

Leadership Geauga County



Membership Information



Bob Faehnle, Ph.D.
Executive Director

107 South Street, Suite #5
Chardon, OH 44024
440.286.8115
440.477.3413
440.285.3711 home
440.286.2211 fax
Bfaehnle@gmail.com
www.leadershipgeauga.org

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Leadership Geauga County is a non-profit organization governed by a Board of Trustees reflecting the diversity of our county. The program is self-sustaining through tuition, scholarships, community and corporate support. (Much is tax deductible.) Although the majority of our participants are funded by their employers, individual enrollments are permitted and a limited amount of financial aid is available.

The purpose of Leadership Geauga County is to identify current and future leaders from a cross-section of Geauga County, exposing them to our community's realities, opportunities and challenges so that they may positively contribute to Geauga's economic, social and civic development.

Leadership Geauga County is a program designed to develop a cadre of well-informed future leaders through first-hand educational experiences. The program seeks to enroll men and women who have a commitment to the Geauga County community and who are also interested in assuming greater responsibility for the future leadership of our county.

This learning experience is designed for men and women interested in assuming greater responsibility for the future of our community.

Students dedicate one full day a month for ten months (September through June) to these activities, which incorporate speakers, tours, panel presentations, and discussions.

Each interactive learning experience is designed to increase student awareness of community issues and concerns while cultivating and enhancing leadership, management and interpersonal skills.

In addition, participants begin the program with an overnight retreat, and are expected to assume responsibility for some independent assignments.

By exposing participants to the inner workings of every aspect of community life – both its strengths and weaknesses – Leadership Geauga County challenges our future leaders to imagine real-world responses and solutions to the problems confronting our county. Class members meet community leaders from every walk of life, and are encouraged to build a solid foundation for continuing relationships.

Special attention is given to developing and enhancing team-building, management, and interpersonal skills that will enable participants to assume greater responsibilities within their respective organizations and the wider community.

Like successful programs across the nation, Leadership Geauga County immerses each year's Class into a dynamic educational experience embracing every aspect of community life.

The 2011 class of Leadership Geauga County will be the fifteenth group to complete the program. This group of graduates will join the cadre of individuals in the community who have committed one year to learning more about Geauga County, to developing their own leadership skills, and to expanding their community involvement by networking and personal commitment. This means there are over 400 Leadership graduates in the community, working individually and together to ensure that Geauga County is a great place to live and work.

After 14 years, the Leadership program has a strong and solid foundation. Each class extends the base of community involvement. We have begun to replicate the most successful experiences and continue to explore new opportunities. This means that we can expect the program to continue to grow and change with community needs but stay true to the mission and vision of Leadership.

It is interesting to observe how differently each class approaches the leadership program. The perspective of each group as they examine the same general issues often differs. However, there is an emerging pattern of teams building on past successes and avoiding pitfalls experienced by previous classes.

In Leadership Geauga, the seven issue days are planned by teams from the current class. As each team begins to plan their issue day, they ask, "What has worked in the past? What has not been successful?" After each class day, teams that are still working on planning their days tend to evaluate how well the class needs were met by previous teams. Teams from your class will amplify and expand the successful ideas so each issue day will be exciting and bring new experiences to the class. As the year progresses, class members increase their knowledge of each other and learn to adapt their social styles in their interaction with each other.

Your class will prove that when you have good patterns available, you can develop exciting and insightful plans that really work. They will also demonstrate how the awareness of the preferred social style of others can lead to better understanding between people. This class will carry their experiences of assessing existing models, building on them, and responding to current issues into the community. They will continue to recognize and accept personal differences. We can expect to see much success attained as this class addresses community concerns.

Each class is divided into "issue" teams who plan a day for the class based upon a specific topic.

Health and Safety Day focuses on agencies and concerns which impact the health and safety of Geauga County residents.

Government Day will present governmental issues and must include some aspects of all three governmental branches (executive, legislative, judicial) on as many levels (town/village, county, state) as possible.

Education Day will focus on educational issues. This day should include some opportunity for class members to see at least one public school setting and hopefully another educational setting. The day may encompass cradle to grave learning opportunities.

Human Services Day explores the delivery of services to all needs, all age levels, and all economic backgrounds. This day is to include private and governmental agency which address social service needs of individuals and families in Geauga County.

Business Day includes a discussion on and examination of business and economic development issues in the county.

Arts/Culture & Recreation Day features issues of quality of life and leisure time activities such as library, recreation, and the arts. This includes the park system, theater, and artists.

Agriculture Day covers agricultural issues, including environmental and funding challenges.

Youth Day, prepared by the members of the Leadership Geauga County Youth Program, introduces class members to the issues facing Geauga's high school aged students.

Candidate Fact Sheet

Applications

Leadership Geauga County requests that completed applications are submitted by May 31 for review by the Selection Committee. A list of proposed candidates will be submitted to the Trustees for final approval. Applicants will be notified of their status by mail in July. Persons selected for Leadership Geauga County class will maintain their status as a class member regardless of any change in employment during the class year.

