

e-Cast

LEADERSHIP
FLORIDA®

Connecting a statewide community of leaders actively engaged in understanding and serving Florida.

Volume II, No. 4, Winter 2016

2017 ANNUAL MEETING - CAPTAIN SCOTT KELLY



Your 2017 Annual Meeting Committee is thrilled to reveal our closing keynote speaker: NASA astronaut **CAPTAIN SCOTT KELLY!**

Back from his historic record-breaking Year In Space, astronaut Captain Scott Kelly has laid the groundwork for the future of space travel and exploration, and continues to garner media exposure like no other pioneer of our time. From the cover of TIME to live interviews on TODAY to features in Forbes and on CNN, to more than 1 million [Twitter](#) followers, the world remains in awe of a hero's return to the planet that is home, from an adventure that is extraordinary. With life lessons and personal stories that reveal unique and valuable advice on pushing one's own limits, to insight on the leadership and teamwork required in such demanding conditions, and the challenges -- such as long term deprivation from loved ones and Planet Earth -- Kelly will share with LF members the choices and life events that paved his journey's path.

An astronaut since 1996, Kelly's achievements over his illustrious 20-year career with NASA earned him the coveted position as America's first year-round astronaut. On his historic mission that spanned from March 2015 to March 2016, Kelly and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko conducted experiments, reconfigured station modules, and captivated the world with live interviews and never-seen-before photos from the International Space Station.

Coming in Fall 2017 is Kelly's hugely anticipated memoir recently optioned by Sony Pictures, **Endurance: My Year in Space and Our Journey to Mars.**

Our group room reservation link is now available! Our members will enjoy a reduced rate of \$235 per night, compared to the standard rate during our dates of approximately \$520. The Annual Meeting will begin on the evening of **Thursday, June 29**, and conclude at noon on **Sunday, July 2**. Since we'll be celebrating our 35th anniversary and Wendy Walker's legacy, we expect our room block to fill up quickly. Please be advised that there is a limit of one room per member with our group rate.

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR JEFF WAHLEN

Dear Members,

Leadership Florida is in great shape at the halfway mark of our 35th year. A few thoughts as the New Year approaches:

- Our Regions have been busy and our members throughout the state are engaged;
- Leadership Florida's magic is being shared with the 137 exceptional leaders in Connect Class VII, Education Class II and Class XXXV;
- Our U.S. Senate Debate was a success;
- We found a great person in **Wendy Spencer (Class XXIV)** to succeed **Wendy Walker**; and
- Our Board and Committees have been quietly, but diligently, preparing for the future.



In January, our Leadership Team will meet in Tampa to compare notes and ensure we're on course as we continue our work for the year. The second half of the year holds tremendous promise:

- **Connect Day at the Capital** takes place on February 9-10, 2017 in Tallahassee;
- **Wendy Walker** and **Wendy Spencer** will visit our Regions in March and April so members can meet Spencer and thank Walker;
- Our Awards Committee will be unveiling a new award in the spring;
- We will begin to recruit and select members for Connect Class VIII, Education Class III and Class XXXVI, as well as members to serve with chair-elect **Beth Kigel (Class XXIX)** on the 2017-2018 Leadership Team; and
- **Shaw Heydt Thomas (Connect III)**, **Brian Seymour (Class XXX)** and the Annual Meeting Committee will bring a superb program and big-time celebration to life at The Breakers Palm Beach (June 29 to July 2, 2017).

Once upon a time, I wanted to conduct a magnificent symphony orchestra. I never learned to play an instrument, which was a pretty big obstacle. Being chair of Leadership Florida will probably be as close as I get. How? Although I get to stand up front, the real music of Leadership Florida is made by our members who attend events, make new friends, support us financially, recruit new members, volunteer in leadership roles, and care about our programs and work to improve Florida. A beautiful symphony of sorts.

Our successes in 2016 resulted from you - our members, our Board of Directors, our Committee chairs, our Regional Council members, our Connect Florida Board and our talented staff. Everyone deserves a big round of applause and **thank you**. I wish you all a happy and restful holiday season full of friends, family and faith. I hope you can look back on this year with satisfaction and are looking forward to a new year full of fresh and exciting opportunities.

LF DAY OF SERVICE



Connect Florida is thrilled to spearhead this year's **Leadership Florida Day of Service!** Graduates of Connect Florida are proud to expand the original Connect Florida Day of Service into a statewide event that encompasses the entire Leadership Florida family - an opportunity to expand our impact even more! The goal of the Leadership Florida Day of Service is to bring together all Leadership Florida members for events and projects benefiting local organizations in each Region, providing all members with an opportunity to give back to their communities.

We hope you have signed up and plan to join your fellow members tomorrow (**Saturday, December 10**) for unique service projects in each of our Regions. If you haven't already registered, many Regions are still welcoming members and their families to join in: [click here to find each Region's project and registration link.](#)

Remember to use **#DayofService** as you share your Day of Service on social media. Thanks to all of you who have helped make this initiative a success!

