we have missed an opportunity to be better informed, engaged citizens by passing on these learning opportunities.

Fortunately not all is lost, for the very last of the current “Leadership Series” will feature Country Administrator, Steve Spratt and Mary Brown, Executive Director of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative. This forum is scheduled for Thursday, August 3rd on the first floor of the downtown Clearwater Public Library. Plans are in process to reactivate this special series in the Fall, so watch for the announcement.

As graduates of Leadership Pinellas I encourage you to attend these informative, monthly learning series.

Many thanks to **Scott Daniels** and **Pat Bauer** for their vision and undaunted perseverance.

Bud Elias

First Social of the 2006-2007 year
come meet the new class
and renew friendships with your class

Friday, August 25, 2006

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

at

The Radisson

12600 Roosevelt Blvd., St. Petersburg

Hors d'oeuvres

Cash Bar

NO FEE

but we do need your RSVP to
727-585-8889 by August 23rd
so we can give an accurate number
to Catering

New 2006-2007 Directories will be available
so be sure to come to get your copy.

Don Wood '98 from Baghdad

I had not heard from Don and was concerned. I sent him an email when the bombing started in Lebanon and added "who would think Baghdad was a safer place to be over there!" These were his replies: /s/ H.

Hello Harriet, thanks for thinking of me and for being in touch. I'm still in Baghdad, and safe.

I was posted here for a 1 month tour June 14th, but I've now been asked to remain here until August 1st...seems it's difficult to get staffmembers to come here, especially during the hottest month of the year. Temperatures will top 130F by this time next month.

Given that in Pinellas we live with a heat index that's probably around 100F...Baghdad's dry desert heat doesn't feel as brutally hot to me as it does to my NY based colleagues. There is always a 10-20 mph breeze blowing here...so it's like living in a clothes dryer. And there's is always a cloud of micro-fine dust in the air...in fact the smell of Baghdad is dirt, and the predominant color here is dirt brown...the whole city is covered in that dust.

I posted a blog on MSNBC. com last week 'The Iraqi Gambler' I hope you'll take a moment to read it. Even here there are entrepreneurs.

There is so much to say about this place...this region, so much more than I can cram into emails. I was actually thinking of giving a talk or two with Q&A sessions when I return. What do you think of that idea? I have quite a few fotos and video I could include. I'm attaching a few more photos to this email

As always it's a pleasure to hear from LP members...it's a nice touch of home.

Thanks again Harriet for thinking of me and for being in touch.

Regards,
Don Wood, NBC News
Baghdad Bureau

Hi Harriet: So far, it's slow here today. The big stories on this side of the globe are G8 starting and Israel whacking Hezbollah, so barring any catastrophic developments we're not on the hook for any stories, although we're keeping an eye on the kidnapping of the Iraqi Olympic committee chairman and the female Sunni parliamentarian...

Here's the link to the blog, it's still current as of this morning.

http://onthescene.msnbc.com/baghdad/2006/07/an_iraqi_gamble.html#posts

Thanks for your thoughts on the talk... I really view it as my responsibility to share what I've learned, and my impressions from over here beyond the headlines. If you think the LP membership would find it interesting and helpful, I'd be happy to do it...perhaps something casual during a lunch hour. I am certainly open to any suggestions. Cheers,

I think this deserves more than a lunch hour - how about an "after work" social?
Please let me know what you think - harrietcoren@ij.net

Tentative Schedule of 2006-2007 Program Days

8/25-8/26/06	Opening Retreat	2/14/07	Health
9/13/06	Human Services	3/18-3/20/07	Tallahassee Trip
10/19/06	Arts and Culture	4/11/07	Criminal Justice
11/8/06	Business and Technology	5/9/07	Environment and Infrastructure
12/13/06	Government and Media	5/12/07 pm	Graduation and Annual Meeting
1/10/07	Education		



This is not my desk

from the desk of
Harriet Coren,
Executive Director

Hello all - no new directory listings in this column this month because the 2006-2007 directory will be ready for distribution at the new class Retreat Social on Friday, August 25th. See page 2 of this issue and please RSVP as soon as possible to 727-785-7117 so we can give the count to catering at the Radisson. The alumni was sparsely represented last year, so please do come and meet the new class.

The closest guess of the number of questionnaires returned was just one digit away from the full count so thanks to all of you who participated ... from the one alum who guessed 1,652 ... down to the one who estimated 10. (Oh ye of little faith.) Be sure to be at the Retreat Social to see who it was who won their dues of \$55 returned from Coren Corporation. A few of you were very close, either over or under, but the winner was just one number away. I will bring the questionnaire with me to the Retreat.

