

Leader's Edge



Hello Leaders,

Spring time is here and the buzz of a fresh start is certainly in the air. We too are abuzz with activity with the LNH graduation quickly approaching and the retreat planning for next year already taking shape.

We live and work in an awesome community that continues to grow and with that growth comes opportunity. The focus for our year was to *Engage* and I trust that you have been an active participant in the communities in which you live work and play in the facilitation of positive change.

We are all still abuzz from our session with Ms. Germaine Porche and her keen insight into how *Leadership Starts With You!* where she provided us with some very practical principles to employ and apply as we face the sometimes daunting task of being leaders.

Borrowing from her presentation "*there can be no flight without friction and force*", we as leaders operate in much the same way, friction sharpens our tools of leadership and force continues to march us forward when others turn and give up in exhaustion. Leaders shape their surroundings regardless of their circumstances and LNH is the catalyst that draws us together collectively to do so!

Congratulations to our new LNH class and let's keep making North Houston the place to live, work, grow and play!

Looking forward to seeing each of you on the 26th at the graduation.

Robert Thomas—2010—2011 LNHA Board President



Join us for the LNH Graduation Celebration and Awards Dinner , Thursday, May 26th, 2011 at Shirley Acres. This event is a great way to catch up with your fellow LNH Alumni, and join others from your "Best Class". Sponsorships are still available by contacting Michelle Benavides at 832-813-6665. See page 2 for the invitation and more details.

May, 2011
Volume 5, Issue 2

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LNH Program Sponsors

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



Leadership North Houston Alumni Board
invites you to attend the

2010-2011
*Leadership North Houston
Graduation Celebration & Awards Dinner*

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Shirley Acres
217 Woerner Road • Houston, TX 77090

6 p.m. Cocktails • 6:30 p.m. Dinner
Cash Bar • Seated Dinner • Silent Auction

John Pickelman Leadership North Houston Fellow Award Recipient:
Lou Shirley

Leadership North Houston Alumni Distinguished Leader Award Nominees:
*Cynthia Calvert • Reginald Lillie • Connie Maxfield
Kelly Norton • Kathi Schmidt • Mike Sullivan*

Individual Ticket: \$35

Sponsorships:
Platinum \$1,000 • Gold \$500 • Silver \$350

Make your reservation today by contacting
Michelle Benavides at 832.813.6665 or michelle.e.benavides@lonestar.edu

Leadership North Houston Alumni

The mission of Leadership North Houston Alumni Association is to encourage the on-going 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.

2010—2011 LNHA
Board of Directors

Robert Thomas, President
Class of 2001

Melissa Lombard, Vice President
Class of 2008

Suzanne Parmer, Treasurer
Class of 2001

Rev. Justin Lindstrom, Secretary
Class of 2007

Connie Maxfield, Past President
Class of 2004

Brandy Beyer
Class of 2006

Pat Boullion
Class of 2006

Brian Dooley
Class of 2005

Margaret Eyster
Class of 2005

Kelly Hammons
Class of 2006

Kennie Kerr
Class of 2002

Bennie Lambert
Class of 1997

Judy Lux
Class of 2001

Leslie Martone
Class of 2008

Woody Mitchell
Class of 2008

Kelly Norton
Class of 2002

Phyllis Oustifine
Class of 1999

Marchel Peterson
Class of 2010

Larry Rideaux
Class of 2007

Melissa Robey
Class of 2009

Chamber Spotlights

Each LNHA newsletter will feature updates from two of the eight Chambers that support Leadership North Houston. We have asked them to share with us what is new in their communities and update us on any events and the current hot topics.

Houston Northwest Chamber Barbara Thomason, President



Economic Development Initiative Launched

The Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce kicked off the year with the *Annual Diamonds & Ice Gala* featuring The Pointer Sisters. This exciting event was the official launch of the Chamber's Economic Development Initiative. The Economic Development Committee has developed tools to launch the Business Retention and Expansion Program (BRE).

Looking ahead, the Economic Development Committee in conjunction with the Health Industry Committee is hosting an economic development forum on Thursday, August 11, 2011 for a special half-day event, **"Making Northwest Houston Work"**, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Lone Star College-University Park. General sessions and break-out workshops will focus on the energy and health industries and how innovation and public policy will influence economic growth and job expansion in our region. Anyone may register online to attend.

Green Medians Project Completed

A high priority for the Chamber has been the introduction of landscaping to the medians installed last year by TXDOT along FM 1960 (now called Cypress Creek Parkway). Over \$500,000 was raised by the community and the project should be completed by the end of May.

A Green Medians Dedication Ceremony was held May 6th when the names of those memorialized were placed in a container and buried under the Living Memory Tree. The Living Memory Tree is located in the median in front of the Chamber office at 3920 Cypress Creek Parkway, 77068. www.GreenMedians.org

Find the Houston Northwest Chamber on Facebook, in 'My Chamber App' (a free download for I-Phone, Android, Blackberry and I-Pad users) and at www.HoustonNWChamber.org

"We are developing successful businesses and a thriving community!"

