



LEADERSHIP FLORIDA®

e-Cast
February 2023

LEADERSHIP FLORIDA NEWS & UPDATES



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Greetings, Leadership Florida Members,

We are in the midst of recruitment season here at Leadership Florida, and we cannot wait to see the strong application pool we are sure to have this year! Our Regions are all hosting exciting recruitment events for potential applicants, and interest in Leadership Florida continues to grow!

All Class Program applications are [now live](#) and will be open until **March 8 at noon (EDT)**. Be sure

to share this information with anyone you know who may be interested in applying and encourage them to apply early!

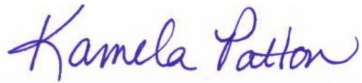
Our Education Class 7 had a wonderful virtual session last month where we discussed all things goals. From personal and professional goals for the new year to intentional actions and active listening for setting goals, our Class Members enjoyed a productive session. We also welcomed Cornerstone Class 40 to Tallahassee last week, where they were able to tour the historic capitol, meet with a Florida Supreme Court Justice, visit Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy, and more! We are looking forward to the Connect Class 12 session in Orlando!

In this month's e-Cast, you will read about upcoming Region events, including recruitment sessions, special topics, and *"but for Leadership"*

Florida” experiences. We hope you will register for these events and take advantage of all the experiences Leadership Florida has to offer.

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,



Kam Patton
Cornerstone Class 31, Education Class 1
Board Chair

P.S.: Be sure to save the date for our upcoming Annual Meeting in Boca Raton: June 15 – 18! More information about the Annual Meeting will be coming soon.

New Class Applications Are NOW OPEN!



Do you know someone who may be interested in applying for Leadership Florida? **Class applications are open now and close on March 8 at noon!**

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

Thank you to our sponsor!



Awards Nominations Opening Soon!

In the words of this year's awards sponsor, Orlando Health, we want you to "choose well" for our annual Leadership Florida awards!



Each year, we recognize Floridians who exemplify the mission, vision, and values of Leadership Florida. Nominations are accepted by active members during the spring of each year.

This year's nomination window is March 1 - 31, 2023. Award recipients are then chosen and announced during the [Annual Meeting](#).

Learn more about the five different awards [here](#). Stay tuned!

Thank you to our sponsor!

ORLANDO
HEALTH[®]

*Meet us in the mountains for
home tours and dinners!*



Learn more about the La Florida Society

September 7-10, 2023

Enjoy the cool mountains in North Carolina's most idyllic mountain plateau communities with fellow Leadership Florida members and guests, all while kicking off a renewed campaign for the [La Florida Society](#)!

During the weekend trip, you will learn about the La Florida Society and ways in which joining can support the future of Leadership Florida. You will also tour and

dine in the beautiful homes of Leadership Florida members and enjoy a long weekend participating in activities of your choice.

To be a member of the La Florida Society, you designate a minimum planned gift investment of \$5,000 to Leadership Florida as a beneficiary.

[Click here to learn more and register!](#)

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.*



GOLD COAST REGION

Recruitment Luncheon

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (EDT)

The Main Las Olas

Ft. Lauderdale

(for prospective applicants only)



SOUTHWEST REGION

Recruitment Reception

Registration: \$20

Thursday, February 9, 2023

5:30 - 7:30 PM (EDT)

My Shower Door

Fort Myers

[View Event](#)



CALUSA REGION

Recruitment Event

Registration: free

Thursday, February 9, 2023

5:30 - 7:00 PM (EDT)

Gecko's Grill and Pub

Sarasota

(for prospective applicants only)



GOLD COAST REGION

Recruitment Event

Monday, February 13, 2023

4:00 - 6:00 PM (EDT)

Gunster Law Firm

Ft. Lauderdale

(for prospective applicants only)



EAST CENTRAL REGION

Connect Class Welcome Reception

Registration: free

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

5:30 - 7:00 PM (EDT)

EA Orlando

[View Event](#)



NORTHWEST REGION

Recruitment Reception

Registration: free

Thursday, February 16, 2023

5:30 - 7:30 PM (EDT)

Tallahassee

[View Event](#)



GOLD COAST REGION

Virtual Recruitment Event

Monday, February 20, 2023

4:00 - 5:30 PM (EDT)

Online via Zoom

(for prospective applicants only)



GULFSTREAM REGION

The Bear Trap at the Honda Classic

Registration: \$75

Friday, February 24, 2023

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM (EDT)

PGA National Champion Golf Course

View Event

(seats are limited - register now!)



EAST CENTRAL REGION

Recruitment Event

Registration: free

Monday, February 27, 2023

5:30 - 7:00 PM (EDT)

Orlando

View Event



CALUSA REGION

Atlanta Braves Spring Training Game

Registration: \$50

Saturday, March 18, 2023

4:30 PM - 8:30 PM (EDT)

CoolToday Park

View Event

(seats are limited - register now!)

WELCOMING OUR NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS



Thank you for your support of Leadership Florida!



Jorge Gonzalez

Cornerstone Class 23
Village Manager
Bal Harbour Village
Southeast Region



Charu Raheja

Cornerstone Class 40
CEO
TriageLogic
Northeast Region



Beth Smith

Connect Class 7
VP of Government & Education - Florida
Cigna
East Central Region



Grasford Smith

Cornerstone Class 40
Litigation Partner
Akerman
Gulfstream 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



HENRI CROCKETT

Cornerstone Class 35

President

Crockett Foundation

Lifetime Member

Gold Coast Region

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

What I enjoy the most about being a Lifetime

Member is being given the first opportunity to engage with other Lifetime members on some of the most amazing trips and skipping the lines when it comes to registering for our Annual Leadership Florida weekend.

