

June 2007

LEADER READER

A Message from our President:

Dear Friends:

Wow, it is hard to believe how quickly this past year has gone. I know the class of 2006 - 2007 felt that way at graduation. In the words expressed by one of their members, "They enjoyed every event, learned much, and made some tremendous friends," and as Allyn Childress '07, the class reporter expressed, they were still jazzed up about meeting the governor on the Tallahassee Trip as well as so many other wonderful experiences. Congratulations to the Class of 2006 – 2007!



Odalys Lara '94
President

The last Leadership Day this year was Environment Infrastructure Day! Yes, this is the trip everyone remembers, the trip to the dump. Our day coordinators, Jan Tracy '96, Jane Muhrlin '95 and Pat Marzulli '05, did a fantastic job of planning and executing this day! Thank you for concluding the class year with a stylish yet bit smelly bang!

This year's annual banquet was filled with many surprises, and the opportunity to express our gratitude and best wishes to our retiring Executive Director, Harriet Coren '99. Her children, Buzz and Suzie, enjoyed sharing their memories of growing up with Harriet and enlightened us about the many things that their mom has done over the years. We thank you Harriet for all the years of untiring dedication. Enjoy a well deserved retirement!

As is also tradition at the annual banquet we presented the "Deborah Vincent Distinguished Alumni Leadership Award". This year's award was bestowed upon Judy Mitchell '91. Judy is among many things, a past president of Leadership ('96 – '97), she also won the Mrs. Clearwater award this year, and is the first female Chair of the Morton Plant Mease Hospitals' Board of Directors. Judy is the ultimate in volunteerism and dedication to her community, she also sits on the Board of her daughters' school, as well as so many other organizations that are blessed to have her. Yes, she does actually have a day job, she is the President of Peter Brown Construction. Judy, we are all very proud of you and grateful for all you have done and continue to do for Leadership Pinellas and our community.

Many thanks go out to Ed Halleran '03 and Jeff Joyner '05, who planned the awesome banquet. Those of you who were fortunate enough to be there know that when it was time to sit down and the music stopped we were out of chairs. Some of us were left standing, momentarily. What a terrific problem to have. I wish this would happen at all of our events.

I would also like to thank our outgoing Board Members Georgetta Doyle '05, and Pat Perzel '93 for their dedication and constant support to the program. And last but not least, I would like to thank Art Shand '00 our Past-President, who is near and dear to my heart, for his continued involvement since his graduation. He was Planning Chair for two years and has done the Tallahassee trip for the last six years. His continued dedication and leadership is very much appreciated.

(continued on page 2)

A Message From Our President (cont.)

In closing my first letter as your new President let me just say that it is my very strong desire to carry forward the great tradition of 28 years of LP and as my predecessors have, focus on the betterment of this respected organization.

To this end, I thank Past President Bud Elias '01 and welcome our President-Elect Chris Ruppel '03. I would also like to welcome our incoming newly elected board members, Ed Halleran '03, George Koder '06, Karen Seel '91, and newly appointed board members, Pat Perzel '93 (Planning Chair), Melissa Allen '01 (Alumni Chair), Matt Novak '06 (Public Relations and Communications Chair) to this important calling!

I look forward to working with all of you and having a fun and exciting year!

Yours in service,

Odalys Lara '94

O-O-P-S !!!



Criminal Justice Day
April 11, 2007

Coordinators were:

Judge Jack St. Arnold '91
Lester Aradi '06
Kim Campbell '05
Jane Helms '98
Lisa Hurley '06
George Koder '06

Sorry, folks - you all did such a great job and we want you to be properly commended.

Have you signed up for 2008?

New Dates for your Calendar:

2008 Class Social

Friday, Aug. 24, 2007

5:30 to 7:00 pm

Radisson Hotel

12600 Roosevelt Blvd.

St. Petersburg

[more information to follow](#)

Leadership Pinellas Trip
to Washington DC
Sept. 26 - 28, 2007

Plans are again underway with Karen Seel. She will advise airline and hotel reservations as soon as they are complete.

Tentative schedule: First Day:
The White House, The Pentagon.
Arlington. Embassy Visit.

2nd Day: Capitol, Congressman
Young's office, Lunch at Capitol Hill
Club, Visit to NIH, Supreme Court.

More info: leadershippinellas.com

Executive Director Position

Please forward recommendations for the Leadership Pinellas Executive Director position. We initially hired Shawna Koder as the new Executive Director.

Unfortunately, she was not able to fulfill the position for personal reasons and we regret that she has resigned.

Please forward the names or resumes of any potential candidates to:

Recruiting@leadershippinellas.com.

Class of 2007 Environment and Infrastructure Day, May 9, 2007

by *Allyn Childress, Class Reporter*

The ashen skies parted for a picture-perfect day on May 9th, a wonderful ending for our Leadership program days. The Environment and Infrastructure Day began at Pinellas County's Emergency Operations Center. There we heard about the complexities involved in responding to a wide variety of potential emergencies, such as hurricanes and other large-scale disasters, as well as the daily response to citizens' needs in the 911 dispatch office.

A panel of experts discussed affordable housing and offered perspectives on this increasingly challenging issue from county government, development companies, and non-profit organizations. We heard from Bruce Bussey, Urban Development Manager for Pinellas County Community Development, **Mike Meidel '98**, Director of Economic Development for Pinellas County, Steven Kurcan, Vice President of Development for Grady Pridgen, Inc., and **Barbara Inman '05**, Executive Director of Pinellas Habitat for Humanity.

