

**Leadership  
North Houston**

Director: [Cathy Owen](#)

**E-Newsletter**

**March 2007**



## *LHNA Uniting to Help Aldine YOUTH*

Leadership North Houston Alumni will participate in a community service project with the Aldine Y.O.U.T.H. Community Center, 4700 Aldine Mail Rt., on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9a.m. – 3 p.m. A Community Day is planned to include a large yard sale in conjunction with the Aldine YOUTH “Renewed Blessings Resale Shop”, a fun carnival for area youth, and an outreach to the surrounding community by forming groups with the teens involved in the Youth School of Business Program. They will distribute important information about the many educational, vocational, social, and recreational activities available at the center for residents of all ages.

Founded in 1990 by Sylvia Bolling, a multiple award winning social entrepreneur, Aldine Youth Organization United to Help (Y.O.U.T.H.) exists to empower positive changes in the lives of our youth and their families through partnerships with businesses, agencies, schools, churches, and talented individuals. Today, Aldine Y.O.U.T.H. provides a wide range of community and family activities, including:

GED classes, Counseling, ESL classes, Volunteer programs, Defensive Driving, Summer program, After school program, Food pantry, Karate, Bread pantry, Tutoring, Performing Arts, Resale Shop, Teen Explosion, Youth School of Business, Exercise classes, Senior Club, and Prayer & Praise Hour.

Angila Ervin, LNH Alumni Board president remarked “This will be a fun community event where the Alumni of Leadership North Houston can have good time with members of this wonderful community and give something back to them at the same time.” The goal of this project is to improve the awareness of the Aldine Y.O.U.T.H. Community Center’s programs, increase the sales of the resale shop which helps to financially support the Center’s programs, and to host a fun and educational event for community families. A group of students from the University of Houston’s Graduate College of Social Work will be providing resources and information to the community, based on the results of needs assessment research conducted in the surrounding area.

Sylvia Bolling, Executive Director and Founder of Aldine YOUTH says, “We truly appreciate Leadership North Houston coming out to be an integral part in helping us to increase our capacity to serve the many low-income families. Community events like this help us to help our youth become healthy, self-sufficient members of society. It does take a village to raise a child and to make a sustaining difference”.

Leadership North Houston Alumni will team up on Saturday, April 21 with this vital organization to celebrate Aldine Y.O.U.T.H. Community Day. Our shared goals:

- Elicit donations of all sorts, but particularly higher end electronics, appliances, jewelry, and clothes to be sold at its Resale Shop on Community Day
- Host a large yard sale that brings community members and others not only to purchase, but also to learn more about the programs Aldine Y.O.U.T.H. offers
- Welcome children to a carnival with popcorn, drinks, face-painting, and games while adults shop
- Join up with teens to provide community outreach by visiting local businesses and people, offering Aldine YOUTH's newsletter, a discount coupon for the resale shop, and encouraging them to sign up for a program
- Clean up!

**We need 30 volunteers for all or part of the day. You can choose your area of service: setting up for the sale; having fun with the children; doing outreach; and/or cleaning up.** If enough members sign up, we could offer three-hour shifts! Bring your significant other, child, friends, or church group. If you will be out of town, as a few expect, you can still participate by calling Aldine Y.O.U.T.H. and arranging for truck pick-up of your items. We have posted a donation record for your taxes at [www.leadershipnorthhouston.org](http://www.leadershipnorthhouston.org). You can also donate cash, if you choose. The sign-up sheet is also available on the website. Please select an area of service and contact LNHA Board members Robert Thomas at [rthomas@aldine.k12.tx.us](mailto:rthomas@aldine.k12.tx.us), Connie Maxfield at [connie@maxfieldproductivity.com](mailto:connie@maxfieldproductivity.com), or Ralph Wheeler at [ralphw@ymcahouston.org](mailto:ralphw@ymcahouston.org) to let them know your choice.

Let's celebrate Aldine Y.O.U.T.H. and help it reach even more community members!

## *March is Community Service month for LHN Leadership North Houston, Leadership High School and Collegiate Leadership*

Everyone who has been through one of the leadership programs learns how important community service is and in March each of the programs will be in action serving another non-profit organization.

