

e-Cast



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

Volume II, No. 1, Summer 2016



Mark Your Calendars! Our 2nd Annual Giving Challenge is almost here. Please save the date (and your money!) as all members will have the opportunity to have their donation to Leadership Florida DOUBLED or TRIPLED by The Patterson Foundation!!

**September
20 & 21
Noon - Noon**
(click here to add to your calendar)



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR JEFF WAHLEN



It was great seeing so many of you during our Annual Meeting at the Grand Floridian. Leadership Florida has an exciting year ahead! We are producing our 35th Annual Class Program, our Seventh Connect Florida Class and our Second Education Class. We will co-produce a televised debate for the U.S. Senate Race in October, have a full schedule of exciting regional activities and will gather at The Breakers in Palm Beach from June 29 to July 2, 2017 for our 35th Annual Meeting. In addition, we will be hiring a new President and celebrating the remarkable career of Wendy Walker, who has been our leader and friend for 27 years. Almost 70 members of our Leadership Team - the Regional Councils, Committee Chairs, Board of Directors and Connect Board of Governors - are convening in Winter Park at the end of July to finalize plans

for the year. I hope you will join me and your other Leadership Florida friends throughout the year as we celebrate 35 years of success and continue our important work for Florida.

Jeff Wahlen (Class XXI)
Chair of Leadership Florida

2016 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP



Left to Right: Jane Adams (Class XVI), George Lange (Class XVI), Lee Hinkle (Class XVI), Vicki Weber (Class VIII), Mary Alice Phelan (Class IX); Betty Lowery (Class XXI) and husband Darrell Lowery; Jacquee Wahler (Class XXXIV)

Leadership Florida thanks all those who attended the 2016 Annual Meeting! More than 850 members and their guests walked through the doors, filling the Grand Floridian Ballroom Thursday through Sunday. Don't forget to grab your photos, take the survey, and check out all those who supported the conference and Leadership Florida throughout our program year.

- **Conference survey!** Your feedback is essential to our continued success in providing quality programming. We take your ratings and comments very seriously. There are only

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT NORTHWEST

Northwest Region: home of one of TripAdvisor's Top 25 beaches in the U.S., the state capital, the Florida State Seminoles, and the FAMU Rattlers. This region encompasses the entire panhandle and its 20 counties and is Leadership Florida's largest region in terms of size and members! Whether it's the naval base in Pensacola or a trip down the Apalachicola River, this region has had a lot to offer for class programs and "but for" activities. Last session, sixteen LF members made their way to the Capitol steps as elected officials of the Florida Legislature. Also housed in the heart of Tallahassee is the Leadership Florida office; stop by if you're ever passing through!



**Northwest
Members: 286
New Members: 28
Counties: 22**

Leadership Team Members in the Northwest Region

Jennifer Grove, Northwest Regional Chair
Community Development Manager, Gulf Power Company

Dominic Calabro, Northwest Regional Council
President & CEO, Florida TaxWatch, Inc.

Gus Corbella, Class XXXIV Rep, Board of Directors
Senior Director of Government Law & Policy, Greenberg Traurig

Brian Crumbaker, Northwest Regional Council
Shareholder, Hopping Green & Sams, P.A.

John Dailey, Awards Co-Chair
County Commissioner, Leon County

Brian Dassler, Education Initiative Co-Chair
Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality
Florida Department of Education

Andrew Fay, Connect Florida Finance Chair
Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

Carol Gregg, LF Selection/Recruitment Chair
Attorney

Lila Jaber, Transition Chair
Shareholder, Gunster

Michelle Nickens, Northwest Regional Council
Vice President, Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR)

Samantha Sexton, Connect Northwest Chair
Director of Government Affairs, PACE Center for Girls, Inc.

Chester Spellman, Connect Florida Chair
CEO, Volunteer Florida

Jeff Wahlen, LF Chair
Attorney/Shareholder, Ausley McMullen, P.A.

