

SINCE 1991, THE MISSION OF LEADERSHIP PASCO is to identify and recruit current or potential leaders of Pasco County, facilitate the development and interaction of those leaders, and to foster an issues-oriented learning environment for these leaders and the citizens of Pasco County in order to encourage an exchange of ideas and generate enthusiasm for community growth and development.

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President's Message



The word is out! Leadership Pasco is a great organization to be part of. As we start a new program year, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome the Leadership Pasco class of 2014 to our family. The new class has already started off the year breaking records. 59 candidates applied to be part of this year's class. This is the first time in Leadership Pasco's history that we have had such an interest in what we have to offer. This is due in part to the dynamic program days that our Program Chairs have put together, the opportunity to make a difference in our community and the wonderful networking opportunities with current and past Leadership Pasco class members. From the 59 candidates, 38 diverse individuals were selected. The selection committee spent a great deal of time ensuring that we had the right balance of industries, geographies, and backgrounds represented in our new class. We hope this class breaks many more positive records throughout the year!

I would like to personally invite the Leadership Pasco Alumni to come out and meet our new class at any of the program days. It's a great way to meet our upcoming community leaders and peak into the wonderful changes the board has made to the program. I know that I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of them. I hope that you will join us.

As the new 2013-2014 President of the Leadership Pasco Board of Directors, I would like to say thank you for all you do in our community. Since joining Leadership Pasco as part of the class of 2011, I am constantly amazed by the commitment to Pasco County that our members exhibit. I am honored to be part of this great organization and I am excited about the year ahead of us.

Heather Grimes

Youth Leadership Pasco Class of 2014 – Reaching New Goals and Climbing to New Heights

Rob Aguis (Class of 2001)
Barbara DeSimone (Class of 1996)

On October 9th the Youth Leadership Pasco class of 2014 officially commenced at the James Gills, YMCA. This year a record high 70 plus students applied for the class. Barbara DeSimone and Rob Aguis had a difficult time selecting 32 students, so they extended the class to 35. It appears as though they pulled it off again. The students started the day with smiles a little swag and a lot of personality.

The class of sophomores and juniors from 12 Pasco County Schools, Genesis Prep and PACE met for the first time and immediately began to formulate bonds and build relationships. The students were asked to reflect upon the day and expressed their positive feelings about each other by saying "they feel like there a family".

The weather was a little overcast but the students' attitudes were bright and cheerful in order to tackle the Ropes Course, team build, network and set the stage for the planned activities and the program year. Thanks to the team at the YMCA, the students climbed out of their comfort zone and reached new personal heights learning about themselves and their classmates.

This year's program activities will include; Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Health Care, Economic Development, Business, Media, Education and Career Development. The students will also have to mentor younger students at selected middle and elementary schools within Pasco County and have the opportunity to participate in the Young Eagles program. A special thanks to Tom Celotto, Elaine Smith, Craig LaPorte and Doreen Packard for their assistance and support.

For more information on Youth Leadership Pasco contact Barbara DeSimone (727) 847-8103 / Rob Aguis (727) 774-2200 or visit the Leadership Pasco website at www.LeadershipPasco.com.



Criminal Justice Day Goes Off With a “Bang!”

Craig Laporte (Class of 2006)

As the class of 2014 listened intently to SWAT Commander James Steffens’ explanation of how the tactical team works, an unknown man in the group grabbed a woman, dragging her screaming into the street. A police car arrived with lights and sirens. Gunshots were exchanged until a flash bang grenade suddenly exploded 50 feet away. As the Sheriff’s SWAT team descended on the suspect from the Bearcat armored vehicle, the suspected kidnapper dropped to the pavement and gave up without further shots being fired. In a few short seconds the class, as well as local media who were present, had a first-hand example of the dangerous and highly charged situations faced by the team members.

This was only one of many experiences had by the class of 2014. The day started with an intense robbery scenario in which each member of the class was assigned a law enforcement job, with the responsibility of figuring out the best course of action to respond to the dangerous situation. The class was broken into five teams, and each team later explained how they responded, what assets they employed, and why they took the actions they did. Sheriff Nocco and his entire command staff watched and listened as the teams de-briefed.