Orientation/Retreat

Orientation is scheduled for a Friday in the fall. This is a full day session. The retreat is scheduled for a Friday (overnight) and Saturday late in September or early in October at a local resort. Attendance at the orientation and retreat sessions is mandatory.

Monthly Sessions

Beginning in October and ending in June, the monthly all day sessions will be held on one Friday of each month. Specific dates and topics are listed at the end of this document.

Class Participation

Full attendance is expected at each session, generally 8 AM to 6 PM. Attendance at 80% of the class days is required for graduation. The regular monthly meetings, held in various locations throughout the county, include in-depth discussions on high priority topics related to Geauga County, as well as tours and informational presentations. The program content for each session will be planned by the participants. Each class member becomes part of a planning team. This necessitates approximately six additional meetings. Graduation is a special event, all day with an evening dinner, and is scheduled in June.

Tuition & Payment

Tuition for the program is \$1,500 per person. Participants are expected to pay at least \$150 personally upon notification of selection. The remaining \$1,350 may be paid individually, by an employer, by an organization, or by a combination of these. **Limited financial assistance** is available to potential students to ensure the diversity of the class. Applications for financial assistance are to be submitted with class applications. There is a **\$25 application fee** required before acceptance into the program. Tuition should be paid in full no later than Orientation Day. Tuition is non-refundable after that date. **Tuition payment plans** can be setup through the Executive Director.

Events

The Emerald Ball is Leadership Geauga County's signature fundraising event. In addition to music, fun and great food, this event features live, silent and Chinese auctions. Proceeds from the Emerald Ball help to underwrite the cost of the program and employees' salaries.

Individual and corporate tickets are available. Ticket pricing and other information is enclosed with the invitation. Invitations are mailed in early January. Anyone interested in attending may request being added to the invitation list by writing Leadership Geauga County (107 South St., Suite 1, Chardon, OH 44024) or by calling (440-286-8115)

In 2001, The Emerald Ball Committee launched the Emerald Leader Award. This award is presented annually to an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership by positive contributions through volunteerism, philanthropy, or innovation that impact the quality of life in Geauga County, Our Emerald Leader Award recipients are:

- 2001 - Mr. Jeff Keener of the Chardon Rubber Company
- 2002 - Mr. Bill Prior of Kinetico Incorporated
- 2003 - Mr. Gordon Safran of Red Maple Inn
- 2004 - Sr. Sandy Nativio, Principal, Chardon St. Mary's Elementary School
- 2005 – Mrs. Alice Sems, Leadership Geauga County, Director Emeritus
- 2006 – Dick Moss and the Junction Auto Family
- 2007 – Howard Bates and the Burton Middlefield Rotary Club
- 2008 – Deborah O’Connor of the Geauga County Library System and Richard Frenchie of UHHS
- 2009 – Chuck Fowler of Fairmount Minerals and Paul Newman of Newman and Brice
- 2010 – Kimm Leininger and the Interact Club of Chardon High School.

Leadership Geauga County . . .

Works for People

Since 1995, Leadership Geauga County has offered participants opportunities to create networks, develop skills and increase their knowledge of the community.

Works for Community

Participants in the Leadership Geauga County class work together on a class project to give something back to the community. Individually, participants serve on boards and use their skills in many other capacities to meet community needs.

Works for Companies

Many companies and organizations regularly sponsor their employees and members in Leadership Geauga County. Why? It is a win-win situation for all - the employees, the companies and the community.

Gauga County businesses can benefit through participation in the Leadership program in several ways. By sponsoring employees for the program, the business enhances its reputation in the community and increases its exposure to the needs of its neighbors. The improved leadership skills of the participants bring new talents to the workplace and help the business tap a new internal resource.

What do Graduates of the Program say?

“We tend to think of Geauga County as an upscale wealthy community, but I was deeply impacted by the differences we saw from one end of the county to the next. The value of the program has been in learning about the county and how we, as an organization, can benefit from and give back to our community.” – Laurel Hildebrand, Manager of Employee Benefits, Chardon Rubber, Class of 2001

“I would highly recommend Leadership to anyone who is presented the opportunity to participate. It has allowed me to renew my appreciation for Geauga County and its people.” - Diane Buxton, Chicago Title Agency, Class of 1998

“Joining Leadership Geauga County empowers you to be an effective leader in the community by obtaining a fundamental foundation of Geauga County’s history, its people and its spirit.” - Diane Grendell, Judge, Eleventh Appellate District, Class of 1996

“Businesses can also participate by hosting Leadership classes and opening their workplaces to the program. This show of support to the county and its residents and leaders allows the business to give back to the community and show a willingness to be an active participant in the neighborhood. The business may identify areas of special need in the county that management can take an active role in improving.” - Patti Meglich-Sespico, Carlisle Engineered Products, Class of 1997