Vicki Weber, LF General Counsel
Attorney, Hopping Green & Sams, P.A.

Mark Wilson, FCC President
President & CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce

20 questions and it will take less than three minutes for you to give us invaluable information. We thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey!
[2016 Annual Meeting Survey](#)

- **Check out our sponsors!** Attached to this e-Cast you'll find an image of our sponsor banner. We hope you will take a look at those who supported our Annual Meeting and Leadership Florida throughout the year and thank them if you get a chance. We couldn't do what we do without their major support.
- **Find your face and post away!** We've gathered all the photos from this event in one place for you - photo booth included! Relive your favorite moments with friends and classmates by looking through the daily albums. If you post on social media, please tag us by using our hashtag: **#LFAM16**
[2016 Photo Albums](#)
- **Want the facts on Florida's future?** Florida Chamber president Mark Wilson was gracious enough to provide his slide presentation for all attendees! You can download it from our photo share site: [Confronting Income Disparity in Florida](#).


Save the Date!
June 29 - July 2
2017 Annual Meeting
The Breakers Palm Beach




October 26, 2016

LEADERSHIP FLORIDA & FLORIDA PRESS ASSOCIATION
 PRESENT

U.S. SENATE DEBATE



DECISION 2016
BEFORE YOU VOTE



BROWARD COLLEGE
www.broward.edu

LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION CLASS II

Leadership Florida is proud to announce the second class of the Leadership in Education program. The following 39 leaders will compose Class II of our Education Initiative. Thanks to all of our members who have supported this program and helped nominate their outstanding local leaders in K-12 education! Over the 2016-2017 program year, this class will convene in Howey-in-the-Hills, St. Petersburg, Jacksonville and Tallahassee. Class II will be led by Brian Dassler (Class XXIII), Trey Csar (Education Class I) and Jesus Jara (Education Class I).

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Amy Archer
Principal
Garden Elementary School
Venice</p> | <p>Russell Hughes
Principal
Walton County School District
DeFuniak Springs</p> | <p>Jacob Oliva
Superintendent
Flagler County School District
Bunnell</p> |
| <p>Cathy Beaudoin
Instructional Coach
Okaloosa County School District
Navarre</p> | <p>Linda Kobert
School Board Member-District 3
Orange County Public Schools
Orlando</p> | <p>Keith Peters
Principal
Gator Run Elementary School
Weston</p> |
| <p>Willie Brewster, Jr.
Assistant Principal
Duval County Public Schools
Jacksonville</p> | <p>Bev Kurak
Teacher
Nassau County School District
Callahan</p> | <p>Paul Puletti
Superintendent
Hendry County School District
LaBelle</p> |
| <p>Stacy Burdette
Principal
School District of Osceola County
Kissimmee</p> | <p>Christina Lambert
President & CEO
Education Foundation of Palm Beach County
West Palm Beach</p> | <p>Nardi Routten
Teacher
St. Lucie County Public Schools
Fort Pierce</p> |
| <p>Paul Burns
Assistant Principal
Sarasota County School District
Sarasota</p> | <p>Nancy Logan
TSA Mentor Coach
School Board of Alachua County
Gainesville</p> | <p>Keith Simmons
Program Coordinator
Florida Humanities Council
St. Petersburg</p> |
| <p>Margarita Castellon
Strategic Team Lead
AT&T
Boca Raton</p> | <p>Jamie McCalvin
Teacher
Calhoun County School District
Blountstown</p> | <p>Marianne Simon
Principal
Reynolds Lane Elementary
Jacksonville</p> |
| <p>Stacy Chambers
Executive Director
Florida State University
Schools
Tallahassee</p> | <p>Diane McKee
Instructional Mentor
School District of Hillsborough County
Valrico</p> | <p>David Struhs
Senior Policy Advisor
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Tallahassee</p> |
| <p>Mandy Clark
National Director of Development
Foundation for Excellence in Education
Tallahassee</p> | <p>Susan McManus
President
Champions for Learning
Naples</p> | <p>Malcolm Thomas
Superintendent of Schools
Escambia County School District
Pensacola</p> |
| <p>Jose Dotres
Chief Human Capital Officer
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Miami</p> | <p>Andrea Messina
Executive Director
Florida School Boards Association
Tallahassee</p> | <p>Gina Tovine
Executive Director, Analysis, Assessment & Accountability
Florida Virtual School
Orlando</p> |
| <p>Debra Faulk
Vice President, Community Affairs
Wells Fargo
Tampa</p> | <p>Larry Miller
Dean - School of Education & Charter Schools
Florida SouthWestern State College
Fort Myers</p> | <p>Andy Tuck
State Board of Education - Board Member
Florida Department of Education
Sebring</p> |
| <p>Cindy Gates
Director, Principal Training,</p> | <p>Kristy Moody
Principal</p> | <p>Michele White, CAE
COO</p> |