The current class chose to participate in Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) Art for the Hungry food drive and can sculpture creations at Willowbrook Mall on the evening of March 11<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year is "Endangered Species" and a Cy Fair College class has created a "lovely" tortoise design that was phenomenal built entirely of cans of food. The class organized food drives to collect the canned goods that were donated to NAM at the conclusion of the exhibits on March 25<sup>th</sup>.



The two Leadership High School programs also had Community Service Projects in March. Leadership High School - Harris County and Class 8 assisted with sorting clothes and other items on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Northwest Assistance Ministries Resale shop located on FM 1960. The Leadership High School- Montgomery County helped with a "Parents Day Out" program for children with disabilities on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The program is sponsored by Montgomery County United Way and students spent the day assisting with projects for the participants.

## *2006-2007 Class News*

The current class has certainly been kept busy with the January Health and Human Services session and the Legislative trip to Austin in February. In January the group visited Hermann Memorial- Northeast where LNH Alum Tom Broad, marketing director (class 1997-1998) brought the class up to date with regional health care and the recent changes at the hospital located in Humble and formerly known as Northeast Medical Center Hospital. The next location and a first for LNH was MD Anderson Hospital where the class learned about the latest in integrated medicine cancer treatment procedures and then heard from the director of the cancer prevention center. Lifelight was grounded due to poor visibility but a really good tour of their headquarters and information was provided by Al Vaiani, Lifelight pilot and community liaison. Speakers from CPS and NAM Director Carole Little (Class 2001-2002) also provided valuable information on their organizations. Class members Kris Young, Reach Unlimited and Curtis Lovett with Open Door provided the class with good information about their human service organizations to wrap up a day of learning about Healthcare and many Social Service organizations.

The class traveled to Austin on February 15<sup>th</sup> to learn about all that happens when the Texas legislature is in session. Upon arrival Senator Tommy Williams District 4, joined the class for a picture (shown below), then the class observed in the House of Representatives and were introduced by newly elected Representative Patricia Harless, District 126. After introductions, Rep. Harless talked at length with the class regarding the issues before the house. She is serving on the Transportation Committee. During the lunch meeting the class also heard from State Senator Dan Patrick, and Lobbyist and former Senator Dan Shelley. After a short time to visit with elected officials, see the Bullock Museum or tour the Capitol it was time to travel back to Houston after learning the most current information of the 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.



*Leadership North  
Houston's Current  
Class  
at the State Capitol*

## Message from the Leadership North Houston Chairman

Dear Fellow Leaders,

Anytime is a great time to share the benefits of Leadership North Houston with a prospective class member, but NOW is the PERFECT time as we head into "recruiting season". Our board recently welcomed the executives from our sponsoring organizations to join us at our meeting and developed a plan to recruit within the larger north Houston corporations. Each organization has identified 8-10 companies within its member base that will be sent a letter and information about LNH. A board member and the chamber executive will then follow up with a visit. Our plan is to let corporate executives and managers know what a benefit it is to their company to have someone from their team develop the professional and personal skills that come along with LNH. Our goal is to have at least 5 members of the 2008 class from these larger companies.

We also encouraged our sponsoring organizations to emphasize LNH to the members of their board of directors. Leadership North Houston is the perfect complement to board service and creates a more informed, engaged board member. My personal "thank you" to our sponsoring organization executives for attending our board meeting and learning what's new with LNH.

It is also time to consider nominating fellow LNH alumni for the Distinguished Community Leader Award. This is a prestigious award given annually to an LNH graduate who is having a positive impact in their community through volunteer efforts. I hope each of you will seriously consider nominating someone so we can celebrate the impact that our program has in the community. Nomination forms were mailed March 1<sup>st</sup> and the form is also attached to this email

Remember, applications for the new class will be due June 1<sup>st</sup>. Now is the time to make a phone call or send a note to someone you think should consider applying. Personal contact makes a big difference. Don't let LNH be a secret!

Warmest Regards,



Jill Boullion  
Chair, Board of Directors

## Message from the Leadership North Houston Alumni Chairman

To the Dedicated Leaders of Leadership North Houston:

What a year we are having! Our Board of Directors has set up a schedule of events that I hoped you have not missed. Thanks to Becky Heath and Pat Boullion for creating our first two events! If you haven't had a chance to attend, there is more to come.

