

September 2005

LEADER READER

A Message from our President:

Dear Friends,

As I embark on authoring this month's article, I am perplexed as to how to go about opening it up for you. There is so much excitement this time of year about Leadership Pinellas that the opening of this note must have power, color, jubilation, anticipation, and charisma all of which needs to encompass this enthusiasm we all feel.... You know, (it must be football season again!) Why you might ask? Well here is the long and the short of it. The first thing that came to mind was Hank Williams Jr.'s now famous line for Monday night football: "Are you ready for some football"?!



Art Shand '00
President

Well, here it goes..... "Are you ready for some Leadership Pinellas!!!??? Naturally that sounds a bit different but you get the message! So, lets get this show/program/party started!!!

OPENING RETREAT!!! It's Here! Where? When? You might ask. September 9th at the Radisson Hotel on Roosevelt Blvd. in St. Petersburg (see page three and call 727-585-8889 to RSVP). Bottom line is, we invite you all to join us in giving this year's incoming class a great big ole LP, leadership welcome at the annual and INFAMOUS RETREAT SOCIAL! Come on down and spoil yourself with the company of this great new class, see your fellow alums, have a few of your favorite beverages, munch on some excellent hors d'oeuvres and collect those coveted colored dots! Special thanks go out to **Debbie White '95** for making the arrangements for this year's retreat. (Debbie has been planning this for the past 12 months). Furthermore, special thanks go out to **Judy Siracusa '95** and **Pat Siracusa '97**, who have also been working very hard to make this retreat better yet. Debbie, Judy and Pat have been committed to this LP activity for years! You all are the best!

Naturally, I would be incredibly remiss not to mention our Planning Chair, **Ed Halleran '03** who has been working with all of the volunteers, not the least of whom are the day Administrators and Coordinators to pull off the famous program day skits we all know and love. Of note, this Retreat will have involved more than 50 LP alumni volunteers to make it successful. Way to go gang!

As many of you know, the recent **Hands Across the Bay** event held in conjunction with Leadership St Pete, Leadership Tampa, Leadership Tampa Bay and Leadership Hillsborough at the Raymond James Financial Headquarters in the Carillon Center was an incredible success! Over one hundred and ninety leadership alumni came together from all over the bay area for a truly special evening and experience.

For those of you who did not make the deadline inside the maximum allowable attendees set by the museum we apologize and encourage you to take your families to see the remarkable collection of art. It is arguably the largest collection of art by living artists in the southeastern United States containing over 1900 individual pieces of all types of sculptures, oils, acrylics, mixed media, glass etc.... WOW!

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On behalf of Leadership Pinellas, I wish to publicly thank Mr. Tom James of the Raymond James family for his hospitality, his and his family's commitment to this community through jobs, foundation and volunteer donations of all types and for their commitment to living artists. Additionally, I thank **Nadine Nickeson '98** and **Karen Seel '91** for their involvement in the planning of this program with the other regional Leadership organizations. It is obvious ***Hands Across the Bay*** is here to stay and its popularity has taken off like a rocket! I can hardly wait until next year's program! Don't forget to register early!

To all of you who have again submitted your annual dues for this coming year let me just say, you have illustrated to yourself and the community, your commitment goes beyond words and resides in actions. It is a testament to all of our beliefs, that this program is worthwhile and provides education and meaning for all of those who follow in our footsteps and wish to give back more than they take for this community, (our home).

Next, let me toss out a couple of teasers! Coming up and occurring each month on the first Thursday at noon is the Leadership Library Lunch Series at the Clearwater Main Library, 100 N. Osceola. Speakers on Sept. 1st will be **Isay Gulley '96** and Christopher Still, Tarpon Springs renowned artist. This function is being well attended and has been a lot of fun. Come and join us, wont you?

Secondly, the LP Holiday Happening is all the buzz among **Karen Seel** and her committee of alumni volunteers. TOP SECRET is the message we are getting about the planning of this year's event! How much fun!! We are all on the edge our seats waiting for the announcement.... Where, When, at What time? Rumbblings from unnamed, confidential, XX spy-type sources rumor that this year's event is going to knock the bells right off your Holiday Elf Shoes!!! We will keep you posted!

