



# In the News...

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## Graduation and Annual Meeting

LSM hosted the Class of 2015 Graduation and Annual Meeting on April 28th. Members and Alumni enjoyed a great Italian Theme at the Price Senior Center. Congratulations to the Class of 2015 and Thank you to Lisa V. Tanksley with ColorMix Graphics & Printing for a wonderful event.



Top Row Left to Right: Sheldon Halliburton, Jeff Clark, Stephen Frasar, Justin Payne, Don Moore  
Middle Row Left to Right: James Swisher, Jake Walden, Liz Castaneda, Thomas Akkerman  
Front Row Left to Right: Katie Contreras and Karen Wyatt (co-facilitators), Teresa Lauderdale, Pam Gravis



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**June 9**— Regular Board Meeting



Top Row Left to Right: Rodney Van Ouderkerke, Jeff Caldwell, Justin Payne  
Middle Row Left to Right: Teresa Lauderdale, Greg Wurzbach, Lisa Tanksley, Carlos Garcia  
Front Row Left to Right: Liz Castaneda, Mitsie Benton, Molly Ann Garcia, Dorothy Evans, Chelsea Clark; not pictured: Glen Cook

## LSM 2015 Scholarship Recipients

Leadership San Marcos has recently awarded scholarships to six recipients for the furthering of their education.



Kate Caldwell  
Wimberley High School



Pictured from Left to right: Kelly Murphy, Wiley Reid and Truett Newton from San Marcos High School with President-Elect Molly Ann Garcia, President Mitsie Benton, Class of 2015 Facilitator Elizabeth Castneda and LSM Treasurer, Karen Wyatt



Valerie Eastwood  
New Braunfels High School



Hunter Sosby  
Wimberley High School

### **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.

## 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 e-mail Bonnie Hughson, Selection Committee Chair, Class of 2011, at [blhughson@yahoo.com](mailto:blhughson@yahoo.com). Bonnie joined by Greg Wurzbach, Grand 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                      |
| President-Elect         | MollyAnn Garcia, State Farm                          |
| Secretary               | Karen Wyatt, Blue Sky Mortgage                       |
| Treasurer               | Dorothy Evans, Community Volunteer                   |
| Events Coordinator      | Lisa V. Tanksley, Color Mix Graphics & Printing      |
| Public Relations        | Jeff Caldwell, MWM Design Group                      |
| Technology              | Greg Wurzbach, Grande Communications                 |
| Internal Communications | Dannette Elliot, Texas State University Police Dept. |
| 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



Many people are under the impression that Leadership San Marcos is about Leadership 101. The Mission of Leadership San Marcos is to identify, inform, and motivate individuals to participate in program and activities that will improve the San Marcos community.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve you as the Leadership San Marcos Board President 2014-2015. You have encouraged me to step up to the plan in an area of my life that I never thought I could serve in. I also would like to thank the outstanding members that served on the LSM Board. You all made my job easier to do. Thank you for stepping up during my two month absence so I could take care of my parents. I had to learn to delegate and trust others to complete the task at hand.

We had a wonderful Annual Meeting and Graduation last Tuesday, 28 April, 2015. Again a special thanks goes to Lisa Tanksley for planning the food, decorations, and all that goes into making an event a success.

For those of you that were not able to attend, I wish to share with you a few words. I chose to crocket a variegated colored butterfly and framed it for the outgoing Board. I correlated the colors of the butterfly with the many traits, qualities, and personalities of leadership. As leaders we are all different with different ideas and ways of completing the task. All the traits, qualities, and personalities bring us together as a team. We are able to listen ideas that may be different from our own. We each have different talents that enables the team to complete the task at hand. We have respect for each other. We are a "TEAM" of leaders.

John Maxwell was asked "What is your most difficult leadership responsibilities? He replied, "The most difficult task and responsibility as a leader is in leading myself. If you lead yourself correctly the rest of the people will follow correctly. The problem is "YOU" not the people following." Alls is well that goes well and the leader that leads the way, shows the way, knows the way, grows the way is the model you want to follow.

