

# The Update

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

SPRING 2017

## 2017 Allen G. Blezak Friend of LEAD Award Recipient is Ken Madden



*Pictured are Kerry Glandt, NE LEAD Alumni President with Ken Madden, this year's recipient.*

The Friend of LEAD award is given annually to someone who has provided distinguished service and superior support to the LEAD program. Since the inception of this award, 17 individuals and organizations have been recognized. Ken Madden is the 2017 recipient of this year's award. Ken is a native of Indianola Iowa, graduated from the University of South Dakota and after college served as an officer in the U.S. Army. Ken is a Vietnam veteran. Today Ken and his wife Mary live in West Des Moines. They have three grown children and five grandchildren.

Ken began his career with Pioneer Hi-Bred International in 1970 moving up from District Sales Manager to Regional Sales Manager and after moving to Lincoln in 1984 as the Marketing Manager of the new Plains Division of Pioneer. In 2001 Ken and his wife Mary moved to Minnesota where he became the Manager for the largest agricultural crop protection distribution for Du Pont Pioneer. In 2003 they moved to Des Moines where he became the Demand Creation Network Man-

ager for Pioneer North America.

During his time in Lincoln, Ken became involved in a number of agricultural organizations and activities, one of which was the NE LEAD program. He served on the board for a maximum term of six years during the time frame of 1988 to 1994 and as Chair of the board for the 91/92 year. Comments from those who served with Ken during his tenure on the board were: "I remember the time we wanted to send out a program update along with a solicitation for additional support to donors and other interested individuals, but we didn't have the money to pay for the postage. It was Ken who stepped up and offered to cover the cost of the postage through his office" and "It was Ken who fully understood the finances of the program and although not popular, stepped forward to endorse the concept of having the "fellows" cover a larger portion of the program costs". One person commented "I can think of so many things that Ken did and contributed while on the board, but the big thing was his gift of leadership . . . when the going got tough it was Ken who was able to pull us together, challenge us, and motivate us to move forward for the good of the cause".

THANK YOU Ken, for your leadership and support!



## President's Message

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*Kerry Glandt, LEAD XIV*

As I write this only a few days away from spring, I can't but think that pesky little ground hog knew what he was thinking when he saw his shadow back on the 2nd of February. We awoke the second morning to a dusting of snow! I'm still optimistic that the forecast has us in the 70's again this coming week for the arrival of spring and our great farmers will once again hit the fields as they prepare for this upcoming season!

We have covered a lot of ground since the last newsletter. We were in Kearney in January when LEAD Class 33 put on a great Annual Conference in conjunction with our annual meeting. We, LEAD Alumni, also attended the Nebraska Leadership Summit 2017 that we co-sponsored with the Farm Bureau, Nebraska State Chamber, Nebraska Bankers Association, Nebraska Hospital Association, as well as the Nebraska LEAD Program. I felt this was one of the better conferences outside of our LEAD conferences that I've attended in recent years. Several of the speakers had a great and powerful message towards leadership and giving back to your community as well as your state. Paul Eurek explained how he returned to his home town of Loup City, NE and runs his global

business of Xpanxion from his office with locations from Kearney to Atlanta, GA to India and many more as his business is truly one that goes "Beyond Boundaries". Our keynote to finish the day was Rob Quillen of Omaha, NE who is the author of the book "Why Wait". He flew to New York the day before the 9-11 terror attacks and was seated next to airline Captain Jason Dahl. He shared how a chance meeting changed Rob's life forever. In the short flight, these two shared their dreams and what the future might hold. The next day, Captain Dahl was piloting United Airlines flight 93 when it crashed in a field in Shanksville, PA. Rob went on to arrange for Jason's son Matt Dahl to attend a Nascar Race in Kansas City Speedway just a little over a month after losing his dad, but fulfilled his dream of not only attending a NASCAR race, but also to meet his idol, Jeff Gordon. I very much encourage each of you to read the book as I found it to be a very inspiring story which left most all of us with "tears" in our eyes.

