



LEADERSHIP FLORIDA®

e-Cast
October 2022

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Greetings, Leadership Florida Members,

On behalf of the Leadership Florida Board of Directors, I express my heartfelt sympathies to all who have been affected by Hurricane Ian. These past two weeks have been devastating for thousands of our neighbors in Florida. Many of those with severe damage to homes and businesses are Leadership Florida members.

For those who evacuated, I hope you are home safe and sound. And, for those who stayed, I hope you weathered the storm well. As Leadership Florida members, we know

that all of Florida is our family. I encourage all those who are looking for ways to support our fellow Floridians in need to help by volunteering or donating items or money to an organization you know and trust.

We recently created a resource section on our website called “**[Leadership Florida Strong](#)**” for member-to-member resource sharing. If you, your employer, or any organization for which you serve on the board is engaged in disaster relief, including long or short-term recovery, please [complete this short form](#) so that we can add your information to this site.

In this month's e-Cast, you will read about upcoming Region events and see a recap of the Connect Class 12 session in Howey-in-the-Hills. We also encourage you to review and update your information (if needed) to ensure we have the correct information in the upcoming Membership Directory. You can also [add your interests and expertise to your profile](#).

Additionally, we thank our latest Leadership Florida Lifetime Members listed below. If you are interested in becoming a Lifetime Member, you can [visit our website](#) or [contact Morgana Nieves](#) to learn more about the many benefits, including no more dues for life!

All the best,

Kamela Patton

Kam Patton

Cornerstone Class 31, Education Class 1

Board Chair

LEADERSHIP FLORIDA NEWS & UPDATES



In times like these, Leadership Florida's strength is about our members helping members. When a Leadership Florida member asks another member for help, the response is always a resounding "YES."

Please complete this short form if you, your employer, or any organization for which you serve on the board is engaged in disaster relief, including long or short-term recovery.

Some examples of personal support:

- Willing to open your home to provide housing support
- Have a generator to loan
- Have office space to offer
- Have a car, RV, or camper to loan

Some examples of organizational support:

- Food resources
- Professional cleanup
- Mold removal
- Utility information
- Mental health
- Home repair
- Debris removal

These resources are being compiled and shared on the Leadership Florida website [here](#).



Update Your Information!

We're gearing up for the publication of our Annual Membership Directory! This directory is one of the most valuable benefits of your membership and we need your help to ensure your information is accurate. Please verify your profile information below and [make any necessary updates here](#) by **November 1, 2022**.

First Name:

Last Name:

Title:

Company:

City:

Region:

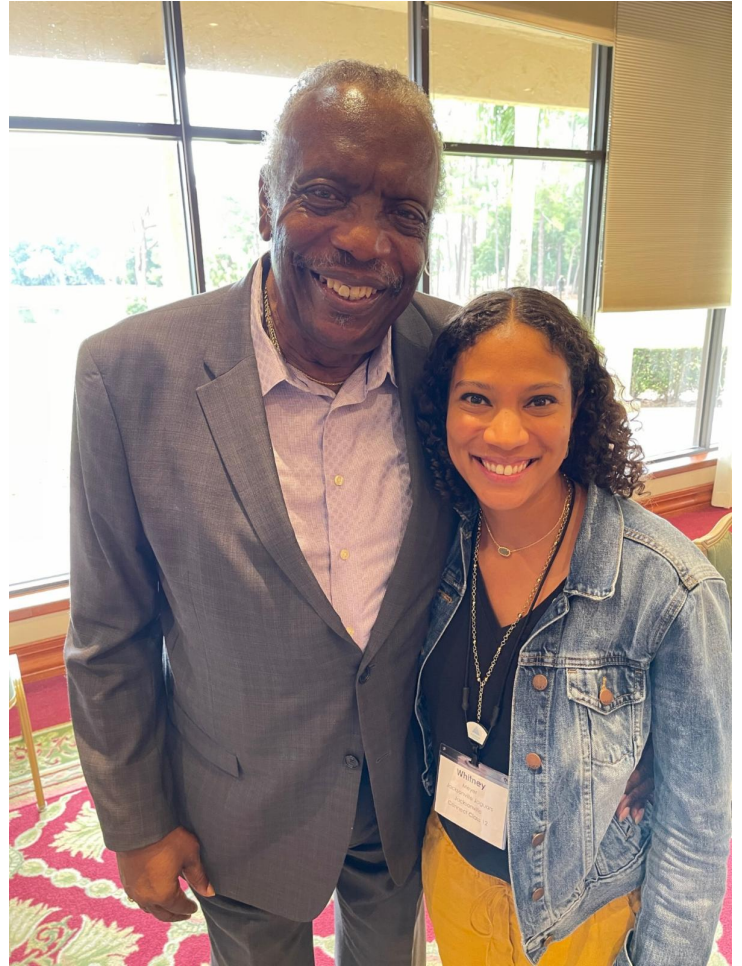
Phone:

