

# Leader's Edge



## A Fresh Decade to Build Community

"I saw them coming and I said, 'This will be good.'"

- A Haitian citizen on witnessing U.S. helicopters and soldiers arriving with relief supplies, January 15.

When we think of community, the term often calls to mind the geographic location where we reside and work. That word however, connotes so much more than a physical place. It suggests an emotional state – a sense of rootedness, of stability. As author Peter Block noted, "We are in community each time we find a place where we belong." When deprived of it, we long for its safety and warmth. Community at its best weaves the hopes, values, norms, practices and care of a diverse people together into a recognizable, functional and beautiful garment richly embroidered with both dreams and memories.

Our Leadership North Houston Alumni Association is such a community – one of leaders. Founded by the visionary presidents and directors of our seven chambers and associations, who themselves represented communities, it continues to provide a sense of belonging for people, who despite their differences, are united in a common mission to serve our larger area. After 15 years of hard work, the result is hundreds of leaders serving many thousands of people.

Our LNH program furnishes the experiential learning and reflection to expand our understanding of community in all its many aspects. Active participation in the alumni association refreshes our knowledge and commitment to our colleagues and others outside our usual circle of associates. January's luncheon program, in which the current chamber and association presidents shared their areas of focus and need, reminds us of our roots in the community and brings us new perspective on what it means to build a place where all can belong today.

The questions posed in those presentations, whether regarding safety, cultural enrichment, economic activity or a sense of place, offer opportunities to create a vibrant and welcoming North Houston community. How can we respond to

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### LNH Program Sponsors

- African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston
- Community Chamber of East Montgomery County
- Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce
- Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce
- Lone Star College System
- Houston Intercontinental Chamber of Commerce
- Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce
- North Houston Association
- Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce

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them? First, we can seek new and deeper understanding of our own area and other communities' approaches to creating a sense of home. Second, we can expand our recruitment of class participants to grow our capability, particularly leaders whose experiences and insights will prompt fresh, imaginative solutions to our challenges. Finally, we can serve our neighbors, whether locally or beyond our borders. It is in serving that we and they together find our home in the larger world community.

- Connie Maxfield, 2009-2010 LNHA President

### Next Luncheon April 19th

Join the LNH Alumni on Monday, April 19th for the next luncheon in the series "How Fit Are Our Families, School and Communities?" A local public official will address our personal responsibilities and how we as citizens can best protect our families, schools and communities. Lunch will be at 11:30 a.m. at the Greenspoint Club.

Luncheon reservations can be made and paid for in advance through the LNHA web site. VISA, MasterCard, Discover Card and American Express Card are all accepted. Go to [www.leadershipnorthhoustonalumni.org](http://www.leadershipnorthhoustonalumni.org) and click on the "Online Reservation" page to make your next reservation.

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### LNH on LinkedIn®

Are you on LinkedIn®? If you want to be connected to Leadership North Houston, look for the LNH Group and join to make new connections. LinkedIn® helps you make better use of your LNHA network, stay informed with LNHA activities, and find commonalities with other LNH alumni. Join today!

## January Luncheon Features Community Leaders

The January LNHA luncheon featured a panel of speakers representing the chambers of commerce and associations sponsoring the LNH program. Each spoke on the programs and activities their group is focusing on in 2010, as well as many of the challenges each group faces this year. Transportation was a common theme. Many of the groups are working to get better roads, rail transportation and funding for these projects.

Two groups that have been longtime sponsors of LNH announced new names. Reggie Gray announced the North Houston Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce is now the Houston Intercontinental Chamber of Commerce. Mike Byers said The Humble Area Chamber is now The Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce. Both said the new names better represent the area and the businesses they represent.

Other panel members included Bruce Hillegeist, Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce; Andy Dill, Community Chamber of East Montgomery County; Mary Evans, Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce; Senator Jon Lindsay, North Houston Association; and Barbara Thomason, Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce.