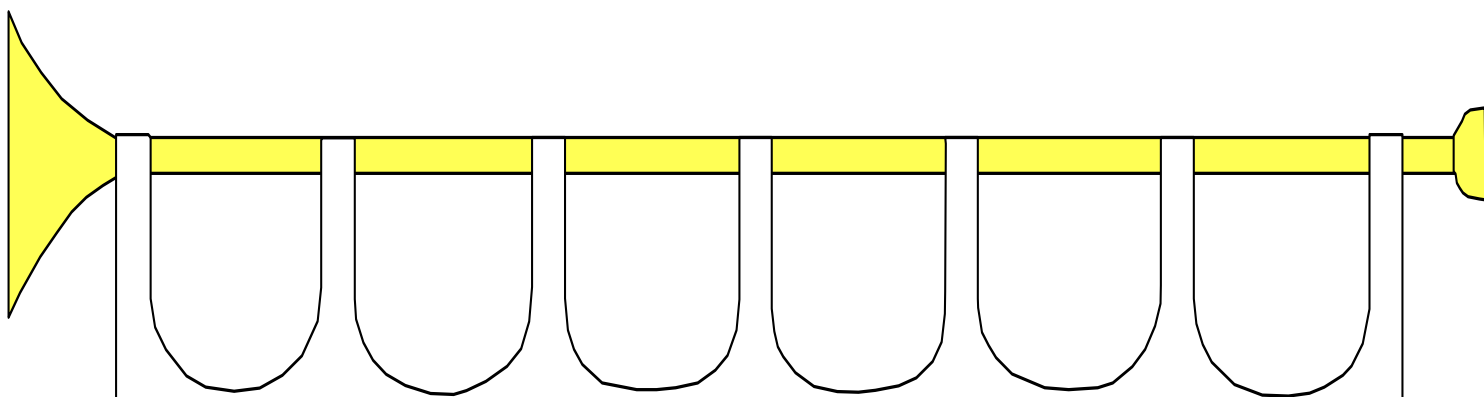
In closing, I now write to you that which you and I hoped and prayed so hard I would never have to write... We have lost one of our very best on Thursday, August 4, 2005. Our dear and beloved friend, pal, fellow leader and respected community partner, **Ken Waters '81** lost his incredible and gallant fight with a rare and ravaging cancer. Ken fought as ferociously as any man or woman could fight. The courage and bravery he illustrated through all aspects of his life stood by him in the dignity of his death. I told myself I would not shed tears while writing you this note but I simply cannot do it. Ken would want me not to be sorrowful in the delivery of this message and I know that, but it is with a heavy heart that I try not to.

Let me say this of our heroic friend. He was a US Army veteran patriot who served our country with honor in foreign conflicts, he was a husband to his beautiful wife, Dottie and a father to his remarkable daughter, Kristi (it should not surprise you she is bright, strong and articulate just like him), and Granddaddy to his precious Raechel. He was all things admirable in a person. His lifetime commitment to his family, his community and his friends resides at the pinnacle of lifetime achievement. He was and is an example of who we all hope to be.

Ken had just been given the Leadership Pinellas Debra Vincent Distinguished Alumni Award and had also just been given the news he had been personally appointed by Governor Bush to the State Water Board, (a very high level committee for the planning and protection of our state wide water resources). He was so honored and excited about this appointment. He was enjoying life to the fullest degree possible. I tell you this because the LP award and the news of the Governor's appointment came to him just before he found out he was so ill. One of the messages I believe deeply Ken would want you to take into your life from his death would be the understanding that every day is indeed a gift. Live your life with passion and love. Let those you love know it and make the very best you can of every moment. Ken, through his life, has left in his legacy proof that we can all reach out and grab all the zest life has to offer and then turn right around and give it back to others.

Ken, your life now lives on through all of those you touched ever so softly and ever so deeply. We celebrate you. Thank you Ken, for giving us you...

Art Shand



*You are cordially invited to attend the
2006 Class Social
on Friday, September 9, 2005
from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
at The Radisson Hotel
12600 Roosevelt Blvd.
St. Petersburg*

*hors d'oeuvres and cash bar
meet the new class
revisit with your class members
compete in the battle of the colored dots
get your new 2005-2006 directory*

Please RSVP to 727-585-8889 by Sept. 6.