This past week on March 10, we had our Spring Board meeting in Lincoln just hours before LEAD Class 35 graduated! Yes, we have now surpassed over 1000 LEAD Fellows that live across Nebraska and the U.S. and are joined together by the bond of the "LEAD" Experience. I recently had an opportunity to visit with a few that made it to our annual conference that have not been active in LEAD for almost 20 years and couldn't believe the feelings that were re-kindled during the conference, the memories as if it was just yesterday. I know people go on to become involved in other things, become busy with raising a family etc., but I do encourage those that are not members of our Alumni to come home, and get involved. LEAD Alumni is a great way to regroup and find support, stand tall and help LEAD agriculture into the future. Strength is in numbers and networking to become informed and share the message back in our home communities whether you are speaking of GMO's, property taxes, or a voice in our local school systems. I encourage you to reach out not only to your classmates, but others that have shared this experience. LEAD Class 5 were recognized this past week for 30 years since they graduated from the program. Many of the class members returned to Lincoln to be recognized on Friday night at the LEAD Graduation and Honors night. Yes, the locations of International Travel Study were different locations, but many things were of common ground and so enjoyable to visit with them as well as all of those that were in attendance.

# Nancy's Notes



*Nancy Eberle, Executive Secretary*

Wow have we been busy – as you can clearly see from the items in this newsletter. The winter months are always a whirlwind of activity so we can “rest????” in the summer months.

We just completed the survey of the alumni, and although I was disappointed in the number of surveys returned, those that did take the time to do it gave us great insight on what they have taken part in and enjoy as offerings of the LEAD Alumni Association. One suggestion has to do with this newsletter. Although there is a calendar of activities on the website (which I try to keep updated), a calendar included each quarter in the newsletter would be desirable. As you can see, I’ve added that. Overwhelmingly the number one item alum like to receive from the association is our newsletter, and through snail mail, not electronically. I always assumed that to be the case as I very seldom get any takers when I offer it electronically. If you ever do desire an electronic copy (to share or to print), the newsletters are all held (at least for the last couple of years) on the website. You can access them there.

There has been a huge flurry of activity since the end of the year. The annual LEAD Alumni Conference hosted by LEAD 33 was phenomenal. Approximately 120 people attended and I know all were impressed with the quality of the program, the venue, the food and the networking. Congrats go out to Matt and his team (pictured in the newsletter) for a job VERY WELL DONE!

We recently held our second NE Leadership Summit on March 2 in Kearney. As you can see from the comments included in the newsletter, it really was a great day. We held our first “trial” in 2015 and now again in 2017. The content of the summit is meant to be educational, motivational and professional development for all of the leaders in the five organizations that cooperate to put it on. If you didn’t attend, you missed out!

Congratulations should go out to LEAD Class 35 who graduated from the LEAD program this month. I had the honor of spending several hours with them on their last day discussing leadership opportunities going forward. I hope they decide to become involved and active with our association and expand their network through all of us who “have been there.”

We are just getting a good start on planning the Ag Adventure Tour for July 14 and 15, 2017 to NE Nebraska. Things on our “to do” list so far are visit a hydroponics plant, visit the first “hands free” dairy, visit Ash Falls Fossil Bed, perhaps learn a little more about the native American culture in that area, and visit Pilger to see how they are rebuilding after the devastation of the tornado that razed the community a couple of years ago. All good stuff!!! Watch for notices of the tour and the registration forms on Facebook and our website. A full schedule will be printed in the June newsletter.

Lastly, I want to send out a HUGE thank you to Tim Graff for his dedication and help in putting out the 2017 LEAD Directory. A great deal of time and effort go into keeping our alumni database kept up – and it’s getting bigger every day. The directory is hot off the press and if you don’t already have it, it should be winging its way to you soon. THANKS Tim!!!

Happy spring . . . . Until next time, LEAD on . . . . .

# LEAD Alumni Q and A with Marv Reichert



*Marv Reichert*

Hello LEAD alumni, I am a member of LEAD XXX. My wife Janet and I live just East of Elm Creek, next to US 30. I have been involved in production Ag for 43 years, beginning with seed production for Monsanto. Our crop mix consists of corn, soybeans, seed corn, and 25 acres of hand-picked sweet corn sold directly to consumers. We also have a Vaculator business, manufacture and sell a patented engine controller and own Reichert Irrigation, which for the past 3 years has been researching and developing a new and more efficient method of sub-irrigation with the use of drainage till and charging towers.

