



Fall 2008

Fostering leadership and building relationships throughout the greater Omaha community.

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Dear LOAA Members,

Thirty years ago, a group of visionary leaders decided that Omaha needed a program to develop effective leaders who would strengthen and transform the community. And Leadership Omaha was born. As I looked over the crowd of 450 people at the 30th Anniversary Luncheon celebrating "A Generation of Leadership" on October 2, I was proud to be part of an organization that has lived up to its mission for so long. Even more amazing was that we had at least one person from every class registered for the luncheon. Every day I hear stories of LO grads who are having an impact on nonprofit boards, in appointed positions on commissions and boards, and who are changing their professional organizations for the better. Thank you for all you do to make the greater Omaha area a better place for all its citizens.

As I write this, volunteers from LOAA are looking forward to the Community Boardsmanship training being held on October 29. In keeping with our theme of "A Generation of Leadership," LOAA, along with the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands and the University of Nebraska Omaha's College of Public Affairs and Community Service, is bringing together several experts on nonprofit board service that will help the audience be better directors and trustees. Soon it will be December, which means the holiday party and the traditional champagne punch. Please join us at Oak Hills Country Club on December 3 for great networking, good food, and the opportunity to elect your LOAA board of directors for 2009. You can find details about how to register for the party later in this newsletter. I hope to see you there.

In the last year, your alumni association board has launched a new Web site, cheered the UNO hockey team onto victory with a family event, awarded a deserving young man a book scholarship to go to college, coordinated a luncheon with a nationally known speaker, addressed the need for additional boardsmanship training in the community, and provided you with opportunities to meet friends old and new. Your membership allows us to do accomplish all these things. Please consider joining LOAA and continuing to support the important work of the board.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions for future planning. And we'd love to have you help us meet your needs as alumni of one of the oldest community leadership development programs in the country. Please contact me if you have questions or would like further information.

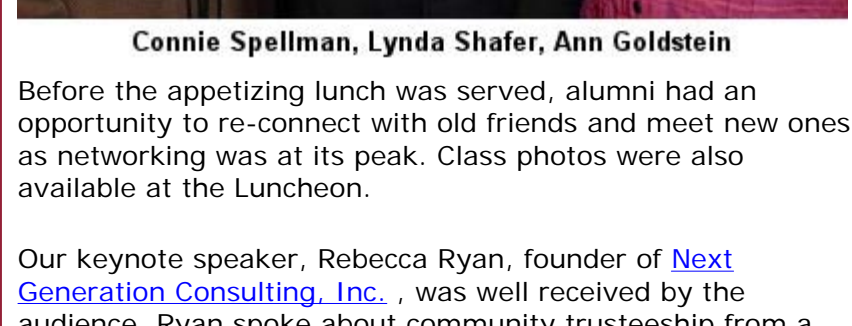
Sincerely,

Lynda Shafer

Leadership Omaha
Lynda Shafer
Manager, Leadership and Workforce Development,
Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce

30th Anniversary Luncheon

A yearlong 30th anniversary celebration for Leadership Omaha culminated in a luncheon that was held on October 2, 2008 at the Embassy Suites in La Vista. The event was a great success, with every past Leadership Omaha class well represented in the 450 alumni in attendance.



Connie Spellman, Lynda Shafer, Ann Goldstein

Before the appetizing lunch was served, alumni had an opportunity to re-connect with old friends and meet new ones as networking was at its peak. Class photos were also available at the Luncheon.

Our keynote speaker, Rebecca Ryan, founder of [Next Generation Consulting, Inc.](#), was well received by the audience. Ryan spoke about community trusteeship from a generational perspective. Some of the key concepts that spoke about included:

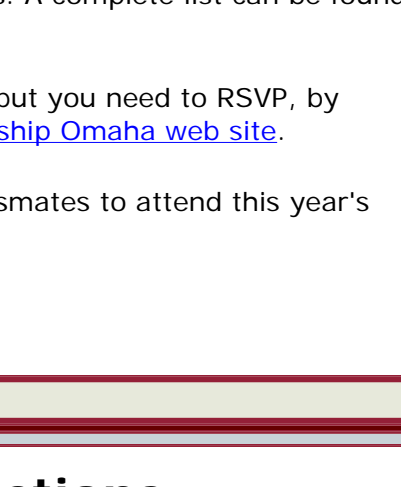
- Understanding the unique perspectives of the four generations: traditionalists, boomers, generation X and generation Y.
- Making sure current and future leaders bring a different voice to the table in community work.
- Ensuring community leaders work toward creating a balance between vitality, earnings, learning, social capital, cost of lifestyle, after hours activities, and around town to ensure Omaha as a vibrant city to live, work and play.
- Using intentional design when planning the development and social fabric of our existing and future communities.

Following the luncheon approximately a dozen alumni participated in a half-hour session with Ms. Ryan discussing generational leadership and the challenges of multigenerational organizations. She recommended reading the book, "It's OK to Be the Boss" by Bruce Tulgan.

Special thanks go to RDG Planning & Design, our Trustee Sponsor.

