WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Introducing our newest class of leaders.

PG **05**

ON THE CALENDAR

See what's coming up and mark your calendars today.

PG **na**

2016 SANDIES WINNERS

Celebrating the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance's top volunteers.

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PHOTO GALLERY

Check out these great Alliance moments.

PG 12

January 2017





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Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance

LWRBA Board of Directors

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Observer Media Group

Darren Inverso//Past Chair

Norton, Hammersley, Lopez & Skokos, P.A.

Kim French//Incoming Chair Willis Smith Construction

Heather Williams//Treasurer

Kerkering, Barberio & Co.

Lori Denny//Secretary

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Dominic DiMaio//Finance & Sponsorship Co-Chair Synovus Bank

Judy Athari//Membership Co-Chair

Buffalo Lodging

Dani Fox//Membership Co-Chair Dani Fox Hypnosis

Al Benincasa//Events Co-Chair Conditioned Air

Cherri Kessler//Events Co-Chair **BMO Harris Bank**

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Violeta Huesman//Programming Co-Chair Keiser University

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Jag Grewal//Economic Development Co-Chair Ian Black Real Estate

Ken Swan//Economic Development Co-Chair Wagner Realty

Erik Hanson//Young Leaders Alliance Chair Norton, Hammersley, Lopez & Skokos, P.A.

Rex Jensen//SMR Liaison Schroeder-Manatee Ranch

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Gallagher MGA John Barnott//At-Large Manatee County Government

Jeff Maultsby//At-Large

Sarasota County Government

Joseph Najmy//Legal Counsel Najmy Thompson, P.L.

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Sherie Becker//Membership Services Manager SBecker@lwrba.org

Amy Gonzalez//Membership Coordinator AmyGonzalez@lwrba.org

Dan Sidler//Communications & Marketing Manager DanSidler@lwrba.org

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Emergency Department

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www.lakewoodranchmedicalcenter.com









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Lori Ruth//Chair of the Board

Building Off Another Successful Year

The Alliance has a huge amount of momentum moving into 2017 as our organization achieved some remarkable accomplishments in the past year. The time and dedication our members poured into their committees are evident. We provided quality educational programs, engaging networking events and other programs that brought extra value to our members.

This fall we had our first graduating class at the Executive Academy. The LWRBA partnered with game on Nation to create Executive Academy, a results-oriented, leadership-building experience. The program provided tangible skill training for all types of business environments, ultimately helping those enrolled to lead and achieve team

goals fearlessly and successfully. I am proud to say I am one of the 20 members who participated this fall. The "coin collecting" was a skill set that helped us to develop relationships both personally and professionally. Look for information regarding our next class that starts in the spring of 2017.

Hopefully, many of you were able to attend the Sandies Awards Luncheon in November. It was an amazing day to recognize our dedicated members for all the time and talent they selflessly donate. Their passion for our organization was extremely obvious and enormously inspiring. I encourage all members to visit a committee meeting and become more involved.

To say we had a successful year at the Alliance is an understatement. Our challenge that lies ahead is to continue to stay ahead of the curve and offer our members opportunities to grow relationships, provide relevant tools to assist in their success and to come together as a community to support one another. As I look around and see the passion in our members, I am confident 2017 will be another successful year.

Onward and upward!

Lori Ruth 2017 Chair of the Board

Welcome New

Board Members!

Please help us in extending a warm welcome and congratulations to the newest class of leaders joining the LWRBA Board of Directors. Best of luck in the coming year. We're looking forward to seeing what 2017 has in store!



Euents Co-Chair Al Benincasa, Conditioned Air



Finance/Sponsorship Co-Chair Dominic DiMaio, Synovus Bank



YLA Chair Erik Hanson, Norton, Hammersley, Lopez & Skokos, P.A.



Economic Development Co-Chair Ken Swan, Wagner Realty

Special Thanks to our Outgoing Board Members



Barbara Jones Kerkering, Barberio & Co.



CPR Concrete Painting and Restoration

Barbara and Pam have shown incredible dedication and commitment during their time on the board. Your passion and hard work to the Alliance is invaluable. Thank you for your time and effort.

