

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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For immediate release
September 16, 2013

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Bergen LEADS, Bergen County's premier civic leadership program, has begun its 2013-2014 seminar year. 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. Call 201-489-9454 or visit www.bergenleads.org for more information. The new class of 2014 visits the historic Steuben House in River Edge as part of their opening session

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 9. 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 2013, 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.”

Funding for Bergen LEADS is provided by participant tuition plus generous contributions from individuals and area corporations and foundations, including BD, Palisades Educational Foundation, PSE&G, United Water Foundation and the Russell Berrie Foundation.

The members of the 2013-2014 Bergen LEADS class are:

Rutherford resident Carmen Addeo, and Lyndhurst resident Maria Rodriguez, both of Boiling Springs Savings Bank; Lauren Turiello, also of Lyndhurst, with Spectrum for Living; Oakland resident Jonathan Backhaus of Orange and Rockland Utilities; Hackensack resident Dana Roberts, partner of IFS; Clifton residents JoAnn Berenguer of United Water NJ in Hackensack and Todd Vanderpool of the Boys and Girls Club of Garfield; Oradell residents Joseph Carnevale of Gramkow, Carnevale, Seifert & Co, LLC and Maria Rini of RE/MAX Real Estate; Fort Lee residents Sandra Pinkerton and Marlene Cergano of the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades; Shoum Chakravarti of Homefront Business Services LLC, and resident of Secaucus; Timothy Chou of Paramus, with United Water NJ; Archer & Greiner employee Nilufer DeScherer of Woodcliff Lake; Park Ridge resident Lisa DiGaetano of Bergen Community College; Alexis Fatigati, of CarePlus NJ and resident of New Milford; Margaret Keane of PSE&G and resident of Dumont; Englewood’s Samuel Lee of Encounters in Black Traditions, Inc.; Mary Lyons-Kim of Wyckoff, with DeFino Realty; Cliffside Park’s Sheila Moore, with SWM Productions; Glen Rock resident Michael Morea of Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, PA; Teaneck resident Cynthia Mullins-Simmons; Joanne Murad of NJ Board of Public

Utilities and resident of Waldwick; Weehawken resident Linsey Schwetje of the Sigma Group in Upper Saddle River; Ramapo College's Eddie Seavers of Midland Park; Fair Lawn residents Bruce Silberman of Great Escapes in Travel and Creative Horizons, and Erica West of Children's Aid and Family Services; Phil Wells of Hillsdale, with Peter Raymond Wells Architects.

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, 2014.

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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