



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Childress, '11, Board President

I am now in my eighth month of serving as your president and let me tell you, what a ride. There is so much going on with Leadership Pinellas that I would like you to know, but it would take a special edition of the Leader Reader just to tell you about it. There is something though that I would love to share with you. I have had a wonderful experience introducing many of you to my fiancé, Janet Daughtry (future alumna). When she learns that the person we are speaking to is someone I know through Leadership Pinellas, she almost immediately asks the question: Why? Why Leadership Pinellas, and what does it mean to you? If you think about it, from an outsider looking in, what do the terms program days, class retreat, and strengths-based leadership mean? There have been a wide range of answers, answers which all make a lot of sense due to the fact each of us takes away something very meaningful yet different from our organization. And with that, I would like to share with you what I feel it means.



Networking, relationships, and the backstage pass are wonderful byproducts of what we do. However, the idea of improving our beloved Pinellas County, the place we work, live, and play, one leader at a time, is really at the root of it. LP impacts individual lives with a ripple effect that impacts our community. It is giving a paradigm shift to what people feel they know about themselves, the people they interact with, and most certainly the community in which we live.

Through the guidance of the presidents and boards before me, incremental change was made during their tenures bringing what you know as LP today, enhancing the experience of the individual as well as the class as a whole. Your board of directors has been working hard to develop a greater ROI for the class member as well as those who may have afforded them the opportunity through tuition and time off to meet the schedule requirements. We are working hard to grow the value for you, our wonderful and supportive alumni, by creating opportunities specifically geared toward you.

For those of you who were able to attend the most recent Snapshot – A Leadership Pinellas Recruitment Event, “formally known as the recruitment social,” you would have met some of the leadership from Crown Auto Group and learned about their contribution to our community and all they do to help make this a better place to live, work, and play. Thank you. It was so nice seeing you there!

My 2020 wish would be to see even more alumni at more of our events. One of the biggest questions I was asked in 2019 was "What can I do to help?" The answer? Come to our social events. We have designed them with you in mind. Come to our Snapshot events and bring a person with you who you feel represents what Leadership Pinellas is all about. You are the organization. We do it all for you. And our success is dependent on you.

And we are always looking for more support too. We are looking for sponsors as well as donors so that we can grow the program and grow the benefit for all concerned. Please consider a sponsorship of any level. Connect with us on our alumni-only Facebook page and learn about all the alumni-only opportunities. As an alumni, if you are not on that page, email us at Contact@leadershippinellas.com and we will send you an invitation to join.

I cannot stress to you enough the importance of you being connected and involved with us. We need you to make us what we truly can be together... The best!

Wishing you all a very safe and spectacular 2020!!!

Bob Childress, President '11
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***IT'S THE AFTER THE HOLIDAYS -
HOLIDAY PARTY YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR***

Join Us at

BJ's Restaurant

27001 US Highway 19 North

Clearwater, FL 33761

Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 5:30 p.m.

RSVP to Contact@LeadershipPinellas.com



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / PROGRAM DAY CHAIR

By Jennifer McGrail, '99, Executive Director

Each year Leadership Pinellas alumni renew their annual dues to support the programs and activities of the organization. And, some alumni participate by supporting Leadership Pinellas with a little more. Our Alumni Booster and Leadership Circle members renew their annual dues at a higher rate out of generosity. Some of those extra donations go directly to support the Youth Leadership Pinellas program, while the rest help enhance our LP program. Thank you for your additional contributions.

ALUMNI BOOSTERS 2019-2020

- David Archie '98
- Gary Banlowe '11
- Kimberly Berfield '97
- Tracey Birch '07
- Coleen Chaney '18
- Steve Cleveland '19
- Katie Cole '01
- Jim Conlin '16
- Scott Daniels '93
- Scott Ferguson '17
- Tony Galasso '19
- Cyndee Haydon '08
- Bill Jonson '99
- Sean Jowell '04
- Tiffany Krueger '11
- Susan Melendy '19
- Micaela Morenz '19
- Ron Piccinini '16
- Pat Plumlee '84
- Seema Ramroop '17
- Suzan Decker Ross '12
- Jeannie Shapiro '00
- Cary Stiff '81
- Joan Vecchioli '93
- Mark Weinkrantz '12
- Diane Wheatley Giliotti '02
- Debbie White '95
- Linda Williams '93