Contact Email: twarrington@leadershipflorida.org

Please view and update your profile image by clicking [here](#).

You must be logged in to view and make changes to your profile. To upload a new profile picture, scroll to the image section on your profile page, and click or tap "Replace File." After uploading the new image, click or tap "Edit Crop" and use the slider to adjust the size of the picture. Click or tap "Save" to save your changes.

Connect Class 12: Howey-in-the-Hills



Our newest Connect Class Members enjoyed their first session of the year in Howey-in-the-Hills. They had their first "*but for Leadership Florida*" opportunity flying in seaplanes over Lake Harris. They also toured a citrus grove, got a behind-the-scenes look at the Florida's Natural orange juice plant, and even sampled local blueberry moonshine! Check out the photos from the session [here](#).

Upcoming Region Events

Register now for your Region's New Member Reception and meet the newest class members while reconnecting with others! See the schedule of upcoming events below, or [visit our website](#). *Note: you must be logged in to register.*



SOUTHEAST REGION

New Member Reception

October 12, 2022

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

[View Event](#)



NORTHEAST REGION

New Member Reception

October 19, 2022

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

[View Event](#)



NORTHWEST REGION

New Member Reception

October 20, 2022

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

[View Event](#)



CALUSA REGION

New Member Reception

October 26, 2022

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

[View Event](#)



GOLD COAST REGION

New Member Reception

October 26, 2022

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

[View Event](#)



WEST CENTRAL REGION

New Member Reception

November 6, 2022

1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

[View Event](#)



GULFSTREAM REGION

New Member Reception

November 9, 2022

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

[View Event](#)



BANK OF AMERICA

WELCOMING OUR NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

Thank you for your support of Leadership Florida!



Breny Garcia

Connect Class 10

Associate VP for Student Health & Wellness

Florida International University

Southeast Region



Kimarie Stratos

Cornerstone Class 24

Principal

Kimarie R. Stratos

Southeast Region



Jessica Shepler

Connect Class 10
AVP, Public Affairs
Jacksonville Transportation Authority
Northeast Region



Yosbel Ibarra

Cornerstone Class 37
Co-Managing Shareholder of the Miami Office
Greenberg Traurig
Southeast Region



Robert Taylor

Cornerstone Class 37
President
BBi Team
Gold Coast Region



Kim Madison

Cornerstone Class 38
Senior VP, Associate General Counsel
Strategic Property Partners
West Central Region

RETIRED MEMBER FEATURE



ANTHEA PENROSE

Cornerstone Class 19
West Central Region

In general, how are you spending your time during retirement?

I am having a blast. I thought when I first retired, I'd keep working on some freelance projects, but as of today (now three years later), I haven't taken on any new clients,



and other than working at having fun, that's what I plan to continue to do!

I love to play golf, so during Covid that kept me out of the house and to a large degree seeing friends. I am lucky to have both my children and my four grandkids all living nearby, so I see a lot of them which is fun and rewarding. And, after two and a half years of virtually staying put, I have begun to travel again, so it isn't likely I'll ever go back to work!

Generally, like most Leadership Florida graduates, we are happy to "step up" when the need arises. I was asked to be president of the Women's Golf Association at my country club, and it seemed like an easy thing to do. My next goal is to help the club diversify its board of directors; it's 2022 and there are no women or minorities on the board!

