

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



Happy New Year! I can't believe how time flies. It seems like just yesterday we were at Orientation, kicking off the program year. It is almost crazy to think that we are half way through the program days. As Board President, I have had a wonderful opportunity to stop in on many of the sessions this year to watch the Class of 2014 interact. They are an extremely dynamic group and full of lots of energy. They have already had some great experiences and this month had more bonding Leadership Pasco style at SIMSOC. If you haven't found an opportunity to meet the new class members, make sure you hold the date for the 4th Annual Taste of Pasco on Saturday April 12th. This year's class has once again decided to host the fundraiser in support of their class project. The class will be sending out more details as it gets closer so keep an eye out for it!

With the holiday season just behind us, I always like to take this opportunity to reflect on the past year and all that I am thankful for. As it relates to Leadership Pasco, I am so thankful for the friendships I have formed and the connections I have made in our community. I am thankful for the leaders that give their time and energy to making the program days so wonderful and my fellow Board of Directors who are constantly trying to make Leadership Pasco the best program it can be. Last but not least, I am thankful for the Class of 2014. Their energy level is contagious and every time I am around them, it reminds me why I became part of this great organization.

Thank you for all you do! I wish you all a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2014!

Heather Grimes

Youth Leadership Pasco Class of 2014 – Day 3 - Government/Social Services and Health Care

Rob Aguis (Class of 2001)

Barbara DeSimone (Class of 1996)

On Thursday, December 5th, the Youth Leadership Pasco class of 2014 met at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point to learn about Pasco County Government, Social Services, Health Care and Hospital Operations and Careers.

The students were greeted by Mr. Shayne George, CEO for Regional Medical Center with words of encouragement for the many opportunities that will be presented to our future leaders in Pasco County. He left these words with the students in their quest for a future career, "It's a journey not necessarily a destination."

The students then were introduced to Mr. Ed Caum from Pasco County to speak about tourism. Mr. Caum lead the students through a brainstorming, planning and budgeting session that facilitated great ideas from the class about future attractions here in Pasco County.

Students were then introduced to Mr. Duggan Cooley and Stefanie Pontlitz from the United Way. They discussed non-profits in Pasco County and lead the students through some very authentic budgeting exercises. The students were asked to make some difficult choices and learned how to invest in their resources. Duggan and Stefanie were impressed with the students savvy and decision making throughout the exercise.

After lunch students took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Hospital and were exposed to many of the operations of the hospital. Students toured the Intensive Care Unit, learned of the importance of

preparation for surgery to include an orientation of the supplies and tools necessary for surgery, the Heart Cath Unit, the Emergency Room and much more. A special thank you to Dr. Condon for setting up stations in the Operating Room. That was quite a learning experience! The hospital staff strongly advised students not to text while you drive!

The day was an enlightening experience for the students. A special thank you to all of the presenters and to Mr. Kurt Conover for coordinating and overseeing the agenda for the day and to Mr. Tom Celotto for his attendance and support. Together we are making a difference!

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.



Healthcare Day Soars to New Heights

Patty Sutton, CFRE (Class of 2010)

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel hosted the Leadership Pasco Class of 2014 for Healthcare Day on November 21st. It was a packed day for the class to learn about healthcare advancements as well as challenges residents face throughout the county.

The class had an opportunity to hear from hospital administrators from Florida Hospital, Medical Center of Trinity and Pasco Regional Medical Center with a question and answer session. Afterwards, they were “blown away” with a front row seat watching Bayflight land with the flight crew educating the class about Bayflight services and costs associated with trauma care. Some lucky class members were able to get a hands on experience with Bayflight in flight over the hospital.

Fellow classmate, Mike Nappier, presented to colleagues about the services provided by the Health Department and the partnerships needed to provide those services. Mike also shared county statistics and challenges compared to the state and the nation.

Baycare and HCA partnered on a presentation about Behavioral Health and substance abuse in the county. Both presenters expressed the need for more awareness by residents of the growing needs of behavioral health patients. The class was educated on the newest drug combination, Krocodil, that is comprised of gasoline or lighter fluid with codeine. It is “cooked” and injected. It bears its name for the dead flaky skin that resembles that of a crocodile at the injection site.

Premier Clinic and Good Samaritan Clinic shared information about providing health care to those in the county who are uninsured and underinsured – explaining the difficulty in managing care of the homeless and undocumented citizens in the county. This presentation was followed by a tour of the Mobile Medical Unit (LP Class 2012 Class Project) where Bob Dillinger explained the importance of taking healthcare to those individuals who need it the most. Caring for Pasco County residents is a large undertaking and many residents are afraid to seek medical care for fear of being deported or institutionalized. Many of these organizations rely on community funding and volunteers to help those in our community who need medical care.

