



The Leadership Link

August 2009

2009-2010 Board of Directors

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A quarterly publication for Leadership Ottawa County Alumni

President's Message

Leadership Ottawa County President, Cathy Allen



It has been ten years already since Dick Spicer of the Port Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce gathered friends Chris Galvin, Gary Mortus, Jim Weidenheft, Melinda Huntley, Bart Anderson, and Quintin Smith to begin the creation of a new leadership development program.

They wrote the bylaws, designed the curriculum, twisted the arms of the first class members, raised the money, and launched Leadership Ottawa County.

My mother was in that class. I get to see her picture every time I am in Pat Adkins' or Lisa Dubbert's or Lori Clune's offices as they all proudly display their graduation plaque and class picture.

This year, as LOC welcomes its tenth class we are celebrating our past, present, and future. The program has evolved through the years as class members and alumni have helped the board make continuous improvements to the curriculum and structure. Some people have remained with the program all along. Marcia Jess continues her service as the program director, setting up and guiding each class through the program. Chris Galvin has once again provided a full scholarship from United Way.

The class of 2010 is our biggest and most diverse class yet and our board is extremely proud to have them joining the LOC family. We hope all alumni, sponsors and community leaders will join us for our Kickoff Celebration. We've invited our founders to gather with us and meet the new class and renew acquaintances.

Please enjoy this edition of Leadership Link, and feel free to drop us a line if you have any alumni news to share. We always enjoy hearing from the alumni!

Best,

Cathy Allen

Leadership Ottawa County is a community leadership development program that annually brings community leaders together to share and learn about diverse areas of interest, as well as share their own unique experiences and backgrounds.

Participants have the opportunity to learn through a program of activities, projects, and field trips to broaden their perspective and enhance their leadership skills to address community needs and opportunities.

The purpose of Leadership Ottawa County is to develop, strengthen, and enrich the effective leaders for Ottawa County and develop, conduct, and continuously improve the quality and impact of the Leadership Ottawa County program.

Experiential training is provided to class participants to sharpen knowledge of various leadership topics. Participants will become more involved in their community, thus creating a better community for all. Topics explored by the classes include, but are not limited to: History and Heritage, Business and Economic Development, Education and Diversity, Law Enforcement, Government Structure, Tourism, Agriculture and Environmental Issues, Healthcare, Visioning, Team Building, Communications, Boardmanship, Problem Solving, Leadership Skills Development, Conflict Resolution.

Classes run from September thru May.
For a downloadable application form, visit the Port Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce web site.

Celebrating 10 Years

You are cordially invited to attend the 10th Leadership Ottawa County Kick-Off Celebration

To welcome the Class of 2010

Wednesday, August 26, 2009
Oak Harbor Golf Club - 10433 CR 17

Networking & Appetizers
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Introduction of the Class of 2010
6:00 pm

Class of 2010 Orientation
6:30 pm

For more information, contact Sheila Powell, LOC Administrative Assistant at 419-366-7420 or OSU Extension at 419-898-3631.

LOC Class of 2010

Angie Adair
The Beacon

Scott Hanover
*Ottawa County
Transportation Agency*

Judy Balsam
*Marblehead Chamber of
Commerce*

Michelle Ish
Riverview Industries

Samantha Bechtel
Stein Hospice

Ron Kwiatkowski
Guardian Industries

John Bennett
Second Street Diner

Lori Madison
*Frederick Insurance
Agency*

Jeff Chio
Edward Jones

Aaron Moraca
Baumann Chevrolet

Crystal Dymond
*Ottawa Soil and Water
Conservation District*

Carrie Pocock
Self-employed

Jim Faris
*Ottawa County
Juvenile Court*

Jeffrey Schirm
Brush Wellman

Tracy Gaines
*Robinson-Walker
Funeral Home*

Kim Strong-Todd
*Ottawa County Board of
Developmental Disabilities*

Jan Hackett
*Port Clinton Chamber of
Commerce*

Laura Stull
*Terra Community
College*

Steve Wagner
*Ottawa County
Sanitary Engineer's Office*

Alumni Spotlight

Diane Schimming, Class of 2002



Here's a Leadership Ottawa County alumni story we can't pass up.