Celebrate the Holiday Season LOAA Style

You won't want to miss this year's annual LOAA holiday party. The evening of festivities is scheduled for December 3rd, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Oak Hills Country Club, 12325 Golfing Green Drive. (Oak Hills lies between Q and Harrison Street, just east of Harry Andersen Drive.)



First, you'll celebrate the season in style with your Leadership Omaha friends by gathering at 5:30 p.m. for refreshments including the famous holiday "punch" that has made this annual gathering such a festive tradition.

At 6 p.m., there'll be the election of board of directors for 2009.

Secondly, what better way to observe the holidays than to give back to the community. Please bring donations for the Siena/Francis House. Needed items include coffee, paper products, and cleaning supplies. A complete list can be found at [their website](#).

There is no cost for the party, but you need to RSVP, by November 26th, on the [Leadership Omaha web site](#).

Be sure to remind all your classmates to attend this year's gathering.

2009 Board Elections

Here's another reason you'll want to attend this year's Holiday Party: At 6 p.m., there'll be the election of board of directors for 2009.



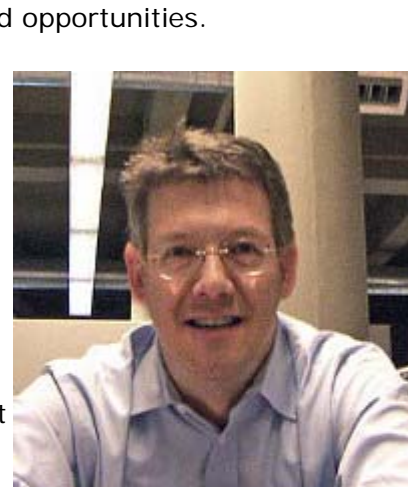
The following individuals have been placed on the ballot for the 2009 LOAA board:

- President:** L.L. Wayne Hudson II (27)
- President-elect:** Ann O'Connor (24)
- Past-president:** Renee Franklin (25)
- Treasurer:** Corey Watton (28)
- Secretary:** Karen Douglas (30)

Alum helps LO Continue to Reach Out to the Community

Leadership Omaha has always aspired to give back to the Omaha Community. It was in that spirit that Class 10 established the Ann Goldstein Outstanding Young Leader Award (OYLA) to assist graduating seniors who have lived in Omaha Housing Authority housing, have demonstrated leadership and want to continue with college and/or higher education. Mary Kelly Tessin (18) has served as Chairman of OYLA since graduating from Leadership Omaha, ensuring continuity in the LO influence.

Leadership Omaha alumni and current class members assist in raising the necessary dollars to continue the scholarship for future students. Since 1988, Leadership Omaha has donated more than \$28,000 to 26 deserving students. In 1999 the award was renamed after Ann Goldstein, retired director of Leadership Omaha.



Mary Tessin

OYLA is not an individual effort, as Tessin acknowledged, "I am so fortunate to work with a committee of caring individuals who care deeply about young people, their adversity and the challenges they endure. They truly see the good in all students and want the best for their future."

Tessin explained how she first got involved with OYLA, "When I completed Leadership Omaha we were asked 'where we could make a difference?' I thought this scholarship would be a good choice for me. As an administrator with the Omaha Public Schools, and a close involvement with Omaha Housing Authority on other projects, plus my ties to our schools and students, I felt it was a natural fit for me."

Tessin is the Supervisor of Gifted and Talented Education for Omaha Public Schools. She has been married for 26 years and has two children; both interested in elementary education. She enjoys playing tennis, spin cycling, and Pilates.

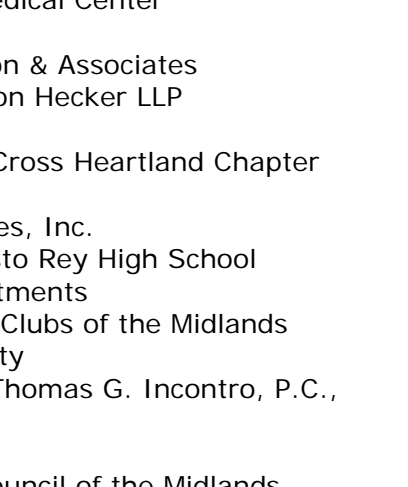
The 2008 Ann Goldstein Outstanding Young Leader Award

This year's award was presented to David Karlo during the July 24th Omaha Housing Authority board meeting. Karlo graduated from Omaha Central High School in May and is currently attending Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma. He was born in Southern Sudan and lived in a refugee camp in Uganda before coming to Omaha. He plans to get a degree that will allow him to give back to Sudan and Uganda. As David said in his application, "I want to help the world. I want a chance to follow my dream."

LOAA Group on LinkedIn Helps Alumni Stay Connected

The new LOAA website has created some exciting possibilities for helping members stay connected to each other and to Leadership Omaha, but one alumnus, Brad Milton (17), has recently created another arena for those opportunities by creating a LOAA Group on the website LinkedIn. LinkedIn has grown quickly, over 30 million professionals use LinkedIn to exchange information, ideas and opportunities.

