

# LEADER READER

## A Message from our President:

Dear Friends:

Here we go again! A very promising beginning!



Bud Elias '01  
President

This past weekend featured our forty new 2006-2007 classmates at the opening Retreat held at the Radisson Hotel. As perhaps you vividly recall your own experience at your opening Retreat, the process of identifying personality characteristics took place, courtesy of Judy Siracusa '95. Dora, Irene, Sara and Cornelia dramatically portrayed the peculiarities of the "D's," the "I's," the "S's," and the "C's." Hopefully, our new class members were sensitive to the fact that the success of the opening Retreat was dependent upon the dedication and commitment of our graduates.

Specifically, that dedication and commitment is personified through the continued efforts of Judy, Pat Siracusa '97 and Debby White '95. They have, year after year, tirelessly expended their time and talents to assure the ongoing success of our opening Retreat. As an organization, and individually, we are truly indebted to these three individuals.

Needless to say, the Program Day skits were original, entertaining and informative. Obviously, a lot of time and effort goes into the planning and execution of these very brief vignettes. Thanks to Program Day Chair, Ed Halleran '03 and Co-Administrators, Melissa Allen '01, Teresa Hibbard '06, John Kamkutis '03 and George LaBanca '03.

A very large thank you to the alumni who attended the Social Hour. It was fun to meet graduates who have been conspicuously absent from recent LP events, as well as representatives from our many graduated classes. This is one of the few opportunities our new class members have to experience the support of our graduates who are committed to the continued success of Leadership Pinellas.

Now the Program year begins. Ed Halleran '03 and his group have been busy preparing for this class year, and expectations are running high that this will be one of the most interesting years ever. Likewise, Karen Seel '91, Alumni Development Chair has been busy working on some ideas that, most definitely, should peak all of our interests.

It should also be noted that a special "knock your socks off" event is being planned by chair, Susan Benjamin '95, with the help of Jill Carbonelli '04, Kristi Cottier '01, Gary Hallas '06, Sean Jowell '04, Carol Parks '99, Sarah Pickett '06, Carol-Lynn Roman '06 and Stephanie Zaragoza '00.

You will not want to miss this unique and challenging event. Please watch for the date and time in the October 2006 *Leader Reader*.

**Bud Elias**

## 2007 Class Retreat - August 25 and 26, 2006

at the Radisson

by

*Allyn Childress, Class Reporter*

Who has a black-belt? Who is the pyrotechnics fan? And how does one “accidentally” run a marathon?!? These are just a few of the questions that were pondered during the recent retreat for the Class of 2007.

Judy Siracusa '93 gamely held court over an animated group of 40 participants during the kick-off for the new program year. She engaged us in numerous activities that helped us learn about each other – our jobs, our interests, our personalities.

The DiSC analysis was informative and entertaining. After Judy and her four “friends” illustrated the different personality types, we were quick to identify the

get-down-to-business folks (D)'s

the party-ers (i)'s

the team players (S)'s; and

those who would keep us on the straight and narrow for the rest of the retreat (C)'s.

The year to come was literally played out for us through numerous skits and presentations by Leadership veterans. The performances were all entertaining and informative, but the prize went to the most arresting performance – the Clearwater SWAT team – for the Criminal Justice Day.

The Friday night reception allowed us to get to know many Leadership alumni, two of whom kicked off the dinner and dancing portion of the evening for us! Following dinner, the “I” in many of us came out in full force on the dance floor.

We left the retreat contemplating several ideas for our Class Project and looking forward to the first program day (Human Services, September 13<sup>th</sup>).

Our many thanks to Judy, her husband Pat '95, Debbie White '95, Odalys Lara '94, and Harriet Coren '99 for creating a wonderful start to our year.

Next stop: Belleair and 19 on September 13th!

### 2006-2007 Program Days

9/13/06	Human Services	2/14/07	Health Day
10/19/06	Arts and Culture (Thursday)	3/18 to 3/20/07	Tallahassee Trip
11/8/06	Business and Technology	4/11/07	Criminal Justice
12/13/06	Government and Media	5/9/07	Environment and Infrastructure
1/10/07	Education	5/12/07	Graduation and Annual Meeting



Closing Meeting  
of the  
Lunch at the Library  
Thursday Series

Welcome Home  
Don Wood '98  
MSNBC Reporter  
from Baghdad

Thursday, September 7, 2006  
noon to 1:00 p.m.

Watch his brief presentation  
and then participate  
in his Q & A session

No charge -  
just bring your lunch  
or buy it at  
Joffrey's in the lobby

Space is limited so call in your  
RSVP to 727-585-8889  
and feel free to invite a friend  
Main Library, 100 N. Osceola, Clearwater

## Youth Leadership Pinellas

The Youth Leadership Pinellas Program is currently recruiting new members for the 2006-2007 class AND recruiting Leadership Pinellas alumni who are interested in volunteering with the program. It is sponsored by Leadership Pinellas and the YMCA of the Suncoast. Similar to Leadership Pinellas, the program seeks to provide information on community resources and issues, develop an excellence in leadership, build teamwork skills, and foster involvement in community services for a diverse group of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students.

