

Accolades



Sergeant Adam Kaskey, Crime Analyst Lisa Gregory and Lieutenant Bryan Ivings at the FDLE Analyst Academy Graduation.

■ Sarasota County Crime Analyst **Lisa Gregory** graduated from the 27th class of the **FDLE Law Enforcement Analyst Academy** in Orlando. She becomes the fourth crime analyst in the agency to receive state certification. The academy, which began in 2003, is the first of its kind in the nation. During the six-week course analysts learned criminal and intelligence analysis skills that are used by law enforcement to successfully prevent crime and conduct complex investigations.

■ **Lykes Insurance** has recognized **Beth Joseph**, private risk consultant at Fiducia Insurance, LLC, as one of its sales leaders during its annual Leaders Club Sales Incentive Trip. Fiducia Insurance, a premier insurance services and risk management solutions company, was created under the umbrella of Neal Communities and Lykes Insurance. Leaders are selected on the basis of meeting and exceeding goals for the year. Joseph began her insurance career in 2001. As a private risk consultant with Fiducia Insurance, she works with her clients and educates on the coverage that best fits their insurance needs. Joseph has a degree in computer science and holds Florida licenses in property and casualty and life and health. As a separate entity in partnership between Neal Communities and Lykes Insurance, Fiducia Insurance provides insurance services and risk management solutions across Florida.

■ **Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC)** was named the recipient of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce **Best Non-profit Business of the Year Award**. “It is the staff, volunteers and supporters of SPARCC’s mission to stop domestic and sexual violence in our communities that position this organization for success,” President and CEO of SPARCC, Jessica Hays says. “SPARCC consistently strives to provide the very best programs and services to survivors, and the agency is humbled to have been recognized and grateful for the long-standing support of the Venice community.” SPARCC serves its participants with outreach offices in Venice, Sarasota, North Port and Arcadia. Its primary goals are to provide free and confidential programs and services; 24-hour hotline, 24-hour shelter, safety planning; counseling; case management; information and referrals; profes-

sional training; advocacy/accompaniment; system coordination; support groups and community awareness programming and education. Recently launched programs, such as legal services and onsite counseling, in conjunction with ongoing programs and services provide survivors with the comprehensive wrap-around care needed to achieve a future free from violence.

■ **Sharon Kunkel**, president of **Wordslinger Marketing & PR**, private risk consulhas been named to the **2017 Joe Curley Rising Leader Class of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA)**. Kunkel, whose firm has been in operation since May of 2014, is an officer of the local Central West Coast Chapter of the FPRA, serving as vice president of communications.

The Joe Curley Rising Leader Award is intended to identify and honor up-and-coming individual FPRA members who demonstrate emerging leadership traits along with dedicated active involvement in FPRA chapter activities, programs, functions and events. Membership into the Rising Leader Class is determined by chapter nomination, one candidate per chapter. All finalists for the award receive a \$150 state professional development credit; three scholarships will also be made available to members of the current Rising Leader Class for leadership and continuing education opportunities. The winner of the Joe Curley Rising Leader Award, selected from the Rising Leader Class of that year, will be announced during the FPRA annual conference, which takes place in Orlando in August.

■ **The Historical Society of Sarasota County (HSOSC)** honored members **Brenda Lee Hickman** and **Kate Holmes** with the **Distinguished Service Award** for 2017.

Brenda Lee Hickman served on the HSOSC Board of Directors for 18 years and has been on the Advisory Board for four. She has managed the Historical Cruise on Sarasota Bay on the Le Barge boat event for 26 cruises, making it into a profitable fund-raiser and community friend raiser.

Hickman was one of a dozen Historical Society members who followed behind the Bidwell-Wood House and the Crocker Memorial Church when these two historic structures were moved from the Rosemary District to Pioneer Park in 2006 and later placed under the protection of the Historical Society. Hickman is a docent for the two historic properties and she runs the history bookcart which is available to member at monthly meetings and special events. Kate Holmes created the Historical Society of Sarasota County’s web site and maintained it as well as the Society’s blog and social media outreach. She is credited with

literally bringing the Historical Society into the 21st century digital age which elevated the profile of the organization and made new types of outreach possible. Working with the Historical Society during several terms on the Board of Directors, Holmes also helped to create and shape the docent program and worked on fund-raising events ranging from antique appraisal fairs to the Giving Challenge campaigns. Additionally, Kate Holmes authored the Historical Society’s informational booklet and served as a judge on History Day. Currently Holmes serves on the HSOSC Advisory Board and raises funds for the Historical Society by presenting a living-history interpretation of Bertha Palmer to civic groups for an honorarium that comes to HSOSC.

Appointments

■ **Kara Saunders** has been named Director of Communications for **Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation (SMHF)**. Saunders has a background in health-



Kara Saunders

care marketing. Prior to joining the Foundation, for five years Saunders was the operations manager for Sarasota Memorial Health Care System’s HealthFit medically integrated wellness facility. She has also served as the marketing manager for Physicians Regional Healthcare System in Naples, FL, and was the interim director of marketing for Southeast Georgia Health System in Brunswick, GA. Saunders’ advertising and marketing agency experience includes positions with Sarasota-based Knight Marketing and Baskerville Advertising.

