



# LEADERlines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEADERSHIP MARTIN COUNTY ALUMNI



## CLASS 35 UPDATE - GOVERNMENT DAY

By Amber Ducote, LEADERShip Program Director

On Sept. 4, Class 35 officially embarked on their LEADERShip experience with Government Day!

The day was steered by George Stokus and Jordan Pastorius, moderated by the ever-talented Tom Campenni, graced by city officials and commissioners, and made

possible by the help of some incredible volunteers.

Class 35 indulged in DISC assessments, enjoyed a hobnob lunch, dabbled in trivia, and embraced all the ins and outs of local government.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear LEADERShip Alumni,

As we step into a new season of connection and growth, I'm thrilled to share the momentum building within our Martin County LEADERShip Alumni community. Engagement is rising—not just in numbers, but in depth. We're seeing more alumni show up with intention, ready to connect, contribute, and grow!

This renewed energy reflects our shared commitment to the mission that guides us:  
*To inspire continuous professional and personal growth in the LEADERShip Martin County community.*



And it's bringing our vision to life!

A strong LEADERShip Alumni network nurtures meaningful connections, opportunities, and ideas to ultimately strengthen the Martin County community--and future generations of leaders.

In that spirit, we're curating events that go beyond surface-level networking. Each gathering is designed to offer substance—whether through thought-provoking speakers, spaces for honest dialogue, or opportunities to serve. These aren't just calendar fillers; they're experiences that reflect the values we share and the legacy we're building.

Looking ahead, join us not just to reconnect, but to re-engage with the purpose that first inspired your leadership journey. Whether you're mentoring a new alum, working on collaborative service projects, or simply showing up with your story—your presence matters.

Thank you for continuing to show up with heart, wisdom, and the kind of leadership that makes this community extraordinary..

With gratitude,

Kate Muscarella  
*President, LEADERShip Martin County Alumni*

## 2025-2026 LEADERSHIP ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Kate Muscarella  
**Vice President:** Christina Hunter  
**Treasurer:** David Sarno  
**Recording Secretary:** Jon Milton  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Charlene Lyons

**Directors**  
Lisa Conway, Joanna Greene,  
Patrick Nolan, Christen Spake, Sally Waite

**Ex Officio**  
Chelsey Matheson,  
*Immediate Past President*  
Amber Ducote,  
*LEADERShip Program Director*  
Chris Vaccaro,  
*Class 34 Representative*

## Meet the Recording Secretary!



### JONATHAN "JON" MILTON, CLASS 14

President

Milton Engineering Consultants

Hometown: Longmeadow, MA

Current City: Stuart

How long have you lived in the area? ***I moved to Stuart in 1982. I moved to Stuart to live with my father who had moved here to be by his parents.***

Tell us about your current organization and your position.

***I started Milton Engineering Consultants in 2004 after working for a national engineering firm for a number of years. I currently employ two other full-time engineers and an admin person.***

What is your favorite part about doing LEADERShip Martin County?

***Actually learning about aspects of Martin County that I was completely unaware of.***

What advice would you give the incoming LEADERShip Class?

***Take it all in.***

Why did you volunteer to serve on the LEADERShip Martin County Board of Directors? ***I wanted to continue to be involved with the LEADERShip program, and I felt that being on the Board of the Alumni Association was the best way to do that.***

What does "leadership" mean to you? ***It means taking responsibility not because you need to but because you want to.***

Where are we most likely to find you when you're not at work?

***Working on my five acres in Palm City.***

### Fun Facts

Favorite Local Restaurant:

***King Neptune***

Favorite Movie: ***Breakfast Club***

Favorite Band: ***Billy Squire***

Favorite Sport: ***College Football***

College Alma Mater(s): ***University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University & University of Maryland University College***

***My daughter Maygan is currently in Class 35.***

## ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR

Held at Waterfront - Sailfish Lounge and Grill in Downtown Stuart on Tuesday, Sept. 28.





# BEHIND THE BADGE

*Community Update Breakfast Featuring Sheriff John Budensiek*



By Chelsey Matheon, LEADERlines Editor

LEADERShip Alumni hosted an illuminating Community Update Breakfast with Sheriff John Budensiek (Class 30).

Sheriff Budensiek shared important, behind-the-scenes insights about his office's operations and the often unseen work that goes into keeping our communities safe. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and engage in meaningful conversation.

*Is there a topic we should feature as a Community Update Breakfast? Pitch us your idea at [info@leadershipmcalumni.com](mailto:info@leadershipmcalumni.com).*

We are so grateful for the Sheriff's time and the tireless commitment of our local law enforcement at the Martin County Sheriff's Office and the Stuart Police Department.

Many thanks to City of Stuart Recreation and the 10th Street Community Center for being our gracious hosts.



*Sheriff Budensiek with his Class 30 classmates.*



# COMMUNITY CORNER

## ***Making Waves in Safety: How the YMCA of the Treasure Coast Leads in Aquatic Protection***

Water is a source of fun, fitness, and connection for families across the Treasure Coast—but it also comes with responsibility. Drowning remains one of the leading causes of accidental death for children, and water-related incidents can affect individuals of all ages.

