



NEWSLINE

A Publication of Mesa Leadership Training and Development

March 2009

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Newsline Editor
Kay Henry

Mesa LTD Alumni Committee Participation Encouraged

Mesa LTD Alumni & Class 2009 Members:

Mesa LTD's springtime activities are exciting and sometimes a little hectic. In February, Class 2009 completed its very successful House of Refuge class project. Class 2010 Recruitment is off to a great start and some applications have already been received. The Nominating Committee is developing the 2009-10 Mesa LTD Board of Directors Slate for the May 8th Annual Meeting approval.

The beautiful and recently redecorated Mesa Hilton is this year's location for Mesa LTD's Annual Meeting/Class 2009 Graduation and your board is busily preparing for this special event. And, of course, Class 2009 members, being in the final two months of their Mesa LTD training, are bustling to acquire those necessary points needed for graduation.

This year, Mesa LTD will be creating more 2009-10 Board of Directors Committees to encourage participation from our terrific alumni friends. Our on-going Curriculum Committee can always use more help and other opportunities will include social, publications, graduation, alumni activities, and ad hoc.

Joining a committee will give you the capability to contribute to the on-going enhancement of the Mesa LTD Program within your comfortable timeframe commitment and without the responsibility of being a board member.

So - if you are interested in participating - please send me an e-mail (khenry5445@cox.net) or call me (480-941-5445). Better yet, why not contact one of you fellow Mesa LTD alumni friends and sign up together.

Kay Henry, Mesa LTD Chair Elect



Upcoming Event

**You are invited
to attend:**

**Mesa LTD's
Annual
Alumni Meeting
&
Class 2009
Graduation**

**May 8, 2009
(Friday)**

6:00 PM

Mesa Hilton

**Invitations will
be mailed to
alumni and
class members
in April.**

Mesa LTD Class 2010 Recruitment Open Houses

March 24, 2009 (Tuesday) - 5:30 to 7:00 PM

April 2, 2009 (Thursday) - 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Mesa Chamber of Commerce, 120 North Center Street, Mesa

Do you know someone interested in meeting Mesa leaders, serving on City or Non-Profit Boards, or simply wanting to acquire more knowledge about Mesa's community? If so, invite them to attend either our March 24th or April 2nd Open House to learn about becoming a Class 2010 candidate. E-Mail Kate Ali'varius at alivarius@hotmail.com for more information.

Recruitment for Class 2010 Candidates Underway

Kate Ali'varius, Recruitment Chair

Recruitment for the Mesa LTD Class of 2010 is underway and on-going. Please reach out to your networks and encourage them to visit our website at www.mesaltd.org. Anyone can download an application from the site, complete an application online, and e-mail it to me at alivarius@hotmail.com. Downloadable applications are also available on the Mesa Chamber's website (www.mesachamber.org).

If a prospective candidate has questions about anything Mesa LTD related, please have them e-mail me with questions or call 602-721-0804. There will be an Open House on March 24th and another one on April 2nd for those interested in a visual presentation and an opportunity to meet and speak with Mesa LTD alumni.

If you have an organizational event you'd like me to attend for the purpose of sharing details about the Mesa LTD program, please e-mail me. Also, if you're interested in interviewing prospective class members once their application has been received, please send me a quick note or call to let me know of your welcome intentions.

Thank you for your continuing support of Mesa LTD. Your commitment to our mission is particularly valuable now. Our public, private, and non-profit sectors need the help of Mesa LTD participants. Your contribution, and that of others through this program, helps to instill hope for all!

Mesa LTD has a Strong Presence on the Human Services Board

Lisa Wilson, City of Mesa Human Services Dept.

Kimberly Nuzman (Class 2008), Carolyn Olson (Class 2009), Sophia Tesch (Class 2008) and Lisa Wilson (Class 2007) are Human Services Board members involved in trying to improve the conditions of those less fortunate during a time when the need for Human Services continues to grow, not only locally, but globally.

