



SINCE 1991, THE MISSION OF LEADERSHIP PASCO is to identify and recruit current or potential leaders of Pasco County, facilitate the development and interaction of those leaders, and to foster an issues-oriented learning environment for these leaders and the citizens of Pasco County in order to encourage an exchange of ideas and generate enthusiasm for community growth and development.

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President's Message



Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season. A lot of great things have happened since our last newsletter.

The Class of 2016 has been enjoying some great program days this past fall and the participation and feedback have been great. The Class held its election for class officers and congratulations go to Class President Don Anderson, Vice President Manny Long, Treasurer Crystal Olson, and

Secretary Michelle Miller.

In December, Leadership Pasco hosted our Alumni Mixer at Taso Italiano. Great food, fellowship, and some great door prizes helped to make it a fun event for all. Thank you to Kim Bogart for coordinating the event.

The Leadership Pasco Alumni dues notice was emailed to you in December, so please take time to renew your alumni membership today. The easiest way to renew is to log-in at www.leadershippasco.com and submit your payment online. You also may pay your dues the old-fashioned way by sending a check to our Post Office Box mailing address.

In January, the Class of 2016 had their ... "Read the Book" overnight experience called SIMSOC. I was able to attend and enjoyed it very much. I also must say that this year's class may have had the best social evening activities ever for a Leadership Pasco class. Well done, Class of 2016!

On March 17, Leadership Tampa Bay and the Tampa Bay Rays will be hosting an evening networking event from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm at Tropicana Field. All Leadership Pasco Alumni are welcome to attend, and there is no charge. This will be a great time to reconnect old friends and make new ones too. I hope to see everyone there. An email with registration information will be going out soon, if you have not already received one.

Save the date for the 6th Annual Leadership Pasco's Taste of Pasco on April 30! This fundraiser is critical to helping Class of 2016 raise money for their class projects: Pasco Kids First, PACE Center for Girls, and The Angelus. It will begin at 4 pm at the Concourse / Rotary Pavilion located at 15325 Alric Pottberg Road, Shady Hills, FL 34610. The Taste of Pasco has become Leadership Pasco's signature event, so you won't want to miss it! More information can be found on Facebook or at www.tasteofpasco.com.

Tom Celotto

Explosions Rock Class of 2016

by *Craig Laporte (Class of 2006)*

Criminal Justice Day was rocked by explosions, startling the Class of 2016! The day started at the crack of dawn outside the Land O' Lakes Jail with an adrenaline pumping SWAT and Aviation demonstration put on by the Pasco Sheriff's Office. As a domestic abuser grabbed a hostage at gunpoint, and took aim at an approaching deputy, smoke grenades filled the air distracting the would be hostage-taker. Flash-bangs further incapacitated the suspect as the SWAT team moved in with the Sheriff's helicopter swooping in at low altitude to be sure the scene was secured.

After touring the K-9 kennel, putting on SWAT equipment, seeing the helicopters up close and personal, and clearing an armed suspect out of a building, the K-9 unit put on an incredible display of the performance capabilities of its dogs.

During lunch the recently acquired body cameras were displayed with actual video footage from different situations. Some of the class members were given an opportunity to use the new "Shoot/Don't Shoot" computer generated program, while their classmates looked on.

After lunch the Child Protective Investigation unit gave graphic examples of the child abuse situations they face on a daily basis, followed by a presentation from Captain James Mallo about the School Resource Officer program. Then, the class worked together to handle a "crisis" situation on how to allocate law enforcement assets while still handling the routine law enforcement calls that never stop.

More explosions and gunshots rang out during the jail tour as the class experienced a mock mini-riot demonstrating how non-lethal weapons are used along with "stun" grenades in order to get control of the unruly group.

The day concluded with an outstanding demonstration by the forensics unit, showing how fingerprints are collected and different pieces of equipment are used to collect evidence. A few people were "grossed out" by some of the actual crime scene photos, but it was all part of the experience of learning how crimes are solved in the real world.

The day was made even better by the continuous presence of Sheriff Nocco and his entire command staff. Their commitment to making this day a success was obvious to the class and the entire group of law enforcement officers who participated. Leadership Pasco wants to thank the Sheriff and his entire staff and organization for their continued support of the organization.

VOICES OF LEADERSHIP

by *Shawn Foster*

Class of 2008

"2008, Making Pasco Great!"

*Managing Partner,
Sunrise Consulting Group*



I am fortunate to be a graduate from both the Leadership Manatee and Leadership Pasco programs. Both experiences were unique because they gave me the opportunity to learn a great deal about each county. As we all know, Pasco County is a great place to live and raise a family.