Elected offices include 8 years as an Elm Creek school board member and President and the last 13 years on the Central Platte NRD board. I also am an originating member of the Elm Creek School Foundation and serve as VP.

Those who read this article have enjoyed the LEAD experience and know the value and benefits of the program. After failing to be selected for LEAD IV, I waited until I was encouraged by Mick Reynolds to try for LEAD XXX. I know the wait was a blessing because coming to the program at 57, I believe I was more cognizant and appreciative of the opportunity. Next to marriage and kids, LEAD was one of the best experiences in my life. As an introvert, LEAD helped me to improve my social skills, gave me the confidence to speak in public, and exposure to people, places, ideas and leadership experiences.

While there were too many experiences to share, a few do stand out. The first is the diversity in our own state and nation. On our International travel study I came to realization that most people, "are just trying to do the best that they can with what they have". One moment that touched me the most was our tour of Gettysburg and the insight our guide provided. He made you feel as if you were right there in the battle. Until you actually visit the site, it's hard to comprehend the ferocity with which they fought, the number killed, and importance of the battle. As with any war, we should all be humbled by and appreciative of the sacrifice of those before us. Finally, the most enduring, enjoyable, experience was the interaction and friendships with the other 27 individuals in my class who taught me so much.

As for my family, Janet my wife and partner for almost 42 years, is a registered X-ray tech who works at a clinic in Kearney. Our son Hubble, and wife Melissa own Reichert Family Dentistry in Gretna and have a 16 year old son, Harrison. Our oldest daughter Hilary holds a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy and works at a hospital in Kearney. She and Todd, a home builder, have 2 boys, Nate 4 and Wyatt 2 with a daughter due in April. Our youngest, Haylee lives in Spearfish SD and is a partner in American Ag Video Auctions and co-owns American Farm and Ranch Reality.

As for my involvement in the Alumni, I served for 2 years as a board member before becoming VP and then President. I am in my sixth year on the Board and will term out in March of 2018. I have participated in the Annual LEAD Conferences and two Leadership Summits sponsored by the Alumni. LEAD is like a gift that just keeps on giving. Words alone cannot express my gratitude and benefits.

Nowhere close to done at 63 my life looks much shorter than I expected at 25, prompting a new motto:

# Alaska National Travel Study Seminar



*Pat Heyen, National Travel Study Coordinator.*

The final preparations are being made for our 2017 National Study Seminar. Alaska's itinerary is promising to be just as wonderful as we hoped. The agricultural visits are booked and should give us a greater knowledge and insight to the Mat-Su Valley, which today, is Alaska's breadbasket, producing 75 percent of the state's total agricultural output. We have some amazing non-agricultural tours set as well. We will be whale watching in Juneau, riding the Gold Star Dome Train from Anchorage to Seward, participating on a glacier & wildlife cruise in Seward and spending time in Denali National Park. Then we have the pleasure



*Alaska State Fair*



*Juneau Whale Watch*

of spending a full day at the Alaska State Fair. This study seminar is shaping up to be a great one.

**BIG NEWS:** The Alumni Board voted at the March 10, 2017 meeting to begin traveling annually, alternating nationally and internationally. So instead of waiting until 2019 for our next international study seminar, we will be traveling in 2018.

**The selected destination for the 2018 seminar is PERU**

**The Travel Dates are: February 15-24, 2018.**

**The full study seminar itinerary, cost and registration forms are attached.**



*Cusco, Peru*



*Agricultural Terraces*



*Machu Picchu*

If you have the desire to travel with the greatest group of people since your LEAD experience, get your registration form to me ASAP, as this study seminar will be a popular one.

Registration priority is to LEAD Alumni and LEAD Alumni & their Spouses. We want to make sure as many Alums wanting to travel have the chance.