In the afternoon, the class learned about the DaVinci robot (minimally invasive technology used in surgery) and the latest in hospital technology allowing better patient satisfaction and safety. The Manager of IT explained the inner-workings of hospital computer systems, equipment and employee

identification. Each hospital room has a system in place when an employee walks into the room, their photo, name and department comes up on the television screen. This way patients and their families know who they have been interacting with, helping patients “remember” throughout their hospital stay. The class continued the day with tours of the hospital’s state-of-the-art wellness center, Emergency Room, hospital, Women’s Center and Baby Center.

The end of the day included a panel discussion on Elder Care and end of life choices. CARES highlighted the struggles of patients suffering from Alzheimer’s Disease by asking the class to participate in an exercise. The task was simple....draw a house....the obstacle was that they were to do so through the reflection of a mirror placed over their shoulders. It was a hands on experience that many in the class will not forget and we have the pictures to prove it.



“Class of 1:4 Focused to do More!”



Shelley Opila with the Great American Smokeout poster

VOICES OF LEADERSHIP

Barbara DeSimone (Class of 1996)

I moved to Pasco in 1994 after accepting the position of Personnel Director for the Board of County Commissioners. Prior to my interview I had never stepped foot in Pasco so I welcomed the opportunity to learn more about the County through Leadership Pasco in 1995-96.

My class consisted of members new to Pasco, as well as, lifelong residents like Kurt Browning. I was interested to see how much everyone learned, regardless of their background.

I was particularly pleased with the Board members' desire to improve the program from one year to the next and how they encouraged and responded to feedback from the participants.

After my graduation, I became program leader for Government Day and later joined the Board. Over the years, Leadership Pasco has continued to improve. The class projects have become bigger and better each year and have made some major contributions to the citizens of Pasco County. The Taste of Pasco is an annual event that is a source of pride for Leadership Pasco.

What I enjoy the most about Leadership Pasco is the great group of individuals that I met over the last 17 years. They work for a cross section of public, private, and nonprofit employers and share a love of public service and commitment to giving back to their community. I am proud to call many of them friends.



Jamie Mick (Class of 2007)

The Leadership experience is hard to explain to a candidate/applicant. It can only be demonstrated, as today I look around and see that almost every community and business leader in Pasco County is a Leadership Pasco graduate. Through the development of the class and the class members we are grooming the community leaders of tomorrow. I believe it is our obligation to stay active and "pay it forward" for the rewards/blessings we have received as class members – and now alumni.



Jamie Mick is a Commercial Property Manager and Community Association Manager with Prudential Commercial Real Estate FL. Jamie serves the entire Bay Area in Commercial Property and Community Association Management holding a Real Estate Brokers' License and a Community Association Management License. She is the Current Chairman of the Board of the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce and Secretary of the Local Chapter of The Institute of Real Estate Management of Tampa Bay. In addition she is Past Vice President of the Leadership Pasco Class of 2007, Past President of the Leadership Board of Directors, Immediate Past Rotary District Governor for District 6950 – Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando and Citrus Counties, Founding member of Women In Charge of East Pasco, Past President of the Business Network Group, Past President of the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, Past President of the Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired and Blind and current Board Member, Current Board Member of Rotary Club of Holiday and Current Board Member of CARES. In addition Jamie is an 8 time Amateur Champion in American Ballroom Dancing.

Infrastructure Day Restructured

Scott Byrnes (Class of 2012)

Monica Forbes (Class of 2010)

Infrastructure day was restructured this year. The day began at the Duke Energy Operations Center in New Port Richey with a presentation by Dean Vanburen about Duke Energy and their involvement in Pasco and its growth.

Afterwards, a tour of the facility with Bruce Holley, and a demonstration on how Duke trains its field workers in safety and rescue.

The class then participated in a very informative, and at times heated, info panel with Keith Wiley (Pasco County, Environmental Lands Program Manager), Amanda Boone (Pasco County, Development Review Manager), Jim Widman (Pasco County, Transportation), and Melissa Seixas (Duke Energy, District Manager).

New to Infrastructure Day was the tour of Pasco County's Recycling Center and Covanta Energy. Jennifer Seney led the afternoon and helped co-ordinate the events and tours of all the facilities involved in the Recycling Center. KIA Motors of New Port Richey donated their trolley for the tour of the grounds which turned out to be a beautiful day. The class was amazed by the environmental surroundings and how much effort Pasco has put into the recycling area.

And then there was the waste disposal area. We applaud Class President Tony Vanatta for his ingenious use of the ear plugs while in the waste disposal area.

After the tours, the class took place in another very informative info panel with John Power (Solid Waste Collection and Disposal), Greg Dziegielewski (Waste Water Treatment - Pipes, Pumps, Maintenance), Charley Ryburn (Pre-treatment and Hazardous Household Waste), Kevin Pliska (Waste to Energy), and Jennifer Seney (Recycling).

We want to thank Duke Energy, Covanta Energy, Jennifer Seney, Pasco Recycling Center, and KIA Motors for helping make this restructuring so successful!

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Save These Dates

4th Annual Taste of Pasco - www.TasteofPasco.com - April 12, 2014

Graduation - May 29, 2014

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

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