



LeaderReader

JANUARY 2021 EDITION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kimberly Berfield, '97



In recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and our pursuit of justice, we enter into 2021 with optimism. During a time of continued unrest and an ongoing global pandemic, we reflect back on 2020 with the words that Dr. King wrote in his 1963 "I Have A Dream" speech in light of the challenges that we have yet to overcome.

Even today those words written by Dr. King apply: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Dr. King recognized our potential as he visualized "that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

However, to achieve this aspiration we must honor the US constitution, affirm the principal doctrine of our democracy, and respect each others' differences. Our democracy's future depends on all of us.

As leaders we seek to develop and enhance community leadership by providing a diverse group of emerging and existing leaders. We also supply opportunities to increase community knowledge, civic network, and perpetuate service to the community.

My thanks to Georgie Menke and Tammy Robiconti for their efforts around creating stability for our organization in December during which we had a well-attended and truly entertaining virtual holiday event. Many of us enjoyed a cocktail hour with holiday trivia and a scavenger hunt. Bob Childress took home a bottle of wine and gift card for dinner, while Tracy ladies won a \$50 gas gift card.

Additionally, I would like to share that Brian Siracusa and Randi Nilsson will be leading our 2022 Youth Leadership Pinellas Class. They are scheduling two virtual recruitment events in February to ensure leadership is in good hands for future generations. If you have close relationships with specific schools, we ask that you

assist us in getting the word out to those schools to help us achieve a comprehensive and diverse array of students who take part in the Youth Leadership Class.

Thank you to all who have remained engaged. To those who are looking for an opportunity to become further involved, please reach out to Jennifer McGrail at contact@leadershipinellas.com.

While we may have our differences, there is one thing we can call come together to support—on Feb. 7, our Tampa Bay Buccaneers will play in the Super Bowl. Let's support our region and hometown team!

Loyally,
kb

HOLIDAY ZOOM PARTY

Thank you to Georgie Menke '09 and Tammy Robiconti '16 for putting together a creative and fun way to share some holiday cheer. A bartender joined our Zoom gathering to walk us through two holiday concoctions that were each a hit. A holiday in-home scavenger hunt and holiday trivia rounded out the activities. Alumni representing many different classes from the '80s, '90s and 2000s were on the call. It was a great way to see some alumni faces, have a little fun, and spread holiday cheer all from the comfort of home.



CLASS OF 2021 PROGRAM CHANGE

Due to the continued rise of COVID-19 diagnoses in Pinellas County, the Board of Directors of Leadership Pinellas has decided to start the Class of 2021 program days on March 10, 2021. While we will maintain our dates this spring, we will slightly extend the program to provide an in-depth look at the various industries and communities in Pinellas County. All safety guidelines will continue to be followed, including physical distancing, masks, temperature checks, and reduced use of a bus when possible.

Program dates are as follows:

March 10, 2021

March 24, 2021

April 7, 2021

April 21, 2021

May 5, 2021

May 19, 2021

June 2, 2021

July 14, 2021

The Tallahassee trip will still be offered; however, details are still to be determined. It is the goal of the Board of Directors to ensure that the class has the most robust experience possible during the program year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO STAY AS-IS FOR ONE MORE YEAR

“Everything we do before a pandemic will seem alarmist. Everything we do after will seem inadequate”

—Michael Leavitt, former Health and Human Services Secretary

Due to the current state of emergency and difficulties our organization is facing, the Leadership Pinellas Board voted to extend the President and current board members' terms for the 2021/2022 year. It seems surreal to think that it was only a year ago that the words “COVID-19,” “social distancing,” and “unprecedented times” were not a part of our everyday lives. Pre-pandemic, the Board's focus was recruiting more applicants, adding additional programming, and holding a large inaugural event. We were meeting in person. Now, the entire Board's focus has shifted simply to safely hosting the prestigious Leadership Pinellas program which has been ongoing since 1977.

Each year, Leadership Pinellas swore in new board members and a president in May. Due to the rising numbers of coronavirus cases and the fluidity of the crisis we are facing, the Board has had to postpone and

restructure this year's class twice. In the most recent plan, the Class of 2020/2021 will continue past May and into the summer. Each board member has been given the responsibility to work with program day committee members to ensure a safe and robust program day is planned. As the Board of 2020/2021, we need to see this process through and graduate the Class of 2020/2021.

Though this may be an atypical decision, it would also be incredibly unfair to new board members to pass on a baton of this magnitude mid-race and miss out on traditions like being sworn-in amongst alumni and the strategic board retreat.

Thank you for your support and understanding while we continue to center our attention around organizing this year's program. If you were interested in running for a board position, please know we are looking for any and all help. While being a board member is one way to be involved, there is a wide array of committees and tasks you can take on in order to help the Leadership Pinellas program. In honor of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers heading to the Super Bowl, it's truly all hands on deck here!

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PINELLAS INFORMATION ZOOM EVENT

Youth Leadership Pinellas is now seeking students for its Class of 2022 program. High school students entering 10th, 11th, or 12th grade this fall are eligible to apply. Interested students and parents should join one of the informational events via Zoom.

YLP Recruitment Event

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Click the Zoom link to participate

<https://zoom.us/j/94496392379?pwd=TWZVSZLWDgzUIRvSHdzbGtFd3ZBUT09>

Meeting ID: 944 9639 2379 Passcode: 042900

YLP Recruitment Event

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Click the Zoom link to participate

<https://zoom.us/j/95715446336?pwd=NFQrSHd0K1kwVWJUdWxlRkhMVm8yZz09>

Meeting ID: 957 1544 6336 Passcode: 200136

ALUMNI EVENT—PINELLAS TRAIL BIKE RIDE

Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Meet at the North Dunedin Publix

902 Curlew Road, Dunedin

We will meet on the west side of the parking lot near the trail.

Here is another great opportunity to join together with other LP alumni, family, and friends in the outdoors and at a distance! Please consider making plans to join us!

Due to social distance parameters, we are simply providing a location for our event and suggestions for different levels of enjoyment and capabilities for all that choose to participate. As with any LP social event, we have been extra careful to make sure there will be plenty of room for everyone to find their own desired “distance” from others yet still have an opportunity to be social.

There will be bicycle or inline-skate route options for beginner, intermediate, and advanced enthusiasts. Matthew Campbell LP '15 has volunteered his time to orient those that attend on their options for the morning. Riding, skating, or walking distances will range from five miles to 40+ miles.

Suggested routes include:

1. Bike ride to Starkey Market and back (40+ miles)
2. Bike ride to Brooker Creek Preserve and back (30 miles)
3. Bike ride or skate to Anclote River/Tarpon Springs and back (17 miles)
4. Bike ride or skate to Wall Springs Park + new extension (10 miles)
5. Bike ride, skate, or walk/hike to Honeymoon Island and back (8 miles)
6. Bike ride, skate, or walk to Downtown Dunedin and back (8 miles)

The ride Matthew Campbell will be leading will be to Brooker Creek Preserve or Starkey Market, and back, but will be at a more leisurely 10-13 mph pace. Please come prepared with appropriate clothing, water and food as if you were going out on your own. There are restrooms and drinking water at Wall Springs Park, the Dunn Water Reclamation Facility, Brooker Creek, and Starkey Market. Any questions are to be directed to Matthew Campbell at (727) 421-4046. If you commit to attending, please either follow through on your commitment to do so or call with regrets. Thank you.

Click the link to RSVP:

<https://www.leadershoppinellas.com/event/lp-alumni-bike-ride/>

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