



LEADERlines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEADERSHIP MARTIN COUNTY ALUMNI



KICKOFF TO CLASS 35

By Amber Ducote, LEADERShip Program Director

Class 35 had an incredible start, led by the incomparable Tim Kinane and supported by his many angels.

As the 33 classmates dove headfirst into the SimSoc simulation, it was clear that this diverse and talented group is ready for an amazing journey.

The energy was palpable, the collaboration was inspiring, and the personalities of each individual shone through. They arrived barely acquaintances and left bonded proving this weekend was just the beginning of what promises to be a transformative and unforgettable experience for Class 35.

If you're curious about the rest of the details surrounding SimSoc weekend, the answer is simple: you'll have to "read the book."



Annual SimSoc Social at Frazier Creek Brewing & Distilling Company, hosted and sponsored by LEADERShip Alumni!



Meet the Vice President!



CHRISTINA HUNTER, CLASS 32

Chief Deputy of Records & Administrative Services
Martin County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

Hometown: Fort Pierce

Current City: Palm City

How long have you lived in the area? ***I moved to Martin County 20 years ago. I love the Treasure Coast and probably will never leave! It's the water, the woods and the community for me.***

Tell us about your current organization and your position.

I've served the public through the Clerk & Comptroller's office for over 20 years. The Clerk's office is more than jury duty and paying traffic tickets. We maintain the county archives, including records that predate the formation of Martin County in 1925. (Happy Centennial Martin County!) We are also an authorized passport acceptance agency on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, can issue marriage licenses and perform ceremonies.

What is your favorite part about doing LEADERShip Martin County?

My favorite part of LEADERShip is being surrounded by like-minded professionals. It helped me gain confidence in my leadership abilities.

What advice would you give the incoming LEADERShip Class?

My advice for the incoming class is to have an open mind. You really do get out of it what you put in and have the potential to make lifelong friendships along the way.

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

You'll find me riding my bike at Jonathan Dickinson State Park or Halpatiokee Park, at the beach or hanging out with my dog Hudson.

Fun Facts

Favorite Local Restaurant:

Moonswiners in Fort Pierce

Favorite Band or Music Genre:

Incubus - but I love all types of music, especially if it's danceable!

To me, leadership means finding the strengths in those around me and empowering them to grow.

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

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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

COMMUNITY CORNER

CareerConnect Martin Supports Workers and Small Businesses Alike

Rhonda was exhausted. She was caring for a daughter with special needs and a young toddler, while working overtime as an emergency dispatcher. After 12 years of the high-stress position, she needed something different, and she was having trouble finding it.

So, when a nonprofit representative helping her daughter recommended that she apply to participate in CareerConnect Martin, she made the call.

CareerConnect Martin, the flagship program of the nonprofit Martin Chamber Foundation, provides motivated workers like Rhonda with connections to local businesses that need to fill vacancies with skilled professionals. Program participants often require hard and soft skill development, help with job applications and resumes, and support with employment obstacles like transportation, tool, or childcare costs.

“We talked about her skills and what she was looking to do,” said Career Coach Gina Masters. “We had a few meetings, and that’s when a front desk position became available here at the chamber office.”

It was quite a change of pace, and Rhonda qualified for the program’s Trial Employment Opportunity. This allowed her to train on the job for 120 hours at \$15 an hour without risk to the employer. Since she wore a uniform in her previous profession, she was going to need some business professional clothes. So, CareerConnect Martin helped her purchase professional outfits from a local resale shop.

Since the program began as a post-COVID pilot initiative of the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce, the career coaches have helped 122 unemployed and underemployed people to overcome barriers to a good-paying, full-time careers.

Some participants are parents or have recently completed a prison sentence, which can require additional training or understanding from new employers. Sometimes, they require referrals to collaborating nonprofit agencies to receive additional services before they’re truly ready for full-time work.

CareerConnect Martin has an 83% success rate of matching participants with the more than 60 small business employers who have signed up for the program. They’re always looking for new businesses from all industry sectors to participate in the free program.

As for Rhonda, she completed her training and was hired as a full time Receptionist and Program Assistant with the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce. She’s been a valuable member of the team ever since.