The Intelligent Traffic System was introduced by **Commissioner Karen Seel '91** who initiated this effort at the county. Staff from the Public Works/Transportation Department went on to explain the basic mechanics of the system and the improvements in traffic flow to date.

Our next stop was at Lake Seminole Park where an outdoor lunch provided by Colliers Arnold was enjoyed by all. We were then provided with an overview of the county's park system that includes over 4,000 acres in 31 parks. We were also given the history and current challenges of Lake Seminole itself where efforts to improve water quality and restore natural habitats are underway.

Back on the bus, one of the day's organizers, **Jan Tracy '96**, gave an overview of the county's reclaimed water facility. This system cleans wastewater for use in irrigation systems, serving approximately 25% of the county's residents. The facility also recycles sludge into fertilizer pellets and collects methane as well.

Our next stop was Progress Energy, where we were given a tour of their impressive Energy Control Center. Here they attempt to match the generation of electricity with the current load or usage. A complex system tracks and guides power from their suite of uranium, coal, heavy oil, and combined cycle plants to where it is needed throughout their coverage area.

Our last stop was at the county's Solid Waste Facility where the bus successfully navigated the tipping floor. This facility, while best known for its highly visible landfill, also includes a recycling center and generates electricity from the combustion of non-recyclable waste.

Thank you to the organizers of this whirlwind day: **Jan Tracy '96**, **Jane Muhrlin '95**, and **Pat Marzulli '05**. And thanks to **Ed Halleran '03** for coordinating a terrific year for us!

Best wishes to the Class of 2008 – you're gonna love it!

Program Class Day dates for 2007-2008
will be printed in the July *Leader Reader*

Annual Meeting and 2007 Class Graduation

May 12, 2007
Island Way Grille,
Clearwater Beach

If you missed this special evening, you missed a wonderful social event, where President Bud Elias '01 dismissed the Georgetta Doyle '05, Chris Ruppell '03, and Pat Perzel-Geller '93 as 2006-2007 board members. He thanked them all for their participation and dedication through their two-year term. President-Elect Odalys Lara '94 installed Melissa Allen '01, Ed Halleran '03, Matt Novak '06 and Karen Seel '91 as 2007-2008 incoming board members.

The 2007 Class and their guests were quickly becoming alumni, receiving their plaques and photo albums by Ed Halleran '03. There was a picture on the front of the albums with Governor Charlie Crist who joined them for part of their Tallahassee trip. A delicious meal was served and enjoyed by all.

Soon-to-retire Executive Director, Harriet Coren, '99 thanked all of Leadership Pinellas who had become her extended family since her husband, Joe, passed away. She reviewed some highlights from her 9-year-tenure including the website, sending of the Leader Reader over the internet and reformatting the applications so they could be requested and completed through our website.

She was presented with an official Proclamation from the Pinellas County Commission by Commissioner Karen Seel '91, including six (6) "WHEREAS" paragraphs and announced that May 12, 2007 would be Harriet Coren Day. She was also given a beautiful tall hand-painted glass vase and a bouquet of flowers.

She said she was leaving the position of Executive Director, but not Leadership Pinellas and looked forward to seeing everyone again at upcoming events.



from the desk of
Harriet Coren,
Executive Director

Directory changes for this month:

Patrick Donoghue '07 235 Scotland St., Dunedin 34698 (h)

Karen Fitzpatrick '07 2717 Seville Blvd. #11106,
Clearwater, FL 33764, Phone: 796-2645 (h)
Email: eyesonzion@tampabay.rr.com

Nancy M. Ridenour '98 29750 U.S. 19 N., #101
Clearwater 33761 email: nridenour@pdr-cpa.com

Rich Walling '07 1125 Hunters Place, Oldsmar 34677 (h)

A Personal Note:

I have submitted my letter of resignation as Executive Director of Leadership Pinellas effective May 31, 2007, so this will be my final column.

I hope you have noted the updates and changes I have included over the last 9 years to keep your membership directory up to date.

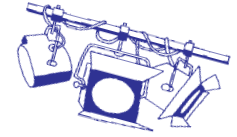
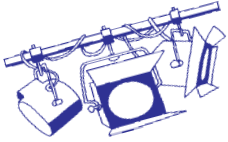
Dues notices have been mailed along with the usual questionnaire. Your current listing will be at the bottom, so please make any changes necessary and return this questionnaire in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope as soon as possible.

Time is of the essence this year since we have a very small window of time required in getting the changes proofread and to Dial Directories. If we don't have it in time to distribute at the Retreat Social to welcome the Class of 2008 on August 24, 2007, we will incur a large first class mailing postage charge.

Also, your dues check will be required with that mailing by July 16 for your information to be included in the new directory. Unfortunately there were a few last year who sent in their dues checks after the date dues were due, and the printer had already started on the new directories, so their information was not listed.

I will be paying my dues on June 1 and plan to remain an active member of Leadership Pinellas. Hope to see you throughout the year.

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



GRAND OPENING!

New HEP Kitchen & Dining Facility



Friday, June 15, 2007

12:00pm – 2:00pm

Agenda

12:00 p.m. Kitchen Tour

12:15 p.m. Welcome Address

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Award Ceremony

Don't miss this events mouth-watering menu specially prepared by the skilled chefs at Carlouel Yacht Club!

Please R.S.V.P to Rebecca Lett,
727-442-9041 X 110 or rlett@ethep.org



Homeless
Emergency
Project

1120 North Betty Lane – Clearwater, FL 33755 – 727-442-9041 – www.ethep.org

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 June 22, 2007.

