

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Mindy Zatta

As many of you may know, Leadership Washington County (LWC) has been hard at work developing a plan to strengthen our organization and our program's curriculum. Working with consultants, we have focused on improving our program to better develop and cultivate future leaders for our Washington County community. We keep at the heart of this work our mission to empower and encourage class participants to assume leadership roles in our community by fostering leadership, commitment and active participation in community affairs throughout our nine month program.

Our traditional nine session topics are not changing. Our evaluation re-enforced that these topic areas are strong and still very relevant to Washington County. However, the skill sets assigned to each session will be restructured. Instead of assigning a specific skill set to each individual session, the skill sets will span the entire nine-month program. Our participants will be exposed to and learn about effective communication and team building throughout the duration of the program, not just during one individual session. Emphasis will also be placed on creating an engaging adult learning environment at every session.

In addition to this restructuring, we are implementing a credit-based participation system. Class members will be required to accumulate a certain number of credits in order to graduate from our program. Credits will be awarded for attendance at each session, as well as for participation in learning opportunities outside of the regular sessions. These learning opportunities will include attendance of community non-profit boards meetings, attendance of county governance meetings and participation in Community Action's Poverty Simulation.

The class project portion of our program will be enhanced by conducting a non-profit needs assessment. We are in the process of contacting many of the relevant non-profits in our community to find out what their needs are and how our LWC class members can help. If you are aware of a non-profit who may be in need of our help please contact us at [lwc@nauticom.net](mailto:lwc@nauticom.net). After compiling and evaluating all of our assessment information, our board will decide which non-profit projects the current class will tackle. This process will make the selection of the class projects more objective than it was previously and allow us to better address the needs of our community.

Finally, we are exploring options to secure funding for LWC. This will enable Leadership Washington County to continue to be one of the premier leadership programs in Pennsylvania, and further ensure that our organization is effectively meeting and exceeding the needs of our participants and the Washington County community. Our new class will commence on Thursday, September 16th at our 10th Anniversary Celebration Event. This evening event will be held at Bistecca Steakhouse and



## ALUMNI TESTIMONIAL

I began my LWC experience in the fall of 2008. I had lived in Washington County a few short years and quickly realized that Leadership would be more than just an opportunity to learn about my new home, but also a chance to network with other professionals and work on a group project. I enjoyed class sessions about the justice system, community leadership, arts and recreation while making new acquaintances and honing my leadership skills.



The group project was a practical way to apply many of the skills we were working on in class. My group project was for Leadership. We worked to provide LWC with practical, viable, cost-effective ways to promote itself and make it the premier Leadership training program in Washington County.

My LWC experience was eye-opening and a worthwhile investment of my time and resources.

Sara Thomas  
Big Brother Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh  
Program Coordinator- Washington and Greene Counties

## HELP SUPPORT LWC: TICKETS FORE CHARITY

Leadership Washington County (LWC) is proud to be a participant in the ANSYS Tickets FORE Charity program for the Mylan Classic being held August 30 through September 5 at Southpointe Golf Club. Individuals or businesses can purchase tickets to the PGA Nationwide TOUR event to benefit LWC by using the link below.

[https://www.mylanclassic.com/buytix/  
LEADERSHIPWACOUNTY](https://www.mylanclassic.com/buytix/LEADERSHIPWACOUNTY)

Weekly Grounds tickets are just \$25 and Weekly Clubhouse tickets are \$50. For a discount, a 10-pack of Grounds tickets is available for \$200 and a 10-pack of Clubhouse tickets is \$400. One hundred percent of the tickets purchased through this charity specific link will be donated to LWC. For those that love golf, this is a wonderful opportunity to see upcoming PGA players.

LWC has worked over the past year to improve the program and is excited to begin a new class this fall. We continue to look for ways to broaden resources to the program and see this event as opportunity to do just that. We hope that you will be able to attend this event and help to benefit LWC as a result.

Please feel free to distribute this to friends and family that also may be interested in attending. Thank you.

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## NOW RECRUITING NEW CLASS MEMBERS

New Session begins  
September 16

Applications available  
online at

<http://www.leadershipwashington.com/apply.html>

Deadline for applications – August 10, 2010



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Wine Bar at the Meadows Racetrack and Casino. We hope you can join us as we introduce our new class members and re-connect with LWC alumni and friends. As we move Leadership Washington County forward, I hope to see you there and thank you for your continued support.

If you know anyone who would be interested in participating in our program, please do not hesitate to contact us at [lwc@nauticom.net](mailto:lwc@nauticom.net). Applications are also available at [www.leadershipwashington.com/apply](http://www.leadershipwashington.com/apply).

## ALUMNI NOTES

If you have information you would like to share about yourself with LWC Alumni, please let us know. This newsletter will be published quarterly and we would like to include updates about fellow class members. Information we are looking for includes:

- Have you recently changed jobs or been promoted?
- Have you been recently married or had a child?
- Have you been appointed to any Boards of Directors or undertaken any other community activities?
- Do you have any other interesting happenings in your life you would like to share?

Please forward any information you would like to convey to Sheila Gombita at [jsgombita@gmail.com](mailto:jsgombita@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.



## SAVE THE DATE

**LWC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
Introducing the new class members  
Thursday, September 16, 2010  
Bistecca at The Meadows Racetrack & Casino  
*Invitation coming soon*

## A DOZEN SMART QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU SAY YES TO A BOARD

1. What does your organization do that makes you enthused about being part of it?
2. Who in our community most benefits from the work your organization does?
3. Besides money, what are the two or three biggest challenges your organization faces in the upcoming year?
4. What do you believe to be the strengths and weaknesses of your executive?
5. What are the strengths and weaknesses of your board?
6. What are the terms of office for board members?
7. How many board meetings a year are there and how long is each one?
8. How many hours on top of board meetings do most board members spend working with the organization?
9. What are the organization's funding sources?
10. How did you end the year last year financially? Is there a rainy day fund or endowment?
11. What is expected of board members in terms of giving and getting?
12. Do you have liability insurance? Have you determined that you need it?

*From The Board Member's Guide, Making a Difference on Your Board and in Your Community, 2003*