The Clearwater Main Library is the home of the Leadership Library, a collection of books and other materials established through a partnership with Leadership Pinellas. The public is invited to the Special Collections Room on the 4th floor where they will find our collection.

Our "lunch series" invites you and your guests to join us on the first Thursday of every month from noon until 1:00 p.m. We meet in the first floor conference room at the Main Library, 100 N. Osceola Avenue in downtown Clearwater. Bring your lunch or buy one at Joffrey's Cafe.

Each month, members of the business community, local government and others will share books and authors who have inspired personal and professional growth and development.

The Thursday, September 1 presentation will feature local Community Housing Specialist, Isay Gulley '96 and renowned Tarpon Springs artist, Christopher Sill.

On Thursday, October 6, come to hear the President/CEO of Morton Plant Mease Foundation, Holly Duncan '84 and Dr. Carl Kuttler, President of St. Petersburg College.

Thursday, November 3 is scheduled for Martha Lenderman '91, Community Health Advocate and Circuit Court Judge Jack St. Arnold '91.

Be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming educational events. Anyone interested in contributing donations to our Leadership Library Foundation, please call 727-480-3515.



This is not my desk

**from the desk of
Harriet Coren,
Dir. of Adm. Services**

Current changes to the directory:

No directory changes this month - they will all be in the new 2005-2006 Leadership Pinellas directory and will be available at the 2006 Class Retreat Social at The Radisson Hotel, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd. in St. Petersburg on Friday, September 9 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Please call 727-585-8889 to RSVP so we can give an accurate count to the Catering Department for delicious hors d'oeuvres. What a great opportunity to socialize again with members of your class and other classes.

Have fun participating in the famous contest for the colored dots when you introduce yourself to the new class members.

Last but not least will be the announcement of the winner of the \$55 check from Coren Corporation to the member who guessed closest to the number of responses received on the membership questionnaire for the directory.

See you there!

Youth Leadership

Applications for the Youth Leadership Pinellas Program have been distributed to the Guidance Counselors at local High Schools for students in 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

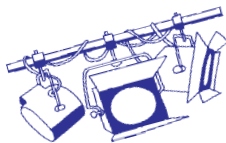
This is a wonderful opportunity to start potential future leaders on a well established community learning experience, similar to our own Leadership Pinellas program.

Application deadline is September 23, 2005 and student participation cost is \$85 for the year. Scholarships are available when the need exists.

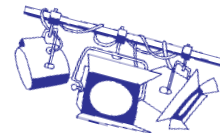
For further information, please contact Stephanie Zaragoza '00 at the YMCA, 467-9622.

We extend our condolences to Holly Duncan '84 and her family on the passing of her father, Martin Hecht on August 7, 2005.

Volunteer Organization Spotlight of the Month



Someone Is Waiting Just For You
at
The Humane Society of Pinellas



The Humane Society of Pinellas is a nonprofit animal shelter that has served the community through compassionate care of all animals and by providing lifesaving services to sick, injured, abused and abandoned pets and wildlife since 1949.

The philosophy at our shelter is unique. We treat every animal that comes through the doors as individuals whose fate is never determined by rigid policies or time-limits. Pets entering the Humane Society of Pinellas adoption program remain in our care until they find a loving home.

Without our dedicated volunteers, HSP would be unable to provide the current level of programs and services for the many homeless animals that are neglected, abandoned, abused or just turned in each year.

Volunteers can choose from a variety of jobs at the shelter and off site. We encourage people to contribute where and when it is most comfortable, convenient and enjoyable. We take pride in our reputation as a highly respected animal shelter and provide volunteers with on-the-job and specialty training, opportunities to work directly with the animals, and we look for ways that volunteers can contribute their expertise to help at the shelter.

There are many ways to help. If you are interested in learning more please contact:

Humane Society of Pinellas
Volunteer Coordinator Office
727-797-7722 ext. 30
email: volunteer@humanesocietyofpinellas.org
web site: www.humanesocietyofpinellas.org

P.S. If you are interested in the Eighth Annual Fur Ball, it will be held Saturday evening, Oct. 22, 2005 at the Belleview Biltmore in Belleair. For more information, please call Eva at 727-797-7722 ext.29.

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 Sept. 23, 2005.