Houston Intercontinental Chamber of Commerce Reggie Gray, President



The Houston Intercontinental Chamber of Commerce has been actively planning the 23rd annual golf tournament May 16th, at the Woodlands Country Club, TCP Course and the SYSCO ICE Epicurean event, May 19th, to be held at Sam Houston Race Park. The grand opening for the newly completed 20-screen all digital Premiere Cinemas will be May 13th. The Chamber will be hosting an invitation-only VIP party, Thursday, May 12th to celebrate the grand opening. The theater, located at Greenspoint Mall, will be the most technologically advanced theater in the country, upon opening date.

Other upcoming events include the State of the Management Districts, June 2nd; the State of the School Districts, August 4th; a Transportation Summit, September 15th, and a Healthcare Summit, October 6th.

HICC recently added Jason Yates, VP of Sales & Marketing, CHI USA and Seth Sharr to its Board of Directors. Seth will be returning the Board and Executive Committee as the Vice-Chair over the newly created International Division. This new division will be focused on events and programs for our international companies, foreign consulates, and foreign-US Chambers partnerships.

The Chamber's sister organization, the North Houston Economic Development Council has had an incredible first quarter 2011 working with projects such as Enerflow Industries, Neutex Advanced Energy, and Premiere Cinemas. The NHEDC is currently working with five other projects and will be making announcements soon regarding those projects and companies. It is a great time to do business in north Houston and to be a part of the Houston Intercontinental Chamber and the North Houston Economic Development Council.

"The grand opening for the newly completed 20 screen all digital Premiere Cinemas will be May 13th. ...The theater, located at Greenspoint Mall, will be the most technologically advanced theater in the country."

LNH Class of 2011

Dr. Thad Anglin

Callie Barnes

Heather Carothers

Dr. Aaron Chapa

David Crume

Cynthia Davis

Rhea Davis

Dr. Linda Garcia

Karen Garrison

Carol Hadley

Stacey Hamlet

Christine Holloway

Robert Maxwell

Michael McEnany

Michelle Parnell

Pat Patterson

Kristina Perez

Dr. Darrin Rankin

Karla Sandoval

Thomas Schumacher

Denise Simmons

Cecelia (C.C.) Sutphen

Christina Todd

Alumni in the Spotlight

Who are they? Where are they now? What are they up to? We know you are curious about your fellow LNH Alumni, so each LNHA newsletter will feature a different alumnus. Want to be featured? Submit your request to editor@leadershipnorthhoustonalumni.org.

Greg Kolanowski, Photographer/ Owner, Kolanowski Studio, Inc.

LNHA: What class were you a part of?



GK: I was in the Leadership North Houston Class of 1997, it's second year. We had already been working with the college system on various photography projects when I was asked to serve on the LNH board of directors, so I was happy to be involved in the new project led by Ray Laughter and Cathy Owen.

LNHA: Tell us a few things about your business and any charities or non-profits you are passionate about.

GK: As a commercial photographer working for businesses and individuals in need of anything from a business portrait to marketing photos of a multi-million dollar

home we are always working to help our clients move forward and achieve their goals. I try to keep this quote from Henry Kissinger in mind, especially when working with a new business. "The task of a leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been." LNH was instrumental in helping me achieve that goal personally.

After my time in the LNH class, I went on to serve on the board of the Art Directors Club of Houston, as president of the Heights Exchange Club, and I also volunteer for the Houston Heights Association.

LNHA: How has being in LNH affected your business?

GK: My involvement in those organizations has resulted in many longtime personal and professional relationships, and I am happy to say that both LNH and Lone Star College System are still favorite clients to this day.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

—John Quincy Adams

Look for LNH and LNHA on LinkedIn® and Facebook



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 activities and find commonalities with other LNH alumni. Join today!



If you're on Facebook, search for the LNHA page and "Like" us to stay in touch.

Current Class Member Spotlight



Carol Hadley
Graco Awards



LNHA: Tell us about your business:

CH: Graco Awards takes great pride in being one of the few companies authorized by the government to manufacture the higher military awards. Some of the better known medals that are produced at Graco are the Medal of Honor, the Legion of Merit, and the Purple Heart. There is a high degree of trust and responsibility placed on our staff and employees for these honorable awards. That is why working here for the past seven years has been challenging yet rewarding.

LNHA: What made you decide LNH was something you wanted to be a part of?

CH: I had heard about LHN through various friends and colleagues over the span of several years. The LHN alumni are people I had looked up to in the community already, and their excitement about their experience was contagious.

LNHA: What is the best part of the program or what have you learned so far?

CH: Each topic we have learned about including economics, the justice system, and education, has helped me to understand my community better. My favorite part of the program has been getting to know the other leaders in my community and the fun we are having with our service project. I have also learned that I never want to be in a police chase going 100 miles an hour....backwards.

LNHA: How do you intend to use your LNH experience to make a difference?

CH: Through this experience I have realized that I need to pay more attention to what goes into decisions from the local to the state government. These decisions today impact all of us for decades to come.

LNHA: Who is a leader you admire and why?