What was the most valuable thing you learned during your career that prepared you for retirement?

Keep your friendships going. Cultivate and nurture relationships with folks you like and with whom you share interests and values during your career so you can continue them after you stop working.

Are you involved in activities to support anyone or any group from a younger generation?

I do stay in touch with a few of my former colleagues from the next generation and am available as a mentor as they request or feel the need for some advice and counsel. I also support my grandchildren's activities which involves both their schools and sports teams.

Have you experienced a “*but for Leadership Florida*” moment during your retirement (i.e., something that would not have occurred without your engagement as a Leadership Florida member)?

One that I recall vividly was my last-minute decision to join the Leadership Florida group going to Albuquerque and Santa Fe and experience a bucket list item of flying in a hot air balloon! And I am hoping there might be more opportunities like that! Although I was unable to do so this year, I have enjoyed attending the annual meetings - even as a retiree. There are typically interesting and varied speakers as well as appealing activities.



AARP proudly recognizes Leadership Florida's Retired Members



If you are retired or planning to retire soon, [please let us know here!](#)



DARREN GRAY

Cornerstone Class 38

Lifetime Member

Deputy County Manager

Osceola County

United States Navy

East Central Region

When were you enlisted?

I was enlisted for five years (1988 through 1993). I was also in the first Persian Gulf war aboard the USS Midway aircraft carrier.

Why did you choose the service branch you joined?

I was raised by a single mother and needed money for college. The GI bill was my answer. I've always been interested in the United States Navy and was excited to "See the World." On a side note...the original movie of Top Gun came out a year before I graduated high school and it truly inspired me!

How did your service and experiences affect your personal and/or professional life?

I grew up while I was in the Navy. As a young man, it taught me integrity, work ethic, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork. I've taken these qualities to both my personal and professional life. Great start!

What was the most valuable thing you learned during your service?

Teamwork and communication are essential in any part of life. I learned you don't have to know all the answers, and you're never alone!



Truist proudly honors Leadership Florida's Veterans and Military Members



If you are a veteran or active duty member and are not listed in our [directory](#), please let us know [here](#).

LIFETIME MEMBER FEATURE



BERT DE ARMAS

Cornerstone Class 24
Senior Vice President
First Horizon Bank
Southeast Region
Lifetime Member

As a Lifetime Member of Leadership Florida, what are some of the ways you enjoy your membership the most?

Seeing many friends at the annual meeting and enjoying the programs and presentations. These are always educational events and many times uplifting.

What are some examples of how becoming a Lifetime Member has affected your career?

The friendships and the things I've learned through Leadership Florida, first with the Class Program, and then with the years of attending programs at the region, statewide, and through Leadership Florida trips. These have all been positive contributors to me as an individual and by extension to my career. These made me a better and more informed citizen and hopefully a more thoughtful and caring person.

Have you experienced a “but for Leadership Florida” moment, in which the experience could not have happened without Leadership Florida?

The great thing about Leadership Florida is that you meet some very interesting people, and you get to visit some really cool places. Being in London with Leadership Florida and having a reception in Churchill's War Rooms was certainly a *“but for”* moment for me. But there've been many *“but for”* moments just listening to presentations and conversations at any annual or Region meeting. It's always beneficial to hear thoughtful ideas coming from folks who are leaders in their respective fields.

Do you have a favorite memory from your class year?

Yes... but we've all been sworn to secrecy! I'm assuming that the Statute of Limitations has run out on our trip to Tallahassee, but I still wince when I hear the song "You've Lost that Loving Feeling"!

Thank you, Bert, for your support and commitment to Florida!



Bank of America thanks Leadership Florida's Lifetime Members

BECOME A LEADERSHIP FLORIDA

LIFETIME MEMBER!

Joining as a Lifetime Member is a significant commitment that yields great dividends for the future of Leadership Florida - **454** Leadership Florida Lifetime Members agree!