Here is what we have coming up:

Jill Hickman has scheduled the "Program of Choice" to be held Wednesday April 11, 2007, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The program is titled, "Training for Success at the Texas Training Center." Come experience the state-of-art driving simulator for the latest in Safety Training, hosted by LNH graduate, Jeff Beck, President of Frontier Materials Concrete.

Our Community Service Project is also coming Saturday April 21, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. benefiting Aldine Y.O.U.T.H. Connie Maxfield has set up a great "Yard Sale Theme". We need your donations and time.

To round out our year, we will celebrate the present classes' graduation in May. A great way to connect with old classmates and well come the new graduates to our association! Please visit our new Website for details of all these events. [www.leadershipnorthhoustonalumni.org](http://www.leadershipnorthhoustonalumni.org).

Our membership goals have been reached and surpassed. Thanks to our members who believe in our mission. Thanks to Angel Collins and her Membership Committee for their calls and emails.

Last but not least, "Spring is in the air" and it time to find one or two special people who you believe with benefit from Leadership North Houston. Please take a few minutes and call and email then and ask them to participate in next year's class. Jill Boullion and her Board of Directors are working hard to create more diversity in our classes. Let's follow her lead and do our job to make the next class, the best class ever!

Cheers to you!

*Angila W. Ervin*

Leadership North Houston

Alumni President

## *Alumni Association Events Schedule for 2007*

**Wednesday, April 11: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Training for Success at the Texas Training Center.** Experience the state-of-art driving simulator for the latest in Safety Training, hosted by LNH graduate, Jeff Beck, President of Frontier Materials Concrete. Location: Texas Training Center, 25003 Pitkin Road, Suite G600, Spring, TX 77386. Phone (281) 210-2770. Cost: \$25 (includes lunch) To RSVP contact [charmaine.d.valencia@nhmccd.edu](mailto:charmaine.d.valencia@nhmccd.edu) or call 832.813.6665

**Saturday, April 21: 9:00 a.m. to noon Community Service Project benefiting Aldine Y.O.U.T.H.**

Location: 4700 Aldine Mail Route, Houston, Texas 77039. To sign up or for more information contact LNHA Board member Connie Maxfield, or see information at [www.leadershipnorthhoustonalumni.org](http://www.leadershipnorthhoustonalumni.org).

**Thursday, May 17: 6:00 p.m. LNH Graduation**

Location: Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090

## **Leadership North Houston Alumni Special Recognition**

### **INVESTORS**

Hawes Hill Calderon LLP, Phyllis Oustifine  
Retirement Specialist, Bruce Wise, CFP, MCRS  
Caldwell Watson Real Estate, Bill Ginder

### **ALUMNI PARTNERS**

Boullion Graphics, Jill & Pat Boullion  
East Montgomery County Improvement District,  
Suzanne Parmer, Linda Floyd, Connie Bloodworth  
GCC Builders, Manuel Garcia  
Jill Hickman Companies, Jill Hickman  
Darcy Mingoia, CyFair Houston Chamber of Commerce  
Magoo's PrintShop, Margaret Eyster  
National Mail Advertising, Angel Collins  
Newtek Business Solutions, Crystal Sulzer  
Paradigm Consultants, Inc., Brent Lapsley

### **ALUMNI ASSOCIATES**

CyFair Credit Union, Erin Al-Salman  
Community Chamber of East Montgomery County, Andy Dill  
Greater Greenspoint Management  
Ignite Biz, Karen Boeske  
Martha Cottingham  
Caldwell Watson Real Estate, Keith Edwards  
Logo Stuff, Nancy Shortsleeve  
Tomball Chamber, Colleen Gilbert  
Tomball Chamber, Bruce Hillegeist  
Greenspoint Community Partners, Sheila Redmon Jones  
Light of the World Christian Fellowship, Jerry Martin  
Computer Moms, Kim McCully  
North Harris College, Andre Perez  
Gail Schubot, Attorney at Law  
Barbara Tague  
Office Organizers, Holly Uverity  
YMCA Aldine Branch, Ralph Wheeler

## **Remember to pay your Dues!!!**

***The North Houston Leadership Alumni registration forms have been mailed to all of the graduates and past alumni. Please fill out the form and return with your dues. There are several contributor levels available.***

***Thanks*** to those of you who have already paid your 06-07 alumni dues. The money you contribute will help pay for scholarships and alumni activities.

