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A Vision for 2009

LNI launches new programs

By Keith Kirkpatrick, Executive Director



While the pundits wax philosophically about 2009, I choose to be optimistic. Next year promises to be filled with many new and wonderful projects for LNI. We are moving aggressively into the year with plans to start or significantly plan for four new programs. Not only will we have these new programs, but we expect to see a revitalization of our alumni through events and outreach.

LNI's board of directors has strategically planned and established a set of priorities for these programs. The staff has been authorized to pursue our New Executive Orientation program first. This program will welcome "new to the region" senior executives with a set of four events designed to acquaint them with the key issues and people of the South Shore. Each event will include dinner, social time, entertainment and a briefing. It is our hope to begin the community engagement process for these newcomers and their spouses as we recognize that their first year here is often focused on the demands of that new position. We will announce the details of this program in early January.

Concurrently we are continuing the planning of two additional programs: Advanced Leadership Skills Enhancement (ALSE) and Youth Leadership Development. The ALSE program will be co-sponsored with Leadership LaPorte County. Following the successful start of a similar program in 2008, we will follow their model and provide an opportunity for alumni to focus on the personal development of leadership skills. At the same time we will be creating a youth leadership program in conjunction with the Boy's and Girl's Clubs. We will be looking for alumni help in both of these projects.

The final project will be the start of our third LNI cohort offered during a year. Following a program in New York City we will be designing a "case study" model. It will focus on specific issues using a small group format and virtual communication. The program's purpose is to continue our mission of building leadership capacity in the region.

So you can see that 2009 promises newness and excitement. We will need your help and support for these projects. We will be adding staff in order for us to provide these new programs. To that end, **please welcome Kelly Deal, Program Coordinator**. Watch for more news about Kelly and these positive and optimistic projects.

Recruitment underway for LNI 26

It's not too late to nominate someone for the next LNI class. Just call the office and we will take care of rest. That class begins Thursday, Feb. 5. Please encourage those you have already nominated to submit their applications.

The application deadline is January 1, 2009.

It's time to talk of unity - "One Region, One Vision"

By Bill Masterson Jr., Publisher

An excerpt from NWI Times Sunday, October 05, 2008

Maybe the time is right?

Since coming to Northwest Indiana, I have marveled at the diversity, resources, power and opportunity this region holds. I have also shaken my head in bewilderment, watching the balkanization of communities in the region cause us to shoot each other in the foot, stopping progress.

One hundred sixty Northwest Indiana leaders gathered Sept. 11 for lunch and to talk about how we as a region might come together. After some frank discussion, I left feeling that maybe, just maybe, the timing is right for this to work.

Those attending included mayors, town council presidents, state legislators, bankers, school superintendents, police chiefs, sheriffs, health care administrators, university chancellors, social service agents, business and union leaders as well as others. They listened as Bishop Dale Melczek urged a unity of purpose and voice. They watched video messages from Gov. Mitch Daniels and U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky in which they spoke of the necessity of greater unity in our region.

The mission? How can we as a region create working groups to leverage our resources and share information for the betterment of the entire region? How can we work as one to make sure our elected officials go to Indianapolis speaking with one voice ... our voice. And if there are differences, those differences are vetted long before our elected officials arrive at the state capitol. In other words, let there be no surprises.

After the bishop, governor and congressman spoke in refreshingly candid terms about the challenges we face and their commitment to help us as long as we are willing to help ourselves, Dan Lowery of Calumet College of St. Joseph took over to moderate a discussion...

But it is the discussion after the meeting that has really given me hope that maybe, just maybe, this might be the right time to bring people together from all over the region to work for our mutual benefit...

I was told some officials from the area's universities gathered after the meeting to discuss a role they could play. Already, the chancellors and presidents of the higher education schools in the area meet to talk about issues impacting the region.

Don Babcock, director of economic development at NIPSCO, asked how the community-minded utility can help.

State Rep. Charlie Brown, who initially urged that The Times undertake the unifying effort, gave the project a big thumbs up, pledging to stay involved.

State Sen. Ed Charbonneau said the "One Vision" project is the type effort needed "to help move us forward." Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin put the "One Region" project on the agenda of the area's municipal consortium to determine how its leaders can get involved.

John Swanson, executive director of the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, told me the group has adopted the "One Region: One Vision" theme for a planning exercise it will undertake beginning this month.

But it was Keith Kirkpatrick, executive director of Leadership Northwest Indiana, who put us on track. He said, "Good job. Now let's get to work."

