

LEADERSHIP NETWORK

2007-2008 Board of Directors

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331-4440

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981-1384

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AIB College of Business
697-5938

LEADERSHIP NETWORK

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www.dmleadershipnetwork.org

desmoinesleaders@yahoo.com

NETWORK NEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Des Moines Leadership Network

May 2008

Monthly Business Meeting and Luncheon

Thursday, May 15th

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Des Moines Embassy Club

801 Grand Avenue, 40th Floor

Menu: Assorted Buffet

Cost: \$20.00 cash or check payable at the door

Reserve your seat...

- RSVP tab at www.dmleadershipnetwork.org
- E-mail to desmoinesleaders@yahoo.com
- Phone Randy at 778-4905

Deadline: Noon on Tuesday, May 13th

MAY MEETING

THE MEANING OF LEADERSHIP



May is the month when the Leadership Network traditionally awards a scholarship to a deserving student from AIB College of Business. This year, the Network's board of directors has authorized *two* scholarships totaling \$2,000. **Martha Willits, President and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership**, will speak on the meaning of leadership, and **AIB students Kayli Broadway and Jessica Rasberry** will read their winning essays. It promises to be an

inspiring meeting.

Martha Willits joined the Greater Des Moines Partnership in February of 2004 as president and chief executive officer. She is responsible for the operational oversight of the Partnership's \$7 million annual budget and the accomplishment of its mission to drive economic growth with one voice, one mission and one region. She is also responsible for maintaining strategic alliances with more than 4,000 regional businesses, 20 business organizations and affiliated Chambers of Commerce, and community leaders throughout the Greater Des Moines.

Prior to joining the Partnership, Willits served as president and chief professional officer of the United Way of Central Iowa ('96 -'04), an elected member of Polk County Board of Supervisors (elected chair

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THE MEANING OF LEADERSHIP CONTINUED

in '87, '88, '91, and '94), and as a teacher in the Des Moines Public Schools system. She has also been an active volunteer throughout her life, coordinating numerous local and state organizations. Among her many recognitions, she is a recipient of the YWCA's 1989 "Women of Achievement" award, the 1998 Leadership Iowa Alumni Award, the 2000 A. Arthur Davis Leadership Award, and the 2002 Drake Medal of Service.

Willits earned her master's degree in Business Administration in '97, her master's of Teaching Arts in '72, and her bachelor's in Music Education in '69, all from Drake University. A native of Eagle Grove, Iowa, Willits lives in Des Moines where she raised two daughters, Anne and Emily.

MORE ABOUT THOSE BIG SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, twenty students applied for the Leadership Network scholarships, and the AIB Scholarship Committee selected these two women based on their meeting the following established criteria:

- Have successfully completed 8 classes at AIB with a minimum 2.50 cumulative grade point average
- Write an essay entitled "What Leadership Means to Me"
- Be enrolled as a full-time student who is not on social probation

Congratulations to the scholarship recipients:

Kayli LuAnn Broadway of New Sharon, Iowa

- Accounting major
- Will graduate in May 2009 with an Associate of Applied Science degree

Jessica Nicolle Rasberry of Marshall, Texas

- Information Technology and Business Administration major
- Will graduate in May 2009 with an Associate of Applied Science degree

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you can see elsewhere in this monthly newsletter, it has been a busy and eventful year for our organization. We have worked on everything from updating our by-laws (I didn't even know we had by-laws until Marlena Bandurski asked me for a copy!), to getting ourselves re-registered with the State to maintain our non-profit status, to reviewing our scholarship offering. The by-laws had not been updated since we were tied to the national organization in the late '90's. The by-laws have now been updated (probably to be forgotten about again for a few years) to show us as we now operate. We are in good standing with the State again. And this year we are able to award two \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students at AIB.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

We have also had some very interesting speakers this year, as I mentioned in my letter last month, but we are always looking for suggestions for future presenters. Please keep our organization in mind as you attend other events and hear their speakers.