I enjoy continuing to be active and involved with Leadership Pasco as co-leader of the Government and Media day. After working in state and federal government for nearly 18 years, it's rewarding to share my experiences to help each class learn how government affects their daily lives and their community.

Each Leadership Pasco Class that I meet amazes me. Not only do they use what they have learned about Pasco County in their business, but they also work together to make a difference in the community.

As a small business owner, I've seen what it takes to make ends meet and meet the challenges of our community. Strong leadership is key to improving Pasco and the Leadership Pasco program develops these skills and connections. Getting involved with Leadership Pasco has given much more to me than I could have ever expected.



Youth Leadership Pasco 2016

Rob Aguis (Class of 2001)

Barbara DeSimone (Class of 1996)

Reaching New Goals and Climbing to New Heights

On October 7, the Youth Leadership Pasco Class of 2016 officially commenced at the James Gills, YMCA. This year, a record-high 70+ students applied for the class from all 13 Pasco County high schools, Genesis Prep and Bishop McLaughlin.

Barbara DeSimone and Rob Aguis had a difficult time selecting 35 students, so they extended the class to 37. The students started the day with smiles, a little swag, and a lot of personality as they met for the first time to formulate bonds and build relationships.

The weather was absolutely beautiful and the students' attitudes were bright and cheerful. They tackled the Ropes Course, experienced team-building, networked and set the stage for the planned activities and the program year. Thanks to the team at the YMCA, the students climbed out of their comfort zone and reached new personal heights, learning about themselves and their classmates.

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Day - An Eye Opening Experience

On November 4, the students spent the day in jail. Well, not really. But they did have the opportunity to spend the day at The Pasco County Sheriff's Office. The students were greeted in the morning by Sheriff Nocco and engaged in a robust dialogue covering various issues that affect our county. Throughout the day, the students took a tour of the facility, learned of the legal system and career options within the agency, saw the K-9 demonstration, and participated in a few cool activities set up by the Forensics Unit. By the days end, the students left with a different perspective and a wealth of knowledge about the multitude of opportunities within the Pasco County Sheriff's Office.

The remaining year's program activities include Health Care, Economic Development, Business, Media, Education and Career Development. The students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Young Eagles program.

The Youth Leadership Program gives special thanks to Tom Celotto and Doreen Packard for their assistance and support. A special appreciation also goes out to the Rotary Clubs of 6950 for sponsoring this year's class! These include the Rotary Clubs of Dade City Noon, Holiday, New Port Richey, Port Richey, Trinity and Wesley Chapel Noon.

For more information on the Youth Leadership Pasco class contact Barbara DeSimone at (727) 847 – 8103 or Rob Aguis at (727) 774 – 1701 or visit the Leadership Pasco website at leadershippasco.com.

Infrastructure and Growth Day

Scott Byrnes (Class of 2012)

Todd Pillars (Class of 2015)

This year's Infrastructure & Growth Day was jam-packed with a showcase of Pasco's most vital services and growth drivers! The morning began at the Duke Energy Anclote Plant where the Class of 2016 enjoyed a tour from Duke Energy representatives, Monica Forbes and Michael Schrader, showcasing how our energy sources are distributed throughout Pasco County and their involvement in growth. From there, the class was given a special behind-the-scenes tour of the expansion of the Morton Plant North Bay Hospital before enjoying lunch at the SMARTstart Incubator in New Port Richey by Krista Covey.

After lunch, the Class was given a walking tour of New Port Richey's Main Street and the revitalization efforts. Several leaders of the City of New Port Richey, including Chopper Davis and Debbie Mans, shared detailed information about the enhancements that are taking place now and what their expectations are for the future of New Port Richey. Finally, the day ended with tours of the E911 Center and the Traffic Operations Center where they learned how government services were expanding and the upcoming plans to have a more centrally located hub for these services. The class also interacted with employees from the Road & Bridges, Public Utilities and Emergency Vehicles departments, learning first-hand how their work has a direct impact.

We are especially grateful to our Infrastructure and Growth Day sponsors – City of New Port Richey, Duke Energy, Florida Luxury Realty/Bob Memoli, Pontlitz Asset Advisors and Windsong Charters. Thank you for your generous support!

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Area Leadership Event With The Rays — March 17, 2016
Taste of Pasco 2016 — April 30, 2016

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Alumni dues can be paid at www.LeadershipPasco.com

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