There are many traits, qualities, and personalities of leadership. I believe we should be a servant leader. I believe we are called to be servants. After all, the Bible states that to be great in God's kingdom we must become the servant of all.

Good leaders listen to others they are leading. After all, we do have two ears and only one month. Leaders should be passionate about what they are doing. If you are not passionare about what you are doing find something else to do.

Leaders must be positive thinkers. When we think positive thoughts and do positive things, the Law of Attraction states that then positive things come our way. The same is true with negative thoughts and negative things.

As a leader we should mentor those that we lead. Even if a person is doing a fantastic job, we as a leader should mentor that person to the next level whether it is in a personal life or a professional life. When you accomplish this the attention is taken off of "I/me" and on someone else.

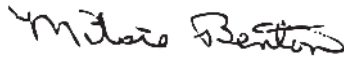
I will leave you with another note that comes from John Maxwell...CHALLENGES. Leaders love a challenge. When the going gets really rough and mountain gets high and steep it is the separator between a leader and a follower. The leader thrives on can I do that and can I bring people with me on this journey versus followers who say I don't want to even try. I don't think I can do this.

## Con't From the President

Every day a leader is challenged in trying to lead people. The ability of a leader to not only embrace a challenge but to allow people to see the challenge is conquerable, fixable, and that the problem can be fixed. The leader accepts the challenge and steps up his her game by working a little harder, thinking a little longer, getting a little better.

In closing, I hope each of you know that you are a leader. Set your goals. Get with that person that you admire as a leader and ask questions. Set aside a time in your day to read/listen to motivational speakers/leaders. It is up to "YOU" to become the best leader you can be. What kind of leader do you aspire to become?

Your President,



Mitsie Benton, President  
Leadership San Marcos—Class 2011



## Final Executive Director Article



Most of us in Leadership San Marcos agree that mentoring others is one of the principal responsibilities of any leader. Standing alongside our new classes and our colleagues as they discover their gifts is one of the joys LSM affords us all. After a number of years serving in various roles within LSM, I've come to see leadership as a kind of creative stewardship. We need to build and to preserve. If we are honest with ourselves, each of us will recognize that quite often others are better suited or better qualified than we are to build and preserve. We have to make this discovery ourselves because, most often, those who are better suited or better qualified are too polite to tell us themselves.

This April we completed the Program with the Class of 2016, and we graduated the Class of 2015. At our Annual Member Meeting we selected a new Executive Committee for the Board, and our incoming President Molly Ann Rosas-Garcia announced her new Board. Along with their graduation, the Class of 2015 celebrated the successful completion of their Class Project, the restoration of the vintage La France fire engine. The Class of 2016 updated the Membership on their Class Project, a variety of much-needed upgrades of the Greater San Marcos Youth Council facilities. Both of these classes have shown considerable creativity in their fundraising, and, as all successful classes have had to do, have overcome the concerns of the institutionally skeptical Board. Some things, I suspect, will never change. Nor should they.

One of the more resonant observations made during the graduate testimonials at this year's graduation was noting the transformation from "What can I get out of LSM?" to "What can I give back to the community?" That is a paradigm shift, and bringing it about is a major part of the mission of Leadership San Marcos. I believe most of us have experienced that shift, and the realization that leadership is, by definition, always about something bigger and more permanent than ourselves.

When Molly Ann gathers her new Board for the Planning Meeting this year I will not be present. My term as Executive Director ended at the stroke of midnight on April 30. I have served on the Board since 2007 and have loved every minute of it. Leadership San Marcos has led me to experiences and friendships that I treasure. There are others, however, many of them, who are better suited and better qualified to build and preserve Leadership San Marcos in the years ahead. I intend to support their efforts and celebrate their successes as a "paid up" member of the Leadership San Marcos Alumni Association, and I hope you'll all continue that journey with me. Without question, San Marcos is a better place because of Leadership San Marcos.

Best regards to all,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R/B".

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 2012-2013 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, Mark Newton, 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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\*Please submit feedback regarding the newsletter to [leadershipsm@grandecom.net](mailto:leadershipsm@grandecom.net).