That's why aquatic safety isn't just important in our community—it's essential.

At the YMCA of the Treasure Coast, safety is at the heart of everything we do. Our mission goes beyond teaching children and adults how to swim. We are dedicated to equipping our community with the skills, confidence, and awareness needed to stay safe in and around the water. Through nationally recognized swim lessons, lifeguard training, and water safety education, we are creating a culture of prevention and preparedness that saves lives.

Each year, hundreds of children learn to swim at the Y, many of them experiencing the water for the very first time. Our instructors use a proven curriculum that emphasizes safety before strokes, ensuring that every participant knows how to float, exit the pool safely, and respond in emergencies. For families with financial barriers, we provide scholarships so that no child is ever turned away from learning a life-saving skill.

The Y also partners with schools and community organizations to bring swim and safety education directly to where it's needed most. Whether through hosting Safety Around Water programs or training teens as certified lifeguards, we are preparing the next generation to lead with confidence both in and out of the pool.

When our neighbors know how to stay safe in the water, our entire community is stronger. At the YMCA of the Treasure Coast, we are proud to lead the way—because everyone deserves the chance to enjoy the water safely.

The YMCA of the Treasure Coast: For Youth Development. For Healthy Living. For Social Responsibility.

Learn more at [ymcatreasurecoast.com/aquatics](https://ymcatreasurecoast.com/aquatics).



*Charlene M. Lyons, SHRM-CP (Class 25) is President and CEO of the YMCA of the Treasure Coast and Corresponding Secretary for the LEADERShip Martin County Alumni's Board of Directors.*

***Do you have an update to share about a community initiative? Are you a current Alumni member? We want to hear from you! Contact us at [info@leadershipmcalumni.com](mailto:info@leadershipmcalumni.com) for more information.***

## IN THE BIZ

### ***Why is Flood Insurance Important?***

By Tami Karol, Class 32, Tami Karol Insurance



Flood insurance is a separate policy that protects homeowners, renters and businesses from direct physical damage to their property and belongings caused by flooding, also known as rising water or storm surge.

Everyone is in a flood zone. Some properties are more likely to flood, which increases their exposure to flooding and may require property owners to purchase a flood policy. Make no mistake, **EVERYONE** needs flood insurance to protect their property. Flood insurance is not just for hurricanes. It covers losses from events like heavy rains, overflowing rivers and storm surges.

Did you know that just one inch of water can cost up to \$25,000 in damages? In 2024, Florida had 65,824 NFIP Flood claims paid out. That was \$7,525,597 in money paid out for flood claims just in the state of Florida last year. Can you afford to **NOT** be protected?

Flood insurance is not included in your regular property insurance policy. You need to purchase a separate flood insurance policy to protect your property and belongings.

Insurance is like a salad bar. You can pick and choose the coverages that you want. You can have a salad with all the fixings or you can just have lettuce. Either way, you want to make sure that you are properly protected **BEFORE** you need the coverage, not after the damage has been done. At the Tami Karol Insurance Agency we pride ourselves on educating our clients and offering the various insurance coverages available (the wonderful salad toppings) and then help you make the decision that is right for your property and your budget.

Everyone should consider adding flood insurance to their insurance protection.



[www.tamikarolinsurance.com](http://www.tamikarolinsurance.com)  
772-781-7720

*In the Biz is an opportunity for LEADERShip Alumni to share your expertise, special updates about how your business and ways you can be an asset to your fellow members. Contact [info@leadershipmcalumni.com](mailto:info@leadershipmcalumni.com) for more information. \*Must be a current member to participate.\**



# BE A PUSHER TO HELP YOUR TEAM GROW!

By Tim Kinane

“There’s an old saying that problems arrive at your office door on two feet. Would your business or organization be stronger and potentially grow faster if solutions, rather than problems, routinely arrived at your door? Almost certainly yes.

One of the biggest factors limiting growth in many organizations is leadership and management teams that can’t or won’t make important decisions. Usually this is not a case of people intentionally shirking their responsibilities. Rather, often the underlying cause is the team is in the habit of expecting its senior leader to provide most if not all of the solutions.”

*Patrick Ungashick (Speaker, Author, CEO)*

In my experience, the change in habit needs to start with the leader. Here is a simple tool to put practice to change the culture:

## **Push the problem back across your desk!**

This leadership strategy encourages team members to become solution-oriented by consistently using four key questions. These questions help shift the dynamic from dependency to empowerment.



