



LeaderReader

FEBRUARY 2022 EDITION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kimberly Berfield, '97



Hold onto your seats ... LP is off and running in 2022, and the fun is getting ready to start! So, jump in! You've been missed.

As we start off 2022, our Board of Directors and alumni have been diligently working to line up a social calendar this year making sure safety is just as important as the event and camaraderie.

Currently, our Nominating Committee is coming together to prepare to seat the next Board of Directors who will lead us back into our new normal for 2023. Our annual LP Interest Indicator will be coming out shortly. Be sure to complete this, so we can make get you plugged into your area of interest at the level you are willing and comfortable serving.

For those of you who have missed seeing friends and fellow class members, we have got your spring calendar planned out for you. From March through mid-May, there are several Alumni events planned. Mark your calendars!

In March, we will be getting into the swing of things with recruitment. This is exciting! We are gearing up to seat a full new class of members for the 2023 Class. On March 1, we will be at Pinellas Realtor Organization for a breakfast recruitment event. We will have an evening recruitment event on March 22 at Bon Appetit. Then, April 5 potential new members can find us at 3 Daughters Brewing in St. Pete for our final recruitment event.

Links to details for each event can be found below. Start thinking about who you'd recommend for the 2023 Class.

Then LP will be in-person at the Achieva Headquarters in Dunedin on April 2 for the First Annual Celebration of Leadership—Latin Nights. Come dance the night away, enjoy a stogie, your favorite Latin beverage, and an authentic meal while recognizing community leaders. You'll also have the chance to bid on community auction items to support our forward mobility. Tickets are limited, so purchase soon.

If you are a past president or sponsor, we will be sending out details this month on our annual lunch which will be held in May. We look forward to seeing you and providing updates on the objectives we have met over the past year. We are excited about where tomorrow is leading us.

At the beginning of a new year, we tend to think individually about our resolutions or personal goals we wish to attain for the year. We encourage you to consider adding your involvement in LP to your list of resolutions or goals. This year is going to be an exciting one! As you can see there are great reasons to get reengaged with us as we transition back to being a dynamic community group active throughout Pinellas County.

Loyally,
kb

SPRING RECRUITMENT EVENTS

Leadership Pinellas will be hosting three recruitment events this spring. Bring a coworker, colleague, or friend to learn more about Leadership Pinellas. Click the link to register for any of the Recruitment Events below.

Tuesday, March 1

Register Now!

Pinellas Realtor Organization

Breakfast Event

7:30–9 a.m.

4590 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater 33762

Tuesday, March 22

Register Now!

Bon Appetit

Appetizers and Cash Bar

5:30–7 p.m.

148 Marina Plaza, Dunedin 34698

Tuesday, April 5

Register Now!

3 Daughters Brewing

Appetizers and Cash Bar

5:30–7 p.m.

222 22nd Street S., St. Petersburg 33712



Leadership Pinellas presents

LATIN NIGHTS

a celebration of leadership

Saturday, April 2nd • 6pm-10pm
Achieva Corporate Headquarters
1659 Achieva Way • Dunedin, FL 34698

Outdoor venue • 8 piece Latin band • Cigar rolling • Salsa dance lessons
Silent auction • Community awards & more!

Questions? contact@leadershippinellas.com

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Sponsorship opportunities available

Register Now!

Saturday, April 2
6–10 p.m.

Tickets are \$75 until March 4. Limited quantities available, so get them while they last!

HEALTH DAY

by Clay Gillman '22

Our 2021 Leadership Pinellas Health Day journey began in St. Petersburg at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital. After the pandemic thwarted the health care community's ability to host tour groups for 18 months, our group was fortunate enough to be welcomed into All Children's Hospital with open arms and masked faces.

Dr. Allison Messina, a nationally-renowned expert in the field of Pediatric Infectious Disease, kicked things off with a look back at the past twenty months and how significantly coronavirus has affected the hospital and its operations. We were then introduced to the newly-selected CEO of All Children's, Alicia Schulhof. She gave us the opportunity to ask meaningful questions about her vision of the hospital's future impact on the Pinellas County community. A tour of the beautiful, state-of-the-art facility followed, then we were sent off to our next stop—the Ronald McDonald West House just around the corner.

Of our nearly 20 class members who participated in Health Day, only a handful had ever been to a Ronald McDonald House. After a walk through the House and quick Q&A session, we were tasked with preparing meals for the families currently staying in the St. Petersburg Ronald McDonald Houses. With nearly 60 meals to prepare, we split into 2 groups and got to work making enchiladas. It may have just been the countless onions we diced in the kitchen, but as we climbed aboard the bus to head back to Clearwater, many of us were teary-eyed knowing we made the stay a little bit easier for the families.