ABC (A Better Community Program) is a program that City of Mesa Utility Bill customers can easily contribute to by donating one dollar to their community through their utility payment. This program was implemented by Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh (Class 1985) and is in need of some fundraising efforts.

We are planning future events to coincide with Spring Training 2010. Perhaps a Mesa Community Day and other small community gathering events to promote a sense of community in Mesa that will offer inexpensive activities for families while gathering proceeds to go to the ABC fund.

Also, look for the ABC cause coming soon to Facebook. Please share this with your Facebook friends and let us help those most in need in Mesa. If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to help with these events, please e-mail Sophia (stesch@cox.net) or Lisa (Lisa.Wilson@mesaaz.gov).

MACFest is a popular Saturday Mesa Arts and Culture Fest that's occurring until May 30th. Vern Mathern (Class 1994) is President of MACFest and Phyllis Young (Class 2007) is Co-Chairing Public Relations. They are looking for Information Booth Volunteers to commit to a 2-1/2 hour time period. Applications are available at the Information Booth on Saturday or log onto www.macfestmesa.com to download an application and review the schedules.

"One of the tests of leadership is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency."

John Glassgow

Reminder for Annual Meeting Voting!!!



If you plan to attend the May 8, 2009 Mesa LTD Annual Alumni Meeting and haven't paid your 2008-09 dues – they must be paid prior to the start of the meeting because only members in good standing can vote. You may send a \$30 check to Mesa LTD, P.O. Box 82, Mesa, AZ 85211, use PayPal on our web site, or pay at the door before the meeting starts.



Class 2009 gives Gift from the Heart on Valentine's Day

Rob Johnson, Class 2009

When members of the 2009 class of the Mesa Leadership Training and Development Program toured the House of Refuge East (HRE), a transitional housing community utilizing the old Air Force homes at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, they knew exactly what they wanted to do for their class project: Throw a party on Valentine's Day to stock the charity's community center cupboards.

Class members were largely unaware of the work HRE was doing until they visited it in September 2008. As impressive as HRE's work was, class members felt they could use an assist. They started brainstorming, and the plan evolved quickly.

Rob Johnson, a Bashas' employee, after seeing the nearly bare pantry in HRE's donation center, thought of all the vendor-supplied samples that Bashas' buying team had access to. Next thing you know, Bashas' was on board and started accumulating these samples into a Bashas' trailer.

Early on Saturday, February 14th, a Bashas' truck driver hauled the trailer to HRE's community center. At 9:00 a.m., members of the 2009 Mesa LTD class arrived and offloaded the goods. Donated items ranged from sports drinks and snacks to laundry detergent, foil cook pans and school notebooks.

At an earlier date, class members had assembled 80-some "care packages" (one for each home) out of the school supplies and health/beauty care items Bashas' collected. The care packages—stuffed into reusable cloth Bashas' grocery bags—filled an entire room in the community center. HRE staff later delivered one care package to each home.

After the truck was empty, Class 2009 hosted a party for HRE residents from 10:00 to noon. Several class members brought fun things to the party. Theresa James provided a bouncy house (a huge hit with the younger kids), while Armondo Barry supplied a fully-stocked craft station at which kids made their own Valentine's Day cards. Brenda Laufer brought cookie-decorating supplies so kids could frost and decorate 60 Bashas'-supplied heart-shaped cookies.

Young and old alike enjoyed the presence of five members of the ASU Spirit Squad. The cheerleaders really got into the event, helping kids with crafts, teaching the smaller girls to cheer, and even cheering for a pick-up touch football game. For some of the teenaged boys, the highlight of the day was getting the cheerleaders into a vigorous game of volleyball.

In the end, HRE truly appreciated the event. Kimberly Nuzman, Director of Marketing and Development for House of Refuge, said "We are truly grateful to the 2009 Mesa Leadership Training and Development class as well as Bashas' for sharing their hearts and providing hope to our families this Valentine's Day."



City Board Service is a Way to Give Back, & Receive in Return

Theresa Jepsen, Placement Chair

Faced with the recent economic downturn, many Mesa residents are asking themselves what they can do to contribute to the betterment of their community. Many residents whose jobs have been eliminated or who are underemployed with time on their hands may be seeking a way to expand their network for job prospects.

