



## JANUARY 2020 EDITION

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Childress, '11, Board President

Dear Fellow Alum,

The year is off to a great start! The After the Holidays Holiday Party at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse was a success and it was great seeing so many of the alumni and current class members together. February is almost here which means the class will be heading to Tallahassee for all the great learning, meet-and-greet with our elected officials, as well as gaining memories with each other that will last a lifetime. I know you wish you could go too, don't you?

I also wanted to share some good news with you about some changes we have made to the class project. The class project has been, for the most part, different each year. There was typically a benefit for a local charity, and it was fun to see what each class had come up with. Together, we really have done a lot of goodwill over the years and it is only getting better. This year the Board of Directors has a stronger focus on the development of each class member and as we realign the organization to fulfill our strategic plan, we are making some significant enhancements. One thing we are doing is reinforcing the superb instruction given at the class retreat by our fellow alum Dev Pathik '11 "Deborah Vincent Award Winner" and CEO of Sports Facilities Advisory and Andrea Henning '15, Executive Director, Collaborative Labs and Workforce Institute. The training is based heavily on Gallup's book written by Tom Rath, Strengths Based Leadership. (Available on Amazon if you want to stay current with what we are doing.) The class will be utilizing the strengths within their team to meet the objectives within the event. It is a fun and challenging way to put what they have learned into action. Be watching future Leader Readers as there is more to come on the annual event and I cannot wait to share it with you.



We will be having our 'Snapshot' Recruitment events coming up very soon, led by the Snapshot chair, Steve Cleveland '19 and committee. I would encourage you to look at those you work, live and play with for someone you feel would be a good fit for next year's class. You can get others in on all the excitement by going to [ReferLP.com](http://ReferLP.com) and enter their name, or email us at [contact@leadershipinellas.com](mailto:contact@leadershipinellas.com), and/or RSVP for the Snapshot event so they can learn more about this great opportunity.

In closing, Zig Ziglar once said, "You were born to win, but to be a winner you must plan to win, prepare to win and expect to win." Your board has a plan to win and has committed many hours to prepare to win, and I promise you this, we expect to win. We are in it to win it and we are in it with you. Come out and support your organization and together we will reach new heights.

Lead on!

Bob Childress '11, President

bchildress@restinsured.com or 727-543-5746 if you would like to reach out to me



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ PROGRAM DAY CHAIR

By Jennifer McGrail, Class of 1999

As we enter a new year, it's time to look toward the future of Leadership Pinellas. Board of Director nominations are upon us. This means it's time to look for the next group of alumni leaders. As leaders, we should look for those we believe who can make a difference in our organization and nominate them. And like Bob Childress mentioned in his President's Message, we should also look outward in the community for those we believe would benefit from applying to become a part of the Class of 2021. Please also check out Cyndee Haydon's article in this edition of the Leader Reader to learn how to nominate someone to the LP board of directors.

As for the current class, they enjoyed an informational Government and Infrastructure Day on January 8th. The city of Dunedin welcomed the class to kick off the day at Dunedin City Hall. Pinellas County Public Works was generous to show the group around the county sign shop and the traffic center. The class experienced tours at South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility and Pinellas County Solid Waste. And, as a first, the class stopped at the Lealman Exchange – a new endeavor for Pinellas County. County Commissioner Charlie Justice held a Q & A. Next on the class agenda is Education Day.

The day ended with our After the Holidays Holiday Party at BJ's Restaurant. A nice mix of class members and alumni celebrated the end of the holiday season.



## 2020 – 2021 BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

By Cyndee Haydon, Class of 2008

As Jennifer McGrail mentioned it's that time of year to be thinking about who would be a great officer or board member for next year's Leadership Pinellas Board of Directors. You can nominate someone to be a part of the board or you can self-nominate.



**Positions that are open for nomination include:**

**President-Elect**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Three Directors**

You can nominate a board member by filling out this form [<https://leadershippinellas.wufoo.com/forms/zl54tf10zttmmvz/>] and submitting it no later than end of day on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020.



## YLP PROGRAM DAY – CREATING OUR OWN MIXTAPES

By Riley Curls, YLP Class of 2020

Steve Weinberger made a comment about mixtapes during our final presentation, one that stuck with me and summarized the whole day. He talked about how people and your relationships with people help you to create your own real-life mixtape. During the Arts and Culture day, we learned just how to do that, while listening to someone else's.

Walking across the original stage, you're immersed into a world of its own unique culture. With thick red velvet curtains hanging at each balcony, and a lone lamp left on each night, you are found within the original brick walls of the Capitol Theatre in Clearwater. Ms. Kendra Marla invited us into the newly renovated theatre, that has doubled in size since its original opening in 1921. In 2019, the Capitol Theatre had more than 200 show days, and more than 160 dark days, and was staffed at every event with about 40 to 55 workers. Rich in history, the Capitol Theatre was home to the Panel of Honor, with the names of WWI veterans from Clearwater on the brick. After being discovered during the 2012 renovation, it was then moved to a museum, but was replicated and is on display at the theatre. Ms. Marla told stories about their friendly resident spirits at the theatre, explaining the purpose of the lone lamp left on each night to give the ghosts a way to see. By learning about their ghost stories and traditions, we were given a glimpse into their history, and listened to a mere portion of their mixtape.

