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A Word from the

Board President



Wow! What an exciting year this has been. As you know, we are celebrating our 25th Silver Anniversary and have ramped it up to accomplish some major

goals. In October, LSR Alumni enjoyed a healthy debate regarding the SMART Train Measure Q during the 2008 forum. In January, we lightened the mood and celebrated the holiday and rang in the new year at the Sonoma County Museum.

The Annual LSRAA Golf Tournament promises to be a huge success with over 100 golfers enjoying the perfectly manicured greens and beautiful fairways at the Windsor Golf Course. The fee “slices” the recession with an entry fee of only \$99 per player, which includes green fees, cart, prizes and the best tournament Goody Bag in the County. You still have time to register online at www.lsr.org or just fill out the enclosed Registration form and send it in today.

For the past six months, the Board and I have been updating the LSRAA Directory—one LSR

Alumni at a time— and we will be handing out a copy of the Directory to paid LSRAA members at the BBQ in June. So I hope to see you at this blow out Annual Summer BBQ on June 17th at the beautiful Kunde Ranch in Richard’s Grove & Saralee’s Vineyard. You will find the Registration Form for the BBQ in the Newsletter and our Website at www.lsr.org. See you on the golf course and at the BBQ to help us celebrate our 25 years of leadership excellence!

LSRAA Board President

Dr. Mary Bates, CEO

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Santa Rosa

“The difference between mere management and leadership is communication.” – Winston Churchill

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Meet the 2008-2009 LSRAA Board of Directors



Standing L-R: Sharie Sbrazza, Chris Smith, Kris Anderson, Chris Rosell, Bob Parker
Front Row: Secretary, Joan Demitz, VP., Rita Alonso, Pres., Mary Bates, Treasurer, Lisa Hemenway
Not Pictured: Jenifer Levini, Hans Dippel, Henry Kaku, Anne Marie Przyblyski

Support a Future Graduate

A portion of your dues, fees for events and your contributions to the LSRAA Bob Blanchard Scholarship fund will help make Leadership Santa Rosa classes more diverse. The more diverse the participants, the richer the experience is for the students. Some prospective students tell us that the cost of the tuition prohibits them from joining the class. Please help these students and help Leadership Santa Rosa provide services to students from wider ranges of age, ethnicity, and income level. Send donations to: LSRAA, P.O. Box 742, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

The LSRAA Board of Directors thanks Bob Parker, Board member, and the many donors for making \$3,000 in donations to the Bob Blanchard Scholarship gifts, which were \$1,500 to LSR and \$1,500 to TLT.

LSR Alumni Profile



Anne Marie Przyblyski experienced this year's Tour of California bicycle race from the coolest perspective.

Anne Marie, a self-employed events planner and the newest member of the board of the Leadership Santa Rosa Alumni Association, submitted the bid that won her and her husband, John, seats in a pace car that clung to the leaders every inch of the way from Davis to Santa Rosa.

What a rush. Anne Marie says that being in LSR Class 21 was the same sort of ride, the payoff being a rare, close-up view of the workings of her community. "You drive by things every day that you just don't know anything about in Sonoma County," said Anne Marie, who grew up in Oxnard and Ukiah, and came here to attend SSU. "I walked through every (LSR) day wanting to know more that area," she said. "I made lifelong friends and learned in infinite amount about this community. Sometimes I wish I could do it again. It was transforming."

Another of her projects was the fabulously popular – ultimately too popular – Fourth of July Pillow Fights in Kenwood. "I did the very last one, the 40th year," she said. The Kenwood firefighters who sponsored the hilarious mud-fest came to accept that it simply had outgrown their village.

Anne Marie worked as a Kaiser Permanente lab assistant while she studied communications at

Sonoma State. She was tempted to join the news media but decided she was more drawn to opportunities in public relations. Fresh from college, she was hired on in the PR department at Kendall-Jackson. She worked there three years, then launched her own events and PR firm, specializing in non-profit events.

She's watched the current recession take a deep bite into community organizations that rely on annual fund-raising dinners, auctions and such. "This year, I can't tell you how many events have been canceled," she said.

As she anticipates an economic recovery, she's immersing herself in the LSRAA Alumni board and feeling grateful for blessing that include living in Sonoma County and being able to work at home in Sebastopol and not roam very far from her toddler, Mila.

LSR Builds Character

In 25 years, the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Santa Rosa has turned out more than 700 graduates, who now are using their skills and knowledge as better leaders and employees for their businesses and organizations.

No matter what you are,

Be a good one.

Abraham Lincoln

Recruit a Future Graduate

Now is the time to look around your business or organization to determine who you want to benefit from the next class. Please identify someone who cares about our community, and nominate them to become a member of Leadership Santa Rosa Class of XXVI. Call Janet Rodgers at 545-1414 x13.



Mary Bates, President
Rita Alonso, Vice President
Lisa Hemenway, Treasurer
Joan Demitz, Secretary
Kris Anderso
Hans Dippel
Henry Kaku
Jenifer Levini
Bob Parker
Anne Marie Przyblyski
Chris Smith
Chris Rosell
Sharie Sbrazza

LSR Alumni On The Move

Shirlee Zane, Class 14, has resigned as E.D. of the Council on Aging and taken her oath as a new member of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

Susan Gorin, Class 8, has been elected the Mayor of Santa Rosa.

Lisa Hemenway, Class 11, purchased Hare Hollow Fine Condiments, Oils and Vinegars.

Ross Liscum, Class 2, played a major leadership role in the creation of the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Monument that now graces the front of City Hall.

Michael Alves, Class 3, is living with his family in London and writing advertising copy.

Brien Farrell, Class 6, is thriving as a new teacher at Elsie Allen High School following a distinguished legal career capped by his widely praised tenure as Santa Rosa's city attorney.

Rolf Nelson, Class 15, is the current chair of the LSR Steering Committee.

Mari Featherstone, Class 11, is serving as chair of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Jim Leddy, Class 19, has become Sonoma County's community and governmental affairs manager.

Hans Dippel, Class 22, has become an account executive with Cameron Family Glass Packaging, a green-energy producer of wine bottles.

Jon Fehlman, Class 24, has left the Santa Rosa Police Department to become deputy chief of the Bainbridge Island Police Dept.

Christy Hirsch, Class 23, formerly of Orion Partners, is now vice president of sales with T2 Systems, Inc.

Teresa Norton, Class 16, is a major in the U.S. Air Force Reserves and is the liaison with Santa Rosa and Windsor high school students interested in pursuing appointments to the Air Force Academy.

Al Abramson, Class 8, and his family are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Executive Gifts & Awards.