...We need not lose the individual identities of our many communities, but we must come together on many of the major issues for the benefit of all within Northwest Indiana.

My goal is simply to start a conversation, comparing notes of the many voices in our region and seeing how we might work together to make Northwest Indiana a better place in which to live and work.

I truly believe in and am committed to the theme of "One Region: One Vision." I ask for your support.

But it was Keith Kirkpatrick, executive director of Leadership Northwest Indiana, who put us on track. He said, "Good job. Now let's get to work."

Have you heard...

In July, Governor Mitch Daniels recognized six community leaders from Northwest Indiana. Among those honored was **LNI Board member and alumnus (LNI 09) Roosevelt Haywood III**, founder of Haywood and Fleming Associates.



The Governor presented the award at a Statehouse reception as part of Indiana Black Expo Summer Celebration. Daniels stated, "This is a great time to pay homage to the best among us, to people who have led lives of excellence and example, both professional and moral."

Michael W. Griffin, MMC – Clerk/Treasurer of the Town of Highland, **LNI Board Member and alumnus (LNI 11)**, earned the prestigious Master Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Griffin is the first Clerk-Treasurer in Highland history to earn this designation.

J. Allen Johnson, **LNI Board Member** received a fellowship from the Center for Whole Communities to attend the 2008 Whole Thinking Retreat.



Theresa Valade, LNI 19, was featured in BusIness magazine's special fall edition titled "20 under 40." Theresa is CEO of Success Trek, providing business coaching for individuals, small businesses, corporations and non-profit organizations.

Richard Morrisroe, LNI 20, retired from the City of East Chicago and is teaching classes at Calumet College of St. Joseph.

Since South Shore Arts entered into a management agreement with the Northwest Indiana Symphony, **Donna Catalano, LNI 24**, tells us that as of September 1st her position has been expanded to working half of her time with the symphony.

Jon Leetz, LNI 23, has joined the Board of Directors for the Valparaiso Parks Foundation and the Porter County Community Foundation.

Marge Wilke, LNI 24, has been named the Executive Director of the Winfield/LOFS Chamber of Commerce. This becomes effective January 1, 2009. Wilke said, "My participation in LNI and sharing the information I gained from our sessions was instrumental in providing this opportunity."

Leslie Hielema, LNI 22, was recruited by the Central Florida Partnership to serve as President of the Region's "Five Star" Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce. She started Nov. 2008.



Orlando Garcia, LNI 21, moved to Purdue University in West Lafayette to take a position as Residential Life Manager for Hillenbrand Hall.

Kathy DeGuilio-Fox, LNI Board Member and alumna (LNI 11), completed the requirements for the National Business Incubator Association's Incubator Management Certification Program.

Nancy Dal Polo, LNI 08, is currently working at Formitt Metal Labs as Operations Administrator. She started there 3-17-08. Nancy said, "LNI helped me gain the leadership qualities that I now feel comfortable with."

Kathy Pucalik, LNI 22, went back to school for her teaching license and is teaching English/Newspaper at Hammond High School.

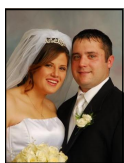
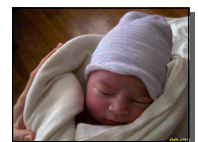
Jane Woodruff, LNI 17, is now the Administrative Assistant, Africa Ministries, for The Bible League.

On a Personal Note



Rick Riddering, LNI 21, and his new bride Susan Henson celebrated a spring wedding. Rick is Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Outreach and Development for Purdue University Calumet.

Keith Magiera, LNI 19 and wife Lisa welcomed daughter Sienna Magiera, September 23. Congratulations!



Jennifer Bzdil, LNI 23, married Jon Young on Nov. 8. Jennifer is Special Events Director for the City of Crown Point.

Let us know what you're up to.
We want to help you stay connected to your LNI friends and associates.

LNI 23 Graduation

"We applaud you not for what you've done, but for what you will do," James Walsh, LNI Board President

Over 80 alumni, guests, and speakers were on hand to help celebrate



We honored **Tarik El-Naggar, LNI 05, Architect and City Planner** as **Outstanding Presenter** and for his dedication to LNI's Mission.