Lou Galdieri, President of Morton Plant Hospital, greeted us at our next stop at—you guessed it—Clearwater's Morton Plant Hospital. As we ate lunch, Mr. Galdieri gave us a presentation on the history of Morton Plant and how that history led to the hospital's current prominent status in Pinellas County. After lunch, we broke into small groups for tours of several of the specialty surgical areas within the hospital, guided by some of Morton Plant's finest surgeons and surgical staff. Not only were we able to walk through the surgical area and see several surgeries first-hand, but we were given the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the highly-advanced technology that goes into many of the surgeries performed at the hospital.

We concluded our Health Day trip at the Clearwater Free Clinic, a hidden gem of the Clearwater community. Our group was met at the door of the Clearwater Free Clinic by CEO Jeannie Shapiro, and Director of Marketing and Development, Meredith Reagin. Although it's in the name, it came as a surprise to us all that the Clearwater Free Clinic is actually a FREE service to uninsured Pinellas County residents. After a guided tour of the facility, we heard first-hand from a patient of the clinic and one of the excellent cardiologists who donates his time to the clinic. The services that the staff and volunteers are providing at the Clearwater Free Clinic are often unrecognized, but they are invaluable to our community.

A special thank you to Erin Hamilton-Mullin (Class of 2021), Joe Citro (Class of 2021), and Amber Geier (Class of 2020) for their help in putting together such a great day for our class!



EMERGENCY SERVICES DAY

Donielle Marco '22

Emergency Services Day was insightful, eye-opening and very exciting. The day started with a tour of 911 dispatch, showing all the systems and departments who work together to provide a central place for emergency communication, to ensure the best response time to Pinellas County residents.

We then went to the Sunstar HQ, where we heard a lot about the internal structure of Sunstar, how they keep their AAA rating, and their response time goal. It was also at the Sunstar HQ where we had the awesome opportunity of role playing CPR, using makeshift items as a tourniquet to stop bleeding, and got a demo on a cool device that is used to place an IV in the bone!

Our next stop was the Clearwater Fire Academy where we watched an incoming training class perform a safety drill, and we all got to use the water hose. Our last stop was Lifeguard Tower 0 on Clearwater Beach. It was very interesting to meet actual lifeguards and to hear about the wide variety of work they do for

the safety of residents when at the beach.

The best thing about Emergency Services Day, in my opinion, was being able to actually see each department's work in action and how they all work together so seamlessly.



MID-PINELLAS DAY

Donielle Marco '22

Mid-Pinellas Day was jam-packed with information but definitely a favorite so far! Could be because it ended with such DIVINE chocolate, but I'm biased.

We started at the St. Pete/Clearwater airport where we learned about their history, their success, and their hopes to expand. We had the awesome experience of spending time with TSA agents who showed us their bag X-ray process, allowed us to see their systems, and provided insight on what items we can legally carry on a plane. We then headed over to Central Park Performing Arts Center where we ate lunch, met Shelly Beach, Clerk of Court, and had an open panel discussion with elected city officials and the Pinellas County Commissioner.

This was such an amazing opportunity for us as leaders in our community because we didn't just get to meet these individuals, we also learned who to go to when issues in our communities arise. We also gained insight about the ways those issues are handled, and we were encouraged to speak up and be a part of the processes that make our communities better. Such an invaluable opportunity!

After talking political trash, we headed to Pinellas County Solid Waste and got to see 20-30 feet of trash. We learned how some trash is turned into energy and then resourced, and we also learned about recycling and disposing options.

Stop #4 was to the Pinellas Realtor Organization for a presentation on the Realtors® in Pinellas County, what they do, and how to become one.

Our final stop, because the best was saved for last, was William Dean Chocolates. Not only did we get to tour the kitchen where we saw and learned about how he makes his popular chocolate, but we got to hear all about his relationship with Whoopi Goldberg and his chocolate's cameo in "The Hunger Games" movie. Best of all, we were offered a taste test of all the different chocolates and ended the trip with our choice of gelato!

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PINELLAS

by Sylvia Beach

If you have spent any amount of time on the internet in the past years, you have most likely come across “I was today years old when I ...”

Although short and sweet, that simple phrase sums up the Youth Leadership Pinellas Class of 2022’s first retreat and program day—one of new “firsts,” new friends, new experiences, and definitely some new smells.

Our day started early at 7:30 a.m. on a beautiful, quiet November day, but nothing says quiet more than a group of teenagers in the early morning who don’t know each other.

Thankfully, Mr. Siracusa inspired us to break the ice and meet some new students before our team-building activities began. I hope I speak for all of my fellow classmates when I say that I was able to find so much in common with this group that I thought I shared no similarities.

We were split into four teams: The A-Team, The Raptors, The Wombats, and the AA-Team. Working in teams allowed us to create stronger bonds with those in our team by collaboration and uniting against the other teams to win at a certain activity.

Our first activity was charades, but with appliances, food, and superheroes. This was the first time I had seen someone act out “baked potato” successfully enough for our team to guess it.