To host a Trial Employee, get help with your hiring practices, and learn more about CareerConnect Martin and the Martin Chamber Foundation at www.martinchamberfoundation.org.



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 for more information.

IN THE BIZ

By Jennifer Richards "The Roof Diva" Class 33
All Area Roofing & Construction, Inc.



You wouldn't skip a tune-up on your car, so why ignore the roof protecting your biggest investment?

If you own a car, you probably get regular oil changes, rotate the tires, and take it in for a tune-up when needed. Why? Because a little maintenance today prevents big, expensive problems tomorrow.

Now think about your home or business property. It's likely the largest investment you'll ever make. And yet, many owners overlook one of its most important systems: the roof. Florida's climate is beautiful, but it's also brutal on buildings. The year-round sun, heavy rains, humidity, and salt air wear down roofing materials faster than you might expect. Even the strongest roof isn't invincible, and small issues like a lifted shingle, cracked tile, or clogged drain can quickly turn into costly leaks or structural damage.

The problem? Roof damage often starts silently. By the time water stains appear on your ceiling, the repair bill may be much larger than if the issue had been caught early. Just like a mechanic can spot a worn belt before your engine fails, a roofing professional can identify and address minor issues before they snowball into major repairs.

Here's why proactive roof maintenance matters in Florida:

- Extend your roof's lifespan: A well-maintained roof can last years longer than one that's ignored.
- Protect your insurance coverage: Many insurers require proof of maintenance to approve claims or renew policies.
- Save money long term: Small repairs now are far less expensive than replacing water damaged drywall, flooring, or electrical systems later.
- Peace of mind during storms: Knowing your roof is sound means one less thing to worry about when hurricane season rolls around.

Scheduling an annual roof inspection, especially after major storms, is the property equivalent of a tune-up for your car. It's a modest investment that pays off in reduced stress, longer roof life, and lower repair costs.

At All Area Roofing & Construction, what matters to you matters to us.



allarearoofting.com
772-464-6800

*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 for more information. *Must be a current member to participate.**

SEPTEMBER 2025

Upcoming Events



Behind the Badge

the first 252 days
with
Sheriff Budensiek

September 16, 2025

8:30am - 10:30am

724 10th Street Stuart, FL 34997

Registration Necessary.

\$15 for active alumni, \$25 for inactive alumni

www.leadershipmcalumni.com



**Scan to
register.**



Or visit: leadershipmcalumni.com

SEPTEMBER 2025

Upcoming Events

LEADERSHIP MARTIN COUNTY

ALUMNI
HAPPY
HOUR

SEPTEMBER
23RD
5:00 - 7:00
@ WATERFRONT-
SAILFISH LOUNGE AND
GRILL
131 SW FLAGLER AVE
STUART, FL

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY

WWW.LEADERSHIPMCAALUMNI.COM

Bulletins



Jill Marasa (Class 22) was recently elected to the **Board of Directors for Project LIFT**.



Gene Zweben (Class 27) was named **President Elect** of the **Martin County Bar Association**.

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

Send us your corrections at info@leadershipmcalumni.com



The Firefly Group (Stacy Ranieri, Class 10) recently won the prestigious **Dick Pope All Florida Golden Image Award** for their work on the Martin County Forever referendum campaign.



Cher Fisher (Class 29) won the **Kiwanis Club Outstanding Lieutenant Governor Award** for the state of Florida.

We want to share your news!
Contact us at
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.

Stuart/Martin Chamber of Commerce

AUGUST EVENTS

Sep. 9 Business Before Breakfast
Coquina Cove at Martin Downs

Sep. 10 Business at Lunch
Mariner Sands Country Club

Sep. 16 Business Before Breakfast
Costco

Sep. 17 Business After Hours
Sailfish Sands Hitting Bays

Sep. 30 Business Before Breakfast
Boys & Girls Clubs Great Stuart



September 11 Memorial Bridge Walk
8:30 a.m., Jock Leighton Park, Palm City
Walk side by side with your local firefighters and deputies to pay tribute to the heroes of that fateful day.