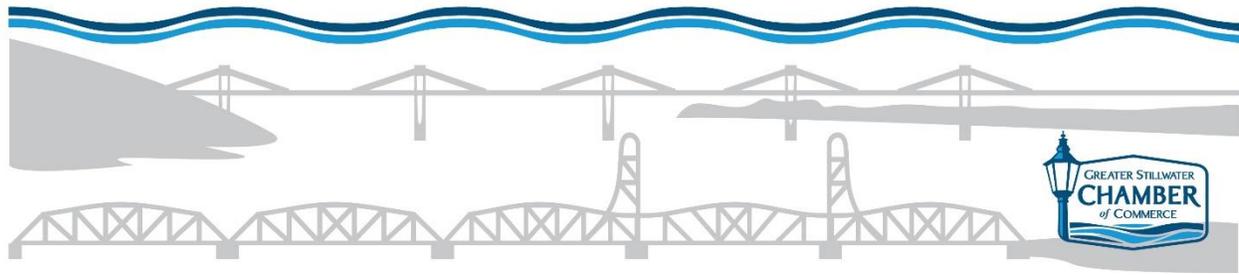


LEADERSHIP IN THE VALLEY



Leadership in the Valley Program *The Founding Graduating Class of 2020*

About the Program

MISSION: To engage local leaders to invest in their community by embracing our history, community affairs, and current challenges to enrich life in the valley, make our communities stronger and enhance personal leadership skills.

OVERVIEW: The program gives participants the opportunity to better understand our community and to prepare for the challenges it faces by meeting with and learning from today's leaders. Leadership in the Valley is an educational opportunity that broadens perspectives and allows participants to gain increased understanding of community dynamics and public issues. The makeup of each year's class is intended to reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of our community.

ELIGIBILITY: Residents who live or individuals who work in the St. Croix Valley area are eligible to apply for Leadership in the Valley. Applications are available March 1st and must be received by the deadline: May 15th (postmark deadline).

STRUCTURE: Leadership in the Valley is a nine-month program from September through May. Classes meet in different locations around the community each month exploring a major topic covered by knowledgeable speakers and panels, tours, group activities, demonstrations and class discussions. Topics addressed include community and the arts, government, agriculture and environment, education, diversity, public safety-law, economic development/business, health and human services, and leadership development. At the end of the Leadership in the Valley program year, a graduation ceremony and dinner will be held in recognition of the class. With 2019-2020 being an inaugural year, the 2020 class will be the first alumni out of the program and will be charter members of the Leadership in the Valley Alumni Association.

ATTENDANCE: Leadership in the Valley requires a strict time commitment. Class members must attend a minimum of 80 percent of all sessions and participate in a community project with classmates. The class will break into smaller groups to work together on a community project which will take additional time outside of the class sessions. This is a requirement to graduate from the program. The community projects serve as a crucible where class members will practice and apply leadership skills in a small-group experience, work with community leaders, gain an in-depth understanding of a community organization and/or community need, and make a positive difference in the lives of others. Project work is done outside of regular day session meetings. Meeting times and locations are determined by project group members.

COST: A \$25.00 non-refundable application fee is due when this application is submitted. The tuition fee for Leadership in the Valley is \$1,195 for non-Chamber members and \$995 for Chamber members, which covers all costs for orientation meals, materials, supplies and supplemental transportation throughout the year. The fee may be paid by the participant and/or their business firm or organization. Payment must be received by August 1, 2019, to participate in the program.

BENEFITS

Leadership in the Valley allows participants to:

- Gain exposure to current issues and developments
- Visit local sites and facilities
- Meet local and regional leaders
- Develop and expand network of contacts
- Broaden perspectives and understanding
- Build friendships and working relationships with class members
- Give back to the community through participation in group project
- Bring together people who welcome the opportunity to expand their involvement in community affairs and are willing to explore new leadership responsibilities in the valley
- Enhance and grow leadership skills and form beneficial professional relationships
- Stimulate an understanding of the forces and trends affecting the development of the community
- Increase knowledge of, and commitment to, the greater Stillwater area (the Valley)

Application Process:

Complete the online application. Please allow 30-40 minutes. In addition, each candidate must submit two letters of support with the application, one of which must come from someone outside the applicant's present employer and one from a direct supervisor as appropriate for support to attend the program and refer you. If you are an owner of a business, two letters of outside support are acceptable. The Chamber staff and the Leadership in the Valley Steering Committee are not allowed to prepare letters of support for candidates.

The letters should describe how the person knows you, how long they have known you, and explain why they think you should be considered for Leadership in the Valley.

Participants must attend at least 80% of all sessions (maximum 2 absences). The first kick-off program day is mandatory in effort to develop early cohesion of the group. Attendance below the 80% guideline means the participant will not graduate from Leadership in the Valley. Class projects will consume time outside of the regular day sessions approximately 10-20 hours of outside time. Project group members schedule meetings according to their collective availability.

The Leadership in the Valley Steering Committee will review each application independently. Applications will be evaluated, and applicants will be notified by letter about this year's class selection by the end of June.

Curriculum

Wednesday, **September 11, 2019**, New Class Reception (Evening Event)

Thursday, **September 12, 2019**, Program Kick-Off

Thursday, **October 10, 2019**, Community and the Arts

Thursday, **November 14, 2019**, Public Safety and Law

Thursday, **December 12, 2019**, Diversity

Thursday, **January 9, 2020**, Health & Human Services

Thursday, **February 13, 2020**, Education Day

Thursday, **March 19, 2020**, Business and Economic Development

Thursday, **April 9, 2020**, Government

Wednesday, **May 13, 2020**, Agriculture & Environment

Thursday, **May 14, 2020**, Graduation Ceremony (Evening Event)

The Greater Stillwater Chamber maintains a non-discriminatory policy as an equal opportunity organization to ensure that all participants are treated equally and fairly, regardless of age, race, sex, creed, color, handicap, or national origin.

If you have questions, please contact the Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce at info@greaterstillwaterchamber.com or 651-439-4001.

Thank you to the Steering Committee Members for serving!

Annette Sallman, Stillwater Area Public Schools
Bill Howell, The Goodman Group/The Lakes
Chase O'Keefe, Anchored Chiropractic PLLC
Chris Eng, Washington County
Jeanne Tongson, Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce
Jeff Labs, Royal Credit Union
Jeffrey Wiberg, Solar Consultant All Energy Solar
Jen Bertsch, Moxy Coaching
Jill Greenhalgh, Century College
John Ostrowski, Ostrowski, Insurance Agency, Inc.
Kelly Stenerson, United Way of Washington County - East
Margaret Smith, UXL, Creating Successful Leaders
Robin Anthony, Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce
Sharon Mason, Century College
Stacie Jensen, Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce
Ted Wegleitner, Lakeview Hospital
Timothy Safe, Agent Pathfinder Insurance Brokers
Tom McCarty, City of Stillwater

Check out more on our website [HERE](#).

Apply [HERE](#).