TS: Leadership is influencing others in a positive way. There is no greater leader than Jesus Christ. The impact He made through his words and actions changed lives in a positive manner then, and keeps changing lives positively now and in the future. That is...miraculous leadership!



LNHA Development Workshop

On February 25th roughly 40 Leadership North Houston Alumni and guests learned more about themselves as leaders as well as gained strategies and tools to deepen their leadership skills-at work, at home and in the community.

Sponsored by the Leadership North Houston Alumni Association, this personal leadership development workshop, ***Leadership Starts With You!*** was presented by Germaine Porche. Germaine is president and co-founder of Eagle's View Consulting, an international coaching and management consultancy. Germaine is co-author of *Coach Anyone About Anything: How to Help People Succeed in Business and Life* which is listed among Amazon.com's top 100 business books. Each participant received a copy of her book.

While the workshop was focused primarily on developing personal leadership styles and skills, a fair amount of time was also devoted to the topic of engagement. As Germaine pointed out, according to a recent survey by Towers Perrin - only 21% of the workforce is fully engaged while 38% is disengaged. Participants learned valuable lessons in motivating, mentoring and coaching toward the ultimate goal-engagement of team members. Whether those folks are employees, peers, volunteers or whomever, knowing how to



effectively get them on board and participating can be the difference between success and failure.

A big thank you to our sponsors for the event, Connie Maxfield of Maxfield Productivity and Lone Star College-North Harris.

Because the workshop and luncheon were so successful, watch for more events like this one from the LNHA Association in the future.



The LNHA Leadership Development Committee: (L-R) Woody Mitchell, Connie Maxfield (chair), Melissa Lombard, Germaine Porche (speaker), Brandy Beyer and Judy Lux.

Announcements and Accolades

Several LNH Alumni were nominated and/or won American Business Women's Association Awards:

Treena Dockery and Margaret Eyster were both nominees for Top Ten Candidate and Woman of Excellence for the Greenspoint Chapter ABWA. Jill Boullion and Margaret Eyster were both nominees for the Woman of the Year, and Margaret Eyster was awarded Woman of the Year for ABWA Greenspoint Chapter.

Kathi Schmidt, Kelly Norton, Phyllis Oustifine and Darlene Hajduk were all nominees for Woman of the Year for ABWA's Cy-Fair Express Network. Darlene was also nominated for Top Ten Candidate and Woman of Excellence. Kelly Norton was also nominated for Top Ten Candidate. Congratulations to all!

Nominate Existing and Emerging Leaders

From Kay Fitzsimons, Director, Community Leadership Institute

Dear LNH Alumnus:

Leadership North Houston – WHAT AN EXPERIENCE! Remember the people you met and the things you learned? Remember how much fun it was?

Leadership North Houston is our region’s premier resource for leadership development and civic education that is community-based, intergenerational, and inclusive of leaders from all sectors of our community. Developing civic leadership that is effective, knowledgeable, and engaged is our purpose.

As a distinguished alumnus, you're in a position to help us continue our mission by identifying those who make things happen in our community. Please take a moment to nominate existing and emerging leaders for the 2011-2012 Leadership North Houston program. There is no limit to the number of nominations you can submit.

All nominees will receive an information packet and application for the 2011-2012 Leadership North Houston program.

Keep the tradition going strong by helping us recruit top quality leaders. The form you can use is on the next page of this newsletter. If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kay Fitzsimons



2011-2012 Leadership North Houston Nomination Form

I nominate the following individual, whom I consider to be an excellent candidate, to receive an informational packet and application for the 2011-2012 Leadership North Houston program. Information regarding this nomination will be sent to each nominee at the close of next year's nomination process.

Mr. Mrs. Ms.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Occupation: _____

Gender*: Male Female

Race/Ethnicity*: African American American Indian Asian Caucasian Other

*This information is used to help achieve a diverse class representative of the North Houston community.

Your Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Submit the completed form by mail, fax or email to:

Leadership North Houston
5000 Research Forest Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77381
832.813.6623 phone
832.813.6624 fax
kay.l.fitzsimons@lonestar.edu

A Special Thank You to the LNHA 2010-2011 Contributors

INVESTOR LEVEL

Ari Fleitman

Phyllis Oustifine—Hawes Hill Calderon LLP

East Montgomery County Improvement District:

Connie Bloodworth

Linda Floyd

Suzanne Parmer

PARTNER LEVEL

Margaret Eyster—Magoo's Print Shop

Bill Ginder

Darcy Mingoia

ASSOCIATE LEVEL

Greenspoint District:

Al Aranda

Bart Baker

Treena Dockery

Regina Lindsey

Jerry Lowry

Jocklynn Keville

Diane Newman

Brandy Beyer

Janel Dehnart

Bruce Hillegeist

Melissa Lombard

Connie Maxfield

Marian Sanchez-Ali

Support LNHA

The LNH Alumni Association cultivates the on-going 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 projects.

If you would like to join, go to the LNHA web site and join or renew today. Online credit card payments are accepted. Go to: 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 your payment.