As Director of Communications for SMHF, Saunders will be responsible for the design, development, coordination, and production of strategic marketing and advertising programs. Saunders is a long-time member and former board member of the American Advertising Federation Suncoast Chapter and the Young Professionals Group. She has served on several local committees, including the M.D. Anderson Polo Under the Palms fundraiser, the Selby Botanical Gardens Orchid Ball as Chair, and the Make-A-Wish organization as a committee member.

■ **State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota**, has hired an assistant director of finance with experience in fiscal oversight. **Shan-Mei Phillips** previously worked for Hawaii’s Department of Education as a fiscal specialist. Prior to that, she worked as a CPA licensed auditor in a national public accounting firm. Phillips reports to Lou Woroch,



Shan-Mei Phillips

who recently was promoted to director of finance. In Hawaii, Phillips was responsible for modernizing financial processes and systems to improve the overall workflow. She plans to focus on streamlining the accounting office’s workflow to improve its efficiency. Phillips also wants to help the College respond to student financial concerns more quickly.

Business News

■ Former Sarasota Mayor and City Commissioner **Suzanne Atwell** announced plans for **The Suzanne Atwell Show** a multi-platform content initiative that includes branded Social Media, Digital



Suzanne Atwell

Videos, and a half hour Public Affairs program. Hosted by Suzanne Atwell, the show will debut in October and provide a venue for discourse on issues, events, and causes that shape the Sarasota/Manatee region. The mission of the project is to engage community leaders with in-depth interviews and news reports that promote public understanding and context. The Digital and Social Media phase of the project began June 9 with the launch of SuzanneAtwell.org, Facebook/SuzanneAtwellShow, and YouTube/SuzanneAtwellShow. Distribution partnerships for Suzanne Atwell Show programming are being negotiated with Broadcast Television, Cable, and Digital Direct. Final plans to be announced later this summer. Suzanne had this to say about the project, “I just felt the time was right to do something like this, whether it be Social Media like Facebook or traditional Public Affairs programming. I want to continue to be involved and work hard to create a trusted destination for truthful debate that hopefully contributes to a better informed and collaborative community.”

The show’s concept and production are developed and supervised by Executive Producer Steve Sabato. Sabato is a nationally recognized, award-winning media executive with forty years’ experience managing television stations and newsrooms. In addition to content development, and media consulting, he currently writes and reports Editorials on WWSB-TV, the ABC affiliate in Sarasota, Suzanne Atwell Show and affiliated digital platforms are owned and operated by Atwell Media, a Sarasota-based Limited Liability Corporation. Media and other inquiries should be sent to Suzanne@SuzanneAtwell.org.

■ **Melinda B. Hart, M.D.**, a board-certified general surgeon specializing in breast surgery, has been appointed to the **Venice Regional Bayfront Health Board of Trustees**. Dr. Hart previously has served as Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff at Venice Regional. She has practiced surgery in Venice and Englewood since 1991, and since 2005, her practice has focused on breast cancer patients.

Dr. Hart received an undergraduate degree from Florida State University and a medical degree from the University of South Florida, where she also completed a residency in general surgery. The Venice Regional Board of Trustees provides counsel and support for the hospital’s administrative leadership. ■

Board News

■ **Friendship Centers’** Board of Governors has two new members to join regional community leaders from five counties to govern Senior Friendship Centers and Senior Friendship Centers Foundation. Friendship Centers welcomed **Tom Rice**, representing Charlotte County and **Christine Fenn**,

representing Lee County, as the newest members of the Friendship Centers’ Board of Governors. Rice is the former CEO and administrator of Fawcett Memorial Hospital in Port Charlotte, FL. Rice lives in Charlotte County and volunteers on the boards of several community organizations. He is past president of United Way Charlotte County and the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce. Fenn has worked in the senior care industry for her entire career as a corporate senior manager of a continuing care community, a case manager for the Area Agency on Aging in Illinois, director of senior nutrition, assisted living community director and was the chairman of the Village of Schaumburg, IL Committee on Aging. Fenn currently volunteers for Friendship Centers in the Adult Day Service program and the Friendship at Home program in Ft. Myers. She lives in Lee County. For more information, visit friendshipcenters.org.

■ **Take Stock in Children of Manatee County** has announced its **Board of Directors** for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Officers: Vincent Foderingham (Chair), Mark Barnebey (Vice Chair), Anne Heller (Secretary), Michael Corley (Treasurer), Sandy Haas-Martens (Asst Treasurer); New Board Members: Edward G. Viltz, Dr. Phyllis Brooks, Ghingo Brooks, Dr. Laurey Stryker, Terry Rehfeldt; Continuing Board Members: Mark Arnold, Dan Doyle, Elaine Graham, Brent King, Marc Krupp, Patrick Mackey, and Lori Mirandilla. Take Stock Manatee is grateful for the service of these community leaders.

Take Stock in Children was established in 1995 as a non-profit that provides a unique opportunity for deserving low-income students to break the cycle of poverty through education. They offer students college scholarships, volunteer mentors and hope for a better life. Once accepted into the program, each student complies with rigorous standards and meets with a mentor once a week. Take Stock in Children has a 96% high school graduation and college matriculation rate for students selected for the program.

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