Leadership West Palm Beach accepting applications for 2018 Class

We are now accepting applications for Class 2018 of Leadership West Palm Beach. Leadership West Palm Beach will continue to expose its participants to a variety of aspects of the community, including: government, health and human services, education, neighborhoods, arts, culture and tourism, and economic development. All fees associated with successful completion of the Leadership West Palm Beach program will be fully covered by the participant. Applications are due Friday, Jan. 19. For more information, please contact Sandy Pullens at spullens@palmbeaches.org.

2017 ATHENA AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award

- Amy Murphy: CBG Englewood
- Anniek Khawser: Peace of Hope
- Amirf Arif Sattary: The Moscow Group
- Keith Manges: Palm Beach Atlantic

ATHENA Leadership Award

- Dr. Jennifer O’Flannery Anderson: Nova Southeastern University
- Natasha Krueter: Krueter Group
- Sophia Eccleston: Solaire Power & Light

ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award

- Catherine Enright: Coastal Health & Human Services
- Sarah Chamberlain: Forum Club of Palm Beaches

The Chamber is pleased to share this year’s ATHENA Awards recipients. This year, the Chamber received more than 40 nominations comprised of business owners, senior managers, and organizations throughout Palm Beach County. Please join us for the 26th Annual ATHENA Awards Luncheon as we celebrate each finalist’s achievements and honor recipients of our ATHENA Leadership Award, ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award, and Organizational Leadership Award. The luncheon, presented by Solberg, is scheduled for September 13 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. To purchase an individual ticket or table, please visit www.palmbeaches.org. Thank you to all of our supporting sponsors, Wells Fargo, PNC Bank, Collective Water Resources, LLC, Toshiba Business Solutions, Hilton West Palm Beach, GL Homes, and Break the Cycle of Homelessness. For sponsorship information, please contact Marissa Kosiec at mkosiec@palmbeaches.org or (561) 833-2798.

Economic Council of Palm Beach County names Michael DeBock as CEO

The Economic Council of Palm Beach County announced that Michael DeBock joined the organization as its president and chief executive officer, effective August 1. DeBock, a Palm Beach County resident, was most recently employed by SunTrust’s Energy, where he served as executive director of gas infrastructure, influencing DeBock’s decision to join the Economic Council. DeBock’s development of $4 billion worth of natural gas infrastructure projects throughout the region, including Florida.

“We welcome Mike as the new leader of the Economic Council. His track record of continuous growth is what we need to move forward in the momentum we’ve developed in recent years in our comments,” said E. William “Bill” Perry, chair of the business organization and managing shareholder of law firm, The Palm Beaches. “All of these facts point to the reality, our interest president, for his leadership and service to the Economic Council this past year. We all allow a tremendous debt of gratitude for his service,” Perry stated.

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

Brian T. Cheguis

Brian T. Cheguis is Principal Planner at Plan & Design and has worked as a land use planner in South Florida for more than 17 years. Cheguis has served as Palm Beach County Public Art Committee Member and is currently a member of the Downtown Action Coalition, a force for the City of West Palm Beach. Volunteer commitments include serving as an active Board Member of the Center. Cheguis has also served as an active Board Member of the nonprofit organization, a community for the betterment of West Palm Beach. To submit your application, go online at palmbeaches.org. For more information, please contact Sandy Pullens at spullens@palmbeaches.org.

Gregory S. Daniel

Gregory S. Daniel is a Vice President, Middle Market Banker for Mercantile Bank. S. A. Bank has previously served in senior management roles at the firm Gunster. “Our heartfelt thanks to Joe Rooney, our business organization and managing shareholder of law firm, The Palm Beaches. “All of these facts point to the reality, our interest president, for his leadership and service to the Economic Council this past year. We all allow a tremendous debt of gratitude for his service,” Perry stated.

Liv Vesely

Liv Vesely serves as the President of Imperial Medical Center Treatment and has more than 20 years’ experience in nonprofit management. In President, she has built a first-rate development operation, achieving the highest philanthropic success in the medical center’s history. Under her leadership, “Imperial Medical Center launched a $100 million campaign to raise funds for world-class health care across the region. She has an Executive Master’s degree from the University of Florida in Public Health Policy, and a bachelor’s degree from New York University and the University of Kent in England.
Gwen Graham addresses the Chamber:

The Chamber of Commerce of The Palm Beaches held its annual Back to School Breakfast on September 8, 2017, at the Kravis Center. The event featured a keynote address by former Florida State Senator and Congresswoman Gwen Graham, who discussed the importance of education and the need for continued support for local schools. Graham highlighted the challenges facing education in Florida and called for continued support from the business community to ensure a bright future for students. She also emphasized the role of local businesses in supporting education initiatives and called for greater collaboration between the private and public sectors.

Joining Graham on stage were Chamber President and CEO Bob Gries, who addressed the need for local businesses to support education initiatives, and former Chamber President and CEO Steve Brandt, who emphasized the importance of the business community in supporting education. The event was sponsored by the Young Professionals of the Palm Beaches (YP0P), who are a vital part of the Chamber's membership and are dedicated to supporting education initiatives in the region.

More than 50 Young Professionals Tour Kravis Center

On October 14, 2017, more than 50 Young Professionals of the Palm Beaches (YP0P) participated in a behind-the-scenes tour of the Kravis Center, one of the most iconic cultural institutions in South Florida. The tour was organized by the Chamber of Commerce of The Palm Beaches and was open to YP0P members and their guests. The tour featured a special backstage visit to the Dreyfoos Hall stage and ended in the exclusive Soundcheck Room.

The tour was led by Tricia Zuckerman, Director of Marketing and Communications at the Kravis Center, who provided a comprehensive overview of the center's history, architecture, and operational logistics. The tour also included a Q&A session with YP0P members, who had the opportunity to ask questions and engage with the staff of the Kravis Center.

The Young Professionals of the Palm Beaches (YP0P) is a vital part of the Chamber's membership and is dedicated to supporting education initiatives in the region. The tour was open to members of the Chamber and was held to promote engagement with the arts and cultural institutions in South Florida. The Chamber hopes to continue to support and promote these types of events in the future.

Looking to attract business? Increase your visibility and year- round sales by appearing in the Chamber’s 2018 guide to the Palm Beaches. This award-winning, full-color publication is used as a buying guide for products and services by Chamber members, residents, tourists, and visitors to Palm Beach County. This year, we will distribute over 10,000 copies of the Guide, and each copy features over 1,500 listings—one alphabetically organized for every business in the area.

The Guide will debut at the Mayor’s State of the City Address on January 24, 2018, when 1,000 area business men and women will receive a copy hot off the press. It will also be available in the Chamber’s online and digital format online at palmbeaches.org. The deadline is September 30 and you must be a Chamber member to be included. To learn more about the many benefits of Chamber membership, please visit Kelly Fanelli, Membership Director, at kfanelli@palmbeaches.org or call (561) 257-0280.