

Fall 2005
Volume 2, Issue 1

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Join us for a cup and conversation



Coffee with a Leader

**Friday, November 18,
7:30 AM RONALD R. KITCHENS, CEcD, CEO, Southwest Michigan First,** at the Chamber.

Ron Kitchens is the new CEO of SMF. Read his views on leadership (page 2) and meet the man who will help shape our economic future. RSVP to Judy Moore.

LK Fall Reception, October 27

Welcome the new LK Class at the newly-renovated Arcus Depot

LK Fall Reception

*Thursday, October 27,
4:30 to 6:30 PM, Arcus Depot.*

The annual reception to honor the new class of Leadership Kalamazoo will be held on Thursday, October 27, at the Arcus Depot. Use this opportunity to reconnect with your classmates as well as to meet and greet the Class of 2006 — they have the distinction of being the largest class ever. (The members of the Class of 2006 are listed on page 4.)

The reception will be held in the Winter Garden at the center of the building complex, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Please make your reservation for the reception by Monday, October 24, by calling Judy Moore, 381-2977, ext. 3205, or e-mail jmoore@kazoochamber.com.

The Arcus Depot is located on the southeast corner of Pitcher Street and East Michigan Avenue. There is a parking lot directly behind the building along Pitcher Street, and there is an entrance on the Pitcher side of

the building. There is additional parking in an adjacent City parking lot (no charge after 5 PM).

About the Arcus Depot

The newly renovated Arcus Depot, formerly known as the Whistle Stop Depot, is an 1874 Italian Revival train station in downtown Kalamazoo. The Arcus Foundation created the Arcus Depot community concept to provide a nurturing, affordable and modern workspace for progressive nonprofit

organizations. Communal breakout areas both inside and outside, a Winter Garden meeting space, and a large shared conference room facility combine to provide an environment unique in southwest Michigan. The goal is to build an atmosphere that fosters a cross-fertilization of ideas, energy and missions.

BELOW New Winter Garden at the historic Arcus Depot, home of the Arcus Foundation and other non-profits



Community Trustee — an LK Honor Nominations due December 1

Once again it's time to look around you and identify those Leadership graduates who are out doing good things in the community, and to nominate someone deserving of the Community Trustee Award.

Last year's winner was Blaine Lam, Lam & Associates, Class

of 1987. Blaine was honored for his many accomplishments over the years in the community, but most recently for his work with Lakeside Treatment and Learning Center.

Not sure if your candidate is an LK grad? The Chamber Web site has a list of all Leadership

Kalamazoo graduates, the award criteria, and a nomination form for download. Just click "Community Trustee Award" on the site: www.kazoochamber.com/about/leadershipkazoo.asp. Nominations are due December 1.

One Leader's View

Ronald R. Kitchens CEO, Southwest Michigan First

17 Traits for True Leaders

When I was asked to write about leadership for this publication, I began to think about those leaders that I have observed in business over the past twenty years.

I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to work with some of the nation's most respected leaders. Through these relationships, I have observed the traits they exhibit in their day-to-day lives that are the foundation of their success. While I am sure I missed a trait or two, this list provides a high standard for all those desiring to serve.

1. Leaders make no excuses.

Leaders learn, overcome, and succeed. No one cares about an excuse; they only want to know what you learned and how the lesson, expensive as it was, will show a future return on investment.

2. Leaders have a plan.

Success is not achieved by those leaders who have the right education, rich parents, or were born on the correct side of the tracks. Success is achieved by those who create their own definition of success, devise a plan for achieving that success, and then work harder than most people would believe is sane to achieve their goals.

3. Leaders treat everyone with respect.

They understand that their behavior is always being watched and evaluated. Leaders treat everyone they come into contact with with respect.

4. Leaders don't cheat, period.

Not on their spouse, at golf,

your taxes, not on anything. If you are observed cheating (and you will be) no one will believe that you will not cheat on them.

5. Leaders are inspired by, and surround themselves with, inspiring people.

The ability to see beauty and greatness in others not only makes your life more rewarding but also inspires those around you to seek to excel to new heights. Negativity is a cancer that will kill your career and your company.

6. Leaders work backwards.

There is no better way to ensure a successful tomorrow than to end today with a strong, detailed, tightly-scheduled plan for the future. Leaders' plans reflect their conscious efforts for both their business and personal lives.

“Now the challenge is yours: Commit to yourself and others around you that each week you will adopt one of these traits as your own. You will not only inspire others but you will change the world.”

7. Leaders have faith.

Leaders have deeply committed spiritual lives. Through practicing their faith they have a deeper sense of peace that translates into being perceived as having more credibility in other aspects of their lives.