What did LOC Alum Bill Lowe (Class of 2006 and winner of the 2008 Leadership Award) do when LOC Alum Karen Camburn (Class of 2009) told him she was

leaving her position to move to California?

He went out and hired another LOC alum! Diane Schimming (Class of 2002) has joined the Ottawa County Transportation Agency as its Business Manager.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to use the skills I have acquired through not only the county but also Leadership Ottawa County," says Diane. "Everyone at OCTA is truly committed to serving their customers, and I am looking forward to working with them."

Many of you may already know Diane as she has been around the county for over 19 years. She started at Ottawa County Job and Family Services and before joining OCTA was working for the Ottawa County Commissioner's office. As OCTA's Business Manager, she will be responsible for all matters fiscal, including Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable, vendor contracting, grant reporting and ensuring that OCTA sticks to its budget.

Though OCTA serves all members of the public, its primary clientele is people with disabilities. That is something that touches Diane personally, since her brother, Tim Lazenby, is someone who will never be able to drive on account of a seizure disorder. "I understand what OCTA means to the families of the people we serve. Every time we get someone to their destination safely and on time, we are providing not only a service but giving them back their independence. That really means something."

Karen Camburn is also delighted to be making the transition. "This job at OCTA has been a great gift and I will always treasure what I received both here and at Leadership Ottawa County. I am leaving now to pursue a dream that I might not have been able to do otherwise. Diane will love working at OCTA and I wish all of them the best of luck."

Win – win – win! That is what Leadership Ottawa County is all about. To send Diane a note of congratulations, email her at diane.schimming@octapublictransit.org. Karen may be reached at moongatzia9@yahoo.com.

Alumni Update

Class of 2001

LOC Past President **Lisa Dubbert** recently left her position at the Ottawa County Improvement Corporation to take up full time responsibilities at the family business, Ohler and Holzhauser. She will be keeping the books, running the office, and generally taking care of business so Dave and the team and take care of what they do best!

Class of 2002

Port Clinton's loss is Lakewood's gain as **Jim Crawford**, formerly the director at the Ida Rupp Public Library was named director of the Lakewood Public Library, a much bigger system. Jim says he enjoyed his ten years in Port Clinton and looks forward to continuing the friendships he developed in his Leadership Class and subsequent service on the board. He was kind enough to give us his forwarding information, and we hope to see him at LOC events in the future.

Class of 2004

Rachel Fall and her husband Bert welcomed their third child in as many years into the world on July 2, 2009. Lorelei Leona Fall weighed in at 9 lbs. 14 oz. Everyone in the Fall household is doing well. Rachel expects to be back at her desk as Magruder Hospital's Wellness Director in September.

Current LOC Board President **Cathy Allen** is excited about her monthly column in the North Coast Business Journal. Called The Well-Booked Business, the column is a synopsis and review of a business-related book. NCBJ, published by Schaffner Publications, can be picked up at most county Chamber of Commerce Offices, the Visitor's Bureau, and many area stores and restaurants.

Class of 2005

Former LOC Board member and Port Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce employee **Sheila Powell** is back in the LOC family, serving as our administrative assistant. The board is delighted to have her capable hands at the helm and alumni should already have noticed the more regular nature of communications. Sheila is also working part-time for Joyful Connections, the non-profit visitation and exchange center launched by the Class of 2007.

Class of 2007

Lakeside's President and CEO **Kevin Sibbring** is finishing a "wonderful and busy" Chautauqua season, including some record numbers for various programs. Says Kevin "We believe our marketing efforts, strong Chautauqua program, and people searching for 'backyard destinations' helped sustain gate traffic this year. We are also gearing up for a major event Sept. 17-20 as we host the Midwest Birding Symposium which is drawing nearly 1,000 participants from across the country and around the world."

