Want someone from the Naples Daily News to speak at your event or club? Please go to **naplesnews.com/customerservice**

Greater Naples Leadership volunteers make difference

Your Turn
Jean Foster
Guest columnist

The board chair of the Naples Botanical Garden; a Champions For Learning mentor assigned to a high school senior; a board member of the David Lawrence Center; a member of the Community Impact Grant Committee of the Community Foundation of Collier County; the founder of Swinging With Purpose; a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Each of these individuals, along with a host of additional prominent and behind-the-scenes men and women, has shared one life-changing experience: all are graduates of the Greater Naples Leadership (GNL) Masters Class.

Why does this matter?

Think about it. Collier County has about 420 nonprofit organizations. Most rely heavily on volunteers to keep their organizations afloat.

Volunteers provide leadership in many different areas, from administration to finance, planning to marketing, and communications to fundraising. Likewise, there are a number of local governmental advisory boards and committees regularly in search of individuals to volunteer their time and expertise.

In each of the last 23 years, GNL, consistent with our mission, has provided proven leaders with a unique opportunity to learn firsthand about the issues and needs in Collier County and continues to encourage them to use their skills and experience to improve the quality of life here.

So many who choose to settle or relocate here bring not only their experience but a real desire to connect, get involved and make a difference — phrases we hear over and over.

GNL has become the conduit to community engagement for literally hundreds of such retired or soon-to-be-retired people who spend their first masters class year learning about all aspects of life in Naples, from social service needs to environmental concerns to cultural arts opportunities.

With so many worthy nonprofits and civic organizations in need of experienced volunteers, a key role for GNL is working to match our graduates based on their expertise, interest and passion with these organizations. Some enterprising GNL graduates with an entrepreneurial flair have even started new nonprofit and civic organizations that benefit countless residents in Southwest Florida.

Everyone benefits! The nonprofits and civic organizations have access to an informed and energized cadre of volunteers, the GNL graduates find fulfilling and meaningful work, and members of our community experience a better quality of life.

If you are an experienced leader and want to get more involved in volunteer work in the Naples community, go to www.GNLwebsite.org to find out more about GNL or contact the organization that matches your interest.

This is Part 1 of a two-part series on GNL. In a future column, I will focus on GNL's continuing collaborative efforts with nonprofits and civic organizations in the community.

Foster is president of Greater Naples Leadership.

Guest commentaries

A guest commentary can be 600 words or less on a topical subject. Authors must have considerable experience, public involvement or expertise in the subject matter. Due to the large number of guest commentaries we receive, these may be returned to the author with a recommendation to resubmit it as a letter to the editor within the guidelines for letters. Submit to letters@naplesnews.com.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 7, the 311th day of 2018. There are 54 days left in the year.
On this date in:
1874: The Republican Party was symbolized as an elephant in a cartoon drawn by Thomas Nast in Harper's Weekly.
1916: Republican Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to Congress, winning a seat in the U.S. House.
1917: Russia's Bolshevik Revolution took place as forces led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky.
1940: Washington state's original Tacoma Narrows Bridge, nicknamed "Galloping Gertie," collapsed into Puget Sound during a windstorm just four months after opening to traffic.

LETTERS

Eliminate large bills, reduce crime

Those midterm election campaigns seemed to be long on personal animosity and short on strong policies to help the country. So, let me float a policy change that all elected officials at all levels should be able to embrace.

Drug traffickers and the underground economy rely on physical cash to conduct their illegal activities. Suppose for a moment there was going to be an illegal purchase of $1 million. If this transaction was funded with $100 bills, it would actually require 10,000 $100 bills. That many bills would require a small suitcase and would weigh almost 20 pounds.

Now suppose a new policy was instituted by the feds and they eliminated and took out of circulation all $50 bills and $100 bills. That illegal purchase would now require a huge duffel bag filled with $20 dollar bills and would weigh 100 pounds. The sheer size and weight would make this illegal transaction frighteningly difficult.

Furthermore, removing those large denomination bills would provide no hardship to the average consumer, but it would cause no end of challenges for the criminals. Imagine trying to "launder" five times as much volume as they currently have to deal with.

What's the downside? It's something to consider.

Bruce Cumming, Estero

Letters policy

Letters can be 275 words or less. Letters may be edited for clarity or taste, to eliminate personal attacks and to prevent libel. Letters may be edited for accuracy, rejected or returned to the writer to resubmit a new letter. The source of a statistic should be attributed within the letter. No poetry, letter-writing campaigns, or airing of a personal grievance against a business. Submissions cannot be handwritten. Publication presently is limited to one per person within a month. City of residence and a contact phone number are required. By email: Use the form at naplesnews.com to receive confirmation of receipt or send to letters@naplesnews.com.

Sir Winston's wisdom

I am including here some words of wisdom sometimes attributed to Sir Winston Churchill:

- Anyone who was not a liberal at 20 years of age had no heart, while anyone who was still a liberal at 40 had no head.
- You don't make the poor richer by making the rich poorer.
- Governments create nothing and have nothing to give but what they have first taken away.
- Socialism is the philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy.
- The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings. The inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries.

On the lighter side, he also reportedly said that a lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.

Mark Ghobrial, Naples

A Democrat and proud American

I am not a socialist. I am not Antifa (a group with fewer members than one large President Donald Trump rally). I am married, worked all my life, raised a wonderful child, and care about others.

I am a Democrat. I do not want to blow anything or anyone up. I am tired of letters calling me names. I am willing to pay taxes to be safe in my town, to eat safe food, drive safe cars, fly in safe planes, receive Medicare and to see that others less fortunate are helped.

I am a Democrat. I do not believe in open borders. I do believe in treating people with dignity and without cruelty. I believe in keeping international order, which I believe requires U.S. moral leadership.

I am a Democrat. I am a proud American.

Leslie Feldman, Naples

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor **Barry Newman** is 80. Singer **Johnny Rivers** is 76. Singer-songwriter **Joni Mitchell** is 75. Actor **Christopher Knight** is 74. Actor **Jeremy London** is 46. Actress **Yunjin Kim** is

Birthright citizenship has gone beyond original intent

Cal Thomas
Columnist

In 2004, nearly 80 percent of Irish voters decided to end birthright citizenship. In its older, that child can then bring in relatives who can also receive all sorts of benefits, including free education and health care. Who wouldn't want a deal like that? It's almost as good as the benefits Congress votes itself.

American citizenship should not be like a Cracker Jack prize. Read the Senate debate thereof" that it meant "not owing allegiance to anybody else and being subject to the complete jurisdiction of the United States." This was understood to also include Native Americans who were then subject to the jurisdiction of their own tribal laws.

Howard responded: "I concur entirely with the honorable senator from Illinois in

(c) Naples Daily News
Wednesday, 7 Nov 2018, 3:43 am (GMT +5:00)
Powered by TECNAVIA