8. Leaders celebrate success.

Big or small, leaders take the time to celebrate the successes of those around them. Winning is a habit that is created by establishing what success is and celebrating its attainment.

9. Leaders take time to think.

An important trait of leaders is the ability to set aside quiet time to think about their personal future, business innovation, and that next great idea.

10. Leaders make thoughtful decisions and then act swiftly.

Leaders understand that no one deserves respect if they cannot or will not act on tough issues.

11. Leaders engage those around them.

Leaders have the ability and skills to walk into a room full of strangers and put them at ease while engaging them in meaningful conversations.

12. Leaders respect others' time.

Leaders arrive early to work, to meetings, to everywhere they go. This not only shows their commitment, but also gives them time to organize their thoughts, to be cool and calm, and to be prepared when everyone else is struggling just to get started.

13. Leaders are life-long learners.

A broad spectrum of knowledge is critical to a leader's success. Leaders read books, articles, newsletters — anything they can get their hands on.

14. Leaders recharge their batteries.

Vacation, physical fitness, and strong personal relationships are critical to a leader's ability to be high-performance.

15. Leaders trust the people around them.

Leaders understand that there are many occasions when they are taken advantage of, but in the grand scheme of things they are happier and find that most of the time people will outperform their expectations.

16. Leaders have model behavior.

Leaders do not put themselves in a position that people could question their behavior or motives. Leaders do nothing that their mother would be embarrassed to discuss with her friends from church.

17. Leaders are fanatics about handwritten notes.

Handwritten notes are a hallmark of the traits of leaders, whether the note is to say, “thank you,” just to catch up, to pass on an article they believe you might enjoy, or even the name of a great new restaurant. Whatever the reason, handwritten notes say, “You are important to me and I appreciate you.”

Now the challenge is yours: Commit to yourself and others around you that each week you will adopt one of these traits as your own. You will not only inspire others but you will change the world.

Ron Kitchens, CECD, is the Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Michigan First. Meet him on November 18 at “Coffee with a Leader.” He can be reached at rkitchens@southwestmichiganfirst.com

RLA "On the Move"

September 23 at M-TEC



Regional Leadership Alliance

A SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PARTNERSHIP

Preparing Our Communities for a 21st Century Economy

Friday, December 9, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, Benton Harbor

Join us on Friday, December 9, at Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor, for "Preparing Our Communities for a 21st Century Economy: Strategies for Regional Wealth Creation."

This session will feature **Ed Barlow**, president of *Creating the Future, Inc.* Mr. Barlow is a speaker in great demand, and delivers meaningful information about the future in a dynamic and entertaining style. His keen insights into the process of change, as well as his expert facilitation skills, have taken him around the world and produced a very diverse client list.

Mr. Barlow will lead us through a process that will focus on our future as a region, and how we can develop strategies to maximize that future.

More details and registration are available online at the Chamber, www.kazoochamber.com, or contact Judy Moore. The cost for the forum and luncheon is \$69, and reservations are required.

RLA is a forum for leaders in SW Michigan to discuss ways we can plan together for our collective future. Join your peers from many Southwest Michigan communities as we share ideas and best practices.

The following summary of the September 23rd RLA workshop is contributed by Brent Larson.

Transportation was the focus of the fifth quarterly gathering of the Southwest Michigan Regional Leadership Alliance. More than 50 people from communities throughout the region came together at the M-TEC Center at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, to learn about how we can more effectively "get around."

"Planes, Trains and Automobiles" titled the conference that featured national and state perspectives, led by updates from George Schoener, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy for the U.S. Department of Transportation; and Kirk Steudle, Chief Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

While both speakers acknowledged funding challenges in meeting transportation needs across the country, state and region, they described incremental progress promised through recently passed federal legislation.

The post-lunch speaker, freelance writer and author Kurt Cobb, presented issues and

dilemmas surrounding a "Post Oil Future," and outlined the alternatives we need to assess as oil supplies diminish, or if our demand for them outstrips our speed in gaining access to new resource sites across the globe. Cobb's perspectives can be accessed online through a weblog, Resource Insights.

RLA attendees, and other regional leaders, were encouraged to build collaborative relationships to better advocate for transportation improvements and innovations that can benefit all Southwest Michigan



ABOVE During lunch, a group tackles one of the transportation issues assigned to the tables for discussion.

BELOW George Schoener, USDOT, explains how recent federal legislation benefits our region.

- *Bobby Hopewell ('93)
- *Sean McCann ('97)
- *Hannah McKinney ('98)
- Barbara Miller ('02)

Portage City Council

Ed Sackley ('90)

To encourage more LK graduates to consider elected or appointed positions, the LK Member Services Committee will reprise the popular "Public Service Candidate

communities.

