



Letter from the Executive Director



I am thrilled to serve as Leadership Birmingham’s newest executive director. It is a role that I take as thoughtfully and seriously as how our founders set out to create a brand new city-wide leadership program in 1981. Dr. Neal Berte, Odessa Woolfolk, Billy Rushton, and the other “gang of 12” addressed a need they saw, and they didn’t wait for anyone else to do it. They did it. And that, to me, is the essence of Leadership Birmingham: it is the inspiration that a stronger and more vibrant Birmingham is up to each of us. Leadership Birmingham creates the time and space for us to meet strangers who become old friends, learn together and be intentional about how we –individually and collectively – move Birmingham forward.

One wonderful trait among our past executive directors Sheila Blair, Elise Penfield, and Ann Florie is that they all inspired us to step up, say yes, take risks, collaborate, and simply “be better,” both personally and professionally. My goal is to rise to the high bar they set and build upon their strong foundation for our future.

I am grateful for your support, and I am excited to start the next chapter!

- Libba Vaughan

Welcome Class of 2019!

The newest Class of Leadership Birmingham kicked off their program year at Opening Retreat on September 13th. The full class list is on the website at leadershipbirmingham.org. Agendas from each program day are posted under the Calendar tab. You must be signed in to see the agendas.



2018-2019 Program Calendar

Education

Thursday, October 11, 2018

Economic Development

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Government

Thursday, December 13, 2018

One Community

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Health

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Human Services

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Justice

Thursday, April 11, 2019

Quality of Life

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Recap: Members Programs

Violins of Hope and Dreams of Hope

In April of this year, Leadership Birmingham was part of a community-wide alliance sponsoring Violins of Hope Birmingham. The Violins of Hope are a collection of restored instruments played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. Lectures, exhibits, concerts and related events focused on the violins and the opportunities they provided for learning and reflection.

The Members Association hosted a reception in April at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, followed by the Dreams of Hope performance at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. Music was arranged and conducted by Dr. Henry Panion III, and Hon. Richard Arrington, Ann Florie ('97) and Debra Nelson ('92) spoke about Birmingham's past, present and future. Jeffrey Bayer ('02) and his wife, Gail, chaired Violins of Hope. Kay Donnellan ('14) assisted in coordinating the events.



Welcome Reception for Dr. Eric Mackey

In August, Leadership Birmingham partnered with the Birmingham Education Foundation, A+ Education Partnership, and United Way Bold Goals to host a welcome reception for the new State Superintendent of Education, Eric Mackey. The reception was held at Vulcan Park & Museum. Superintendent Mackey shared his vision for improving education in Alabama, followed by questions from the audience.



On the Move

Leroy Abrahams ('16) is the Executive Vice President of Community Affairs at Regions Bank.

Scott Adams ('10) is Executive Vice President & Chief Digital and Innovation Officer at Protective Life Corporation.

Kevin Archer ('18) is the Director of Business Development for DEX Imaging.

Jeffrey Brewer ('12) has been named CEO of Goodwyn Mills Cawood.

Keith Brown ('13) was named President of Jefferson State Community College.

James Camel ('04) retired as Executive Administrator from UAB.

Dan Carsen ('17) is now an English teacher at The Altamont School.

James Childs ('11) and **Jim Rotch ('92)** have joined Maynard Cooper as Shareholders.

Cindy Fisher Crawford ('12) is the Owner and Publisher of the Leeds Tribune and the Selma Sun.

Bob Crutchfield ('18) is the Managing Director of Bright Edge Ventures at the American Cancer Society.

Randall Curtis ('12) is Chief Operating Officer for Hoar Construction.

Austin Davis ('13) has been named the Director of Syndicated Loans for Synovus Bank.

Rebecca Dobrinski ('17) is the Philanthropic Relations Manager of GlobalXplorer.

Bill Foster ('08) retired as President and CEO of the Birmingham Zoo.

Terry Gunnell ('04) is the Deputy Regional Administrator of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.

Anthony C. Hood ('17) has been named Director of Civic Innovation at UAB.

Bill Horton ('13) is Senior Executive Vice President and Head of Commercial Banking at Regions Bank.

John Hudson ('05) has been named Chief External and Public Affairs Officer at Southern Company Gas.

Tondra Loder-Jackson ('07) has been promoted to the rank of full Professor in the UAB School of Education.

Debbie Long ('95) retired as Chief Legal Officer from Protective Life.

Andrea McCaskey ('95) is the Director of Programs at Momentum Leaders.

Angela McClintock ('17) is the Vice President of Foster Care for Health Connect America.

Lesley McClure ('13) retired as Regional Executive in the Birmingham Office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

Anoop Mishra ('11) has been named Vice President and Regional Executive for the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

Kerry McInerney ('17) is the Managing Partner for Alabama & Mississippi at the law firm of McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC.

Richard Murray ('02) has been named the Chairman of the Board for National Bank of Commerce. He succeeds **John Holcomb ('94)** who is the new Chairman of the Executive Committee. **Will Matthews ('00)** is President and **Robert Aland ('03)** has been named EVP and Chief Administrative Officer.