**🔍 What is the problem?** Clarifies the issue and avoids vague complaints.

*Example: Instead of saying “The client is upset,” the team member says, “The client is frustrated because the report was delivered two days late and contained outdated data.”*

**🔧 What have you already tried?** Encourages initiative and shows effort.

*Example: “I emailed the client to apologize and offered to send an updated report by tomorrow. I also checked with the data team to ensure the new report will be accurate.”*

**💡 What do you think should be done next?** Promotes ownership and critical thinking.

*Example: “I think we should set up a quick call with the client to walk through the updated report and reassure them about future delivery timelines.”*

**🤝 How can I support you?** Positions the leader as a coach, not a fixer.

*Example: “It would help if you could join the call to reinforce our commitment and possibly offer a small concession to rebuild trust.”*

## BE A PUSHER CONT'D

### Benefits

- Builds a proactive, accountable team culture.
- Reduces leader burnout and micromanagement.
- Develops team confidence and problem-solving skills.

### Implementation Tips

- Use these questions consistently in meetings and one-on-ones.
- Encourage team members to reflect before approaching you.
- Reinforce solution-oriented behavior with positive feedback.

Every time that you push a problem back across your desk, you provide someone an opportunity for growth.

If you would like a copy of Patrick Ungashick's article "Four Simple Questions to Train Your Team to Bring You Solutions Rather than Problems," email me at [Timk@kinane.com](mailto:Timk@kinane.com).

# LEADERSHIP ALUMNI RECEIVE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

## Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation and Awards Gala

The Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Installation and Awards Gala on Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Marriott Hutchinson Island Resort. During the event, Dan Hulen of Fifth Third Bank Merchant Services/Worldpay and Chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors presented awards to business leaders who made significant impacts in the Martin County community. Three of the five awards were presented to LEADERShip Martin County alumni!

- **Employer of the Year:** International Training, accepted by **Stephanie Miele (Class 29)** and **Brian Carney (Class 28)** for their participation in the CareerConnect Martin workforce training program
- **Chairman's Award:** **Tim Kinane (Class 1)** for his service as the backbone of the LEADERShip Martin County program as well as his coaching and advising for growing companies
- **"Toots Armellini" Business of the Year Award:** Tami Karol Insurance, accepted by **Tami Karol (Class 32)** for her unwavering commitment to her community as a volunteer and philanthropist and her mentorship of other entrepreneurs as they look to grow and expand in Martin County.

Learn more at [www.stuartmartinchamber.org](http://www.stuartmartinchamber.org).



## Upcoming Events

# What's Going Down in Indiantown?

## GET THE INSIDE SCOOP



**WEDNESDAY**

*October 15th*

**8:30AM**

Join us for a personal chat with Taryn Kryzda, Village Manager, as she shares how our county's youngest municipality is growing, evolving, and making its mark.

15516 SW Osceola St. Indiantown, FL 34956



**LEADERSHIP**

MARTIN COUNTY ALUMNI FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH, INC.

*Register to Attend* 

Free for active members,  
\$10 for inactive members/guests

[www.leadershipmcalumni.com](http://www.leadershipmcalumni.com)

OCTOBER 2025

## *Upcoming Events*



**WHERE THE SPIRITS ARE HIGH AND  
THE COSTUMES ARE OPTIONAL**

LEADERSHIP MARTIN COUNTY

**ALUMNI  
HAPPY  
HOUR**

**OCTOBER 29TH**  
**5:00 – 7:00**

**THE CATCH-NEIGHBORHOOD  
BAR & GRILL**  
3754 SE OCEAN BLVD. STUART, FL 34996

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY

[WWW.LEADERSHIPMCAUMNI.COM](http://WWW.LEADERSHIPMCAUMNI.COM)



# Bulletins



Trisha Hawthorne (Class 33) recently joined **Seacoast Bank** as the **Vice President in Commercial Banking**.



Grace Phillips (Class 33) recently joined the **Elliott Museum** as **Development Manager**.



Merritt Matheson (Class 32) was selected as Vice Chair of the **Martin County Environmental Lands Oversight Committee**, a nine-member citizen advisory committee that ensures accountability and transparency of funds used to permanently protect environmentally significant lands in the county.



**C&W Technologies** (Eric Kiehn, Class 29) is celebrating 40 years as a company. They are hosting a Business After Hours celebration with the Stuart/Martin Chamber on Oct. 30.

Is your information (especially email address!!) up to date with LEADERship Alumni?

Send us your corrections at [info@leadershipmcalumni.com](mailto:info@leadershipmcalumni.com)

## Stuart/Martin Chamber of Commerce

### OCTOBER EVENTS

**Oct. 7** Business B4 Breakfast  
*Frazier Creek Brewing & Distilling*

**Oct. 15** Business After Hours  
*Investment Planning Group*

**Oct. 21** Business B4 Breakfast  
*Salvation Army*

**Oct. 28** Business B4 Breakfast  
*Stuart/Martin Chamber*

**Oct. 30** Business After Hours  
*C&W Technologies*

**We want to share your news!**  
Contact us at  
[info@leadershipmcalumni.com](mailto:info@leadershipmcalumni.com).

### LEADERship Martin County Alumni

#### *Our Mission:*

To inspire continuous professional and personal growth in the LEADERship Martin County community.

#### *Our Vision:*

A strong LEADERship Alumni network that nurtures meaningful connections, opportunities and ideas that strengthen the Martin County community and future generations of leaders.

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**