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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Keith Kirkpatrick



Greetings LNI Alums! We have been making many changes these past few months and I want to tell you about all of our news. Some of this news is quite exciting and some is just growth pains. With two classes and nearly 70 participants constantly in the program, we are very busy.

First, some of the great stuff! We have two new staff members. Donna George has just joined LNI as our Program Director and Kathleen Brzezinski as our Executive Assistant. Both are incredibly talented and we are fortunate to have their leadership in LNI. This fall we started LNI23 with 32 participants. Can you believe it, our 23rd class. But more incredible, we will be graduating our 500th alumni at the graduation on December 7.

LNI is also on the brink of unveiling its new web site. It will be replacing our directory because it will be our directory. All LNI alumni with paid memberships will have access to detailed information on our graduates and we will be able to communicate in many ways among our leadership. You are going to like what you see in January.

The more challenging news has been the physical move and transition to new quarters.

After five great years at IUN, we have moved to an office in Valparaiso. A big "thank you" to IUN and the Institute for Innovative Leadership who helped guide our recovery and growth during this time. Please note our new address and phone number. You may be a little confused by our email addresses, but let me clarify. The LNI board of directors has contracted with the KPM Group to operate LNI and its programs. As the owner of KPM Group, I will continue to serve as Executive Director and will oversee our continued success and progress. As always, we welcome your input, comments, participation and support.



Class 24 Recruitment Underway

As many of you are aware, LNI has been running overlapping classes for the past year or so. With that in mind, while Class 22 is scheduled to graduate on December 7 and Class 23 has started its journey toward enlightenment, we are currently recruiting for Class 24 which will begin its adventure February 7, 2008.

Don't let your fellow leaders miss this great opportunity.
Send us your nominations for our upcoming class.

To receive a nomination form via email contact
Donna George at donna@kpmgroup.biz or call at
219.531.0156.

Leadership Graduates Class 21



The LNI 21 graduating class attended the quarterly Quality of Life meeting at the Radisson in Merrillville on June 13, 2007 as part of its final session. U.S. Congressman Pete Visclosky, left, served as the group's keynote speaker for graduation.



Fellow class members selected Tom Heitz, above and Rick Riddering, below, to speak on their behalf at the graduation celebration

Steve Barker

Executive Director - Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy

Sandra Boland

Personal Banking Officer
1st Source Bank

Rick Calinski

Director of Economic Development
City of Hammond

Gabriella Centanni-Churchill

Cash Management Officer
Citizens Financial Services

Regina Demeter

Workshop Coordinator - IUN Institute for Innovative Leadership

Derek Ernst

V.P. Western Suburban Operations
Junior Achievement of Chicago

Thomas Frank

Former Director, East Chicago Waterway Management District

Orlando Garcia

Waterfront Supervisor
Whihala Beach County Park

Susan Gilyan

Records Resource Manager
Lake County Clerk's Office

Diane Aden Hayes

Metro Editor
Post-Tribune

Tom Heitz

Professional Business Coach & Speaker in Financial Services & Athletics

Kathalina Hernandez

Sales Manager - Lake County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Eman Ibrahim

Senior Land Use/Transportation Planner, NIRPC

Matthew Johnson

Financial Advisor
Merrill Lynch

Mike Kenney

Business Developer
The Skillman Corporation

Paulette LaFata-Johnson

Alumni Relations Director
Indiana University Northwest

Sandra Martinez

Superintendent
School City of Whiting

Derrell Nickerson

Director of Addiction Services
Edgewater Systems for Balanced Living

Karen Orosz

Manager, Workforce & Economic Development
Ivy Tech Comm. College

Brenda Peterman

Development Officer
Legacy Foundation

Rick Riddering

Asst. Vice Chancellor
Student Development & Outreach, PUC

Janice Ryba

Division Director
Regulatory & Rehabilitative Services
Community Healthcare System

Gabriela Serrano

Administrative Secretary
NW Indiana World Trade Council

Dan Smith

Program Director
Child & Adolescent Division
Southlake Center for Mental Health

Mary Stewart-Pellegrini, Ph.D.