If you are single Alum and would like to travel to Peru, and be paired with another single Alum traveler, please indicate so on the registration form. Also give me a call or email me so I can let other single Alums know. This will save you the "single supplement" cost, allowing you to register as a "double" if we pair you.

You will need a passport to travel to Peru. But no visa is required.

The Activity Level: ACTIVE – Walking up to two (2) miles a day over varied terrain; overnight stays at high elevations up to 11,200 feet.

**Please send your completed registration form and deposit to:**

**Pat Heyen, Travel Study Coordinator  
1649 Hartley Street • Lincoln NE 68521**

I will forward them to Tiffany Trump Humbert, Trump Tours, Ag Tours USA.

If you have any questions or want to get ahold of me, please give me a call at:

**Cell – (402) 314-3430 • Home – (402) 261-8648**

**Email – [pheyen@friedmanlaw.com](mailto:pheyen@friedmanlaw.com)**

I am very excited to be a part of this Travel Study Seminar, LEADing you to PERU.

# Nebraska Leadership Summit

Thursday, March 2, 2017



*LEAD Alumni and Farm Bureau leadership members joined forces for a quick legislative update prior to the opening keynote.*

economies. New models of economic development are emerging to address this issue. However, these models, which prioritize local business creation and growth, require an all hands on deck approach from local leadership. This presentation discussed these models of economic development and why leaders

from all sectors in small communities are needed to make these models effective and grow rural communities.

12:15 p.m. **Lunch & Presentation** Lunch sponsored by:

Paul Eurek, CEO - Xpanxion LLC

Paul Eurek shared his insights on the digital transformation of Nebraska companies and the roller coaster ride of starting, operating and successfully developing an exit for shareholders.

1:30 p.m. **Building Blocks to Success**

Josh Erickson, Team Concepts

Relationships are the building blocks to success. This session allowed us to meet conference attendees who are leaders across the state in business, banking, healthcare, agriculture and their communities.

2:30 p.m. **What Great Leaders Do**

Rory Rowland, President & Founder - Rowland Consulting

Leadership expert and author Rory Rowland described how the best leaders earn undying trust and respect from their people. Through hundreds of interviews with employees and years of leadership training, he's discovered the secrets to why employees feel loyal to their employer and how managers can increase this commitment.

Among the topics he discussed: How the best leaders in the country earn employee loyalty; What the ultimate goal of any leader or manager should be; Why you must "sell the vision" to your employees; Why coaching is so important and how to do it right; and How to improve communication and trust in your organization.



*Dell Gines served as our opening keynote speaker.*



*Paul Eurek, CEO of Xpanxion LLC, spoke to us during lunch.*



*Josh Erickson, Team Concepts.*



*Rory Rowland, President and Founder of Rowland Consulting.*



*Rob Quillen, Inspiration Speaker and Author.™*

### 3:30 p.m. **Why Wait?**

Rob Quillen, Inspiration Speaker & Author

Rob Quillen's message was a very positive lesson that he learned from the tragic events of 9-11. Rob talks about how a series of coincidences led him to be sitting next to a perfect stranger on September 10, 2001 on a flight to Newark, NJ, that neither individual was supposed to be on. This led to a conversation, one in which the stranger told Rob a dream that he had for his 15-year-old son. The stranger that was sitting next to Rob on the flight was Jason Dahl, who was the pilot of Flight 93 that crashed into the field in Shanksville, PA, during the terrorists attacks the very next day.

Quillen outlines how to make someone's dream come true, and he challenges each and every one in the crowd to think of one person in their life and set out to make their dream come true before it's too late.