If you find yourself in either of these categories, or otherwise wanting to contribute to the common good, please consider spending your time and service on a City of Mesa Advisory Board. Volunteering connects you to others in your community, can provide networking and new social opportunities, and it boosts the spirit.

Volunteering also helps Mesa. According to the City of Mesa website, 262,183 volunteer hours in 2008 provided a cost savings of \$5,115,190. The need is great and there is ample opportunity for citizens to become involved at all levels and varying interests. There are more than two dozen boards and committees in need of your good ideas and willingness to carry out the mission.

The City is now seeking applications for the Human Relations Board, Human Services Board, Library Board, Museum Advisory Committee, and the Parks & Recreation Board. Committee meetings vary by the board with some as regular as once a month or quarterly, and some are irregular and meet on an as-needed basis. Appointments to the boards are recommended by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.

For more information and to download an application, visit the City of Mesa web site (www.mesaaz.gov) City Hall, Related Links: Advisory Boards & Committees. Theresa Jepsen, Mesa LTD Placement Chair, can also assist you with this information. E-mail her at tvallesjepsen@yahoo.com or call 480-615-9756.

Ongoing City of Mesa volunteer positions are also available and require an application. These can be found online under the Jobs page at www.mesaaz.gov. There are also opportunities to volunteer on an as-needed, short term or project-specific basis. Some of these opportunities may qualify for school credit. More information on these projects may be obtained on the City's web site or by calling Sheila Byrne, 480-644-5031.

In addition to the City of Mesa needing good people, there are dozens of nonprofit organizations who also need help serving your neighbors. A list of nonprofit organizations may be found online at Mesa LTD's web site (www.mesaltd.org).



To Mesa LTD Class Meeting Sponsors and Providers

Mesa LTD is extremely grateful to the many Mesa organizations that either sponsor or provide free monthly meeting space for Mesa LTD classes.

Since September, the following organizations have been very generous in their sponsorships.

- ◆ Salt River Project - \$500 for October Meeting.
- ◆ Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport – Provided Breakfast & Lunch at the January Meeting.
- ◆ Bashas' 100% support of the Class 2009 House of Refuge Project in February.

This year, Class 2009 was very privileged to have their August through April classes take place in the following fantastic facilities.

- ◆ Mesa Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ City of Mesa Council Chambers
- ◆ Salt River Project East Valley Service Center
- ◆ Wells Fargo Bank Boardroom
- ◆ North Mesa Justice Court
- ◆ Mesa Public Safety Training Facility
- ◆ Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Boardroom
- ◆ AT Still University
- ◆ EVIT
- ◆ Arizona Wing Facility CAF
- ◆ Mesa Arts Center

Again – Mesa LTD sends a BIG THANKS to all these terrific organizations for their generosity and on-going support.

Mesa LTD Alumni News

Michael Cowan (Class 2001) was unanimously confirmed by the Mesa School Board in early March to become the next superintendent of the Mesa Unified School District and will replace outgoing superintendent Debra Duvall. He has been Duvall's top assistant for five years and the Board was convinced that this experience will assist him in managing the state's largest K-12 system.

Thomas J. Griggs, Esq. (Class 1992) of The Law Firm of M. Paul Fischer, P.C. was accepted into membership in The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh (Class 1985) was named winner of the "Dwight Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award" by the East Valley Partnership. On 11/6/08 he was recognized as a Cox Excel Award winner when the East Valley Partnership hosted its 15th Annual Cox Communications Economic Forum.

Dee Kepp (Class 2007) actively serves as: 2009 Director on both National Assoc. of Realtors & AZ Assoc. of Realtors; 2009 President, S.E. Valley Assoc. of Realtors; an Instructor teaching R.E. "Short Sales" classes; and an "expert witness" for attorney's. Specialty: Builder Defect cases.

