

## In the News...

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- LSM Class of 2015 Graduation & Annual Meeting
- LSM Class of 2015- Project Fundraiser
- LSM Hosting Cottage Kitchen
- Recruiting New Leaders
- Letter from the President
- Remarks from Executive Director
- Alumni Information
- Feedback Welcome

## LSM Class of 2015 Graduation & Annual Meeting

**SAVE THE DATE:** Please join us in celebrating the Class of 2015 at their graduation on April 28th at the Price Senior Center from 6PM to 8PM.



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**April 7** – Seventh Class Day

**April 14** – Regular Board Meeting

**April 28** – Graduation and Annual Meeting

### Mission of Leadership San Marcos

To identify, inform, educate, and motivate individuals to participate in programs and activities that will improve the San Marcos community.

## LSM Lock Up Fundraiser



The Leadership San Marcos Class of 2016 held their Lock Up Fundraiser on April 1, 2015. They had a lot of fun and did a great job.



## LEADERSHIP SAN MARCOS HOSTED COTTAGE KITCHEN

On Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> Leadership San Marcos class and Alumni hosted the Cottage Kitchen. Our lasagna served 63 patrons and raised over \$400 to benefit the Heritage Association of San Marcos. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this event possible.



**SAN MARCOS**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# LSM Hosts Cottage Kitchen



left to Right: Diana Baker, Chelsea Clark, Kristin Miller, Lisa Tanksley, Mitsie Benton, Molly Ann Rosas-Garcia, Marianne Moore



## Recruiting New Leaders

The Selection Committee is gearing up for recruitment, and we need your help! Springtime is when we begin requesting referrals from our Leadership San Marcos Family, and our Selection Committee Team is excited to see who **YOU** would like to recommend for the next class! Who do you know? Who do you think could contribute to and benefit from our program? Perhaps friends, business colleagues, church peers, neighbors, social acquaintances that could bring their talent to the next class of Leadership. Applications are available on our website, [www.leadershipsanmarcos.com](http://www.leadershipsanmarcos.com), or if you would like to send in names and contact information, please email Bonnie Hughson, Selection Committee Chair, Class of 2017, at [blhughson@yahoo.com](mailto:blhughson@yahoo.com). Bonnie is joined by Greg Wurzbach, Grande Communications, Kate Shaw, HCWC, Judy Johnson, PakMail, and Cindy Murphy, Texas State University. Applications will be accepted until May 31, 2015.

## THE 2014-2015 LSM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Mitsie Benton, Ignite Nutrition Associated w/Rapid Nutri.
President-Elect	MollyAnn Garcia, State Farm
Secretary	Karen Wyatt, Blue Sky Mortgage
Treasurer	Dorothy Evans, Community Volunteer
Events Coordinator	Lisa V. Tanksley, ColorMix Graphics & Printing
Public Relations	Jeff Caldwell, MWM Design group
Technology	Greg Wurzbach, Grande Communications
Internal Communications	Dannette Elliot, Texas State University
Alumni Development	Jessica Jolly, Central Texas Medical Center
Class Selection, 2016	Jeremiah Pizana, Ozona National Bank
Class Selection, 2017	Bonnie Hughson, Sur-Powr Battery
Facilitator Co-Chair	Liz Castaneda, Texas State University
Facilitator Co-Chair	Teresa Lauderdale, Grande Communications
Executive Director*	Rick Bell, McCoy Corporation

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## First Steps to Becoming a Leader



Often the statement is said leaders are born leaders. However, I tend to believe leadership is a cultivated characteristic of a person's natural personality. There are many elements to becoming a great leader.

I have chosen to briefly touch on the elements of the positive thinking, goal setting, and believing in yourself for this article. Solon said we must "clear your mind of can't". We are what we think. Therefore, a positive attitude and positive thoughts enable us to reach our goals which in turn enable us to become better leaders. Buddha said, "We are shaped by our thoughts. We become what we think."

Have you ever experienced being asked to do something that is out of your comfort zone? It is much easier to say "no" I can't do that than to take the bull by the horns and say "yes" I can give it my best shot. Yes, it may take a little longer to accomplish the task you are being asked to perform. However, the word can is a positive thought where the word can't is a negative thought.

When you tell your mind that "I can", great things can and will happen. Your subconscious mind then starts thinking positive. It will continue to provide those positive thoughts in your mind. I am sure that each of you can give examples in your own lives, rather personal or professional, of changing stinking negative thoughts to exciting positive thoughts and wonderful results occurring.

An example that I will share with you is that when I became President of the Leadership San Marcos Board I was informed that I needed to write an article for the newsletter each month. I have never been a writer and tend to write like I talk most of the time...whatever comes to my mind works for me. My initial thought was that I could not write an article that others would want to read. I had to change my way of thinking to I can do that instead of can't do that. Maybe the article is not perfect, but I feel it has improved over the past months. Yes, there is more work to do, but I know with practice I CAN do it. Denis Waitley said "If you believe you can, you probably can. If you believe you won't, you most assuredly won't. Belief is the ignition switch that gets you off the launching pad."

Of course along with positive thinking you must set goals. You can wish for things, but as Eleanor Roosevelt once stated, "It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan." You must set both short term and long term goals. Give yourself a timeline for accomplishing those goals. You must work toward those goals on a daily basis not when "you can get around to it". Make your goals reasonable and attainable to accomplish. Cecil B. De Mille said "The person who makes a success of living is the one who sees his goal steadily and aims for it unswervingly."