LIFETIME MEMBER - 160!



Leadership Florida welcomes our newest Lifetime Member, former LF Chair Susan Towler (Class XXII) from the Northeast Region. Thank you for recognizing the long-term value Leadership Florida will play in your life!

We asked Susan a couple of questions about her LF love...

What is your favorite memory from your class, Class XXII "Can't

Catch 22?" There were 6 sessions back then, and the 3rd one was in Palm Beach. It's where I first heard Ruby Payne speak about education and the hidden rules of class. We went to an Everglades stick house on airboats and had a cookout. Javier Soto, Chris Paul and I went with one of the airboat pilots out in the middle of the swamp and he turned off the engines. The stars, sky, dark water and unusual critter noises all around us were peaceful and frightening at the same time!

What was your favorite part of the 2016 Annual Meeting? Being invited to the reception for the Lifetime Members on Saturday night before the dinner. Jim and I felt extra-special, as the camaraderie, friendship and love that we have for this organization was so present and visible among the members there.



Susan with daughter, Emma, and husband, Jim.

160 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, allowing it the sound financial footing it needs to continue to 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.

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

- **July 28:** CF/LF Strategic Planning in Winter Park
- **July 28:** CLF Task Force Meeting in Winter Park
- **July 28-30:** LF Team Retreat at The Alford Inn
- **July 29:** CF Board Meeting in Winter Park
- **July 30:** LF Board Meeting in Winter Park

Evaluations, and Aspiring
Administrators
Okaloosa County School
District
Shalimar

Fairmount Park Elementary
School
St. Petersburg

Florida Association of School
Administrators
Tallahassee

Angel Gomez
Principal
Broward County Public Schools
Sunrise

Sonya Morris
Bureau Chief
Florida Department of
Education
Tallahassee

Erica Whitfield
School Board Member
School District of Palm Beach
County
West Palm Beach

Ben Henry
Principal
Polk County Public Schools
Lakeland

Rick Myhre
Executive Director, Just Read,
Florida!
Florida Department of
Education
Tallahassee

Darryl Willie
Executive Director
Teach for America
Jacksonville

A special thank you to our Education Initiative sponsors!



**BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation**

**Click here to
Renew your dues!**

The **Leadership Florida 2017 Member Directory** will be sent out soon! Please login to your profile to make sure all of your information is updated and correct to ensure you receive the directory and continue to get information about Leadership Florida's "*but for*" events and programs.

Know a member who's changed their job or city? Let us know! Leadership Florida staff loves to know how they can share the successes of members and continue providing opportunities for engagement. The best way Leadership Florida can serve you is for you to continue updating your profile and letting staff know of any exciting changes in job, residency, contact information and leadership!

As a reminder, your **2015-2016 membership ends on August 31st**. Renew today to continue your active membership with Leadership Florida! All members will receive a mailed and an electronic dues invoice in August.

We'd like to hear from you! Please send photos, story ideas, suggestions, comments, etc. to communications@leadershipflorida.org.