I want to thank the board and all of the officers for serving with me this past year. Their help and guidance has been very much appreciated. As we look forward to next year, the board is meeting in early May to put together a slate of officers for the 2008-2009 season. If any of you have a desire to get more involved and serve in some capacity (it does not have to be time consuming), please let me or one of the other officers know. Hopefully, with the updating of the by-laws and re-registering with the State, the heavy lifting is completed. I particularly want to thank Marlena for doing most of the heavy lifting!

Once again, we are closing out our membership year with a strong speaker. Martha Willits has had a great career in the Des Moines area and should offer some interesting insights into the business world of Greater Des Moines.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on May 15th!

Jim Hansen

WELCOME TWO NEW MEMBERS

Tyler Brady, Marketing Manager, Realty Marketing Group, Inc.

Michelle Hill, Assistant Dean of Online and Evening College, AIB College of Business

SPRING RENEWAL

We hope that your renewal is always a line item in the budget! Treasurer Marlena Bandurski will be sending membership renewal notices near the end of the month, but you are welcome to use the form in this newsletter. Please make out your check for \$95.00, payable to *Leadership Network*. The membership year begins June 1. Thank you.

WORD-OF-MOUTH WORKS

Most of our new Network members have been recruited by our existing members. Building the membership numbers will strengthen the organization and its ability to meet philanthropic and programming goals. If you know colleagues who might like to join the Network, encourage them to attend one of our meetings to experience the benefits. Each edition of NETWORK NEWS will include a full application, so prospects will have plenty of information when you simply forward the newsletter. Contact Membership EVP Randy Knudtson for further assistance.

THIS JUST IN: BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Board of Directors and standing committees have stepped up the pace over the past several months. Here are a few significant issues and their outcomes.

- The organization’s by-laws were extremely outdated; some members may have never seen them! The approved revision takes effect on June 1, 2008, and the new document has already been uploaded to the website’s Membership tab.
- Board Member-at-Large Debra Patterson conducted a member survey regarding the desirability of a summer meeting or event. The results indicated members generally like three months without meeting obligations, so the effort has been tabled.
- The Nominating Committee is finalizing a slate of officers and directors for election by e-mail vote to be taken after the May business luncheon.
- The membership directory has somehow disappeared from member benefits, creating a challenge for networkers to find e-mail addresses and phone numbers. The Treasurer will design and share a directory by e-mail for current members.
- Long-time Network administrator Margaret Jaworski is leaving Des Moines and has resigned her position. The Board recognized an opportunity to balance the budget by converting administration to a volunteer basis. Marlena Bandurski will donate the work for the foreseeable future. **Please allow messages from desmoinesleaders@yahoo.com through your Spam filter** for Leadership Network official correspondence.

GET READY FOR YOUR CLOSE-UP

Have you been a SPOTLIGHT MEMBER at a monthly meeting yet? Please consider a “spot” on the agenda to talk about your business, beginning this September. Simple door prizes also make the meetings more fun (logo-ware is just fine). Contact First Vice President Dennis Sensenbrenner to sign up.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mark your calendar for our 2008/2009 membership meetings. We’ll “see you in September” near the top of the tower at 801 Grand on the third Thursday of the month.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 18, 2008 • October 16, 2008 • November 20, 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 18, 2008 • January 15, 2009 • February 19, 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 19, 2009 • April 16, 2009 • May 21, 2009 |
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HAVE A FANTASTIC SUMMER!

**DES MOINES LEADERSHIP NETWORK
Membership Application**

New Member Referred by _____ Renewing Member

Regular Member Annual Dues: \$95.00. Retirees may join for half price.

Please make checks payable to **Leadership Network**. Thank you!

Name _____

Company or employer _____

Street address or postal address _____

City _____ ZIP Code _____

E-mail address _____

Phone _____ Mobile #, if different _____

Company/employer Web address (for Leadership Network Web links)

LEADERSHIP NETWORK P.O. Box 30128 Des Moines, IA 50310
www.dmladershipnetwork.org desmoinesleaders@yahoo.com

Preparing Tomorrow's Leadership Team Today

Mission: To enhance the leadership experience, knowledge, growth, and commitment to ethical practices and professionalism of our members through program meetings, and networking with one another.