Warren Nash ('14) retired as Executive Minister at Canterbury United Methodist Church and is now the CFO at Lightfoot Franklin & White.

Andrew Penman ('14) is Managing Partner of Preclinical Consulting.

Will Puckett ('09) is the Alabama Commercial Banking President for Renasant Bank.

Joan Perry ('01) has started Joan Perry Consulting for marketing and advertising. She also has Joan Perry Art available at www.joanperryart.com.

Nan Priest ('05) retired as Chief Strategy Officer for St. Vincent's Health System.

Alan Register ('08) is the new Birmingham Market Executive for Regions Bank.

Jay Roberson ('13) is the Vice President of Community Relations for AAF Birmingham Iron.

Nick Sellers ('09) has been named Vice President of the Mobile Division for Alabama Power Company.

Allison Skinner ('10) is Senior Corporate Counsel at Cadence Bank.

Jason Teter ('16) was named Corporate Vice President of Finance at Vulcan Materials Company.

Dave Wood, II ('11) retired as Chairman of Wood Fruitticher Grocery Co. **Dave Wood, III ('15)** has been named Chairman.

Steve Yoder ('00) has been named Associate Provost for Academic Administration at UAB.

Highlights from the 35th Anniversary

It was wonderful to see so many alumni and guests at the 35th anniversary celebration on September 25th at the Florentine. The entire photo album and the video celebrating Ann Florie's service to Leadership Birmingham can be found on our website under the "News" tab.



Congratulations

Jeffrey Bayer ('02), Don James ('90) and Charles McCrary ('92) were inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame.

Dan Carsen ('17) received the Excellence in Writing award in the small market radio division of the 2018 Edward R. Murrow awards.

Gwen DeRu ('05), Joe Knight ('12), Joyce Spielberg ('10), Mike Vest ('16) and Amanda Wilson ('14) were named Top 50 Over 50 winners for 2018 by Positive Maturity.

Jason Eppenger ('18) was named to a national list of influential financial leaders by The Business Journals' Influencers.

Ann Florie ('97) and Paul Jones ('85) were inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor.

Donna Francavilla ('10) won the Alabama Media Professional's 2018 Sweepstakes Award along with several national communications contest categories.

Courtney French ('07) and Elizabeth Dunn ('19) were appointed to the board of trustees at Birmingham-Southern College.

Maury Gaston ('07) was re-elected to the Sigma Nu Fraternity High Council at the biennial Grand Chapter in Washington D.C.

Cathy Sloss Jones ('91) received the Lifetime Achievement Award and **Ellyn Grady ('02)** received the Community Impact Award at the Girl Scouts Women of Distinction event. **Betsy Holloway ('10), Michele Kong ('18), Tanveer Patel ('10) and Tracey Morant Adams ('08)** were named Women of Distinction.

Bobbie Knight ('06) has been appointed to the Birmingham Airport Authority Board of Directors.

Devon Laney ('11) has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the International Business Innovation Association.

Payton Norville ('89) received the National Association of Realtors Distinguished Service Award.

Scotty McCallum ('86) received the Vulcans Lifetime Achievement award. **J.W. Carpenter ('13)** received the Servant Leadership award and **Chris Nanni ('15)** received the Spear Newcomers award.

Joel Rotenstreich ('84) was named the Honoree for the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center's annual L'Chaim event.

Isabel Rubio ('05) received the Civil Rights Award and **Bob Dickerson ('98)** received the Economic Justice Award from the Birmingham Metro Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Nena Sanders ('07) has been inducted into the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame.

Brad Sklar ('01) has been re-elected as Vice-President of the Mountain Brook Board of Education for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Mark White ('05) has been elected President of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Odessa Woolfolk ('84) received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Birmingham Business Journal's Women's Summit.

In Remembrance

We mourn the loss of the following graduates:

Dan Hendley ('84)

Albert Tully ('89)

Sandra Storm ('85)

Helen Shores Lee ('84)

Belle Stoddard ('86)

Bill Tynes ('92)

Wayne White ('89)

UPDATE YOUR MEMBER PROFILE

Did you know that the online members' directory enables you to search for Leadership Birmingham alumni and find their contact information, interests, industries, photo, and class?

Please update your profile so that all alumni can find you. You must be signed in to update and search.

Go to: www.leadershipbirmingham.org

User name: email address we have on file for you

Password: create your own by clicking the "lost password" button on the sign-in page. You will receive a link in your email to create a password.

Update your profile by clicking "edit profile"

Class of 2018 & Study Group Projects

The Class of 2018 graduated on June 9th. Their group projects, revealed at Closing Retreat, focus on a wide range of issues from discrimination, inclusivity, mentoring, and education. The descriptions are listed on these pages. The full 2018 class list is available in the online directory at leadershipbirmingham.org.