Monica Aguilar
Assist. VP/ Branch Mgr
First Midwest Bank

Maria Becerra
Executive Director
Hammond Housing Authority

Robert Bono
US Probation Officer/Employment Specialist
US Probation & Pre-trial Services

Sandra Bowie
Executive Director
GRANTS, Inc

Jennifer Bzdil Young
Special Events Director
City of Crown Point

Rich Cains
Retail Advertising Manager
Post Tribune

Melissa Castle-Kirincic
Director of Community Relations
Meals on Wheels

Brian Davis
Director of Vocational Services
ARC Bridges

Eric Evans
Vice President & Commercial Relationship Mgr.
Harris Bank

Mary Gruba
MSO Staff Secretary
St. Margaret Mercy

Ed Gurauskas
Clinical Psychologist/Dir, Outpatient Service
Southlake Ctr. for Mental Health

Michelle Haywood
Program Manager
Edgewater Systems for Bal. Living

Kathy Herochik
Secondary Mathematics Teacher
Whiting High School

Diane Hodges
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Indiana University Northwest

Valerie Hunter
President
Jasper County Economic Development Organization

Jon Leetz
Executive Vice President
North Coast Distributing

George Letz
Superintendent
MSD of Boone Township

Mike Lisac
Commercial Banker/V P
Chase Bank

Kathy Luther
Dir. of Environmental Mgmt.
NIRPC

Nancy Machnikowski
Partnership Representative
School City of Hammond

Mary McClelland
Gallery Manager
South Shore Arts

Tracy McMahon
Banking Center Manager / 2nd Vice President
Citizens Financial Bank

Bill Meeks
Design Manager
INDOT—LaPorte District 9

Geneva Osawe
Executive Director
Family Matters Institute

Jackie Penn
Renal Clinician
St. Margret Mercy

Amanda Peregrine
Environmental Educator
NIRPC

Florian Steciuch
Certified Mortgage Planner
Benchmark Mortgage

Frances Vega
Dir. of Multi-Cultural Outreach
Ivy Tech Comm. College of IN

Yuri Victor
Corporate Gannett
Todd Willis

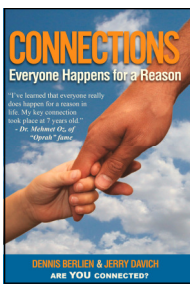
Director of Children's Services
Porter-Starke Services, Inc.

Jennifer Wojcikowski
Senior Director of Dev. & PR
Campagna Academy

Ben Zimmer
Agent
Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance



Class Representatives, **Mary McClelland** and **Rich Cains** entertain and inspire their classmates and guests with honest, heartfelt reflections.



Jerry Davich, LNI 24, has co-authored the book *Connections* with his cousin Dennis Berlien. Jerry tells us the idea for the book was born of a late-night conversation with his cousin. "That night, we shared a mutual epiphany about the key "connections" we experienced with others in our lives – both obvious and oblivious – including a series of seemingly random connections that ultimately renewed our relationship." *Connections* will illustrate that it's not always what you know, but also *who* you know and how you connect with them. Along the way, we will transform the popular adage, "Everything happens

for a reason," into ones that make more sense to us in our lives. Thus, the Laws of Connection:

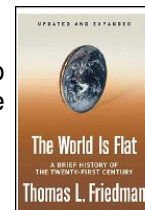
- "EveryONE happens for a reason" in our life.
- The quality of our life depends on the quality of our human connections
- Missed connections typically lead to regrets
- It's never too late to create new, meaningful connections

For more information about the book go to ConnectionsBook.com

"Life-transforming ideas have always come to me through books."

Bell Hooks aka Gloria Jean Watkins

Many of our current speakers have recommended Thomas L. Friedman's book *The World Is Flat*, in which he explores the political and technological changes that have flattened the world and made it smaller place. From the fall of the Berlin Wall to the explosion of the internet, to the dot com bust and outsourcing to India and China, globalization has evened the playing field for many emerging economies. He also explains how these changes could potentially affect social and religious organizations.



LNI 25 getting to know each other

Welcome one of LNI's largest classes yet! Take a moment to reach out to someone in the class. Visit LNI's website for contact information.

Nakea Barksdale

Marketing Director
Boys & Girls Club of NW Indiana

Brandt Baughman

Property Manager
DNR: Indiana Dunes State Park

James Berman

Director
Southlake Cntr for Mental Health

Gabrielle Biciunas

Long-range Planner
NIRPC

Toni Bickerstaff

Internship & Assessment Ctr.
Valparaiso University

Jane Bomberger

Director of Special Projects
Community Foundation of NWI

Lisa Bossi

2nd VP/Cash Mgmt. Officer
Citizens Financial Bank

Liz Chenore

Vice President
Citizens Financial Bank

Charles Costa

Director
NW Indiana Educ. Service Center

Robert Crookston

Lab Director and Vice President
Microbac Laboratories, Inc

Yvette Doss

Assist. Dir. of Development
Indiana University Northwest

Joe Eberts

Landscape Designer
Lake County Parks & Recreation

Joe Exl

Indiana Coastal Nonpoint Coord.
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources

Jackie Fioretti

Owner
Commercial Real Estate

Todd Fleischhauer

News Director
Lakeshore Public Television

Mike Ford

Project Manager
Short, Elliot, and Hendrickson, Inc.