Youth Leadership Pinellas is a seven-month program, operating from November through May. Participants meet for five full day sessions, attend an orientation retreat and graduation event. The students will also be required to develop and execute a community based service project.

A wide range of topics exposes participants to the decisions facing our community today. Emphasis is on active, hands-on experience that makes the learning meaningful and interesting. Program topics include: Retreat (Nov 12); Business/Media (Dec. 14); Health/Human Services (Jan. 11); Education (Feb. 8); Government (March 8); Criminal Justice (Apr. 12) and Graduation in May.

The program is run separately from any school-sponsored program. Students are responsible for making up any and all work missed during the school day and for excusing the absence.

An application must be completed and submitted by the deadline to be eligible for consideration. Applicants are formally interviewed by a Selection Committee and are evaluated on individual merits, as well as the basis of the overall class dynamics, ensuring that members reflect the community at large.

The student participant cost is \$85 for the year. Scholarships are available when need exists. Youth Leadership Pinellas is committed to being open to all qualified participants regardless of ability to pay.

Volunteers from Leadership Pinellas Alumni are needed for the program Selection Committee and to help with the organization of the program days.

For more information on the Youth Leadership Pinellas program, for a program application, or to volunteer for the program, please contact Stephanie Zaragoza at the YMCA at 467-9622 or Leadership Pinellas at 585-8889. The application deadline is October 2, 2006.



from the desk of  
**Harriet Coren,**  
Executive Director

Here is a "first" for my column ... **Brenda Green '07** - (yes, brand new incoming class) has already completed her Ride-Along! Had a few interesting experiences she probably would not have had if she was not in LP.

We have a change in the 2007 class roster. Barbara Hubbard accepted a new position that would not give her the time to fulfill all of our requirements and we invited Shary Hauer of the Hauer Group to join the class.

Due to a death in her family, Janice Howard could not attend the Retreat and Rick Stuart is now a Class Member.

The photographs of the 2007 class are in our website at [www.leadershoppinellas.com](http://www.leadershoppinellas.com) and link on to News/Gallery.

The 2006-2007 Membership Directories were hot off the press and distributed at the Retreat on August 25th. We have some changed listings already and this is a good opportunity to keep your copy up-to-date with this column each month. I will share them with you when I receive them:

**Germaine Jackson '06**  
email: [bgj511@aol.com](mailto:bgj511@aol.com)

**Gwin Anne Londrigan '07**  
cell: 642-8526

**Donna Nettestad '00**  
fax: 799-0388-w

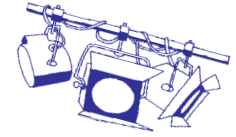
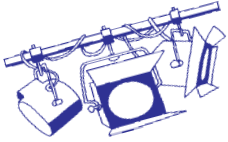
**Catherine Ostrander '03**  
email: [catherineostrander@yahoo.com](mailto:catherineostrander@yahoo.com)

**Kathy Short Rabon '90** work:  
Salvador Dali Museum, Deputy Director and  
Director of Development, 1000 Third Street S.,  
St. Petersburg, 33701; cell: 278-0109; phone:  
823-3767 x3031; fax: 894-6068  
email: [krabon@salvadoralimuseum.org](mailto:krabon@salvadoralimuseum.org)

**Peter Rivellini '01**  
phone: 461-1818; fax: 461-8617

# Volunteer Organization Spotlight of the Month

## Someone Is Waiting Just For You



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a **non-partisan**, political organization. It educates, advocates, and even litigates. Its members craft fact-based positions on major issues of public policy at the grassroots level and then act to carry them out at the national, state, county and municipal levels of government.

Leagues work diligently to engage people in the political process. Voter education activities include:

- Publishing voter election guides with candidates' profiles and unbiased statements on ballot questions
- Sponsoring candidate forums from city hall to the White House
- Providing expert speakers on governmental issues

The League's goal for the 2006 Election Cycle is that no eligible voter in Florida is disenfranchised. To protect the Voter, the League has published "Why Should I Vote?" It is available in English and in Spanish at [www.lwvfla.org](http://www.lwvfla.org). The publication provides voting information for the seasoned and new voter on a variety of topics including criteria for eligibility to vote, what citizens need to register and vote, including picture and signature ID, where and when to request provisional or absentee ballots, and how to find out if your vote was counted.

The League is an outgrowth of the suffragist movement. It was founded in 1920 six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on August 26, giving women the right to vote after a 57-year struggle.

The league is looking for men and women – like you- who are independent of mind, inquisitive, public-spirited and who want to be heard by their governmental representatives. To learn how you can be heard, visit the website at [www.lwvfla.org](http://www.lwvfla.org) or contact Dianne Wheatley- Giliotti, President, at 727 734 2968

Remember to vote on  
**September 5** and **November 7**.  
Poor voter turnout leads elected officials  
to think that you really are not interested  
nor concerned with how they govern.

## 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 August 25, 2006.

