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## Not Just One Man's OPINION

Submitted by Paul Myers, LNI 22

We all take pride in our accomplishments in life. How we show that pride depends on the subject. While we cannot carry around our diplomas most college and university graduates take such pride in their alma mater that they make it a point of wearing a lapel pin, especially when they are at social events.

Since my graduation with LNI 22 last December I have made a point of leaving my university lapel pins at home and wearing but one: that of Leadership Northwest Indiana.

I do so for two reasons. I take pride in the fact that I attended such a remarkable regional program and it opens lines of conversation that would normally not be available.

I recently attended a dinner at the Avalon Banquet Center in Merrillville. In the crowd of about 600 people I spotted at least four people from my LNI Class one or two from Class 21, none of whom were wearing their LNI lapel pins.

I sat down to speak to Leigh Morris, the former Mayor of the City of LaPorte who is now the Governor's appointment to the

Regional Development Authority. His first question to me was, "What's the lapel pin for?" I briefly told him about LNI and commented on Jim Jessup's similar program in LaPorte County. Morris said that one of the problems in NWI is that we need to get younger people involved with the management of the various organizations throughout the region.

Another person I spoke to was Tim Ross who again noted my LNI lapel pin and commented that he too was a graduate of the program. I asked him why he wasn't wearing his LNI pin to which he commented, "I just never thought about it."

Like a university education the LNI program is a viable regional educational program that participants should be proud of. The wearing of the LNI lapel pin cannot only help you to connect with other LNI alumni, but can be a tool to get others involved in the LNI experience.

Take pride in your accomplishment and help share the experience with others!



Do you know where your pin is?

***"I take pride in the fact that I attended such a remarkable regional program."***  
**Paul Myers**

## Thank You for Paying Your 2008 Alumni Dues

We, at LNI, are continually seeking ways in which to build added value for our alumni. Your continued support of those efforts is necessary and greatly appreciated. Thank you to the following alumni for their 2008 support of Leadership Northwest Indiana.

Jennifer Anderson, Susan Anderson, Alexius Barber, Michael Berta, Sandra Boland, John Cain, Scott Cherry, Kenneth Dallmeyer, Dan DeHaven, George Douglas, Susan Dzyacky, Linda Eyer-mann, Damien Gabis, David Harvey, Jill Hasiak, William Hasse, Phyllis Hayden, Diane Hayes, Tricia Hernandez, Elaine Hough, Keith Howard, Jim Jessup, Andrew Kyres, Michael Lunn, Debra McClelland-Parker, Kelly Moore, Julie Murzyn, Karen A. Orosz, Leslie Plesac, David Rowland, Janice Ryba, Stephanie Sheikh, Anthony Shivley, Mary Stewart-Pellegrini, Julie Stogsdill, Michael Suggs, Andrew Teeple, Theresa Valade, Renae Vania-Tomczak, Deborah Walker, Daniel Williams, Craig Zandstra.

**A small contribution of \$40 is all we ask to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP and continue to support leadership growth. Call or email us to renew. (219) 531-0156**

## Welcome LNI 24

Who knew finding connections would be so much fun!

### David Baker

Advertising Mgr.,  
The Times

### Gloria Balerini

Executive Director  
ALSE Clemente Center

### Mitch Barloga

Non-motorized Transport,  
Greenways Planner,  
NIRPC

### Tina Bengs

Attorney, Hoepfner,  
Wagner & Evans

### Roxann Brown

Academic Coordinator,  
Calumet College

### Jennie Burgess

Assistant Parks Director,  
City of Crown Point

### Donna Catalano

Special Projects Director,  
South Shore Arts

### Chris Cioroianu

Golf Course Sup.,  
Lake County Parks

### Carla Cohen

Senior Acct. Executive,  
Braman Agency

### Jerry Davich

Columnist,  
Post-Tribune

### Martin Denkhoff

Acct. Mgr, PUC

### Elizabeth Depew

Director, PNC

### Kameli Dogruyol

Office Mgr. N-ovations

### Theresa Eineman

Superintendent  
Crown Point Schools

### Shaunna Finley

K12 Charter School Mgmt

### Jennifer Fredericks

Trust Officer,  
JP Morgan

### Julie Johnson

Parks Dept Manager,  
City of Crown Point

### Jeff Leetz

VP North Coast Distrib.

### Shannan Lefever

GIS Analyst, NIRPC

### Christine Livingston

Water Prog. Director  
Save the Dunes

### Patrick Lyp

Partner, Blakely, Tabor,  
Bozik, & Hartman

### Heather Maple

Fin. Analyst, SMM

### Nick Meyer

Communication Mgr,  
NIPSCO

### Patricia Ramirez

Dev. Officer, Porter Co.  
Community Foundation

### Marcos Rodriquez

Appren.Enrollmnt Mgr  
Ivy Tech Comm. College

### Gloria Romero-Hutchinson

CEO Girl Scouts of  
Calumet Council

### Krystle Simmons

Special.Events,  
LCCVB

### Tina Stephens

Factotum, Taltree Arbor.