Sincerely,
Alex Price (Connect III)
Connect Florida Chair-Elect



Alex getting his hands dirty at the 2015 Day of Service project in Tampa!

LIFETIME MEMBER - 161!



Leadership Florida welcomes our newest Lifetime Member, **Doug Bartel (Class XXXV)** from the Gold Coast Region. Thank you for recognizing - even before concluding your class program year - the long-term value Leadership Florida will play in your life!

*"The more time I spend with Class XXXV, the more I am amazed and inspired by our state and by the passionate leaders helping shape their communities. Even as a lifelong Floridian, I have so much more to learn about Florida and I am extraordinarily grateful to Leadership Florida and to my classmates for providing "but for" insight and perspective on Florida's most important issues and opportunities. I am honored to join the prestigious group of Lifetime Members committed to the long-term future of Leadership Florida and our great state."
- Doug Bartel (Class XXXV), Senior Director of Business Development External Relations, Florida Blue*

161 Leadership Florida members have chosen to become "Lifetime Members" by making a pledge of \$6,000 to the Leadership Florida Endowment Fund. When their gift has been paid in full, the member is no longer responsible for paying dues to the organization. The entire gift is tax-deductible and strengthens the health of Leadership Florida, supporting the sound financial footing it needs to continue to

Jeff Wahlen (Class XXI)
2016-2017 Leadership Florida Chair

SPOTLIGHT ON STEVE LEIFMAN, CLASS XVIII



GOVERNING, the premier source for insight, analysis and detailed reporting on state and local government, annually recognizes exceptional leadership, just as Leadership Florida did in 2010 when **Judge Steve Leifman (Class XVIII)** was presented the Distinguished Member award. This year, Steve was one of GOVERNING'S eight public servants in the nation to be recognized as the news source's "Public Official of the Year." [We encourage you to read his powerful story and legacy, in this month's issue.](#)

Leadership Florida is so grateful to Steve, not only for his contributions to the state of Florida, but also for his willingness to speak with our Annual Class Program every year on the important issue of mental health.

"Judge Leifman's servant-leader style is best characterized by a genuine, deeply pragmatic, collaborative, and focused approach to working across systems and organizations to find long-term, sustainable solutions to community, state, and national mental health needs. He has made relentless efforts and shown utmost enthusiasm in improving the quality of life for people with serious mental illnesses, many of whom are among our communities' most vulnerable and marginalized citizens." - Pat Morris (XVI) and Javier Hernandez-Lichtl (XVIII)

Thanks to his leadership on this issue, the 2016 Florida legislature enacted mental-health reform legislation that will better protect those who suffer from mental illnesses from maltreatment. The bill encourages community entities to work together to address this significant problem, just as Steve is doing. **We asked Steve what specific ways Leadership Florida members can make change in their communities in addressing mental health:**

"Approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. experiences mental illness in a given year. Sadly, the stigma of mental illness often prevents millions of Americans each year from seeking treatment and limits the level of advocacy and resources for mental health treatment. As a result, many people who otherwise could lead healthy lives in recovery end up in acute systems like hospitals and jails. The issues surrounding untreated mental illness are community problems, requiring community solutions. There are three things LF members could do that would help improve our community mental health system:

1. *Encourage your County Commission to pass a "Stepping Up" Resolution - (<https://stepuptogether.org/>) - which helps develop a community collaborative with all of the stakeholders to reduce the over-representation of people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system.*
2. *Speak to your local legislators about the importance of mental health funding and treatment.*
3. *Get involved - help implement the recently passed mental health legislation by working with your local behavioral health managing entity."*

- Judge Steve Leifman (Class XVIII)
Associate Administrative Judge, Miami-Dade County Court

CLASS XXXV SOARING HIGH



Class XXXV was soaring high throughout their second session in Pensacola, beginning at the **USS AMBITION National Flight Academy**. **Lt. General Thiessen**, president and CEO of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, welcomed the class to the Flight Academy before they began their training program on base. **Quint Studer**, founder of Studer Community Institute, followed by leading the class through "Pensacola Today," and looking at areas of community health and education where Pensacola is excelling by national standards.

Pensacola News Journal's editorial cartoonist, **Andy Marlette**, brought great humor and great stories to the session with his presentation on "Political Snapshots via the Funny Papers." **Tony Carvajal** (Class XXVI), EVP of the FL Chamber Foundation, enlightened the class with his "Florida Scorecard," introducing new and challenging data on Florida's demographics and business climate. Lastly, the class visited the **Institute for Human & Machine Cognition**, where **Dr. Ken Ford**, founder and CEO of the Institute, spoke on leadership and introduced them to his fascinating world of robotics. Now, Class XXXV looks forward to their next "landing" in Tampa, on January 11.