The Regional Leadership Alliance will convene again on December 9 at Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor for "Strategies for Wealth Creation." The featured facilitator and presenter will be futurist Ed Barlow. Don't miss this session as it provides "rich" possibilities for our shared futures.

Down the road, additional RLA gatherings are scheduled for February in Centreville, and for April in Battle Creek. For more information, contact Judy Moore.

LK Grads on the Ballot

LK grads are seeking elected office in record numbers this Fall. In addition to LK grads already holding appointed or elected office, the following are running for positions in Kalamazoo and Portage.

Incumbents (noted with an asterisk) and new candidates include, in alphabetical order:

Kalamazoo City Commission

David Anderson ('02)



School" offered in 2000/2001. The program, planned for early 2006, will offer 4 evening sessions for those interested in running for office, in an appointed position, or in managing a campaign.

Leadership KALAMAZOO

Engage today. Improve tomorrow.

Leadership Kalamazoo

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In the LK Spotlight...

Jesse Clements
Tsunami Stories
Tuesday, November 15
7:30 AM at the Chamber

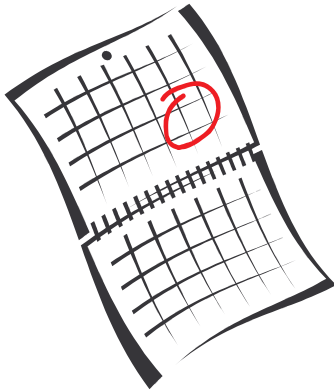
Meet Jesse Clements, LK Class of 2005, who went to Indonesia following the Tsunami and spent 6 months rebuilding houses. He'll share his observations of that disaster, the country, and the people of Indonesia.



We're on the Web!

Leadership eNews (.pdf) link is on the Chamber's LK page:
www.kazoochamber.com/about/leadershipkazoo.asp

LK Calendar



October 27, Thursday, 4:30-6:30 PM Leadership Kalamazoo Fall Reception, annual reception to honor the new class of Leadership Kalamazoo, in the Winter Garden of the Arcus Depot, East Michigan Avenue and Pitcher Street, Kalamazoo. RSVP to Judy Moore by Monday, October 24.

November 15, Tuesday, 7:30 AM Jesse Clements, "Tsunami Stories" and coffee at the Chamber. No charge. RSVP to Judy Moore.

November 18, Friday, 7:30 AM Coffee with a Leader: Ron Kitchens, CEO, Southwest Michigan First, at the Chamber. RSVP to Judy Moore.

December 9, Friday, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM Regional Leadership Alliance, Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor. Topic: "Preparing Our Communities for a 21st Century Economy: Strategies for Regional Wealth Creation." Contact Judy Moore or register online.

LK Class of 2005-2006

The largest class ever!



Board Opening

West Michigan Glass Society is a relatively new non-profit with a strong youth art education program. WMGS is trying to grow, and the artists on the board are looking for other expertise (financial, marketing, fund development, etc.). Contact Martha Croasdale 665-9943 or Frank Meints 349-1958.

Joseph Anderson, City of Refuge Church of God in Christ/Community Volunteer

Sally Armstrong, Davenport University

James Borden, Kalamazoo Gazette

Thomas Comer, Plante & Moran PLLC

Ronald Commissaris, Texas Charter Township

Sonja Dean, Local Initiatives Support Corp.

Anne Elias, Junior League of Kalamazoo

Kennedy Fillar, Comerica Bank

Erma Gordon, Minority Business Alliance

Barbara Harkins, Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo

Karen Hayter, Kalamazoo

County Prosecutors Office

Kevin Jawahir, Irwin Union Bank

Sue Keller, Borgess Health Alliance (Pro-Med Healthcare)

John Kittredge, Fabri-Kal Corporation

Audrey Lipsey, Crescendo Academy of Music

James Luginbill, Fifth Third Bank

Oemeeka Marcilous, Planned Parenthood of South Central MI

Justine McKenna, Ministry with Community

Jodi Milks, PlazaCorp Realty Advisors

Brian Mullally, Greenleaf Trust

Marilyn Potgiesser, Bronson Healthcare Group

Patricia Ressler-Billion, Resi-

dential Opportunities Inc.

Angie Rinock, State Farm Insurance

Emile Schada, Edison Neighborhood Association

Leslie Scott, Bronson Methodist Hospital

Michael Segal, SalesPage Technologies

Steve Siebers, Kalamazoo Public Library

Joan Thomas, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra

Christopher Tracy, Howard & Howard Attorneys, PC

Eric Trevan, Northside Economic Potential Group

Dee Velkoff, La Salle Bank

Donald Webster, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety

Jennifer Whistler, Community Volunteer

Amy Zane, Fervor Art to Wear