*LNHA Board member Melissa Lombard moderates the panel discussion by area chambers of commerce and association representatives.*



## Expand Your Community Development Skills at Texas CDI

Seeking to become a more knowledgeable, effective community developer? Join in this year's Texas Community Development Institute, March 1-5, 2010 at the Lone Star College System Training Center in The Woodlands. Since the program's inception, more than 1,000 community leaders from throughout the country, many from Texas, have participated!

Underwritten by Entergy Texas and sponsored by LSCS, the Texas Economic Development Council and the Community Development Council, the five-day session offers over 50 classes, delivered by 30 practitioners and instructors from across the United States, each well-known in their business and community development fields. The comprehensive curriculum leads over a three-year period of once-yearly, week-long sessions and a certification exam to a professional designation in the community development field.

A few examples of topics include: infrastructure development, tax incentives, community entrepreneurship, basics of land use planning, working with the media and community healthcare. An Advance Year program offers graduates an opportunity to continue deepening their knowledge of the field and the network of professionals.

Early registration rates have been extended, so register online today. For more information contact Kay Fitzsimons at 832-813-6623 or visit the CDI webpage at [www.lonestar.edu/cdi](http://www.lonestar.edu/cdi).



*The 2010 Class of Leadership North Houston at the fall retreat*

### LNH Class of 2010

Jenna Armstrong

Tony Barcelona, III

Sandy Barton

Darlene Benz

Debbie Berry

Kimberly Brusatori

Marian Burkhardt

Richard Cantu

Andy Havel

Leslie LaPres

Becky Landes

Regina Lindsey

Diana Lothringer

Jane McDonald

Tiffani McMinn

Robert Nagel

Regina Owens

Summer Patton

Marchel Peterson

Rebecca Riley

Robert Robertson

Donna Robinson

Connie Roebuck

Bryan Rose

Shawna Roy

Mariana Sanchez

Raphael Turner

David Warner

Stephanie Wilson

Congratulations to the 2010 Class!

## Alumni Accolades

### 2009—2010 LNHA Board of Directors

Connie Maxfield, President  
Class of 2004

Robert Thomas, Vice President  
Class of 2001

Suzanne Parmer, Treasurer  
Class of 2001

Kelly Norton, Secretary  
Class of 2002

Pat Boullion, Past President  
Class of 2006

Brian Dooley  
Class of 2005

Cindy Doyle  
Class of 2008

Keith Edwards  
Class of 2006

Janis Fowler  
Class of 2004

Kelly Hammons  
Class of 2006

Rev. Justin Lindstrom  
Class of 2007

Melissa Lombard  
Class of 2008

Leslie Martone  
Class of 2008

Woody Mitchell  
Class of 2008

Phyllis Oustifine  
Class of 1999

Dylan Schopper  
Class of 2009

Becky Spencer  
Class of 2000

Anne Valette  
Class of 2009

Eric Yates  
Class of 2007

**Andie Szabo** (Class of 2007) Extension 19 Answering Service was named Small Business of the Year for 2009. The award was presented on November 19, 2009 at the Lone Star College System Small Business Development Center's banquet.

**Janine J. Moore** (Class of 2008) of Peak Financial Group, LLC was a finalist in the LSCS SBDC's Small Business of the Year awards in November of 2009.

**Kelly Norton** (Class of 2002) of Lone Star College-CyFair wrote an article "Cy-Fest is LSC-CyFair's Gift to the Community" which was featured in an insert piece in *Living Magazine's* October 2009 issue. The article also won a Silver Medallion in the Feature Writing category of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 4 Medallion Awards 2009 competition. The medallion awards recognize outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges in District 4, a region that includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming.

**Kim McCully** (Class of 2003) Computer Moms. Kim is editor of the ABWA Greenspoint Newsletter, which was honored as National Newsletter Winner at the 2009 ABWA National Women's Leadership Conference held in Kansas City. The newsletter is one of only five nationally to be honored with this award.