## *Alumni News*

**Our Leadership graduates are an impressive group. The following are just a few of the achievements that have been accomplished by them.**

**Brandy Beyer** (Class of 2005-2006) of Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce has been named Vice-President of Operations.

**Andre Perez** (Class of 2001-2002) of North Harris College has been promoted to Dean of Institutional Advancement.

**Jill Boullion** (Class of 2003-2004) of Boullion Graphics was recognized as an "Outstanding Women in Business" by the North Houston Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce.

**Rosemary Buske** (Class of 2005-2006) of Contact Promotions was recognized as an "Outstanding Women in Business" by the North Houston Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce.

**Phyllis Oustifine** (Class of 1998-1999) of Hawes Hill Calderon, LLP was recognized as an "Outstanding Women in Business" by the North Houston Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce.

**Jocklynn Keville** (Class of 2001-2002) of Greater Greenspoint District was recognized as an "Outstanding Women in Business" by the North Houston Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce.

**Margaret Eyster** (Class of 2004-2005) of Magoo's Print Shop was recognized as an "Outstanding Women in Business" by the North Houston Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce.

**Erin El-Salman** (Class 2005-2006) with the Cy-Fair Federal Credit Union was recently promoted to Vice President of Marketing and Business Development.

**Kathi Bittner** (Class 2002-2003) owner of Cut-A Rug Dance Studio writes that business could not be better! Ever since all of the TV shows have come out about dancing, things have been really hopping at the dance studio! Also, they just returned from the C&W World Championships in Nashville. It was a true Worlds event, as there were people there from 14 countries! We had some great students go from my studio and brought home 4 world titles to Tomball, Texas!!

**Angila Ervin** (Class 1997-1998) with Weekenders was recently named Top 10 Candidate for Cy-Fair Express Network of the American Business Women's Association

**Kelly Ann Norton** (Class 2001-2002) with Cy-Fair College was recently named Woman of the Year for Cy-Fair Express Network of the American Business Women's Association.

**Susan Dietz** (Class 2004-2005) with Whitney Bank was recently named Woman of Excellence for the American Business Women's Association Greenspoint Chapter.

**Jill Boullion** (Class 2003-2004) with Boullion Graphics was recently named Top 10 Candidate for the American Business Women's Association Greenspoint Chapter.

Please help us recognize our LNH Graduates. Email their accomplishments to [poustifine@hhcllp.com](mailto:poustifine@hhcllp.com) .

## *How to prepare for the big meeting*

You've got a big meeting coming up and already you are dreading it. Why! Because you know your performance in meetings is a career maker or breaker, and you hate the pressure. However, according to Peter Murphy in Project Management Magazine, there are a few things you can do to ensure your meeting performance puts you in the best possible light.

- 1. Be prepared.** That means you need to be informed about the matters to be discussed before the meeting commences. Being ready to intelligently discuss matters at hand will lead to feelings of confidence, and will encourage your colleagues to view you as competent and relaxed..
- 2. Run through a rehearsal of what you are going to say..** Try to visualize yourself successfully communicating your message, and actually enjoying doing it. Rehearse for about 20 minutes the night before when you are feeling positive and relaxed.
- 3. Speak with enthusiasm.** No one likes to listen to someone who is bored with what they are talking about. If the subject does not inspire your enthusiasm, shoot for delivering your message with some energy.
- 4. Be ready for objection.** Anticipate objections your colleagues might throw on the table and prepare your responses.
- 5. Be certain of yourself.** That means you should not convey that you think you might not be able to accomplish something. This requires honesty about your topic. If you need to agonize over something, do it before the meeting and decide whether you can truly present the subject in a positive or realistic manner. You want to be direct, ask good questions and avoid affecting others negatively whenever possible.

**Leadership North Houston is sponsored by the Acres Home Citizens Chamber of Commerce, Community Chamber of Commerce, Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce, Humble Area Chamber of Commerce, Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce, North Harris Montgomery Community College District, North Houston Association, North Houston Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce, and the Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce.**

## *Quote of the Month*

***The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything! -- Unknown***

*E-Newsletter Committee*

**Kelly Norton – Cy-Fair College  
Phyllis Oustifine - Hawes Hill Calderon LLP**

**Please submit articles and press releases to Phyllis Oustifine at [poustifine@hhcllp.com](mailto:poustifine@hhcllp.com)**