Wearing a suit about 172 pounds alone, a local Tarpon Springs resident and his team dove 15 feet, while showing us the history of sponging. With a lively Greek culture, Tarpon Springs is home to the largest sponging population in the United States and has been since 1900. During our sponging exhibition, we learned about the five most common sponges, the wool, yellow, wire, finger, and vase sponge, as well as their uses. After explaining each component of the suit and how to operate it, into the water the diver went, retrieving a live sponge for us to admire. We learned about the different methods of sponging, as well as their advantages and disadvantages. Teaching us about their rich cultural connection with sponging, we were given a glance into the Greek heritage of our area.

At the Heritage Museum, we dove deeper into the culture of the area where we live. Located in the heart of downtown Tarpon Springs, it is full of not only Florida themed paintings, but Greek history too, tagging along

to our sponge dock exhibition. Divided into two wings, one was filled with paintings by local artist Christopher Still, the other with a Greek community exhibit. Christopher Still, an accomplished painter, was commissioned to paint Florida's historic and natural beauty by the Florida House of Representatives, with replicas of all ten at the Heritage Museum. In each painting Mr. Still included the map of Florida, creating a scavenger hunt for his viewers. Travel over to the second wing of the museum and you find an exhibit about Greek culture in Tarpon Springs, as well as Native American archeological artifacts. The Heritage Museum showed us a few of the traditions in Tarpon Springs, such as the Greek Orthodox Epiphany dive and many traditional foods and religious activities.

At the Dunedin Institute for the Creative Arts, we had a more freestyle learning approach toward the artists and their craft. While at the institute, we met jewelry makers, mosaic and stained-glass artists, and welders too. They openly taught us about their craft and let us try it out. We made sea glass key chains, cut stained glass, and worked with the welders to weld our initials onto a piece of metal. Through this show-tell-and-try method, they told us how imperfection is perfection. By showing us their work, they played parts of their real-life mixtape for us. They shared life stories about how other people's kindness brought them to where they are today. The stained-glass artist has learned to find beauty and use every resource. Over 15 years ago, the artist found a blessing in disguise, when a lady sold her all her left-over stained glass, that she still uses today. Through someone else's kindness she was able to pursue her passion of over 30 years.

Steve Weinberger, the CEO of Clearwater Jazz Holiday, and his Young Lion's Trio, showed us just how powerful music is. With 60 lead operational units and over 1,400 volunteers, he runs the non-for-profit organization, and creates not only his own, but assists others in creating their own real-life mixtapes. Beginning in 1980, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday worked to use music to influence the community by sharing their love of jazz. Now almost 40 years later, the program has changed over time, but in Mr. Weinberger's eyes, change is a good thing, as it brings new people. Embracing this change in style, they added to their mixtape by having themed nights during their four-day event in October. With throwbacks, younger crowds, and folk music too, more than 35,000 people have enjoyed the sound of jazz. Not only do they hold music festivals, they give back to the community through different programs they've created, like The History of Jazz outreach, My Journey with Jazz program, Build a Guitar program, and many more. The most inspiring to me, was the Young Lions Jazz Master Sessions. My school went to this program and personally experienced the impact of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday, bringing back techniques that influenced all our ensembles. Through all their work throughout the community, Clearwater Jazz Holiday taught us the importance of giving back to the community that gave to you.

By definition, a mixtape is a compilation of one's favorite pieces of music. By compiling your favorite songs, you create a track that is uniquely your own, one that summarizes you. Just how no two mixtapes are the same, neither are two people or their lives. It's the connections we make that move us forward and add to our mixtape, whether it is selling glass or painting natural beauty. For me personally, YLP has added to my own real-life mixtape by allowing me to meet people who dedicate their work to something they are passionate about and has inspired us to do the same. As Steve Weinberger told us, "You can't change the world, but you can make a dent."



## AFTER THE HOLIDAY HOLIDAY PARTY FUN AND FROLIC

Nice to see so many alumni at this event! Such a great way to kickoff the 2020 New Year! Special thanks to our Board of Directors for making such a fun evening for all!



## PINELLAS TRAIL BIKE RIDE SOCIAL

**JANUARY 25 @ 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Join LP alumni for the first Pinellas Trail Bike Ride Social. We will meet at the Crystal Beach Post Office. Parking is available across the street. The ride will be approximately 10 miles and traverse one of the more scenic areas of the Pinellas Trail through northern Pinellas County. We will ride north to Tarpon Springs, traveling through North Anclote River Nature Park, then stop for coffee and a healthy breakfast at Eco Bean in Tarpon Springs. After coffee and conversation, we will return along the trail, stopping at Wall Springs Park to view the new observation tower. Ride is open to all LP alumni, friends, family and guests. Ride level – easy. Spandex not required. Please bring water and wear event appropriate attire. Ride Leader: Matthew Campbell '15.

**RSVP today!**

<https://www.leadershippinellas.com/event/pinellas-trail-bike-ride-social/>