## **Testimonials ~**

I absolutely loved the accommodations and meeting areas, but one of the best things of that summit was the networking opportunities. I consider most every farmer and agribusiness professional a small business owner, and in that regard, an entrepreneur. This summit might have been called a Leadership Summit, and it was, but it was definitely geared towards all of us as entrepreneurs and building our communities and local and state business economies. A personal example for me was running into a banker who was a former market president of a major bank in eastern Nebraska and now is CEO of a company that puts deals together for businesses and individuals, and that contact alone was worth the price of admission. I can't stress enough the importance of networking and mentoring others, and this conference showed how important those two things can be and are intertwined. In fact, I would say that out of the 6-8 conferences and continuing education seminars I attend every year, this conference would land in the top two. - - - Ward Reesman LEAD XXVIII

The Leadership Summit "stoked my fire" with very pertinent information that may not align with my personal biases, but were factual, real world. Solid information and networking are two very essential ingredients to the "toolbox" for effective leadership. -- Gerald Clausen LEAD I

I really enjoyed hearing from Paul Eureka. He has been in the software industry for 30 years and has adapted to the technology and people. He shared with us the businesses he has built and sold over the years and his grading system he used to grade himself as he went along. Not too many speakers show their failures that lead up to the successes, I appreciated that. Another thing I picked up from the day is that no matter what industry you are in, successful leadership makes the organization run efficiently. Lastly Rob Quillen's 911 story with "Why Wait". We all have dreams, let's help our loved ones fulfill them now - Why Wait! - - Dan McKeon- LEAD XIII

This is by far the best conference I have attended in a long time. The line-up of speakers was outstanding, as each went beyond the usual leadership development themes and focused in on specific issues and recommendations relevant to all in attendance. As a community leader, the presentation on Leadership and the Local Economy by Dell Gines opened my eyes to different models of economic development, rather than the traditional attraction and incentive based model, especially in relationship to rural communities. --Deb VanMatre, LEAD

# Sharing Intro to Beef with Bryan Ag Academy

On Friday, March 10th, Anita Keys of Elsmere, NE and Doug Straight, Director of Industry Relations for the Nebraska Beef Council traveled to Bryan High School in Bellevue, NE to share a bit about Beef with the juniors enrolled in the Animal Science course.



Bryan is currently the only Omaha Public School to have an agricultural program and has now become the largest FFA chapter in the State of Nebraska. Last week they had their District FFA Career Development Event contest and 24 Bryan FFA teams competed. The Bryan Urban Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Academy has 48 sophomores, 26 juniors and 25 seniors enrolled. Tyler Schindler is the Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA Advisor. In this academy, students utilize knowledge of both urban and traditional agriculture to be innovators in their field and positive members in the community. Agricultural themes are incorporated into their core coursework such as plant and animal science and food production. Students participate in various competitions and regularly attend field trips and conferences across the state. Vegetable and fruit gardens are managed by the students along with other landscaping projects throughout the campus. The Animal Science class was just beginning their Beef/Production unit.



*Anita Keys sharing information about her industry with the group.*

Keys, of LEAD class XVII, was asked to share with the class due to the cooperative effort of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association with the Academy. Her goal was to be the face of a Beef Producer. Coming from the Sandhills, Keys shared how they care for their animals by providing shelter belts for protection during storms, branding and tagging for identification, aiding in calving as needed, and using vaccines, shots and calling a veterinarian just like they would call a doctor for their children. As ranchers, they care for their animals, the bottom line for making a living is having a live calf. Many students had never been on a farm or ranch. Keys shared the Sandhill distances to groceries, shopping and to school.

She shared information on haying, feeding cattle, calving, branding, barbed wire fences, and general life on the ranch. Water is a valuable resource, coming from the Ogallala aquifer. The Sandhills is a fragile ecosystem.

Doug Straight of the NE Beef Council defined beef and bovine terms, breeds, meat cuts, and nutrition. He shared literature from the NE Beef Council. Many careers are related to beef production. Both Keys and Straight stressed the importance of agriculture in Nebraska, as is evident in the current Nebraska legislature with our shortage of revenue. The ag economy effects us all. The students were amazed at the many by-products of the beef animal, from A to Z. The Bryan students came away with a greater understanding of the beef industry and how critical agriculture is to Nebraska.



*Doug Straight with the NE Beef Council presenting at Bryan Ag Academy.*

# 2017 Outstanding Alumni - Tom Schwarz



*The 2017 Outstanding Alumni award was presented by Ken Boswell, committee chair, to Tom Schwarz, LEAD Class X from Bertrand, NE.*

The 2017 Outstanding Alumni award was presented by Ken Boswell, committee chair, to Tom Schwarz, LEAD Class X from Bertrand NE.