Sitting L to R: DeJarvis Leonard, Farah Sultan, Stephanie Cooper
Standing L to R: Kate Darden, Stephen Wallace, Chuck Redden, David Eberhardt, Damian Gilbert, Jamey McMahon



Sitting L to R: Marty Handlon, Myrle Grate, Lucy DiChiara
Standing L to R: Jay Smith, Sheri Krell, Trey Cummings, George Buchanan, David Hicks, Khaula Hadeed



Sitting L to R: Chloe Cook, Fred Elliott, Lucy Thompson Marsh
Standing L to R: Jorge Castro, Bruce Limbaugh, Melvin Love, Sam Todd, David Eberhardt
Missing: Maria Lampley



Sitting L to R: James Cason, Andy Rotenstreich
Standing L to R: Tim Hall, David Kimberlin, Myeisha Hutchinson, Stephen Armstrong, Meredith Calhoun, Chuck Holmes, Jack Fiscus

reTHINK

The goal of reTHINK is to leverage the Leadership Birmingham class experience to move beyond learning about the problems of our city and create solutions. This would be done through a think tank format and problem-solving partnership involving both current and past members. The process would begin with multiple agencies submitting proposals to a group of Leadership Birmingham alumni who would then select 2 to 4 proposals and present to the class. The class would then spend half of their program day in January and March learning about the proposals and working with the agency to come up with solutions.

Professionals in Place

Professionals in Place connects professional groups with non-profits based on skill sets. They outline a series of steps in order to identify the nonprofits. The first step is to gather the group (church, civic, work, etc.) and assess the group's collective strengths. Once the group strengths are identified, they select the appropriate nonprofit by matching strengths to need. Once there is a match, the group commits and serves with that nonprofit. This group has committed to putting 48 volunteer hours each with the Birmingham Education Foundation over the next year.

Bham Forward

This group developed three videos about Birmingham focused on innovation and technology, medicine and research and quality of life. All videos are available on YouTube for individuals, companies, schools, and government to use as a recruitment and retention tool. See the Leadership Birmingham website under the News tab for links to the videos.

Class of 2018 & Study Group Projects



Sitting L to R: Selena Dickerson, Libba Vaughan, Amanda Loper
Standing L to R: John Lentine, Nick Willis, DJ Mackovets
Missing: Allen Bolton, Andre' McShan



Sitting L to R: Brian Edwards, Emily Hess Levine
Standing L to R: Michele Kong, John Bolus, Jason Eppenger, Kevin Archer, Amanda Storey
Missing: Bob Crutchfield

Birmingham 5

This group focused on creating a more inclusive community. After learning about the City of Birmingham passing a Non-Discrimination Ordinance (NDO) in September of 2017, they wanted to take this idea to other municipalities and share the importance of having an NDO. The Birmingham ordinance established a Human Rights Commission made up of 11 members tasked with advising the Mayor and Council on legislation aimed at eliminating discrimination and preparing an annual report that includes the number and types of discrimination complaints each year. However, the Human Rights Commission has still not been established. This group created a targeted engagement and communication plan to create champions among key stakeholders and influencers. They created short, compelling messages and identified stakeholders most likely to be influential. They will be creating a video where they interview LGBTQ allies from different sectors of the community telling why they believe in the importance of eliminating discrimination of the LGBTQ population.



Standing L to R: Allen Bolton, Andre McShan, Maria Lampley, Bob Crutchfield

3-1-1 App

This group is assisting the City of Birmingham in developing an app to gather, track and report citizen concern/complaints in a simple and transparent manner. The city currently uses a 3-1-1 phone system which is inefficient and difficult to get through. Additionally, the online 3-1-1 portal does not work. The Mayor's transition report on transparent and efficient government report found that lack of technology and process automation has made an inefficient use of staff, increased workloads, and errors and delays in customer service. The group met with the city's IT team and discovered that the city is already working on creating their own app. The group developed a survey to build out general categories for the city 3-1-1 app including abandoned vehicles, graffiti, litter, parking, potholes, streetlights, sign maintenance, etc. The data will be used to inform the city app. Once the app is fully built, the group will assist the City in publicizing the app to ensure citizens and neighborhood leaders are aware of the benefits of the app and its ease-of-use.

Internet Access to Enhance Education

Lack of access to technology can often be a barrier to education. Many areas in Birmingham do not have access to the internet outside of school. This group did research on ways that internet access could be brought to low-income students in Birmingham. They researched and talked to the Huntsville City school system, who recently received a grant from T-Mobile to provide Wifi hotspots for students. The system provided every student with a laptop and then gave the hotspots to qualifying students. The group identified several challenges and barriers to implementing a similar program in Birmingham. They met with the Woodlawn Foundation and gave them their research and information. The Foundation is going to use it to determine how a T-Mobile or similar grant can be used to best support students in the Woodlawn feeder program.

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Log is a publication of the Members Association, the alumni organization of Leadership Birmingham. The Members Association plans programs and activities to inform and educate members about current issues and challenges facing the community. The Members Association also supports the newsletters, directory and website.

Please share what is going on in your business, civic, and personal life with other Leadership Birmingham members. We would also appreciate your ideas for programs and general suggestions for the Members Association.

