

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Melissa Morrison



As the new President of the Leadership Washington County Board of Directors, I would like to thank all board members, executive officers, committee chairpersons, session planners, class liaisons, and class participants who have been working hard over the last several months to carry out the Leadership Washington County mission.

Thanks also to Eileen Dellorso who has served as Executive Director for the last year, but unfortunately, has recently resigned for personal reasons. She will stay on board until the graduation of our current class. Eileen was instrumental in recruiting many of our current participants. This year's class is the largest in the history of the Leadership Washington County Program.

I am very excited to report that our Strategic Planning Session, held January 9 and sponsored by Mon Valley Regional Hospital (through Ray Andrews, LWC Past President), was an extremely productive meeting. We focused on our "brand" for improved outreach. We also drafted plans around four strategic priorities: marketing, funding, human capital, and curriculum. Strategic Plan 2009-2012 will be forthcoming.

As you will see throughout this and forthcoming newsletters, we have accomplished a lot this year and have great plans for the future.

A special thank you to John Swallow, LWC Marketing Chair, United Way, and the Marketing Committee for their recent efforts related to marketing: Jim Lyle, First Federal Savings, developed a power point presentation; Billy Proudfit, Proudfit Insurance, developed a referral form; a Web Re-Design Project is in place with students from W & J College in the Service Learning Program; and several publications have been written by Jamie Ivanac, The Washington Hospital.

Thanks to Sheila Gombita, LWC Alumni Chair, Washington Rides, for updating our alumni contact list.

In addition, thank you to the Curriculum Committee, chaired by Bridget Vilenica, Observer Reporter, for the initiation of Lunch-Time Talks by Non-Profits to Class Participants to enhance connection to community for board service.

A special thank you to Lee Young, LWC Treasurer, Penn State Cooperative Extension, for helping us to adopt our official budget and to coordinate a fundraiser through the Washington County Community Foundation.

Mindy Zatta Lacock, LWC Vice-President, Citi Smith Barney, and I will be working together to see that a smooth transition will be put in to place with the nomination of board members starting in April.

As we continue throughout this board term, you can count on our exhaustive efforts in making Leadership Washington County the "premier" organization in development of community leaders in Washington County.

If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

*Melissa Morrison, RN, MSN  
Manager, Cardiovascular Outreach and Rehabilitation Dept.  
c/o Wilfred R. Cameron Wellness Center  
240 Wellness Way  
Washington, PA 15301  
724 986-0921*

## CLASS 9 PROJECT UPDATES

By Sandy Peiffer, Class Liaison

### MEL BLOUNT YOUTH HOME

**PROJECT GOAL**-Do a fundraiser or get donations from sponsors to collect items needed by the residents of the youth home; continue to volunteer to assist with the Mel Blount Youth Home events and fundraisers

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE**-Met with Carol Lockett (Administrative Assistant); Carol took the group on a tour of the Mel Blount Youth Home where they met with the boys and staff and took some group photos; planning to give the boys gift cards to meet some of their needs and toys for tots would be giving the boys Christmas gifts; planning a ski trip event to Seven Springs for the boys; the project group will continue to volunteer for Youth Home events and assist them with some of their fundraisers

### UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY

**PROJECT GOAL**-Project involves the Residential Living Program at UCP; do fundraiser or get sponsors to donate tickets for the residents in the 5 group homes to be able to attend activities in the area such as: sporting events, parks shows, plays, concerts, etc. or at least raise the funding to have moneys for the staff to be able to take the residents to some of the events

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE**-Met with Julie Donley (residential living UCP) talked about the need for aides to be able to afford to go to the events for the residents; the group gave Julie a December calendar of events to schedule some events for the residents; the Leadership project group will be looking to get donations from the community and also sponsors, or do some type of fundraiser themselves to plan other events

### LEADERSHIP WASHINGTON COUNTY

**PROJECT GOAL**-To educate the community about Leadership Washington Co.; conduct research/alumni survey to develop facts/statistics sheet and/or organizational summary report; revise/develop/display marketing materials; revise website; work with Observer Reporter regarding feature articles; contact W&J to determine if they would be interested in creating a video for the group

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE**-Changed direction from doing a commercial to survey and data gathering for alumni, employers, non-profit agencies; did a sample power point for project tracking and a sample video for ideas; reviewed the current website for ideas

## ALUMNI NEWS

LWC alum and Board Member Brian Penak is now at Carnegie Mellon University as Manager, Accounting. Congratulations Brian!

## CALL FOR AMBASSADORS

We are looking for a few good men and/or women to become a LWC Ambassador. The following bullet points will hopefully clarify any questions that interested parties may have.

### **What is an Ambassador?**

Webster's defines this simply as "a person sent on a mission to represent another."

### **Who is an Ambassador?**

In our case, this is someone who supports our mission of fostering leadership commitment and active participation in community affairs by encouraging participants to assume leadership roles in the community.

### **What are the expectations of an Ambassador?**

To follow up on the sales leads that we provide - we have about 20 leads from the current session participants. We need help meeting with or talking to the leads about the program. Hopefully we will continue to get good leads from the sessions. Ambassadors are also welcome to find their own prospects.

Ambassadors can also help by agreeing to deliver short PowerPoint presentations to local organizations. We also need help finding the organizations.

With a couple of hours of commitment on our part, we can realize our strategy of not only fulfilling the next LWC class by June...we'll be putting people on a waiting list for classes to come!

Contact: Jim Lyle, Recruiting Committee  
jlyle@firstfederalbank.net  
724.986.8397

## Upcoming Events

**Leadership Washington County will be celebrating 10 years in 2010!**

**A special event is being planned for June 2010. Look for further information in future editions**

*One of the goals of the LWC Board of Directors is to help alumni find out about various board vacancies in our community. We hope to begin publicizing board vacancies and contact information via the LWC website. In the meantime, we will be sending community board membership information to alumni via email and this newsletter.*

### **Board Membership Update:**

South Strabane Township is currently accepting letters of interest from residents for the

- Park-Recreation Council
- Building Code Appeals Board
- Zoning Hearing Board

For more information, please visit [www.southstrabane.com](http://www.southstrabane.com).

## MEET OUR BOARD



*Sitting left to right:* Sandy Peiffer, Washington Federal; Sheila Gombita, Washington Rides; Melissa Morrison, The Washington Hospital; Mindy Zatta-Lacock, Smith Barney; Lee Young, Penn State Cooperative Extension

*Standing left to right:* John Bogdan, Mon Valley Hospital; John Swallow, United Way; Andrea Kelvington, Community Action Southwest; Nathan Voytek, Washington County Redevelopment Authority; Bridget Vilenica, Observer-Reporter; Rob Phillips, Washington County Redevelopment Authority; Eileen Dellorso; Billy Proudfit, Proudfit Insurance; Tanya Chaney, Chaney's Natural Health and Wellness; Michael Chaido, Washington Federal; Paula Bassi, Mon Valley Hospital.

*Not pictured:* Ray Andrews, Mon Valley Hospital; Karen Bennett, Greene County Human Services; Robert Griffin, Redevelopment Authority; Jamie Ivanac, The Washington Hospital; Debra Keefer, Mon Valley Chamber of Commerce; Ross Langford, Citizens Bank; Jim Lyle, First Federal Savings; Cindy Patterson, CCAC; Brian Penak, CMU; Jeff Kotula, Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

## 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 [sgombita@comcast.net](mailto:sgombita@comcast.net). We look forward to hearing from you.