L to R: Virginia Hall and David Childs; Matt Surrency and Christine Ruiz; Marilyn Drayton and Dawn Kernagis

fulfill its mission and serve its members. Pledges can be paid all at once (there is a 10% discount for gifts paid in one lump sum) or through a payment plan up to five years. For more information, contact Christine Lucas at (850) 521-1220 x 102 or clucas@leadershipflorida.org.

AWARDS

Nomination forms for Leadership Florida's 2017 Awards are now available! Please review the three award categories and consider nominating an individual or organization to be recognized at the 2017 Annual Meeting, June 29 - July 2. The deadline for submission is **Friday, February 17th**, and there is no limit on the number of nominees you may submit.

[Distinguished Member Award](#)
[LeRoy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
[Florida Regional Impact Award](#)



David Powell (Class X, pictured left) and past chair Dean Ridings (Class XXVII, pictured right) present the 2016 LeRoy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award to Bob Rhodes (Executive VI, pictured center).

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

- **December 8-10:** Connect Class VII Session in St. Petersburg
- **December 10:** LF Day of Service
- **December 11:** Calusa Holiday Gathering
- **December 14:** NW Capitol Press Corps Luncheon
- **December 26-30:** Leadership Florida office is closed
- **January 11:** Leadership Team Retreat & Board Meeting in Tampa
- **January 11-13:** Class XXXV Session in Tampa
- **January 12:** WC VIP Lightning Game Experience
- **January 26-27:** Education Class II Session in Jacksonville

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! FROM THE LF STAFF



The Leadership Florida office will be closed from Christmas to New Years. We wish you and your family a restful holiday season!

[Back:](#)

Christine Lucas, Vice President, Services
Tracy Warrington, Part-time Administrative Assistant

[Middle:](#)

Rhianna Reichert, Data & Communications Coordinator
Gjergj Ndoja, Director of Finance & Technology
Bethany Swanson, Program Manager
Rachel Massey, Director of Programs

[Front:](#)

CATCHING UP WITH EDUCATION CLASS II



L to R: Angel Gomez, Mandy Clark, Susan McManus, Jamie McCalvin, Christina Lambert and their program co-chair Brian Dassler (CLF IV, Class XXIII).

Beginning with a powerful conversation on "Leading for Instructional Improvement," Leadership in Education Class II took a deep dive into the world of teaching for their second convening, in St. Petersburg. **Tequila Banks**, joined by **Ben Jackson**, from The New Teacher Project, presented on shifting school standards and innovative ways to approach teacher development. **Sandra Alberti**, from Student Achievement Partners, challenged the class on what they knew about "College and Career Ready Math Standards," and a panel of three highly-effective Florida principals discussed improving instruction and standards' implementation across the board.

In addition to the hard-hitting questions and conversation, Education Class II got a chance to learn about the St. Petersburg community by observing classrooms at **Douglas L. Jamerson Jr. Elementary** facilitated by **Anneke Markholt**, co-author of *Leading for Instructional Improvement* and associate director for the Center for Educational Leadership. This group of 38 Florida education leaders is looking forward to their third session, in Jacksonville in January 2017.



L to R: Keith Simmons and Willie Brewster, Jr.; Sonya Morris, Diane McKee and Cathy Beaudoin; Andrea Messina and Stacy Burdette

U.S. SENATE DEBATE RECAP

Leadership Florida and the Florida Press Association produced a successful statewide, televised U.S. Senate debate on October 26th. Leadership Florida members were watching all around the state, with many on-site for the live action at Broward College. A big thanks to all of our sponsors: **Broward College, League of Southeastern Credit Unions, AARP, Claude Pepper Foundation, Black Alliance for Educational Opportunities, The Children's Movement of Florida, and Florida Realtors.**



L to R: Northeast Region's watch party got a visit from local media!; Connect VI members Krissy Kennedy, Alex Dominguez, Merdochey LaFrance, and Maggie Gunther at the Debate on Broward College's Davie campus



L to R: Broward College President David Armstrong (Class XVIII) and Henri Crockett (Class XXXV); Calusa Watch Party: Marjorie Floyd (Class XXX), John Horne (Class XXVIII) and Emily Walsh (Class XXXIV); Northeast Watch Party: Brenna Durden (Class XXX), Susan Towler (Class XXII), Nancy Veasey (Class XXIV) and Sheila Green (Class XXX)

Elizabeth Jackson, Part-time Accounting & Data Management Specialist
Wendy Walker, President
Mercy Joy Corlew, Director of Member Engagement
Not pictured:
Chris Dabner, Part-time Accounting & Data Management Specialist

MAKE A YEAR-END GIFT

Please consider making a tax-deductible year-end contribution to Leadership Florida! Supporting our mission has never been easier... just go online to www.leadershipflorida.org/donate. Checks may be sent to our office, or for information on donating stock or other assets, contact Christine Lucas at (850) 521-1220 x 102 or by email at clucas@leadershipflorida.org.

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