



# LeaderReader

OCTOBER 2021 EDITION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kimberly Berfield, '97



As Ray Charles sang, "Here We Go Again!" But before we get started many thanks are owed.

First, thanks to our Interview Selection Committee (Heather Ciampini, Matthew Campbell & Bryant Johnson), chaired by Heather Gracy. Their work combined with the Application Selection Committee (Coleen Chaney, Adam Geissenberger & Ron Piccinini), chaired by Beth Tasis, assisted our organization in our efforts to provide even greater equality for applicants and membership. We averaged the scores from these two committees. This produced the recommended 2022 Class. The Class of 2022 is made up of 24 participants, a guideline we kept in mind as we watch the Delta variant present in Florida.

Second, we want to say thank you to our Board which has continued to step forward and lean in to solve LP's ongoing challenges. We also appreciate their efforts in identifying new moments for our organization like the "Latin Nights: a Celebration of Leadership" event. This will be an exciting opportunity to reignite our friendships under the stars while meeting old and new friends, acquainting the community further with Leadership Pinellas, and having a festive time in a safe environment.

Our gratitude to Jan Tracy and Lynn Fuhler, who have been diligently working through updating and revising our Bylaws and Policy & Procedures to adhere with our practices. The hope is to provide us with recommendations to be reviewed and approved by our membership next year. This will give us ample time to discuss and answer any questions the membership may have prior to the May General Membership meeting when we will be voting.

You will be happy to know the 2022 Class has already participated in their Opening Retreat and their first program day on Sept. 22. There they learned about the rich history of Pinellas County, which you will hear more about shortly.

In two weeks, we will be rounding out the 2021 Class's experience by visiting Tallahassee from Oct. 11–13. Katie Gannon will be able to give you a solid recap of the experience.

The past year has taught us many different things, and we can all agree there is always room to improve and we must ask for help when we need it. We could really use your help encouraging alumni to renew their membership. As the physical separation has been hard, your action in reaching out could make the difference toward a greater connection.

We thank you for taking this journey with us and hope there will be more opportunities this year to re-engage and energize our alumni base. There are great things to come this year for each of us and for our role in the community.

Please enjoy the beginning of fall, the return of football, and Halloween at the end of the month. Be safe and stay healthy.

Loyally,

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Kimberly Berfield

## NEW CLASS: LEADERSHIP PINELLAS CLASS OF 2022

- Savannah Bennett, City of Clearwater
- Hilary Blackburn, Achieva Credit Union
- Rebecca Deming, ProVet Legal
- Dan Driscoll, City National Bank
- Chad Fisher, Fisher Architects
- Wendy Gattis, DITEK
- Dave Gattis, City of Belleair Beach/DITEK
- Clay Gilman, Macfarlane, Ferguson & McMullen
- Lauren Grimsland, Homeless Empowerment Program
- Shelby Harris, Valley Bank
- Hank Hodde, Pinellas County Government
- Andrew Knapp, City of Oldsmar
- Michael Lavery, City of Clearwater
- Kamran Malik, MrKamraMan
- Donielle Marco, Midflorida Credit Union
- Kristen Donaghy Maronpot, Sold by Sisters Palm Harbor
- Eric Miller, Badfins Food & Brew
- Mary Partridge, Morton Plant Hospital
- Gina Schell, WellMed Optum Florida
- Ann Starling, Largo Police Department
- Ambee Stephens, EmpowHERment
- Tara Yurkshat, SPCA Tampa Bay

## OPENING RETREAT

The Class of 2022 kicked off their year Friday, Aug. 27 at the Opening Retreat held at the Safety Harbor Spa. The class participated in the Strengths Based Leadership Profile once again this year. Throughout the day and a half event, they learned about all things Leadership Pinellas: leadership strengths, team building and more.

Thank you to Dev Pathik '11, Andrea Henning '15, and Rebecca Watson '19 for all their guidance and facilitation with the class at the retreat again this year. Joe DeRring '17 and his team from Empower Adventures led the class through team-building activities which always bring out healthy competition among class members. For a different twist, the class was divided up to have lunch in small groups with alumni to get a first-hand look at the impact of Leadership Pinellas on others in our community. Thank you to Bud Elias '01, Karen Seel '95 and Jan Tracy '92 for leading these lunch groups.

And, not to be forgotten, the Class of 2021 put on a skit for the new class on what to expect from program days. Thank you to Katie Gannon, Nick Berry, Erin Hamilton Mullin, Joe Citro, Bryant Johnson, Chelsea Wilson, Tawny Swain Castle, Jamie McKnight, Jeff Gow, and Lelia Petersbon for a skit we won't soon forget. And, we also officially graduated the Class of 2021 into alumni status. Congratulations, Class of 2021!

Overall, the retreat was a great opportunity for the Class of 2022 to get to know more about themselves, each other, and Leadership Pinellas. Look for more opportunities to meet up with the class throughout the year.

Our first annual Celebration of Leadership: Latin Nights will be held Friday, Nov. 5, 2021. We are currently accepting nominations for the Community Leadership Awards that will be presented that evening. Limited tickets are available for the event.

Get your tickets here!

<https://www.leadershippinellas.com/latin-nights/>



## ALUMNI DUES

It's not too late to pay your alumni dues. If you haven't submitted your dues payment to be included in alumni events and activities, please do so today.

**Pay Now**

<https://leadership-pinellas.myshopify.com/collections/membership-dues/products/membership-renewal>

## PINELLAS HISTORY DAY

by Donielle Marco '22

Our first Program Day, "Pinellas History Day," was eventful, very educational, and lots of fun. We kicked off the day's festivities at the Weedon Island Preserve in St. Pete. The visit was filled with a video about the preserve, viewing of a historic kayak, a walk through the Cultural and Natural History exhibits, and ended with a short hike down the boardwalk with our spirited tour guide, Liz. There was even a random falcon sighting as we hiked the boardwalk.

Our next stop was the beautiful Don CeSar, a historic jewel of the Gulf Coast. We were guided through the public areas of the Don CeSar and told of its rich history and perseverance. We had the opportunity to go to the second floor and learn of alleged ghost sightings in the hotel, but we didn't get to experience any ourselves. Lunch was held in the "Gatsby Room," which was beautifully decorated in '20s fashion décor and very accommodating to our group. We ate, laughed and enjoyed each others' company until it was time to head to our next adventure.

Next up was my personal favorite, Heritage Village. We were all so intrigued to see how people lived in the early 1900s and to learn more about the advancements in the quality of homes over time. We were able to visit a general store opened in the 1910s with a barbershop and auto repair shop attached. These places all contained original furniture, signage, and even a Model-T Ford at the mechanic shop. Heritage Village also gave us insight as to what it was like visiting the doctor back in the 40s and 50s. We toured a home of a prominent doctor whose setup was like that of a hospital wing. There was an OBGYN section in the dining room, mental health machine in the kitchen, and one room was set up as an operating room. Very intriguing!

Our last stop was the Clearwater Courthouse where we were welcomed by Vice Chairman Charlie Justice. We were even invited to join the Commissioner's Board. There we learned a lot about the historic landmarks around the county and the processes required to deem a home, location or landmark a historic property.

As I said, this day was VERY eventful, but I think the best part was the passion shown in every tour guide/presenter. They were so knowledgeable about Pinellas' rich history and their small part in it. This is what made the day—well, that and spending time with our classmates!

# Thank You to Our 2021-2022 Sponsors

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