Alumni wishing to include information in the LNHA accolades section can email Kim McCully, [kmccully@computermoms.com](mailto:kmccully@computermoms.com) or submit them through the form on the LNHA web site, Alumni page. Awards, nominations, job changes, and service awards are just a sampling of the type of things we hope to include



The mission of Leadership North Houston Alumni Association is to encourage the ongoing development of LNH graduates through community service participation and strong leader to leader relationships. Building on the momentum of Leadership North Houston, the Alumni Association ensures that graduates continue expanding their leadership skills and remain committed to improving their communities.

## Spotlight on LNHA Board Members

**Kelly Hammons** is a Senior Account Manager with Burnett Staffing. Burnett is a woman owned business focused on Accounting, Engineering, HR, Sales, Legal and Administrative positions, and Kelly has been with them six years. Kelly and her husband live in the Cy-Fair area and have 2 sons. Kelly is a member of the Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce and was in “The Best Class 11” during 2005-2006. Kelly also serves a member of the Woman's Business Forum in Northwest Houston. She is a graduate of Sam Houston Stat University and is still involved as a lifetime Alumni member, and she serves on the Alpha Delta Pi Housing Board of Directors. Kelly says, “LNH has opened many doors for me and continues to enhance my leadership skills. I've been so blessed to have met so many wonderful people and mentors through the LNH organization.”



**Janis Fowler** has been with the Lone Star College System since 2001 and currently assists in faculty grant development and grant writing at the college system and the campuses. She was in the 2003-2004 class of LNH, and also completed the college system's Leadership Academy in 2006-2007. Janis graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelors of Business Administration. She received her Master's degree in Public Management from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. Janis is currently working on her doctorate in Educational Leadership at Sam Houston State University.

Janis has worked in every sector of the economy including private, non-profit, and public sectors. She has spent the past 15 years working on grant projects and has raised well over \$25 million in funds for various organizations. She also volunteers her time and efforts to assist charitable organizations in her community including the Humble ISD Education Foundation, Kingwood Women's Club, various Chambers, and Memorial Hermann North East's Project Mammogram. She is married and has two children and devotes her spare time to supporting their efforts.

Kelly and Janis recently joined the LNH Alumni board. Watch for spotlights featuring other board members in upcoming newsletters.

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*“Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions.”*  
- Harold S. Geneen

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### Support LNHA

The LNH Alumni Association cultivates the ongoing development of program graduates through learning opportunities, community service participation and strong leader-to-leader relationships.

Modest dues and optional higher levels of investment opportunities help provide scholarships to future participants in the LNH class. These dues also help pay any costs associated with the annual service project.

If you would like to join, go to the LNHA web site and join or renew today. On-line credit card payments are now accepted. Go to: [www.leadershipnorthhoustonalumni.org](http://www.leadershipnorthhoustonalumni.org) and click on “How to Join.” You can also download a brochure with investment options and additional information if you would like to mail in payment.

### Upcoming LNHA Events

Bring a guest and join us for these future events:

- April 19, 2010 Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
“How Fit Are We in Our Families, School and Communities?”
- May 20, 2010—LNH Graduation

Luncheons are held at the Greenspoint Club, and the Graduation will be held at Shirley Acres.

## A Special Thank You to Our 2009-2010 Contributors

### INVESTORS

Spring ISD

Phyllis Oustifine—Hawes Hill Calderon LLP



### ALUMNI PARTNERS

East Montgomery County Improvement District

Connie Bloodworth

Linda Floyd

Suzanne Parmer

Barry Doering

Darcy Mingoia

Keith Edwards



### ALUMNI ASSOCIATES

Colleen Gilbert

Danette Haines—Haines 20/20 International

Camille Hamilton— CMIT Solutions

Paul Hedrickson

Rev. Justin Lindstrom— St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

Melissa Lombard— RedBird Business Results

Leslie Martone—CyFair Federal Credit Union

Connie Maxfield— Maxfield Productivity Consultants, Inc.

Kim McCully— Computer Moms

Kelly Norton

Nancy Shortsleeve—LogoStuff

Anne Vallette