



... to actively pursue positive change in the community through community leadership development ...

The Leader

Fall-Winter 2010

Dates to Remember

- December 15: LCB Class-Health Care
- December 23: LCB Curriculum Committee Meeting
- December 25: Christmas
- January 1: New Years
- January 3: LCBA Board Meeting-Armory
- January 19: LCB Class-Economic Development
- January 27: LCB Curriculum Committee

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President’s Letter

On behalf of the Alumni Association I would like to express my gratitude to the current alumni and to the “in training” alumni. Class XXIII is well underway with 23 new participants completing the 9 month program to become actively engaged community leaders. I thank them for their commitment to becoming leaders in our community and look forward to the contributions they will make in the coming years. Part of the leadership training year is for the class to complete a project that contributes to the betterment of the community. This process has been undergoing some changes in the past few years in order to give participants a good opportunity to complete a project that provides for in depth knowledge of the organization they are contributing to and long lasting change in how the participating organization might serve the community.

The current Alumni also have been busy contributing to the community. Many Alumni contributed time and talent as part of the area’s Paint-a-thon. We had a super crew this year that scraped and painted a home for a very thankful elderly resident. Alumni also participated in a Strategic Doing session at IWCC facilitated by Ed Morrison. Mr. Morrison led us through a session that had us thinking about how things get done

in a community. When contemplating a project he focused on having us ask four primary questions to assist in a getting to a positive outcome and getting the job done, he encouraged us to ask “what could we do together?”, “what should we do together?”, “what will we do together?”, and “when will we get back together?”

I look forward to continuing our thought and discussion as the Alumni Association continues actively pursuing positive change in the community through community leadership development.

Diane McKee



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Leadership Quote

“ When leaders take back power, when they act as heroes and saviors, they end up exhausted, overwhelmed, and deeply stressed.”

Margaret J. Wheatley

Strategic Doing

Ed Morrison, noted economic development expert from Purdue University, visited Iowa Western Community College on October 5th and made a presentation on Strategic Doing.

Approximately sixty people were in attendance including local business community members and Iowa Western staff. Nineteen were Leadership Council Bluffs Alumni members on a scholarship courtesy of the LCBA Board.

The presentation entitled *Strap on Your Goggles It's a Different World* discussed the demise of "our grandfather's economy". In this world organizations (and much of society) functioned effectively in hierarchies that were distinctly siloed. He opened our eyes to the transformation to our "grandchildren's economy", a model of networks that is heavily influenced by internet connectivity. Using a networking mindset he urged us to drop the silos and find innovative solutions to our problems by linking and leveraging our assets within our communities and regions.

This new model requires a new way of thinking strategically. Strategic Doing is a discipline to enable teams of people to do complex projects in these open networks. Based on four simple steps: What could we do together? What should we do together? What will we do together? When will we get back together? Strategic Doing stimulates "open innovations that cross organization and political boundaries."

Ed's message challenges us to "change the conversation."

For more information on Strategic Doing visit [Ed Morrison, Strategic Doing Guru, Purdue University](#).

Rhonda Wood Smith Award

The Iowa League of Cities established the Rhonda Wood Smith Award in 1997 to honor and recognize the exemplary work of young city officials. Congratulations to **Clint Fichter**, Avoca City Manager (LCB Class 21) as this year's recipient of the award at their recent conference.

Community Project

As alumni of Leadership CB, each of us makes a commitment to do our part to help make our community a better place to live, work and play. For the last several years the Leadership CB Alumni Association has picked a community involvement project with this commitment in mind. Two years ago the association helped clean up Fairmont Park and last year we helped with the serving of refreshments at RAGBRAI.

For its 2010 community project, the association decided to assemble a team for the 22nd Annual Paint-A-Thon. The Paint-A-Thon project is a volunteer effort to paint the exterior of homes for low-income senior citizens, and low-income permanently disabled homeowners at any age.

On August 19, a group of alumni gathered at the assigned house to prepare it for painting which included scraping, priming and caulking. On August 20, a large group gathered to do the painting. There was a great turn out and the house was completed ahead of schedule. The house now looks great and the homeowner was thrilled to have her house painted.

Thank you to all of you who contributed.

LCBAA Web Site

Don't forget to bookmark the LCBAA website and check back frequently for updates.

<http://www.leadershipcbalumni.org/home.asp>

LCBAA: Alumni Member of the Year

At the annual meeting in March the LCBAA will announce its selection of the Alumni Member of the Year. Details about nominations and selection will be announced in January.

Leadership Council Bluffs: Volunteers

As part of its contribution to Leadership Council Bluffs, LCBA provides volunteers to assist with the class session. Assistance may include helping with setup, handouts, group facilitation, helping to keep people on schedule and be in the right place at the right time and any other duties that the facilitator finds helpful. Being a volunteer also allows the opportunity to obtain the information about the monthly topic.

The following dates are when volunteers are needed for either part or the entire day.

If you have an interest in any of these sessions, are willing to help, and your schedule allows, please contact Mark Shoemaker mark.shoemaker@pottcounty.com or Mary Davis mary.davis@pottcounty.com and they will help set up a schedule with you.

The dates for the remaining sessions are

December 15, 2010 Health Care
 January 19, 2011 Economic Development
 February 16, 2011 Education
 March 16, 2011 Government (in Des Moines with the Iowa General Assembly)
 April 20, 2011 Justice & Media TBD
 May 20, 2011 Closing Seminar & Graduation

The current Leadership Council Bluffs (XXIII) class

Community Trustee Project

participants will be involved with a different approach to their requirement to participate in a community development project. Class members will work in teams and partner up with a local agency and assist them with developing a plan

Community Trustee Project (continued)

to help them in areas such as development of staff, long term planning, expanding a marketing plan, or conduct some kind of community outreach

The structure here is to have class members participating in teams of three to four people and work with representatives of the agency to help design a plan to move things forward for the agency.

Forty five different agencies were contacted mid summer. They were provided with information about the intent of the Community Trustee Project and if interested were asked to submit a proposal as to how they would focus a project team from the Leadership Class.

Six Community Trustee Projects were selected for class members to work with. They include:

1. Council Bluffs Community Schools: Improving School Attendance
2. Council Bluff Public Library: Expansion of service to new target groups
3. Hospice of SWI: Expansion of service to new target groups
4. Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful: Membership Development
5. Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful: Expand Adopt a Street Program
6. VODEC: Expansion of service

Their work with these projects runs from November 2010 to April 2011.

In this way class participants devote and develop their leadership skills and become a "trustee" of the success of one agency within the community.