As the morning progressed the Sheriff discussed the issues facing his agency, followed by another enlightening panel discussion. The panel took the class through a criminal case from beginning to end, with Chiefs Kim Bogart (NPRPD) and Ray Velboom (DCPD) explaining the arrest procedure. Booking and detentions issues were discussed by Col. Harrington (PSO) with the prosecution and defense positions detailed by State Attorney Bernie McCabe and Public Defender Bob Dillinger. The first appearance hearing was discussed by County Judge Candy VanDercar, and the case was then concluded through plea negotiations with Circuit Judge Shawn Crane.

As the morning and afternoon progressed the class learned about the growth of Intelligence Lead Policing and the number of arrests made because of Sheriff Nocco’s implementation of that program. Identity Theft captured their attention next with an outstanding presentation, followed by a look into the world of child abuse and neglect by the Child Protective Investigators.

Many class members commented about the fact they were very happy to get out of jail. After a one and one-half hour walking tour, the consensus was that no one wanted to spend a great deal of time in the housing unit without a key to get out.

Unfortunately, mother nature provided us with a very hot day for the outside exercises, but the entire class managed to do “sweat equity” by visiting the pig farm and agricultural unit, the Missing and Abducted Children’s Command Center, the SWAT Command Center, Aviation and the K-9 kennel. The day ended with an outstanding demonstration of the tracking capabilities of the K-9s along with a “take-down” of a fleeing person by “Thor.”

As the adrenaline drained from the class following the demonstrations, they returned to the classroom to finalize evaluations, and begin the tough process of choosing their class officers and project. The evaluation forms once again showed the Criminal Justice Day remains a premier day, thanks to the dedication of all the participants. Next year’s event is already in the planning stage with more innovative demonstrations.



Sheriff Nocco personally engages LP’s class members



SWAT Team apprehends kidnapping suspect

VOICES OF LEADERSHIP

Dave Meglay (Class of 2003)

Dave's company, Harbor Financial Planners is located Palm Harbor where he is a Certified Financial Planner™. His mission is to fully understand his client's financial plans, concerns and dreams and works with them to implement and monitor a strategy specifically designed for their individual situation. This strategy involves in depth goal based planning that includes cash flow management, estate planning, retirement planning, tax planning, education planning, risk management and insurance planning, investment planning and business succession planning (for business owners). (727) 600-8021 or harborfinancial@wilsec.com



Stefanie Pontlitz (Class of 2013)

The class of 2013 was able to present NAMI Pasco with more than \$20,000. \$17,000 was raised during Taste of Pasco and another \$5000 was matched by a grant through the United Way of Pasco. NAMI was so moved by the donation. They called our class a "blessing." Taste of Pasco by the numbers: 344 adult tickets, 30 alumni tickets, 190 kids zone bands, 181 beers served, 129 sodas and water served, 18 companies sponsored.



The class of 2013 is sharing their experiences and resources with the current class who is preparing for Taste of Pasco 2014.

Bus Tour Days - East and West

This year's bus tour included guest speakers, who boarded along the way and many special stops. The class visited Skydive City Parachute Center - Zephyrhills, the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, Tommytown, Lacoochee, Simpson Farms, the Blanton Community, Saint Leo University, and Rasmussen College on day one.

Day two, the West Pasco tour, included Holiday, Anclote, Baillie's Bluff, Elfers, Downtown New Port Richey, New Port Richey Aquatics & Recreation Center, Pithlachascotee River, Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park, Bayonet Point/Hudson, Sunwest Harbour-Towne & County Park site, Pasco County Government Center, and Trinity.

As usual, the class loved Bus Tour Days and rated it very highly in their evaluations.



View the list of current class members at http://leadershippasco.com/Current_Class

Come and meet them at our Alumni get together on December 9 at Grille 54 in Trinity at 5:30 p.m.

See you online at www.Facebook/LeadershipPasco and @LeadershipPasco on Twitter.

Leadership Pasco
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Save These Dates

Alumni Get Together - Grille 54 - 5:30 p.m. - December 9, 2013

Graduation - May 29, 2014

Leadership Pasco Class of 2015 Application (Deadline) - June 1, 2014

2014 Alumni Dues \$50 - Due January 1, 2014

Benefits of Leadership Pasco Alumni Membership

Membership directory online
Membership forums
Orientation banquet reception
VIP Access to annual Taste of Pasco event
Quarterly newsletter (Mailed)
Invites to other networking events

Renew By Mail or Online

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