- **No more dues for life!**
- Unlike annual dues, this gift is entirely tax-deductible
- Invitation to a special Lifetime Members-only Reception for you and a guest for all future Annual Meetings
- Special recognition at each Annual Meeting
- Special recognition in our e-Cast newsletter
- Social media posts announcing your new Lifetime Membership
- Future social media shout-outs indicating Lifetime Member status
- Introduction at the next Leadership Florida Board of Directors Meeting
- Prominent listings in the Annual Membership Directory, including name, photo, information and special icon indicating Lifetime Member status
- Early registration opportunities for the Annual Meeting when possible
- Occasional advance notice to *"but for Leadership Florida"* offerings, including trips and exclusive events
- A special Leadership Florida Lifetime Member lapel pin

Lifetime Membership Gift: \$5,400

Payment plans are available in the amount of \$6,000

Learn more about becoming
a Lifetime Member at
leadfla.com/lifetime



Ready to join?
Scan the QR code
to submit your
Lifetime Member
Pledge Form



Click to learn more about Lifetime Membership!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



CARLY LEES
Class Program Manager

How long have you been with the Leadership Florida Team, and what is your primary role?

About a month! I am assisting with class programming as program manager.

For which projects or programs would you be a member's contact person?

I am a contact for new class members, specifically managing logistics and event details.

Regarding working with Leadership Florida, do you have any favorite moments you would like to share?

So far, I have loved meeting the new Connect and Cornerstone classes in person. Visiting a citrus grove in Umatilla and going to the rodeo at River Ranch were both firsts for me. I look forward to meeting the Education Class and experiencing another new adventure soon.

Would you share a little about life outside of Leadership Florida?

Outside of work, I enjoy time with friends and family. My favorite type of day is a day at the beach.

And just for fun, if you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it?

I would name it Open Book!

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Check out the latest news from your fellow Leadership Florida members on our blog [here](#)!



Jeanne Miller
Cornerstone Class 27
Northeast Region

Jeanne Miller will be inducted into the [First Coast Business Hall of Fame's Class of 2022](#). [Read more](#)



Jessica Costello
Connect Class 7
West Central Region

Jessica Costello was selected as a Top 10 under 40 by [TAMPA Magazine](#). [Read more](#)



Fred Karlinsky
Cornerstone Class 36
Gold Coast Region
Lifetime Member

Fred Karlinsky received the Outstanding Public Service Award from the Florida Insurance Council (FIC). [Read more](#)



Chris Cauffield
Cornerstone Class 22
Northeast Region

Chris Cauffield has been appointed as a member of the [Florida Chamber Foundation](#) Board of Trustees. [Read more](#)



Lauren Albaum
Connect Class 12
West Central Region

Lauren Albaum received a [Polk Emerging Leader Award](#). [Read more](#)



Michael McComas
Cornerstone Class 9
Southwest Region

Michael McComas was appointed to the [City Council for Everglades City](#). [Read more](#)



David Genson
 Cornerstone Class 36
 Southwest Region

David Genson was unanimously elected as the vice chairman of the [Florida Transportation Commission](#).
[Read more](#)



Mark Sena
 Cornerstone Class 24
 West Central Region

Mark Sena was appointed by President Biden to the [President's Advisory Committee on the Arts](#).
[Read more](#)



Christine McGuinn
 Education Class 6
 Southeast Region

Christine McGuinn was the recipient of the 2022 [Cognia](#) Excellence in Education Award.
[Read more](#)



Ofelia Utset
 Cornerstone Class 34
 Gulfstream Region
Lifetime Member

Ofelia Utset was selected as the 2022 ATHENA Leadership Award recipient by the [Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches](#). Marti LaTour and Ava Parker were also finalists for the award.
[Read more](#)



Marti Latour
 Cornerstone Class 38
 Gulfstream Region
Lifetime Member



Ava Parker
 Cornerstone Class 21
 Gulfstream Region
Lifetime Member

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Let us know!



leadfla.com/submit-news

Have news to share? [Click here](#) and let us know! You could be featured in next month's Movers & Shakers blog, our social media channels, and our e-Cast newsletter!

Save the Date!

JUNE 15 - 18, 2023

**Leadership Florida
Annual Meeting**



The Boca Raton Resort
Boca Raton, Florida

Save the Date!

June 15-18, 2023

Leadership Florida Annual Meeting
The Boca Raton Resort

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