The committee had a difficult time with so many deserving alums to choose from, however, looking at the list of items Tom Schwarz has been involved in, you can clearly see he is, has been, and will be a dedicated leader for all issues dealing with agriculture, water, and community. Tom and his wife Linda (also a LEAD alum) have their organic farming operation in rural Bertrand NE. Tom has won multiple awards and is well-respected as an ag leader throughout our state. Listed here is a brief overview of the projects, committees and awards Tom has been involved with:

- Organic Row Crops – Corn, Soybeans, Popcorn, Wheat, Oats, Milo, Blue Corn, Alfalfa
- Aksarben Pioneer Farm Award
- Water Issues: Family Farm Alliance, Director
- Nebraska Water Users, Organizer, Pres., Vice-Pres, Current Treas
- Central District Water Users, President, Vice Pres.
- Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation Dist, Past Director
- Governor’s Water Policy Task Force
- A Farmer’s Guide to Water Rights, published author
- Nebraska Farm Bureau, SLPC Natural Resources, Chair 2 years
- American Farm Bureau, Commodity Committee (Alfalfa) and Organic and Speciality Crops Committee.

Congratulations to Tom for receiving the 2017 Outstanding Alum Award! Very well deserved.



## CLASS NOTES

Congratulations and good luck to:

Jason (LEAD XXX) and Karah Perdue who began their new venture “Perdue Pullets” with 40,000 hatchlings in their fully automated building. Their goal is to grow the hatchlings and at 16 weeks have the pullets ready to sell to a laying barn.

Erik Olson (LEAD XX) who is in the process of developing an orchard near Westin, MO with the hope to be open for business this spring.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**2017 Ag Adventure Tour**

**Where: Northeast Nebraska • When: July 14 and 15, 2017**

**Contact Nancy if you are interested in attending or helping**

**neberle@mainstaycomm.net**

**~ More info to come soon ~**

# MEET THE SENATOR

## Experience abroad informs senator's work at home

Sen. Bruce Bostelman, who is rooted in small Nebraska farming communities, witnessed agriculture's global scale on a recent trip to South Korea where he stood in a dockyard watching ships unload American grain.

He was traveling with fellow graduates of UNL's Leadership Education/Action Development program, in which participants spend two years studying national and international issues facing farmers and ranchers. Bostelman said meeting with U.S. Foreign Service officials and international agencies gave him a better understanding of how global forces affect Nebraska agriculture.

Now he hopes to apply that experience as a state senator.

"International study was very helpful in understanding roles between countries and how our government interacts with them," he said.

Bostelman, a lifelong traveler, joined the U.S. Air Force after high school and spent four years in the U.S. and U.K. guarding aircraft and missile installations. On a later duty assignment in Turkey, he trained to be a paralegal and spent the rest of his 20-year career managing various law offices that handled cases in military justice, civil law, claims, contract law and international law.

He said his legal experience prepared him for his job as a senator, which requires the careful scrutiny of proposed legislation and the ability to think critically about how a bill would affect existing laws and the people of Nebraska.

"I think it gives me a good background," Bostelman said.

The senator maintains a farm near Loma, where he grows woody floral stems and pecan trees. He grew up near the state's southern border in the small farming community of Superior, where his parents still live. His two children and two grandchildren live in Lincoln.

A sportsman who also enjoys scuba diving and hiking, Bostelman said he and his wife, Jan, try to travel abroad whenever they can. Their destinations include the Arctic Circle, New Zealand and the Great Wall of China. They visited Namibia in 2014.

"We'd love to get back again," he said. "You can just see amazing sights — animals everywhere."

For now, though, travel is limited mostly to his district as he visits constituents in the areas of Schuyler, David City and Wahoo. Bostelman said property taxes are the chief concern there, along with funding for education and

correctional services, all issues he hopes to address during his time in the Legislature.

He looks forward to serving on the Natural Resources Committee, which he requested, and on the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, where he hopes to expand broadband internet access in the state's rural areas.

