



Summer 2008

Fostering leadership and building relationships throughout the greater Omaha community.

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Dear LOAA Members,

We are busy planning our 30th anniversary celebration; "A Generation of Leadership."

In the past 30 years, more than 1250 community trustees have graduated from Leadership Omaha. These alumni have gone onto strengthen and transform the community. From the 2008 impact survey, we know:

- 93% of respondents volunteer in the community
- 80% serve on a nonprofit, civic, or governmental board
- 63% serve in a leadership capacity

In addition, from 1-year and 5-year post-graduation surveys of Class 28 and Class 23, we know:

- 1 year post-graduation
  - o 87% volunteer
  - o 66% serve on a board
  - o 53% serve in a leadership capacity on a board
- 5 years post-graduation
  - o 100% volunteer
  - o 77% serve on a board
  - o 55% serve in a leadership capacity on a board

You are invited to join us for a luncheon on October 2, 2008, 11:30 a.m. at the brand new La Vista Conference Center, to kick off the festivities. We are fortunate to have Rebecca Ryan, entrepreneur and founder of Next Generation Consulting join us. (Click here for her bio) She will speak on the topic of engaging multiple generations of community trustees in the work of nonprofits, boards and commissions, and in elected office a vital component of creating a community where people want to live, work and play.

To register for the luncheon, click here.

We are also fortunate to have some very generous sponsors for this event; Mutual of Omaha is a Leadership Sponsor at \$2,500. Koley Jessen P.C., L.L.O., the Omaha World-Herald, and Gallup are Community Sponsors at \$1,000. Sponsorships are still available at the \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000 levels.

For more information on sponsorships, click here.

With all of the 30 year celebrating going on, I don't want to forget the exciting news of our new Web site! The new site is up and running and offers many new features and benefits you'll not want to miss out on. Check out the article in this newsletter for all of the latest information and log-in instructions.

Have a safe and fun summer and don't forget to sign up for the celebration luncheon on October 2, 2008.

Sincerely,

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

Mark Your Calendar

Leadership Omaha has two upcoming events you won't want to miss:

**30th ANNIVERSARY LUNCH**  
Thursday, October 2, 2008, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Embassy Suites - LaVista  
\$35 each (or buy a table of 10 for \$400)  
Keynote Speaker - **Rebecca Ryan**

*Ms. Ryan, founder of Next Generation Counseling, Inc., is doing some of the country's most cutting-edge research on generational differences. She will speak to the topic of engaging multiple generations of community trustees in the work of nonprofits, boards and commissions, and in elected office, vital to creating a community where people want to live, work and play.*

Click here for further information.

Sponsors for this event include: Mutual of Omaha, a Leadership Sponsor at \$2,500. Koley Jessen P.C., L.L.O., the Omaha World-Herald, and Gallup are Community Sponsors at \$1,000. Sponsorships are still available at the \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000 levels.

For more information on sponsorships, visit this link.

To register for the anniversary luncheon, click here.

Each class wants "The Best Class Ever." So let's see who will have the most members attend the 30th Anniversary luncheon showing their support for Leadership Omaha.

**BOARDSMANSHIP SEMINAR**  
Wednesday, October 29, 2008, 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Collaborating Commons - UNO Campus  
\$20

A panel of experts in nonprofit board service will give those in attendance a clearer understanding of the importance of serving on community boards.

To register for the Boardsmanship Seminar, click here.

LOAA'S New Web Site Is Up and Running, With the Help of Jelecoc!

The following story is part of an ongoing feature that will highlight the approaching 30-year anniversary of Leadership Omaha with stories of interest about graduates who are making a difference in the community.



Jeff Wilke (Class 25), Chairman and "Sales Guy" for Jelecoc, and his team, have given a new, fresh look to LOAA's Web site.

Jelecoc is a privately held company located in Omaha, specializing in custom-tailored technology solutions for businesses throughout the United States. Jelecoc is owned and operated by co-founders; Chairman Jeff Wilke and President Leon Thomas, along with Jelecoc Team mascot - Jack; a Golden Lab-Retriever mix who comes to work every day.



Jack and Jeff Wilke (25) of Jelecoc

The Thomases and the Wilkes are no strangers to community involvement and pride themselves in their involvement in many charitable ventures. Together, they serve on the board of over a dozen non-profit organizations including Project Harmony, the Special Olympics of Nebraska, YWCA, the American Red Cross, the Methodist Hospital Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Nebraska and the Durham Western Heritage Museum, to name a few. Jeff's wife, Heidi Wilke, is also involved with the SANE SART Program at Methodist, among other charities.

Jeff has high praise for the Chamber as well as Leadership Omaha, "To the degree that Data Media Solutions and Jelecoc can claim success we owe our gratitude for much of it to the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. We joined the Chamber the first week we were business. A few years later I had the honor to participate in Leadership Omaha; Class 25. The experience of fellowship is beneficial to this day."

When asked about the goals for the new LOAA Web site, Jeff commented, "The site should be a reflection of its membership. It needs to be modern, professional, crisp and give visitors a good feeling."

When visiting the new Web site, you will find:

- Secure user name and password
- Ability for members to post upcoming events
- A searchable database of members
- Ability to pay LOAA dues online
- All the latest news and happenings for LOAA

To obtain your user name and password for the new Web site, simply click here for detailed instructions.

Remember; the sooner you sign up and start using the site, the sooner you'll be "in the know" on all of the latest LOAA happenings.

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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phone: (402) 978-7928  
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