Class of 2008

LOC Board member **Chip Palazzo** has recently struck out on his own to launch a public relations firm called Black Swan Communications. He credits LOC with giving him the "confidence to pursue a lifelong dream." Anyone looking to hire a capable guide to the world of marketing, media relations, and Getting Publicity 101 should give Chip a call at 614-264-2211 or email him at blackswancomm@yahoo.com.

Class of 2009

Joan Bryden, formerly Development Officer at United Way in Ottawa County, has taken a full-time position with Ottawa Broadcasting, LLC – portclintonradio.com as the Program Director and on-air host of the "Talk @ Ten" show which airs every weekday at 10-11 a.m., Joan feels she can continue being of service to her community by "getting the word out" through a new and timely media outlet.

Chelle Blausey, Housing Operations Director for Ottawa Residential Services, Inc. remains hospitalized (she uses the word "incarcerated") at Toledo Hospital while she and her husband James wait for the imminent arrival of their first child, known as "Bean." Everything is progressing as it should and Chelle is grateful for the calls, emails and cards from her many LOC friends and colleagues.

SAVE THE DATE

October 30, 2009

Rocking Halloween Party at Mango Mamas

LOC will be the beneficiary of the
Friday Night Fundraiser!

JOYFUL CONNECTIONS ANNOUNCES THE FIRST ANNUAL PURPLE LIGHT NIGHTS™ CAMPAIGN!



The Purple Light Nights™ campaign is a terrific way to bring attention to the devastating impact that domestic violence has on families and children. Joyful Connections wants to encourage every citizen of our county to take a few minutes this October to affix a purple light to their residence in an effort to join together and strongly promote the message that “**Domestic Violence has NO PLACE in our community!**”

To participate in Purple Light Nights™, residents are encouraged to purchase a purple light bulb, available at Joyful Connections in Oak Harbor or Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center in Port Clinton (Sutton Center #900), and display the lights on their porches from October 1-31. The cost of each bulb is \$3 or two for \$5. Proceeds will benefit Joyful Connections, a supervised visitation and exchange site for families in Ottawa County. Additional supplemental funding provided by the Ottawa County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

The Purple Light Nights campaign started in Covington, WA in 2007 and has grown nationally with eight other states participating in this event. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the color purple is recognized as the international color symbolic of domestic violence.

Orders can be placed by calling Corrine Creeden at 419-734-3266 or ccreeden@fcapc.org; Karen Demangos at 567-262-3181 or joyfulconnections@cros.net. For more information about Purple Light Nights and how this movement got started, please visit the PLN website at: purplelightnights.org.

Looking for Alumni

Leadership Ottawa County is in need of contact information for the following LOC Alumni:

Stephanie Bayer
Class of 2005

Larry Chako
Class of 2003

Sarah Meacham
Class of 2001

Brenda Provenzale
Class of 2001

Max Wheaton
Class of 2004

Matt Whitted
Class of 2005

If you have contact information for one of our missing Alumni, please forward the information to Sheila Powell at leadershipottawacounty@gmail.com.

Change Follows You . . .

Change isn't something that happens here and there. No matter where you go, there it is – and no wonder. Life is a complex interaction of millions of factors, all connected to each other. If any one thing changes, so do all the interactions, sometimes in imperceptible ways.

You live in a world where everything is changing. It's not that change stalks you. Instead, since change is everywhere, it is already where you are heading.

Reference: Yaverbaum, E. & Sherman, E. (2008, p. 194-195). The Everything leadership book: 2nd edition. Avon, MA: Adamsmedia.



Looking for a great place for leadership resources, then check out the OSU Leadership Center. A complete listing of all the Leadership Center's resources is available on their website: leadershipcenter.osu.edu