GOLD CIRCLE

- David Abelson '99
- Neil Brickfield '98
- Dimity Carlson '08
- Liza Carter '07
- Andrew Caudell '08
- Doreen Caudell '07
- Jim Coats '02
- Jennifer Cowan '17
- Joe DeRing '17
- Sandra Diamond '84
- Charlie Dye '09
- Sally McLane Evans '15
- Moe Freaney '03
- Jack Geller '05
- Tom Jamison '17
- Roger Johnson '08
- Skip Katz '15
- Kevin Kenney '18
- Deborah Lanigan '19
- Maria Miaoulis '13
- Kathy Perrott '17
- Pat Perzell-Geller '93
- Chris Ruppel '03
- Karen Skiratko '07
- Suzy Sofer '15

CLASS OF 2020 PROGRAM DAY RECAP

The Class of 2020 spent their recent program day acting like tourists in our community. Instead of a charter bus, the class enjoyed traveling around the county in the Jolley Trolley. They visited Marina Cantina on Clearwater Beach and learned about Ocean Allies, Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival, and Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The next stop, Taoist Tai Chi in Dunedin, was a first for most. After a welcome from the Mayor of Dunedin and City Commissioners, the class was treated to a demonstration, and even got to learn a few Tai Chi movements. The HOB Brewery in Dunedin hosted the group just before lunch at the Lucky Lobster. Over lunch, the class heard from Visit Florida, Keep Pinellas Beautiful, and Joe Kokolokis with the Artisan. They took to the water on the Caladesi Island Ferry and then took to the air at Empower Adventures. The weather held out for a spectacular day and a great look in environment and tourism.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP PINELLAS

By Michelle Uvieghara, Palm Harbor University, Junior, YLP Class 2020

During this environmental day for Youth Leadership Pinellas, we went to four locations: Public Works, Moccasin Lake Nature Park, Bayou Water Reclamation Facility and Pinellas County Solid Waste. These sites are all a part of the overarching array of places that help the environment.

At Public Works we saw only a part of what they do in managing storm drains, fixing potholes, and clearing the road of debris using tools like the Spider. Then we saw how over 200 cameras are used to monitor the road environment and traffic and the creation of new road signs that are pivotal for driving on the road.

The Moccasin Lake Nature Park, while only 51 acres, is home to not only red tailed hawks, but also red shouldered hawks, owls, a vulture, a bald eagle, Big Momma (the amazing 9ft alligator that we managed to see) and other amazing wildlife. The Moccasin Lake Nature Park signifies the preservation of nature even in the middle of urbanization in our world today.

Then we stopped at the Bayou Water Reclamation Facility where we learned that a multitude of things go down the pipes that aren't supposed to, as well as how that water is cleaned and this process creates a source of revenue. The water is later put back into the environment, the facility at their maximum capacity can store up to 180,000,000 gallons of water if they need to. Talk about some reclaimed H2O!



Finally, at Pinellas County Solid Waste we toured the large campus that held 3 boilers that burns trash to produce energy and ash that will go into the landfill. Imagine 950,000 tons of solid waste being burned per year generating enough electricity for 45,000 homes everyday, while the landfill gains about 200 tons of trash and over 600 tons of ash at a height of 90 ft. and when it reaches 110 ft. high, it will become the highest point in Pinellas County.

Through this wholesome day, we learned about the environment but saw that we are also essential to the management of the environment. Whether we're driving on the road, spotting an old road sign, on a hike, using water in the many ways we do, or throwing away what may seem to be trash, we are doing something in the environment. We have a part and our actions have an effect! We all learned about the 3 R's, reduce, reuse, and recycle but not only are there these 3 R's, there's a fourth R: recover. We need to do all these R's so that our environment can be beautiful not only in this generation but many more in the future.



UPCOMING EVENTS - HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

1st Annual **Leadership Pinellas**

“Pinellas Trail Bike Ride Social”



WHEN: Saturday, January 25, 2020

9am to 12pm (This is a Free Event, but RSVP is Required)

WHERE: Pinellas Trail; Meet at Crystal Beach Post Office;

420 Crystal Beach Ave., Palm Harbor 34683; Park across from P.O.

DETAILS: Please join your LP alumni on our first Pinellas Trail social bike ride. 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. 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 TO LEADERSHIP PINELLAS (CONTACT@LEADERSHIPINELLAS.COM)