Steward Management Group & Author

Michael Suggs

Public Affairs Manager
NIPSCO

Niccole Zell

Credit Analyst & Portfolio Manager
Regional Development Company



Keeping up with the Leaders LNI Alumni News

LNI Class 18 alumna **Chareice White**, Corporate Director of Community Relations for Majestic Star and Fitzgeralds Casinos & Hotel and Vice President of Barden Gary Foundation, was the recipient of the "Woman of the Year Award 2007-08," sponsored by Women Looking Ahead News Magazine. The award salutes the accomplishments of women based on the following criteria; ordinary women with extraordinary talents, preserving career challenges, commitment to professional excellence, promotion of diversity in the workplace, and community service involvement.

LNI 19 grad, **Kristopher Krouse**, Executive Director of Shirley Heinze Land Trust, was honored as one of 12 recipients of the Governor's Award for Tomorrow's Leaders presented by the Indiana Humanities Council and the Office of the Governor. The award, created in 2003 by the Indiana Humanities Council, recognizes Indiana's outstanding young leaders between the ages of 19 and 29 for their achievements in entrepreneurial, community, educational, and cultural arenas.

Ken Coopwood, Sr., LNI Class 17, was chosen as a protégé in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI). Dr. Coopwood was among a 26-member cohort of traditionally underrepresented leaders in higher education chosen nationally for preparation of positions such as university president or chancellor. He recently completed 1½ years as Vice Chancellor for Student Services before returning to his permanent responsibilities as Director of Diversity & Equity at Indiana University Northwest.

LNI Class 21 grad **Janice Ryba** has been appointed Administrator of St. Mary Medical Center in Hobart. She previously served as a Division Director overseeing Regulatory and Rehabilitative Services for the Community Healthcare System.

Jim Hitz, LNI Class 18, recently completed the FBI Citizens' Academy through the organization's Merrillville office. The 30-hour program is open to community leaders who are nominated through a program grad or Bureau staff member.

Congratulations to **Shelby Curry**, who was recently honored by The Times' BusIness magazine at its "20 Under 40" awards program. Shelby is the Communications Manager at Horseshoe Casino and a grad of LNI Class 17.

...and doing their part to supply future leaders for Northwest Indiana:

Maria Ramos, LNI 18
Gregory Armando Ramos
Born January 9, 2007



Erin Nickelsburg, LNI 20
Miles Augustus Nickelsburg
Born May 8, 2007

Leeanne Foster, LNI 18
Abigail Grace Foster
Born July 15, 2007

LNI 8th Annual Golf Outing One Continuous 19th Hole

By Paul Myers, LNI 22

Friday, April 20 brought several hundred LNI Alumni, friends, guests and corporate partners together for the 8th Annual Miniature Golf Outing & Silent Auction. The event was held once again at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville. While it may have been billed as a Miniature Golf Outing it was more like one continuous 19th hole as participants spent much more time socializing and networking than they did golfing or chasing down stray balls.

Special awards were given for the most fun, most creative, and the most unusual hole. LNI Class 21 and 22 both sponsored holes for the event. While they took on parallel themes, their presentations were totally different and quite unique.

Special thanks must go to our corporate sponsors: NIPSCO, St. Mary Medical Center, Harris Bank, UPS, Superior Design-Build LLC, Fifth Third Bank, Severn Trent Environmental Leadership, Majestic Star Casinos & Hotel, Merrillville Plaza Surgery Center, Holistic Health Realities LLC, and The Stewart Management Group.

We would also be remiss if we did not thank all who donated items for the Silent Auction. Oh yes, and all of those who attended this great annual event.



Leadership Northwest Indiana
410 East Lincolnway
Valparaiso, IN 46383

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**Next meeting
scheduled for 8 am
Friday, December 7**

Purdue University North Central
1401 S. U.S. 421
Westville, IN 46391

Cost is free to QLC members
for all others a \$15 contribution is appreciated
All LNI 20, 21 & 22 grads are current QLC members
RSVP: mhaller@nwialc.org

LNI offices have a new home in Valparaiso

Leadership Northwest Indiana
410 East Lincolnway
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

Ph: 219.531.0156 Fax: 219.465.7259

**Executive Director: keith@kpmgroup.biz
Program Director: donna@kpmgroup.biz
Executive Assistant: kathleen@kpmgroup.biz**

Watch for LNI's new web site coming soon!