You must believe in yourself. If you do not believe in yourself, others around you will not believe in you. Anthony Trollope said, "Never think that you not good enough for yourself. A man should never think that. People will take you very much at your own reckoning". Do not be afraid to believe in yourself and step out of your comfort zone. Step out with enthusiasm and confidence. This will assist you in building your self-esteem and in believing in yourself.

These are only a start to becoming a leader. Study motivational materials. Study someone you admire as a leader and seek their knowledge on being a leader. Only you can make a positive change in your life. Become the little red engine that said "I think I can, I think I can" and jump the hurdles thrown your way. Finally, are you ready to make the changes to becoming a great leader? Another quote from an anonymous source states, "If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies."

Your President,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitsie Benton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mitsie Benton  
President, Leadership San Marcos Board 2014-15  
LSM Class of 2011

## MESSAGE FROM LSM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In the spring of 2007 Leadership San Marcos took me to a place I would never have otherwise gone. Our class project was a statue of the Tonkawa Chief Placido, and in the course of making a reality of the statue, our project leader, Rodney van Oudekerke, had made the acquaintance of the then, and, I believe, current Tonkawa President Don Patterson. Through their many late night phone conversations, Rodney had eventually arranged for a small delegation from LSM to travel to the Tonkawa nation in Oklahoma, and the trip was made on a weekend at the end of March, when the weather was very much as it is this year.

Our party consisted of Rodney, Eric Slocum, the local artist who had volunteered his time to produce the statue, Lisa Dvorak, a friend of Lisa's named Annette Dunn, and myself. We set out later than planned, for what journey ever goes as planned, and drove north through one of the most glorious spring days I've ever experienced. In Oklahoma, especially, the land was as it should be in early spring, pretty much bursting with new life. The wind was brisk, and the grass on both sides of the highway rippled in waves. A recent rain had left stock tanks full and puddles everywhere.

We met Mr. Patterson the following morning in town and followed him to his home where our interview moved from the superficial to far greater depths. Mr. Patterson, I believe, felt he had reason to doubt the sincerity of our interest in the Tonkawa tribe and its culture, so he began somewhat cautiously. As it turned out, Annette was a serious student of native American culture, and as time passed, as Mr. Patterson realized at least part of his audience had done a lot of homework, he shared with us the Tonkawa creation myth, the location of the tribe's home in Texas, and a number of important ceremonial articles which he held in trust for the tribe. What had begun with uncertainty on both sides, ended up as a near mystical audience with an authority on Tonkawa life. And, in return, the Tonkawa tribe sent a ceremonial delegation to San Marcos for the unveiling of Chief Placido's statue, enriching that event for all who attended.

One of the benefits of membership in Leadership San Marcos is access to people and places you might not otherwise have had. Under the auspices of Leadership San Marcos, and the friendship of Rodney, those of us on that trip shared an experience we would never otherwise have had, and I have been grateful to both Rodney and LSM ever since for that opportunity.

I'll close with a thought that you have all heard before, and it applies to life itself as much as it applies to Leadership San Marcos. What you get out of it depends, entirely, on what you put into it.

I hope to see all of you at our graduation and annual meeting on April 28 at Price Center. We will be celebrating another class of friends who have shared experiences they would not otherwise have had, through the opportunities offered by Leadership San Marcos.

Best regards to all,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "RJB".

Rick Bell  
Executive Director  
LSM Class of 2007

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## ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Leadership San Marcos provides face-to-face contact with peers from various organizations and industries in the community. Networking advantages through Leadership San Marcos include expanding your resources, keeping abreast of new developments, learning about other businesses and industries and making new business contacts.

If you are not already an alumni member, please plan to send your dues in today! Membership only costs \$50 per year and we will gladly provide a receipt. Not only will your dues go towards promoting and enhancing the Leadership San Marcos program, your membership is a great way to stay involved in community events and be a part of great networking opportunities!

**NOTE:** LSM has implemented a PayPal account for renewals and donations! On the LSM homepage at [www.leadershipsanmarcos.com](http://www.leadershipsanmarcos.com), you will find a large yellow "Donate" button for convenient online payment of dues, project donations, or any contributions (as seen below). The PayPal interface provides a comment field so you can specify the purpose for your payment.



In addition, you can also contact any of the 2014-2015 LSM Board of Directors to pay your dues or send them to P.O. Box 1144, San Marcos, TX 78667-1144. If you mail in your dues, please include the invoice or indicate in the memo line of the check that you are submitting your "alumni dues."

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## FEEDBACK WELCOME!

The Board of Directors welcomes your ideas and feedback so that we can continue to provide an invaluable experience for all members of Leadership San Marcos. We take your input very seriously and will strive to meet your needs as we develop class programs, enrichment lunches, and other activities that will not only capture your interest as alumni or class members, but also continue to spark the interest of future leaders in joining our distinguished group.

You may contact our Board President, Mitsie Benton, via email at [leadershipsm@grandecom.net](mailto:leadershipsm@grandecom.net), or any member of the Board of Directors, to offer your ideas, comments, or concerns. You are also always welcomed to send your thoughts and comments to the Board at P.O. Box 1144, San Marcos, TX 78667-1144.

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Newsletter produced and published by:  
The Board of Directors of Leadership San Marcos  
P.O. Box 1144  
San Marcos, TX 78667-1144

\*Please submit feedback regarding the newsletter to [leadershipsm@grandecom.net](mailto:leadershipsm@grandecom.net).