“We have approximately 50 employees in this county, and we’ve had someone in every Leadership class since its inception. It’s a matter of becoming more educated about the community so that we can serve it better.” - Chuck Bixler, Retired VP Retail District Manager, Huntington Bank, Class of 1999

“The program has given us a much better overall picture of the entire county and how everything fits together, from the standpoint of how the county’s administration and services interact with the business community.” - Tom Curtin, Director, Geauga County Park District, Class of 2001













“For companies bringing employees in from the outside, Leadership is a great way to bring them up to speed. In nine months, they’ll learn more about how Geauga County works and who the players are than they would learn in five or even ten years of living here.” - Lee Imhof, President, Troy Chemical, Class of 1996

“The program has helped me to broaden my contacts throughout the county and to gain a better understanding of how the school can interact and collaborate with other agencies and organizations on common interests.” - Dr. Anthony Podojil, Superintendent, West Geauga Schools, Class of 2001

“During my year in Leadership Geauga I not only learned about Geauga County, but more importantly I learned a lot about myself. A day doesn’t go by that I don’t call upon the knowledge and skills that I learned in Leadership to help me in my duties as Geauga County Auditor.” - Tracy A. Jemison, Geauga County Commissioner, Class of 2005

"You never know who you will meet in your Leadership Class. I credit mine with introducing me to Commissioner Bill Young and that relationship has proven to be valuable to all of Geauga County." – Dan McClelland, Geauga County Sheriff, Class of 2002

What’s in it for participants?

-  Extended leadership effectiveness
-  Exposure to current countywide issues and community leaders
-  Becoming part of a network of community contacts
-  Gaining access to participation in community organizations
-  Receiving tips for effective public speaking, fundraising, facilitation and media interaction
-  Improving understanding of time management skills
-  Fostering a better understanding of interpersonal styles
-  Expanding team work skills
-  Increasing awareness of ethics in leadership
-  Learning keys to becoming a more productive board member
-  Visiting community sites and facilities
-  Developing friendships and working relationships including an on-going alumni association

Leadership Geauga County

Who's Who

The following is just a *partial* presentation of Alumni of the Program:

Account Executive	Elementary School Principal	Minister
Accountant	Employment Consultant	MIS Specialist
Architect	Environmentalist	Naturalist
Artist	Farmers (2)	Neighboring Administrator
Assistant Superintendent	Fieldstone Farm Program Dir.	Non-Profit Org. Admin. (4)
Attorneys (5)	Fire Chief (2)	Ohio Highway Patrol
Bankers (22)	Freelance Writer	Operations Manager
Banquet Facility Owner	Funeral Director	Philanthropist
Board of Elections Director	Gauga Co. Chief Deputy	Parks Director (2)
Builders (3)	Gauga Co. Commissioners (3)	Peace Officer
CASA for Kids Director	Gauga County Administrator	Pharmacists (2)
CEO Environmental Mgt.	Gauga County Auditor	Police Chiefs (2)
CEO's (5)	Gauga County Coroner	Political Strategist
Civil Engineer	Gauga County Deputy Sheriff	Professional Consultants (6)
Clerk of Courts	Gauga County Home Director	Project Engineer
College Network Director	Gauga County Jail Admin.	Public Information Officer
Community Residence Director	Gauga County JFS Admin. (2)	Public Library Director
Company Vice President	Gauga County Recorder	Public Relations Professional
Computer Consultant	Gauga County Sheriff	Realtors (5)
Court Magistrate	Gauga County Transit Director	Sales Representative (2)
Court Magistrate	Gauga Park District Asst. Dir.	School Board Members (2)
CPA's (9)	Gauga Park District Director	School Superintendents (7)
Craftsperson	Global Marketing Manager	Sisters of Notre Dame (12)
Dentist	Health Care Consultant	Small Business Owners (20)
Deputy	High School Principal	State Senators (2)
Detective	Hospitality Specialist	Stock Brokers (2)
Development Director	HR Directors (3)	Township Clerks (2)
Director of Nursing	Insurance Agents (2)	Township Trustees (3)
District Court Judge	KSU Administrator	Travel Consultant
Domestic Engineer (2)	KSU Faculty Members (2)	UHHS Director of Finance
Econ. Devel. Specialists (2)	Librarians (8)	UHHS Marketing Director
Economist	Library Administrators (3)	United Way Director
Elder Care Director	Middle School Teacher	YMCA Exec. Director

Tentative Program Dates

September 10	Orientation
September 24-25	Retreat (Overnight)
October 15	Heritage Day
November 19	Education Day
December 10	Human Services Day
January 21	Health & Safety Day
February 11	Government Day
February 26	Emerald Ball
March 18	Business Day
April 18	Agriculture Day
May 20	Arts & Leisure Day
June 10	Graduation (full day and evening dinner)

Contact:

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