### Judy Terek

Campaign Manager,  
United Way

### Jillian Wilcox

Planning & Fin. Analyst  
Horseshoe Hammond

### Marge Wilke

Marketing Consultant.  
Wilke Consulting

### April Wolford

Asst. VP, Bank Manager  
Harris Bank

### Gwendolyn Woodard

Consultant



## LNI 22 December Graduation

Class representatives Susan Dzyacky and Paul Myers shared motivational and entertaining memories from their Leadership Northwest Indiana experience.

For complete alumni contact information visit LNI's website and log in. Contact the office for the member password.  
[www.leadershipnw.org](http://www.leadershipnw.org)

### Michael Berta

Superintendent  
Portage Township Schools

### Paula Carey

Dir. HR, City of Crown Point

### Marc Chase

Eastlake Editor, The Times

### Mike Chaseley

Prtnrshp Dev. Mgr, LCCVB

### Susan Dzyacky

Continuing Educ. Coordinator  
Calumet College

### Linda Eyerhann

Dir. Educ., South Shore Arts

### Howard Fink

Comm. Dev. Dir., Merrillville

### Adam Graper

Gov. Affairs Dir., Crown Point

### Catherine Gregorczyk

Reg. Dev. Assoc., SMM

### Tricia Hernandez

Dir. Mrktg., South Shore Arts

### Leslie Hielema

Mnging Director, ProLogic Inc.

### Michael Hofmann

Dir. Admissions & Emergency  
Services, Porter-Starke

### Michelle Holmes

Managing Editor, Post-Tribune

### Keith Howard

Dean Student Affairs  
Ivy Tech

### Cindy Jackson

Energy and Weather  
Program Manager  
NIPSCO

### Jim Jessup

Director  
Leadership LaPorte County

### Juliane Klein

VP Harris Bank

### Julie Lavin

Bank Center Mgr.  
Citizens Financial

### Sharron Liggins

Exec. Director  
Drug Free Gary Coalition

### Karen Marben

Dir. HR, City of Crown Pt.

### Keith Matasovsky

Dir., City of Hammond

### Paul Myers

Self-employed

### Sylvia Planer

Personnel Specialist,  
Training Coordinator  
US Probation &  
Pretrial Services

### Tanya Planer

Marketing  
Horseshoe Casino

### Andrea Proulx Buinicki

Planned Giving Director  
Opportunity Enterprises

### Kathleen Pucalik

PR & Publication Specialist  
Community Hospital

### Gregory Reinholt

Senior Club Director  
Boys & Girls Clubs of NWI

### Julie Stogsdill

Director, Hospice of  
Calumet Area

### Daniel Williams

CFO & VP Finance  
Edgewater Systems for  
Balanced Living



The LNI 22 graduating class participated in the quarterly Quality of Life meeting at the Purdue North Central in Westville on Dec. 6, 2007 as part of its final session.

## LNI Grads Participate in NWI Housing Summit Conference

Sharron Liggins, Steering Committee member for the Fourth Annual Housing Summit Conference and other LNI 22 class members participated at the conference, which had over 750 participants and exhibitors at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville on Wednesday, April 30. Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman spoke about the state's foreclosure initiative, permanent supportive housing and homelessness in Indiana.

Liggins said, "My recruitment of my peers came from the great opportunities of networking through LNI."

Joining Liggins at the conference were Howard Fink- Welcome Address for Town of Merrillville, Sandra Bowie - Co-Chair over exhibitors, Paul Meyers - participant and invited photographer and Cindy Jackson- Major Sponsorship and exhibitor all from LNI 22; Tim Brown, LNI 13, a Movers, Shakers, Decision Makers Panelist for the Afternoon Plenary and Mike Suggs, LNI 21, Major Sponsorship/Contributor for Scholarship for consumers.

Meg Haller Ph.D. Quality of Life Council Executive Director, LNI 18, facilitated the panel of Movers, Shakers, Decision Makers, which addressed the 2008 Housing Indicators Report.

## LNI 23 to Graduate on June 6

Please join us in celebrating the graduation of another dynamic group of leaders from the LNI program, Friday, June 6.

Graduation will be held at Andorra Banquet's in Schererville at noon, immediately following the Quality of Life Council forum at Purdue University Calumet's Conference Center.

At this event we will also be honoring Tarik El-Naggar for his years of service and selfless support of the LNI program.

Tickets are \$25 for alumni and guests.

**Please RSVP kathleen@kpmgroup.biz or Call 219.531.0156.**

## LNI Participates in LEAD '08 "Ignite the Leader Within"



A third very successful conference was held at Ivy Tech's Valparaiso campus on March 28.

