

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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LOCAL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSPEOPLE JOIN NEW CLASS OF BERGEN LEADS

North Jersey: Bergen LEADS, the County's first and only civic leadership program, began its seminar year September 10. The program, sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County, prepares leaders to tackle the tough challenges facing Bergen County today and in the future.

The class, which was chosen through a competitive process in early 2012, will meet monthly to dissect issues, debate viewpoints and develop approaches to community problems. Under the guidance of former Bergen County Executive William "Pat" Schuber, Bergen LEADS Seminar Director, participants are immersed in a stimulating curriculum that not only introduces them to topical issues of local importance, but also enables them to explore their leadership styles, enhance their leadership capacity and become meaningfully engaged in helping to solve some of the challenges facing Bergen County.

"We are thrilled with the level of commitment and energy that this new class demonstrates. A critical component of Bergen LEADS is developing in participants a sense of responsibility for the community," says Amanda Missey, Bergen LEADS Director. "We're eager to see what this class will accomplish. Will they champion a cause? Run for office? Launch a social enterprise venture? Lead a community organization? The sky's the limit."

The members of the 2012-2013 Bergen LEADS class are:

Ridgewood resident Karen Acker, of West Bergen Mental Health Care; Paramus residents Denise Andersen of the American Cancer Society and Rachel Glickman of Northwestern Mutual; Evan Miller of Berkeley College in Paramus, and a Hopewell resident; Sparta's Betty Garger with the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey in Paramus; Walter Beese of Carlstadt, an officer with the Carlstadt Police Department; Hoboken resident Natalie Cullen, with Kreisler Manufacturing in Elmwood Park; Hackensack residents Jeff Chandler of JCDTalks, Frances Cogelja, Mark DeGuzman of Rutgers University Newark, Karen DiMaria of Gilda's Club Northern New Jersey, and Carolyn Myles of Flaghouse; Daniel Ritson, of Archer & Greiner, PC in Hackensack, and a Hoboken resident; Cynthia Chazen, a resident of Demarest; Rutherford resident Kathleen Hansen of Boiling Springs Savings Bank; Glen Rock residents Meredith Lee of ISED Solutions and Marc Sturiale of Five Star Premier Residence of Teaneck; Carole Lotito, of Kallman Worldwide, and a resident of Cresskill; Haworth resident Jeanne Martin, with Pascack Valley Meals on Wheels; Sharyn Matthews of Spectrum for Living in River Vale, and a resident of West Milford; Michael Miklas of Wyckoff; Lodi resident Alexandra Noriega of United Water; Sandra Pinkerton of Fort Lee; Daniel Polin with Rockland Electric and resident of Ramsey; Waldwick residents Michele Rey of Boiling Springs Savings Bank and Paul Schatz of Environmental Waste Management Associates; Teaneck resident Emil Stern of the Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute; River Edge resident Susan Usatine of Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, PA and PSEG's Vito Viscomi of North Arlington.

Bergen LEADS seeks individuals from all ethnic, racial and socio-economic backgrounds who espouse different political, religious and social views for future classes. Visit www.bergenleads.org for more information. Applications for the next Bergen LEADS class will be accepted January 1 to April 2, 2013.

Founded by the Junior League in 1966, the mission of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County is to strengthen the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, operating model direct service volunteer programs, building capacity for effective volunteering, and participating in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.



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