Our second activity consisted of everyone on our team touching each number in order from 1 to 30 inside a large circle as fast as possible, but no more than one person could be within the circle’s boundaries at once. This required high levels of communication and self-accountability to touch the numbers in order and keep only one person in the circle, especially to avoid the dreaded 10 second time penalties.

Third, we played a game called “Pipeline,” where all but one team member (who acts as the coach) hold half of a pipe each and roll a golf ball across. To win, the team had to make it to the other side of the awning and roll the ball into a bucket. This required lots of running back and forth, especially running into the person next to you, but my team was thankful to have a few lacrosse players to coordinate our team’s maneuvers. However, the key to success was to be slow, steady, and controlled, something all of us discovered to be helpful in the next task. Taking over an hour to complete all variations of the final task, the strings, ring, and tennis ball combination proved to be the most challenging.

Each team was gathered in a circle around a pipe with a tennis ball on top and a ring attached to several strings on the bottom. Each member had to hold a string around the ring to evenly lift the ring, pick up the tennis ball, and either set it back onto their own pipe or walk to another team’s pipe to set it down. The most challenging variation was where all four of the pipes, one for each team, were positioned close together, requiring each team’s strings to overlap and to lower the tennis ball at the same time. I must have lost count of how many times this had to be repeated, but each time got closer and closer the slower we all went, the more we communicated between teams, and developed our individual and overall team strategies.

After a nourishing Panera lunch donated by one of our very own Leadership Pinellas alumni, we changed into our blue polos and loaded the bus en route to the South Cross Bayou Advanced Water Reclamation Facility. Each of us were assigned to a random bus partner to sit next to, which seemed intimidating, but was more rewarding than anything.

My bus partner and I talked about everything from college to boy problems, and we passed our phones to the two people in front of us to add each other on Snapchat.

Upon arrival at South Cross, we gathered in a room to hear a presentation by Ms. Shea, who had an incredible sense of humor and got everyone engaged from the start. She used everyday items to make a sample of wastewater stirred by a boy in the front row. No REAL waste was used—at least not yet!

Shea told us about the facility, that it is unincorporated but one of 14 facilities in Pinellas County that treats wastewater. In fact, it treats 33 million gallons of water per day: 18 in one side of the facility and 15 in the other, as the entire facility is essentially two mini-plants in one.

Shea then took us on a tour of the facility itself. Very quickly, the smell of the wastewater came like a slap to the face, like what the bathroom smells like after your dad uses it. We got to see primary, anoxic, and aeration tanks, which separate garbage and solid wastes, introduce clouds of bacteria to eat some of the remaining waste, chemically treat water, and add oxygen back to the water. (Just be careful not to look down; you can see the rushing water right below the walkway. Falling into the tanks would make one hot tub experience of a lifetime.)

One of the most distinctive things about South Cross is that it is a certified advanced water reclamation facility, meaning that it processes even more nitrogen out of the water. They even use UV rays to kill more bacteria in the water, a sanitation method that has been popularized by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, we got to see a presentation about the Pinellas County Solid Waste facility, a place I didn't know existed until this day. It is the only landfill in Pinellas County covering over 700 acres of land and over 1500 vehicles pass through its gates to dispose of waste every day. This waste is dumped into a large, open warehouse with a deep pit on one side.

Although it was not attached and functioning when we got to see it, the claw grabs the trash and places it on a belt to be burned and condensed by 90% of its original volume. From there, it is placed in the landfill and topped with ash to keep trash from blowing away. Even though the landfill has several years left of use, it is filling up exponentially fast, a real-life issue our generation will have to face in the near future. We got to see first-hand why it is so important to reuse items, recycle, compost, and shop second-hand. In addition to these individual efforts, the facility is also dedicated to reducing, reusing, recycling, and recovering.

For example, the heat produced by the 2500-degree flames creates steam and 75 megawatts of energy, or enough electricity to power 45,000 homes. How awesome! Also, large and otherwise non-disposable items are used in the artificial reef program, where they are incorporated into structures that provide shelter for fish while their natural habitats are destroyed. After listening to the presentation, it was so cool to see the facility in real life on the bus to connect the dots. While viewing it from the bus windows, Ms. Tracy, who used to work in the industry, thoroughly described the facility and its functions to us, even sharing some of her personal experiences.

Looking back from around 4:30 p.m. that day back to 7:30 that morning, it was difficult to believe the many experiences we shared with brand new people. We spent most of the bus ride back adding each other on Snapchat, following each other on Instagram, and creating a group chat of all of us to share information and stay in touch until the next program day in December.

From wastewater to charades, my classmates and I learned so much on our first program day. We used advanced teamwork skills with people we barely knew, learned values of patience, communication, and accountability, learned about some of the most important functions of our local community, and created friendship bonds to last into the future. On behalf of the Youth Leadership Pinellas Class of 2022, I would like to thank everyone who helped put together our November Program Day: the staff, volunteers, and the facilities that hosted our group. We cannot wait to see what is in store for our class next month.

Thank You to Our 2021-2022 Sponsors

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