The LEAD '08 Student Leadership Conference for Northwest Indiana is organized by the North-

west Indiana University Leadership Consortium in partnership with LNI. This is a group of representatives from seven regional colleges and universities working together to complete projects that will help support leadership development in our region.

We demonstrate effective leadership by modeling for our students and communities an attitude of cooperation and collaboration that affects positive change.

Rick Riddering, LNI21 and PUC Assist. Vice Chancellor for Student Outreach & Dev. said, "When people come together for a cause such as LEAD '08 there is power. The power we witnessed was the knowledge gained by the students as they attended workshops and rubbed elbows with community leaders. We continue to see the value it has for college students as they try to expand their knowledge of what it means to be a leader."

## Leadership LaPorte County Graduates 24<sup>th</sup> Class

Leadership LaPorte County graduated its 24th class on May 22. A total of 32 area citizens received their diplomas at the celebration. The keynote speaker was LNI's own Keith Kirkpatrick.

Leadership LaPorte County just completed its first-ever Advanced Leadership Training. The curriculum included an overview of the history and theory of leadership, personal assessment tools, change leadership, creativity and creative problem-solving facilitation. The training will be offered again later in 2008.

Nominations are being accepted for the 25th Leadership class which begins in September. For more information about the class contact Jim Jessup.

**They welcome nominations from the Porter/Lake County areas. (219) 325-8223**

## LNI Movers & Shakers

**Mary Stewart-Pellegrini, Ph.D., LNI 21**, recently became a member of the Association of Consultants to Non-Profits and Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was invited by Deloitte & Touche to co-facilitate the first annual Taproot Foundation Bono Action Tank Roundtable. The Roundtable brought together seventy corporate and industry leaders along with professional services firms to discuss how to instill the pro bono ethic as a core pillar of the business community.

**Julie Lavin, LNI 22**, was recently promoted to Vice President-Regional Sales Manager for Citizen's Financial Bank.

**Joe Wszolek, LNI 18**, was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of Realtors® Multiple Listing Service. He also was appointed as Chairman of the GNIAR® Government Affairs Committee. It is this committee that monitors government issues as they pertain to private property rights as well as researching and recommending government policy positions to the GNIAR® Board of Directors for consideration and ultimately to the Indiana Association of REALTORS® as well.

As of April 30, **Theresa Valade, LNI 19**, CEO of The Growth Coach® takes over full ownership of the business. Valade plans to rebrand her business under the corporate name Success Trek Inc. and will be introducing new materials and services soon.

## Bald Really is Beautiful

After three years of "thinking about it,"

**Mary McClelland, LNI 23**, and Gallery Manager for South Shore Arts was ready to shed her locks for Childhood Cancer Research.



Mary generated quite a buzz with her enthusiasm for the St. Baldrick's Foundation head-shaving event and raised \$3,500 for this very worthy cause. She said, "It has given me faith in humanity." Many thanks to her LNI friends for their support.

## Awards

**Kathy DeGuilio-Fox, LNI 11**, Business Development Manager for Purdue's Technology Center of NWI, was named as a 2008 Woman of Merit by the TIMES, nominated by Michael Griffin, Clerk-Treasurer of Highland, and LNI 11 graduate.

**Sharron Liggons, LNI 22** has earned Woman of Action Award 2007, Women in the NAACP; Outstanding Historical Achievement 2007, The Salvation Army A.R.C.; Continuum of Care, Non-Profit Service 2008 Award, Keeper of Dream Award 2008, Housing Summit Conference 2008.

**Jim Jessup, LNI 22**, Director Leadership LaPorte County, received the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award from the La Porte County Parks. Jim has been the president of the Park Foundation since its inception in 1990.

## An Inspirational Moment

One of LNI's newest participants, Tina M. Stephens, LNI 24, was recently inspired to write a poem about her LNI experience. Tina is the Factotum for Taltree Arboretum and Gardens in Valparaiso.

### Leadership Northwest Indiana

*Waiting to unleash the nurturing love;  
On a Sapling; bursting Green; Life in Flight.  
A parenting watch; measuring time;  
Waiting: Growing: Green without Blight.*

*As time passes: Cycles become seen;  
Life ever-changing: Absorbing needs of all.  
Learning lesson of love and war:  
Hoping thy heart does not fall.*

*Expressing Self: Sharing happiness and woes;  
Feeling accomplished: Riding the high.  
Loving, Accepting, Community, Group, and Man;  
Leading others to Forgive, Love, and Fly!  
Be the one who knows  
The Power of LNI!*

Thank you Tina for sharing those inspirational words with us.