"I think that would really provide us opportunities for more families to move back either to the farm or to our small communities," he said. ■



Sen. Bruce Bostelman and his wife, Jan, visited the Great Wall of China in 2015.

**2017 GOLF OUTING  
FOR LEAD ALUMNI  
AND GUESTS  
HOSTED BY LEAD 34**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2017  
BEEMER NEBRASKA  
INDIAN TRAILS COUNTRY CLUB**

*[HTTP://WWW.INDIANTRAILSCLUB.COM/](http://www.indiantrailsclub.com/)*

- FUNDRAISER FOR THE NEBRASKA LEAD ALUMNI
- 2-PERSON SCRAMBLE, 18-HOLES (MINIMUM 1 LEAD FELLOW/ALUM PER TEAM)
- SIGN IN: 9:00 AM, SHOTGUN START 10:00 AM
- \$140/ TEAM, LIMIT OF 50 TEAMS
- PRIZES TO TOP TEAMS
- MULLIGANS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
- FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE COURSE

**PLEASE RSVP TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE.**

**TO ENTER SEND EMAIL TO: LEADSUMMERGOLF@GMAIL.COM  
OR CONTACT JACOB ROBISON (LEAD34) @ 308-380-3333**

**\*\*MAY REGISTER DAY OF EVENT IF SPACE IS AVAILABLE\*\***

# AGRICULTURE: THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

**2017 Nebraska LEAD Alumni Conference**

## Friday, January 27, 2017

- 4:00 p.m. **Conference Registration Open**
- 4:00 p.m. **LEAD Alumni Board Business Meeting**
- 6:00 p.m. **Member Social and Cash Bar**
- 7:00 p.m. **LEAD Alumni Conference Dinner**  
Welcome and Opening Comments, LEAD XXXIII  
Invocation • Dinner LEAD Conference Video Presentatio • Recognition of LEAD Alumni Board/Dignitaries
- 8:00 p.m. **Evening Entertainment/Activity and Cash Bar • Gayle Becwar, Magician**



*Anita Keys and Deb Van Matre.*



*LEAD 33 - Time for fun.*



*Gaule Becwar. Magician.*



*Left: Friday evening entertainment with Gayle.*



*Right: Networking and "catching up".*

## Saturday, January 28, 2017

- 7:30 a.m. **Conference Registration Open**
- 7:30 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet – Sponsored by: Nebraska Soybean Board**
- 8:30 a.m. **LEAD XXXIII Welcome & Opening Comments**  
Kearney Greetings and Welcome Stanley Clouse, Mayor • LEAD Alumni Board Greetings Kerry Glandt • LEAD Conference Video Presentation Matt Dolch
- 9:00 a.m. **The Challenge of Science Literacy**  
Kevin Folta – Professor & Chairman, University of Florida
- 12 9:45 a.m. **Conference Break – Sponsored by: Nebraska Soybean Board**

- 10:00 a.m. ***The Challenge of Developing New Markets***  
Greg Anderson Nebraska Soybean Board
- 10:45 a.m. **Conference Break – Sponsored by: Syngenta/NK Seeds**
- 11:00 a.m. **Local Business Development Speaker TBD**
- 11:45 a.m. **Nebraska LEAD Program Comments**  
Dr Terry Hejny LEAD Program Director



*Dr. Kevin Folta, Univ of Florida.*



*Greg Anderson, NE Soybean Board.*



*Calvin Wineland with American Butchers.*



*Terry Hejny addresses the group.*

- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch Buffet – Sponsored by: Nebraska Corn Board**  
LEAD ISTS Presentation – LEAD XXXIV
- 1:15 p.m. ***Entrepreneurship Panel The Challenge of Entrepreneurship***  
Neal Ely, Owner, Ely Farms Pickled Asparagus • Mike Brown – Owner, Adams Superfoods • Silas Clarke – City of Hickman • Krisi Boswell – Congressional Relations, AFBF
- 2:45 p.m. **Conference Break Sponsored by – Union Bank & Trust/Big Iron**
- 3:00 p.m. **The Challenge of Local Entrepreneurship**  
Calvin/Desiree Wineland American Butchers
- 3:45 p.m. ***The Challenge of Sustainability***  
Jenny Penny, Land O'Lakes – SUSTAIN Manager
- 4:30 p.m. **Conference Break Sponsored by – Farm Credit Leasing/CoBank**
- 4:45 p.m. ***The Challenge of Today's Agricultural Economy***  
Shane Frahm, Farm Credit Services of America



