



LEADERSHIP FLORIDA®

e-Cast

December 2022



Dear Members,

I hope your holidays are off to a great start! Leadership Florida is in high gear with Class sessions well underway! Members from our newest Classes for Cornerstone Class 40, Connect Class 12, and Education Class 7 have all experienced at least one session so far. What a GREAT group of new members!

I am so proud of the events being planned or already hosted by the Region Councils. In this edition of the e-Cast, you will see the upcoming events YOU can register for now or save the date

for those to come. **One of my goals this year is to re-engage as many members as possible.** If you have not participated in a Leadership Florida event recently, please do so! Most events are free, and others are available for a very nominal fee (thanks to sponsors!). Here's a comment I heard from a member recently:

"I had not attended an event in a while, and I was so happy to see some old friends and also reconnect with a member that turned into a new business deal."

That comment warmed my heart as this is one of the many ways that make Leadership Florida special. And speaking of "special," make sure to mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting which will be held at the Boca Raton on June 15-18, 2023! Big plans are underway now and registration will open next spring.

Sincerely,

Kam Patton

LEADERSHIP FLORIDA NEWS & UPDATES

Education Class 7: Tallahassee



We were thrilled to welcome Education Class 7 to Tallahassee for their first Leadership Florida class session, which was postponed due to Hurricane Ian. During their time here, they got a Florida education overview and learned about the Florida Accountability Model from Board Chair Kam Patton (Cornerstone Class 31; Education Class 1). They also discussed topics on equity, school budgets, and creative problem solving. After touring the Old Capitol, they enjoyed a private show at the historic Bradfordville Blues Club.

Connect Class 12: Tallahassee



We enjoyed welcoming Connect Class 12 to the capital city! During their visit, they learned about Florida politics, met with Justice Charles T. Canady of the Florida Supreme Court, and toured the Old Capitol. They also experienced an eco-tour of Tall Timbers Land Conservancy as well as a private show at the historic Bradfordville Blues Club.

Leadership Florida Online Photo Album



Check out our new **online Leadership Florida photo album**, sponsored by **Tampa General Hospital**! We have more than 19,000 photos going back ~20 years from our classes, Annual Meetings, *"but for Leadership Florida"* experiences, and more!

Browse the photos at **leadershipfloridamembers.org** and relive some of your favorite Leadership Florida memories, or see what you may have missed!





The Intent to Apply form is open!

Do you know someone who may be interested in applying for Leadership Florida? Encourage them to complete our [Intent to Apply form](#)! By submitting this form, they will receive updates about our next class sessions, including a notification when the class applications open in 2023!

More information about Class Programs is available on our website at leadershipflorida.org/apply-or-refer.

Thank you to our sponsor!



Upcoming Region Events



Register now for your Region's upcoming events! See the schedule below or [visit our website](#) to learn more. *Note: you must be logged in to register.*



NORTHEAST REGION

Holiday Gathering

Thursday, December 8, 2022

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Jacksonville Public Library Main - The Lounge

[View Event](#)



NORTHEAST REGION

Recruiting Reception

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (EST)

Jacksonville Transportation Authority

[View Event](#)



GULFSTREAM REGION

New Member Reception

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Maltz Jupiter Theater

[View Event](#)



GOLD COAST REGION

Holiday Happy Hour

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Broward Center for Performing Arts

[View Event](#)



GOLD COAST REGION

Post-Holiday Backyard Dinner

Saturday, January 28, 2023

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The Home of Sam Poole
Ft. Lauderdale

[View Event](#)



SOUTHWEST REGION

Cornerstone Class 40 Welcome

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Reception: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Optional Tour: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Arthrex Innovation

[View Event](#)



SOUTHWEST REGION

Bourbon & BBQ

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Fort Myers

[View Event](#)



CALUSA REGION

Holiday Party

Thursday, January 19, 2023

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

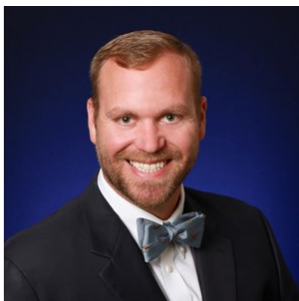
Home of Isabel Norton
Sarasota

[View Event](#)

WELCOMING OUR NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS



Thank you for your support of Leadership Florida!



Josh Baumgartner

Connect Class 12

Director, External Affairs & Economic
Development

TECO Energy

West Central Region



Sara Beth Wyatt

Education Class 4

President & CEO

Greater Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce

West Central Region

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 - **467** 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
- 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!

LIFETIME MEMBER FEATURE



BARBARA FONTE

Cornerstone Class 38
Vice President, Managed Care and
Population Health
Jackson Health System
Lifetime Member
Southeast Region

**As a Lifetime Member of Leadership
Florida, what are some of the ways you**

enjoy your membership the most?

There are countless ways that I enjoy Lifetime membership with Leadership Florida. The benefit I value most is connection. Knowing that I have extended family across the state and that I can rely on those relationships personally and professionally has an immeasurable impact. My Leadership Florida family means the world to me and has profoundly favored my life.

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

Leadership Florida exponentially expanded my network of hospital and health service executives across the State of Florida. Having a deep well of brilliant, accomplished thought leaders from the industry familiar with the unique characteristics of our regional marketplace is priceless. There is immeasurable value in having this unbiased sounding board of successful, cross-industrial counterparts eager to push, pull, and lift you to success.