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

## Annual Trip to State Legislature a True Adventure

Very early one morning in February some 50 LNI participants braved slippery, snow-covered roads to board a charter bus en route to Indianapolis. As part of LNI's annual trip to the State Legislature participants were given the opportunity to meet and speak with their local representatives. Jerry Davich, LNI 24 and Post-Tribune columnist, shared his observations from this day with his readers and with us.

### State legislation 101 for Hoosier Dummies Like Me

By Jerry Davich, Post-Tribune, Feb. 26, 2008

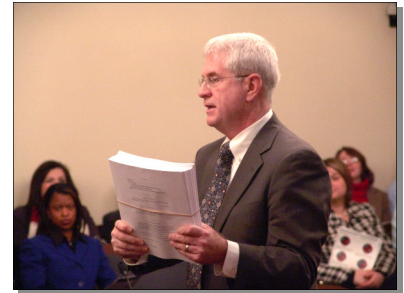
State Sen. Ed Charbonneau picked up a thin stack of papers, titled House Bill 1220, and plopped it on a table in front of dozens of visitors. The house bill, for the now dead South Shore extension plan, started out a lot thicker a few weeks ago, he said.

"But this is what it looks like now," said Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso, a Senate newcomer. He then picked up another stack of papers, much thicker and weightier, and plopped it on the table with a loud thud. This controversial bill, titled House Bill 1001, for property tax relief, is headed in a different direction than H.B. 1220. "It's still growing," said State Rep. Don Lehe, R-Brookston, "and it will continue to get thicker with each new draft."

The two legislators stood in a small committee room on the fourth floor of the State Capitol Building in Indianapolis. Along with State Rep. Chet Dobis, D-Merrillville, they served as a welcoming committee for a group of members from Leadership Northwest Indiana. The group toured the massive building on Wednesday to learn first-hand about Indiana's legislative "open process." And, sure enough, it's a lot more open than I ever thought.

For instance, did you know you could visit the General Assembly while it's in session (through March 14) simply to watch the legislative wheels go 'round and 'round? Did you know you could read any of the dozens of bills in the legislative pipeline and provide expert insight to your representative, considering you know what you're talking about? Did you know if you're qualified enough, you - John and Jane Q. Public - can be

*Ed Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso, a Senate Newcomer, displays the controversial, and still growing, property tax relief bill.*



***"Did you know if you're qualified enough, you - John and Jane Q. Public - can be asked to testify on behalf of that bill and its details or legal language? Neither did I."***  
**Jerry Davich, LNI 24**

asked to testify on behalf of that bill and its details or legal language? Neither did I.

On this day, "hearing day," several bills were being openly discussed and debated by state lawmakers in various rooms. And anyone could simply pop in to watch the proceedings. So I did. The bills being discussed ranged from the interesting, Senate Bill 0192, "truth in music advertising," to the boring, House Bill 1224, on "transfer fees."

Room number 233 was jammed packed to watch members of the rather dry Commerce, Public Policy & Interstate Cooperation committee. I wondered why, until I noticed they were debating House Bill 1118, on, ahem, alcoholic beverages. Some bills addressed diverse issues, such as motorists duties at accident scenes, birth certificate fraud, age discrimination, graduation rate formulas, and deputy coroner training. Other bills died a quiet death behind closed doors after their first or second reading.

On this day, Gov. Mitch Daniels officially signed the Great Lakes Compact, designed to protect Great Lakes water from diversion to other states. Several familiar-faced environmentalists from this region drove to Indianapolis to personally watch the governor sign it. I skipped the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, instead choosing to tour the building on my own...



Leadership Northwest Indiana  
410 East Lincolnway  
Valparaiso, IN 46383

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**Next quarterly forum**  
**Friday, June 6**  
**8:00 am Registration**  
**8:30 Program Begins**  
**11:00 Program Ends**

**“A Community of Open &  
Accessible Neighborhoods”**

Purdue University Calumet  
The Calumet Conference Center  
2300 173rd Street  
Hammond, Indiana

RSVP: Meg Haller at [mhaller@nwiqlc.org](mailto:mhaller@nwiqlc.org)

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**Visit Our New Website at**  
**[www.leadershipnwi.org](http://www.leadershipnwi.org)**

**For upcoming events,  
alumni contact information,  
LNI program schedules,  
nomination forms,  
alumni dues information,  
...and the list keeps growing.**

As always we encourage your feedback so we can continue to improve and make this site the valuable LNI resource we are sure it can be.

**Renew Your Alumni Membership**

Executive Director: [keith@kpmgroup.biz](mailto:keith@kpmgroup.biz)  
Program Director: [donna@kpmgroup.biz](mailto:donna@kpmgroup.biz)  
Executive Assistant: [kathleen@kpmgroup.biz](mailto:kathleen@kpmgroup.biz)

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NWI Chambers of Commerce, NIPSCO, The Post-Tribune and The Times**

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