Some suggestions for upcoming activities were very interesting ... Catherine Ostrander '03, now in Colorado, suggested an after-hours in Denver. There were several requests for BBQs at a park, activities at the beach, a meeting with legislative delegates after the election, individual class reunion parties, a Derby Party, a SuperBowl Party, a special gathering with Youth Leadership, another trip to MacDill, a Comedy Club outing, rent a party bus for a night out on the town, a reunion to honor past presidents ... and Father Madden offered to have an Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service for deceased LP grads and their families. Thx for all your suggestions, they will be turned over to Karen Seel '91, Chair of Alumni Activities.

Also, please see the bottom line of page 3 of this issue from Don Wood '98 and let me know your thoughts about an appropriate meeting time and place for the Q&A session when his tour of duty is completed on August 1. It will be nice to welcome him home.

**We express sincere condolences to
Karen Williams Seel
and her family
in Memory of her Mother,
Eleanor K. Williams**



Closing Program

On Thursday, August 3rd the Leadership Lunch Series will culminate with presentations by County Administrator, Steve Spratt and Mary Brown, Executive

Director of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative.

These leaders manage programs and departments that provide services to both city residences and those who live in unincorporated areas of Pinellas County. Their presentations will offer insights into their current responsibilities as well as their career paths. Of course, the focus of the program will be a discussion of the books that have impacted their lives and leadership roles.

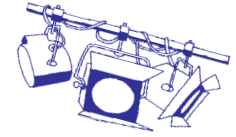
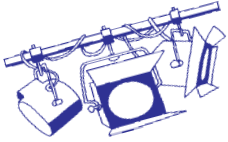
The August program will mark the end of a year long series, coordinated by Past President Scott Daniels '93 and Pat Bauer '80, that served to publicize the Leadership Collection established through the generosity of members of Leadership Pinellas. This collection found on the fourth floor of the Clearwater Public Library has both current and classic leadership materials and is available through reciprocal borrowing to all library card holders in the Tampa Bay area.

To search the collection, go to the web page: www.myclearwater.com/cpl/ of the Clearwater Public Library and search "Leadership." Materials may be requested online and delivered to your closest public library.

Leadership Pinellas recognizes the leaders who have presented at the Leadership Lunch series starting in July 2005 and offers appreciation for their participation in the program:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Beverly Billiris '00 | Susan Latvala |
| Mary Brown | Martha Lenderman '91 |
| Jim Coats '02 | Dan Mann '90 |
| Pam Corbino '93 | Steve Mason |
| Holly Duncan '84 | Diane Nelson '99 |
| Bud Elias '01 | Sallie Parks '82 |
| Robin Gomez '03 | Susan Rolston '98 |
| Isay Gulley '96 | Judge Jack St. Arnold '91 |
| Frank Hibbard '00 | Karen Seel '91 |
| Bill Horne '01 | Judge Morris Silberman '90 |
| Dr. Cynthia Johnson '05 | Christopher Still |
| Judge Nelly Khouzam '90 | Steve Spratt |
| Carl Kuttler, Jr. | Howard Troxler |
| Deborah Kynes '89 | Clayton Wilcox |

Volunteer Organization Spotlight of the Month Someone Is Waiting Just For You



Just imagine this all too common scenario ... you're sick and need medical attention but you have no insurance and can't afford the doctor's office visit. If you manage to come up with the money for the office visit, what happens if testing and or medications are needed. What if the illness is a chronic one that requires continued treatment? You can't miss work because your family depends upon you for support. What would you do? Now imagine this... you're not the one who is sick, your child is.

This is a frightening scenario that is all too common for the low-income, medically uninsured. More and more we see this group of individuals ignoring significant health problems until a serious crisis occurs. Fortunately in upper Pinellas County, the volunteer-driven Clearwater Free Clinic is able to provide **free** problem-oriented health care to this rising population.

With the support of our generous community, the Clearwater Free Clinic is able to provide services that include office visits, lab work, x-rays, medications, referrals to specialists and procedures. In 2005 12,000 office visits were recorded and 24,000 courses of medications were distributed.

The Clinic relies solely on donated services and financial assistance from donations, grants and fundraising. We do not receive regular government or United Way support.

How can Leadership Pinellas help? Be informed about the Clearwater Free Clinic and spread the word to those who may need our help. The Clinic operates on volunteer services so if you know of a health care professional who is looking for a meaningful volunteer placement, please direct them to the Clinic.

Thank you in advance for helping us to help others.

**Clearwater Free Clinic
707 N. Ft. Harrison Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33755
Phone: 727-443-5215
Jeannie Shapiro '00
Executive Director**

Volunteer Organization Spotlight of the Month

We would like to make this a monthly feature of our *Leader Reader* as space permits, so if you have a suggestion for a future issue, please submit it to the Editorial Committee, Leadership Pinellas, P. O. Box 5986, Clearwater, FL 33758-5986. Deadline for the next issue is July 27, 2006.