Frank Mizner (Class 1991) retired from the City of Mesa in 2003 after 15 years as Planning Director. His current activities include: Mesa Development Project Consultant; Mesa Planning & Zoning Board Vice-Chair (2004-present); RECOM Board of Directors Member; and the Steering Committee on "Vote Yes on Proposition 300" campaign.

**"Management is doing things right;
Leadership is doing the right things."**

Peter F. Drucker

Alberto Olivas (Class 2008) was named as one of the "40 Hispanic Leaders Under 40" for 2008 presented by the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce & Univision Radio. He was appointed to the Phoenix 2010 Census Complete Count Committee and was a member of the U.S. delegation to the New Dartmouth Conference in Russia on the relationship between the United States and Russia (October 2008). He is now enrolled in a doctoral program with Fielding Graduate University for a Ph.D. in Human & Organizational Development.

Melissa Wood Radcliff, (Class 1999) is the Executive Director of Our Children's Place, a small, start-up non-profit that's creating a residential facility for young children to live with their mothers who are serving out a sentence for a non-violent crime. They plan to open in mid-2010. Right now their office is in Chapel Hill, NC, but the new facility will be in Butner, NC.

Brad Tennison (Class 2008) has joined the Board of Directors of the "Room for Joy" Non Profit that helps handicapped children.

Free Homework Help at Mesa Libraries

Students in Mesa will never have to be stumped by a tough homework assignment again. The City of Mesa Library is now able to provide free homework help thanks to Indian gaming funds.

Live Homework Help, an online tutoring service from Tutor.com, connects students to expert tutors in math, science, social studies, and English via the Internet. Spanish speaking tutors are also available in math and science. Students from kindergarten through 12th grade, those in introductory-level college courses and adult learners can access the service by visiting the City of Mesa Library or the Library's website, www.mesalibrary.org from home or on library computers. Students will need a Mesa library card. The online tutoring service is offered seven days a week from 2 p.m. to midnight.

"Live Homework Help is a wonderful resource for students who now have free access to qualified tutors from any computer, at the library or at home. It is just one more way the City of Mesa Library supports education and lifelong learning in our community," Library Director Heather Wolf said.

For more information, contact Assistant Library Director Kate Havris at (480) 644-2704.

Mesa LTD Alumni CURRENT Contact Information Needed

The 2009 Mesa LTD Directory will be printed in late April and we want it to be as accurate as possible. So – if you have moved, changed your phone numbers or e-mail address – we need to receive your corrections.

The e-mail has become such a convenient communications tool and Mesa LTD is using it more and more to get news out to the Alumni. If you have an e-mail address and haven't been receiving our e-mails, please let us know.

Please e-mail any contact information changes, corrections or additions to Kay Henry (kayhenry5445@cox.net) or (480-941-5445).

Mesa Life Options March 2009 Schedule

Spring Coffee and Tour Series – Free & Open to the Public

Meeting are at Mesa Life Options, 165 N. Centennial Way, Suite 101, Mesa AZ 85201
unless otherwise noted.

Mesa Proving Grounds Update with Jill Kuzy, Director of Entitlements – DMB

Wednesday March 11th, 9:-10:00am

Coffee with Mesa Mayor Scott Smith

Wednesday, March 18th, 9:00-10:00am

Tour of Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport

Wednesday, March 25th, 9:00 -10:30am

Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport, 5835 S. Sossaman Road, Mesa AZ 85212-0919

Mature Workers Workshop ... Workforce Development

Friday, March 27th, 9:00-11:00am

Coffee with Mesa Police Chief Gascon

Wednesday, April 8th, 9:00-10:00am

Please call 480-461-6252 or email mlo@mcmail.maricopa.edu to register for any of the above.

Visit Mesa LTD's Web Site (www.mesaltd.org) for information on:

Board Members & E-Mail Links
PayPal Link to Pay Dues
2009 House of Refuge Project
Current Mesa LTD Information
Mesa LTD Bylaws & Policies
Event Pictures

2010 Mesa LTD Application
Class 2009 Members & Class Schedule
Alumni & Board Meeting Minutes
Links to City & Chamber Web Sites
Board of Directors' Job Descriptions
& Much, Much More