Milton described LinkedIn as "a virtual model of what professional networking should be. It provides the opportunity to network through your connections. He compares LOAA LinkedIn group to "Facebook for the Graduate - without the social applications." Earlier this year, Milton approached LO with the concept of starting the group so that members might find connections they need within the Leadership Omaha community. Lynda Shafer agreed it would be a great idea.



Brad Milton

The connections with groups can be beneficial Milton went on to explain, "I might not have any connections to anyone in, say, class 3, but by establishing a LOAA group, and inviting all Alumni to join it - instant connections! The benefits are two way. Should I be looking for someone who knows Grant Writing, I can quickly search LinkedIn to find not only someone who does that, but someone with whom I already have an affinity."

To join the Leadership Omaha Alumni Association Group on LinkedIn: Go to [www.linkedin.com](#), sign up for an account, then sign in, click on the [Groups link](#) on the left navigation bar of your home page; and then click on the Groups directory tab, and search for "Leadership Omaha". Clicking on either the logo or the name will take you to a page where you can request membership in the LOAA group.

Milton is an architect and partner with [RDG Planning & Design](#). As Milton elaborated, RDG has a great history of support with Leadership Omaha as Milton elaborated, "Dating back to RDG founder, John Birge's participation in Class one. I think probably everyone since has had some association with the firm." RDG is deeply involved in the community, in no small part due to our involvement with Leadership Omaha. They encourage their employees to be active in the community, participating in whatever way they choose.

Brad is married to Peggy Peterson, who is also a graduate of Leadership Omaha - Class 17.

Along with Brad's job, volunteer work, family commitments, he enjoys cycling. Check out the OWH article, titled "[In Praise of the 'Green' Commute](#)."

Introducing Leadership Omaha Class 31

Congratulations to the following people that have been selected to be a part of the next Leadership Omaha Class - Class Number 31.

- Sheryl Abegglen, Mutual of Omaha
- Kevin Albertsen, ACCESSBank
- Nuria Archer, Aureus Group
- Cathy Banks, SAC Federal Credit Union
- Mike Battershell, Bergman Incentives
- Lesley Brandt, Plantomaha
- Russ Collins, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska
- Kris Covi, McGrath North Mullin & Kratz, PC LLO
- Pat Crisler, Metropolitan Community College
- Matt Darling, Paramount Parking, Inc.
- Howard Daubert, Physicians Mutual
- Libby Davis, Omaha Police Department
- Gray Derrick, Baird Holm LLP
- Julie DeWitt, Koley Jessen, P.C., L.L.O.
- Mo Doghman, Omaha Public Power District
- Winsley Durand III, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce
- Ferri Eischeid, First National Bank
- Dana Foote, KPMG LLP
- Renee Fry, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Andrea Gansen, Union Pacific Railroad
- Melissa Gibson, AAA Nebraska
- Lisa Hale, Metropolitan Utilities District
- Mike Hamilton, Leo A Daly
- Lynn Harland, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Adam Herink, Boyd Jones Construction
- Shannon Hoy, Bergan Mercy Medical Center
- Ralph Kellogg, YWCA
- Mike McIntosh, Lamp, Rynearson & Associates
- Scott Meyerson, Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP
- Erin Murman, Bank of the West
- Deborah Neary, American Red Cross Heartland Chapter
- Jay Palu, DLR Group
- Shane Pekny, Goodwill Industries, Inc.
- Jim Pogge, St. Peter Claver Cristo Rey High School
- Mike Robino, Wells Fargo Investments
- Laura Schabloske, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands
- Laura Simic, Creighton University
- Shawntal Smith, Law Office of Thomas G. Incontro, P.C., L.L.O.
- Shari Theer, Gallup
- Becky Vinton Dorn, Wellness Council of the Midlands (WELCOM)
- Shannon Wallace, Caiss & Company
- Ted Warin, McCarthy Capital Protection
- Blake Waszke, Woodmen of the World
- Theresa Waszgis, Omaha World-Herald
- Watie White, Self-employed/Bellevue University/UNO
- Shawn Williams, BounceU
- Bryan Zimmer, The Architectural Offices
- Michelle Zych, Camp Fire USA

Members of this year's selection committee are chairman Rodrigo Lopez, AmeriSphere Multifamily Finance, LLC; Dan Kennedy, Mutual of Omaha; Vern Kuehn, Kiewit Building Group; Trevis Sallis, Omaha Public Schools; Stacie Neussendorfer, Orion Investment Counsel, LLC; Juliana Reno, Kutak Rock LLP; Lynda Shafer, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

LOAA 2009 Membership Dues

Don't forget to renew your LOAA membership. With the new website you can now pay your dues online. Even if you pay now, your 2009 membership will be paid through 2009. Annual LOAA dues are as follows: \$50 for a regular membership or \$80 for a supporting membership. Membership dues are to be paid by January 1, 2009.

To pay your dues online [click here](#).

Leadership Omaha is a community leadership training program. The goals of the program are to motivate individuals to develop a sense of community trusteeship, to encourage participants to assume leadership roles in community affairs, to develop participant awareness of the Omaha community, to provide opportunities for communication between emerging and established leadership, and to explore various aspects of leadership. Contact us for the upcoming class schedules!

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web: <http://www.leadershipomaha.org/>

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