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

There are many “*but for Leadership Florida*” experiences that flood my heart and mind with joy-filled memories. One that stands out most was having had the opportunity to help a fellow Cornerstone Class 38 Untouchable access life-saving health care for their father. There are many miracles that contributed to extending and ultimately saving his life, the first being receiving the call from an Untouchable for guidance. There is an unspoken commitment between our “family” that we will move heaven and earth to help each other.

There is a joyful celebration in receiving regular updates from them. If that were the only *"but for"* moment, it would be enough.

Do you have a favorite memory from your class year?

A favorite that I am able to share is how fun it was to welcome the "Untouchables" to Miami after a two-year (covid-impacted) greatly anticipated final convergence. There were many *"but for Leadership Florida"* experiences on that weekend resulting in a Southeast member being anointed "The King of Miami. That title remains uncontested, however, I am sure the incumbent will welcome the challenge if anyone wishes to outdo him as the ultimate host.

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



BANK OF AMERICA

Bank of America thanks Leadership Florida's Lifetime Members

RETIRED MEMBER FEATURE



DENNIS GRADY

Cornerstone Class 6
Gulfstream Region

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

I have been engaged by the Palm Beach Economic Council to assist with political and governmental issues they are working on. I now have plenty of time to play golf and pickleball with my wife.

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

You must stay busy in retirement. Many retirees are overwhelmed by the time vacuum created by retirement.

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

Yes, as any grandparent I spend many hours with my grandchildren. They are both in high school and helping them with mentoring advice is very rewarding.

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)?

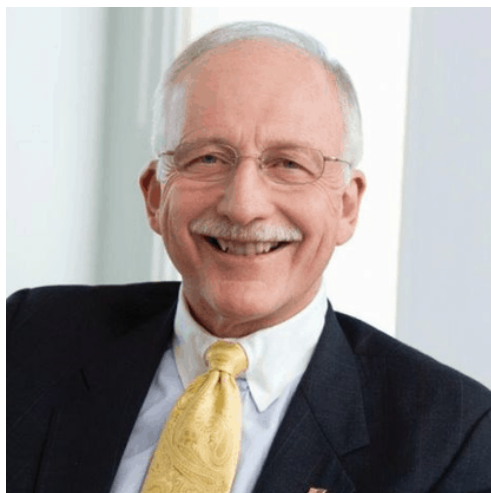
My involvement with Leadership Florida helped to further my friendship with Mark Wilson, President of the Florida Chamber. That friendship continues to grow in my retirement years.



AARP proudly recognizes Leadership Florida's Retired Members



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



MIKE HIGHTOWER

Cornerstone Class 24

Retired

Air Force

Northeast Region

When were you enlisted?

1967-1970

Why did you choose the service branch you joined?

The possibility of a long-term military career and future opportunity to become a United States Air Force pilot is why I chose to enlist in the Air Force.

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

I became more focused and more disciplined in my thought process and awoke a sense of patriotism that I really never fully understood or felt before entering the military. Given the number of personal friends during my early military career who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War, I am committed to making a positive difference whenever possible given my blessings of a safe homecoming.

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

The importance of loyalty, discipline, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to faith, country, family, and friends.



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](#).

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

WAYNE TURNER
Data & Technology Specialist

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

I've been with Leadership Florida for two months. I'm here to help with data and technology, which is mostly back-end support and maintenance.

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



I can assist members with updating their profile information.

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

I'm still too new to have a lot yet, but our team lunch on my first day was nice.

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

I play music (flute) with the local community band at Tallahassee Community College, where I serve on the advisory board, and host/manage the website and branding.

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

"I just need to brush my teeth" - my wife's first thought, due to a common phrase I said before we'd need to leave the house.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

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



Peggy Aune
Education Class 3
Northwest Region

Peggy Aune was appointed to the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention State Advisory Group.



Allison Hill
Cornerstone Class 36
Northwest Region
Lifetime Member

Allison Hill was inducted into the College of Business Hall of Fame at the University of West Florida.



Amanda Horne
Education Class 4
Calusa Region
Lifetime Member

Amanda Horne was recognized by The Pace Center for Girls Manatee with an

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

award in her name that will be presented annually.

[Read more](#)



Hong Potomski
Connect Class 6
Northwest Region

Hong Potomski was named senior director, regional business development for the northwest region at Florida Blue.

[Read more](#)



Kelly Caldwell, Jr.
Cornerstone Class 28
Calusa Region

Kelly Caldwell, Jr. received a Mayor's Citation and a Key to the City of Sarasota from Mayor Erik J. Arroyo.

[Read more](#)



Samantha Greer
Connect Class 5
West Central Region

Samantha Greer began a new position as partner with Corcoran Partners. She will be based in their Tampa office.

[Read more](#)



Virginia Hall
Cornerstone Class 35
Northeast Region
Lifetime Member

Virginia Hall was named a 2022 Florida Times-Union EVE Award winner.



Giselle Carson
Cornerstone Class 32
Northeast Region

Giselle Carson was named a 2022 Florida Times-Union EVE Award winner.



Vicki Lopez
Cornerstone Class 10
Southeast Region

Vicki Lopez was elected to the Florida House of Representatives - District 113.

Read more

Read more

Read more

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
Boca Raton, Florida

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