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

Becoming a Lifetime Member has taught me to always be open because you never know when a group of people will come into your life and make you feel as if they have been there all along. I truly love each and every one of my classmates because their genuine love for me and accepting me for who I am. Class 35 Nonameneeded. THE BEST CLASS.

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

My “*but for*” has to be having the ability to pick up the phone and call any one of my classmates, and without hesitation I know they would be there for me. It's rare that you meet a group of individuals that becomes your family this late in life.

Do you have a favorite memory from your class year?

My fondest memory of my class was how in each city we visited, our classmates from that city would schedule us to come in town two days early and we would spend time getting to know each other. What makes me the proudest is we still do the same to this day.

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



Bank of America thanks Leadership Florida's Lifetime Members

RETIRED MEMBER FEATURE



WAYNE POSTON

Cornerstone Class 2

Calusa Region

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

I've been spending my time relaxing with the Sprinter RV we use for Florida trips, cooking, renewing relationships with old friends, making new friends, and enjoying my wife, Micki, and my life.

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

Work hard, honor the future, love the past, and prepare for a new life. Build a new team.

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

I was a mentor for two young men, both of whom have moved on to successful careers.

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)?

I can call any working or retired Leadership Florida Member and leave a message that I was a Class 2 member. I always get a call or message back. I am still part of the team.



AARP proudly recognizes Leadership Florida's Retired Members



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



JOHN MARKS

Cornerstone Class 20

Senior Attorney

Marks and Marks

Air Force

Northwest Region

When were you enlisted?

I received my commission as a first lieutenant in August 1969. After completing law school, I was promoted and commissioned as a captain in the United States, Air Force, Judge Advocate, General Corp.

Why did you choose the service branch you joined?

I am a graduate of the Florida State University's Air Force ROTC program.

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

My experience as a lawyer for the United States Air Force allowed me to enhance my initial skills and training as a young lawyer. The four years provided maturity and stability in both my profession, as well as my personal

life. After serving my country, I was able to return to civilian life, personally, financially, and professionally confident about the future.

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

I learned how to engage and interact with individuals from different backgrounds. Loyalty to a person, program, or ideal is significantly important. Respect is an acquired condition. Listening is a learned behavior that requires constant practice.



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



TRACY WARRINGTON

Director of Member Relations

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

During my time of more than six years with Leadership Florida, my role has varied. I have been involved in program support and data management, but I currently oversee communications, data/IT, and all things member services.

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

I am a staff liaison for the Communications Committee. I am involved in many projects, but my primary ones are email communications, surveys, branding, website updates, and the Member Directory.

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

Working with Leadership Florida has offered me so many opportunities that I would never have experienced otherwise, but my favorite has to be staffing the NASCAR Coke Zero Sugar 400 in Daytona a couple of years ago. Being a lifelong NASCAR fan, at 74 years of age, my mother went with me and was able to fulfill a dream she never imagined could happen. It was an incredibly special day.

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

I enjoy staying busy, both at work with Leadership Florida and life outside of it. I own a small business in the arts and crafts industry which has allowed me to learn a wide variety of skills and has given me the opportunity to help others, particularly through sewing. My husband of 34 years and I have three grown children.

And just for fun, if you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it? When Life Gives You Lemons, Don't Stop at Lemonade.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

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



Fred Karlinsky
Cornerstone Class 36
Gold Coast Region
Lifetime Member

Fred Karlinsky was appointed to the Board of Directors for the **Federation of Regulatory Counsel, Inc.**



Georgia Lorenz
Executive Class 12
Cornerstone Class 40
East Central Region

Georgia Lorenz was named among the **Orlando Business Journal's 2023 Women Who Mean Business** awards recipients.



Christine Sylvain
Education Class 5
Gulfstream Region

Christine Sylvain and **Path to College**, where she serves as executive director, were both nominated for the 2023 Ascension Awards by the **Black Chamber of**

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

[Commerce of Palm
Beach County.](#)

[Read more](#)



Robyn Lawrence
Connect Class 10
Gulfstream Region

Robyn Lawrence was nominated for the 2023 Ascension Awards by the **Black Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County.**

[Read more](#)



Alvan Balent, Jr.
Connect Class 9
Gold Coast Region
Lifetime Member

Alvan Balent, Jr. began a new role as a senior attorney with the **Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.**

[Read more](#)



Dianne Jacob
Cornerstone Class 18
Education Class 3
West Central Region
Lifetime Member

Dianne Jacob was named a BusinessWoman of the Year honoree by the **Tampa Bay Business Journal.**

[Read more](#)



Linda Olson
Cornerstone Class 39
West Central Region

Tampa Bay Wave, headed by President/CEO Linda Olson, received federal



Roland Sanchez-Medina, Jr.
Cornerstone Class 29
Southeast Region
Lifetime Member



Chris Emmanuel
Connect Class 9
Northwest Region

Chris Emmanuel began a new role as director of

funding to launch the LatinTech Accelerator.

[Read more](#)

Roland Sanchez-Medina, Jr., was named president-elect designate of **The Florida Bar**.

[Read more](#)

government affairs for the University of Florida.

[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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