Jay Harker

Principal
School City of Whiting

Craig Harrell

Director
Hospice of Calumet Area

Katerina Kaoukis

Vice President
Post-Tribune

Dion Katsouros

Construction Project Manager
The Skillman Corporation

Jill Keilman

Outreach Sales Coordinator
Hartsfield Village

Delia Lopez

Manager
Edgewater Systems for Bal. Living

Irene Lukowski

Chief Deputy
Lake County Clerk's Office

Joshua Lybolt

Regional Director
Northwest Indiana SBDC

Patrick Lyp

Partner
Blachly, Tabor, Buzik & Hartman

Oscar Martinez

Deputy Commander
Lake County Drug Task Force

Alice Neal

Superintendent
Tri-Creek School Corporation

Frank Perea

Advertising Sales Manager
The Times

Cynthia Rojas

Community Alliance Specialist
Methodist Hospitals

Andrew Rooks

Assistant Vice President
1st Source Bank

Cara Spicer

Grants & Communications Officer
Legacy Foundation

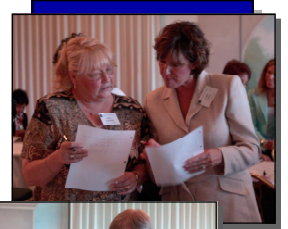
Hadiyah Swain-Williams

Customer Serv. Assurance Super.
Horseshoe Casino Hammond

Linda Swisher

Public Information Coordinator
Hammond Public Library

A game of
Give 5 - Get 5
helps break
the ice.



Laura Tavitias
Loan Closing Officer
Regional Development Company

Thomas Taylor
Director
Portage Township Schools

Diana Virijejich
Director
Purdue University Calumet

Watershed group works to demonstrate low impact development

Submitted by Christine Livingston LNI 24

The water quality in streams, small lakes, rivers and Lake Michigan is important to our region. Lake Michigan is a source of drinking water for many of us, but Lake Michigan as well as the system of waterways that feeds it is also a recreational resource and an important economic driver for northwest Indiana. Lake Michigan itself is undoubtedly one of the most precious resources in our state. Land use in northwest Indiana is inextricably linked to the water quality in this system. What we do on the land effects nearby waterways dramatically.

The development and implementation of watershed management plans is one way we can cross traditional boundaries and come together from different communities to effectively manage land and increase public understanding and awareness about water quality issues. As Save the Dunes water program director, Christine Livingston has been working since 2001 to bring communities together to identify water quality issues that

are of concern to them and develop watershed plans that address these issues. Once these plans are approved by the State of Indiana the watershed group continues to work together to implement the action items in the plan.

Livingston has coordinated the planning and implementation process for two approved plans in Porter County (Salt Creek and Dunes Creek watersheds) and received a \$221,000 grant in March of '08 from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to continue working with watershed group members to demonstrate low impact development. Low impact development is the use of green infrastructure in developments to minimize the impact of the development on the environment. The watershed group will demonstrate these practices throughout the Salt Creek watershed in highly visible locations such as universities, tourism offices, downtown areas, schools, and golf courses. Livingston also recently received approval of an additional \$496,000 from IDEM to address other pollution runoff issues throughout the Salt Creek watershed.



Leadership Northwest Indiana
410 East Lincolnway
Valparaiso, IN 46383

LNI's fall corporate giving campaign
resulted in sponsorship support from

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NIPSCO, Peoples Bank,
Post-Tribune, The Times
Whittaker & Company

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their continued support of
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**Mark your calendars for our annual
Legislative bus trip
Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009**

Come and make up a missed session!

For current class schedules
visit our website at
www.leadershipnwi.org

Renew Your Alumni Membership
*****SEE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE*****

As always we encourage your feedback so we
can continue to improve and make this newsletter
and our website the valuable LNI resources
we are sure they can be.

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Program Director: donna@kpmgroup.biz
Program Coordinator: kelly@kpmgroup.biz
Executive Assistant: kathleen@kpmgroup.biz