*Entrepreneur Panel - Silas Clarke with City of Hickman and Neal Ely with Ely Asparagus.*



*Entrepreneur Panel, Mike Brown, Owner Super Foods in Adams and Kristi Boswell, Cong. relations with AFBF.*



*Jenny Penny with Land O Lakes.*



*Shane Frahm with Farm Credit Services of America.*

5:30 p.m.

**Social Hour**

6:30 p.m.

**LEAD Alumni Conference Banquet**

Recognition of LEAD Class VI

**Keynote Address: Michelle Payne-Knoper, Cause Matters**

LEAD XXXIII Thank You and Challenge



*LEAD XXXIII Committee.*



*LEAD IV attendees.*



*Nathan Dorn and Michelle Payne-Knoper, Cause Matters.*



*The Team - Nathan Dorn, Matt Dolch and Mark Suhr.*



*Kearney Mayor Stan Clouse.*



*Dennis Nun, LEAD IV Presentation.*

# Annual Meeting

## Calendar of Events:



*The Executive Committee -*



*Tim with the Treasurers Report.*

**June 3, 2017** - Golf Outing hosted by LEAD XXX V Indian Trails Country Club, Beemer NE

**July 14-15, 2017** - Ag Adventure Tour

**August 16-26, 2017** - Alaska Travel Study Seminar

**August 29, 2017** - NE State Fair Reception and Networking

**January 26-27, 2018** - 2018 LEAD Alumni Annual Meeting and Conference Holthus Center, York, NE

**February 15-24, 2018** - Travel Study to Peru

For more details on any of these events, visit the website: [www.ne-leadalum.com](http://www.ne-leadalum.com)



*Annual meeting attendees!*



*Annual meeting with Kerry and Nancy.*



*LEAD IV members who were honored at our annual conference: Dennis Nun, Terrance Terrell, Mark Knobel and John Kreuscher. No pictured: John Miller.*



*Congratulations to LEAD XXXV, recent graduates of the LEAD program.*

# The Update

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I hope to see you all in York, NE on January 26-27, 2018 at the Holthus Convention Center for our next Annual Conference. I know LEAD Class 34 is well on their way of putting together another dynamic conference! I hope again to see several members not only from LEAD Class 5, but also from LEAD Classes 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, & class 35 which are all celebrating milestones this year! Our Annual Ag Tour will take to the road in the Northeast part of Nebraska. If you know of something in this part of the state that is a must see, please let Nancy or I know and we will try to work it into our Itinerary.

I want to close by saying Thank you to those Board members that have completed their terms this past year: Sheryl Kastanek (28), and Scot Blehm (21). You will be missed! I also want to say welcome to Ward Reesman (28), Larry Hudkins (3), and Mark Holoubek (6) that are joining us as we go forward. We are looking for members to fill openings in Class 21 for Scott Blem, and Class 34. We also are looking for Classes 7 & 8 which have been unfilled for a couple of years now. I also would like to welcome our new Executive Board going forward, and welcome Dennis Nun (4) as Vice President, Anita Keys (17) returning as Secretary, and Stan Mitchel (9) who is also returning as Treasurer. Also I want to thank Marv Reichert (30) for his past service both as President and this past year as Vice President. We will continue to lean on Marv as he will continue in serving his second term. I hope to see more of you around the state this next year at some point and wish you all a great spring and successful year!

*Please remember to submit important  
Nebraska LEAD Alumni news to:*

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association  
Nancy Eberle  
520 Road 20  
Bradshaw, NE 68319  
neberle@mainstaycomm.net

## NETWORK!

Keep the spirit of the  
Nebraska LEAD  
Program ALIVE!

## Update

Update is the official newsletter of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association. The purpose of the publication is to keep you, a vital part of the LEAD network, linked with fellow alumni!