DESIGN

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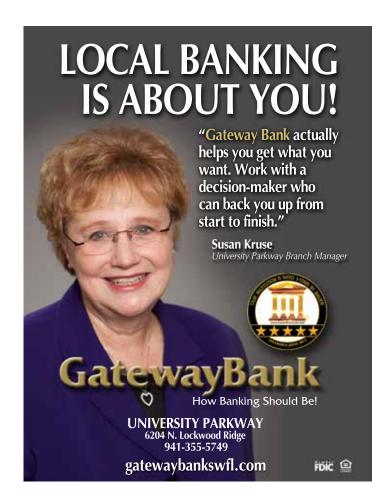














Hands on Deck

Building Engagement in 2017

The word engagement is used so frequently in today's world that we barely stop to reflect what the true meaning of the word actually is. Being engaged is more than just being happy or satisfied. The definition of engagement is a promise to meet or be present at a particular place and time. The words that stand out to us are the words "be present."

Our goal at the Alliance is to have our members fully engaged or fully present. Engaged members lead to better events, better programs and better connections. The Alliance has seven volunteer committees in addition to our board of directors, which help our organization plan and implement strategies intended to help further Alliance's mission to Connect, Educate and Strengthen the business community in the Lakewood Ranch region.

Being present or engaged with our organization takes the benefit of being a member of the Alliance to the next level. Each year we gather feedback from our members through our annual survey of the events, programs and issues that are most important to the health and growth of their organizations. This information is funneled to our committees to intentionally use to plan everything we do as an organization in 2017.

Take a look at the list of committees and see where your skills, talent and time could be a good fit. Feel free to visit the different committee meetings on a trial basis to get a feel for which group might work best for you and your business. We look forward to being engaged with you in 2017!

Join a Committee. The Best Way to Get Engaged is to Get Involved.

Membership: Serves the individual needs of Alliance members and is responsible for recruitment and retention of its members.

Events: Create events and promotional opportunities which build awareness of the LWRBA businesses in the community.

Programming: Secures speakers for the Executive Briefing series, Breakfast of Champions series, and luncheons. Speakers must be pertinent to the purpose of the series, add value to our members, and address current topics or interests.

Communications & Technology: Creates awareness of the Alliance and assists in accurately communicating its news, significant events and viewpoints on issues that affect the Alliance.

Economic Development: Dedicated to enhancing the economic opportunities for all businesses in the Lakewood Ranch community.

Young Leaders Alliance: Provides opportunities for young professionals to enhance their leadership, communication, and project management skills through events and programs.

Governmental Affairs: Responsible for ensuring the organization's long-term political voice for the Lakewood Ranch Area (by invitation only).

On the Calendar

Networking Social // LWR Golf & Country Club

Wednesday, January 11 // **5:00-7:00 p.m.**Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club, 7650 Legacy Boulevard

Celebrate the New Year at the gorgeous remodeled Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club's new and improved Clubhouse! Mix and mingle with your Alliance friends and enjoy the re-opening of the Country Club in all its beauty.

Free for Members // Non-members \$10



Executive Briefing // Performing Every Day

Wednesday, January 18 // 7:30-9:00 a.m. Keiser University, 6151 Lake Osprey Drive

Effective communication is essential for business success. Utilizing the positive humor and training structures of improv, Will Luera of Florida Studio Theatre will present simple yet creative ways of improving business, public and personal communication.

Members \$10 // Non-members \$20



LWRBA Luncheon // 2017 Annual Membership Luncheon

Wednesday, January 25 // **11:30** a.m.**-1:00** p.m. Polo Grill & Bar, 10670 Boardwalk Loop

Our 2017 Annual Membership Meeting will honor our outgoing board members and reflect on the successes of the past year, as well as introduce the 2017 Board of Directors and take a look at what's in store for the Alliance in the coming year.

Members \$35 // Non-members \$45



Networking Social // Grow Financial Credit Union

Wednesday, February 1 // 5:00-7:00 p.m. Grow Financial Credit Union, 11008 Arcade Place, Lakewood Ranch

Join us at Grow Financial Federal Credit Union as we come together for our February Networking Social. Meet new faces and catch up with old friends while enjoying a cash bar and appetizers compliments of Grow Financial.

Free for Members // Non-members \$10



CEO Squawk Box // Allen Carlson

Wednesday, February 8 // 7:30-9:00 a.m. LWRBA Boardroom, 8430 Enterprise Circle, Suite 140

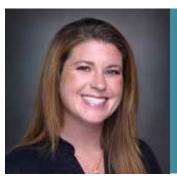
This event is your opportunity to learn from an accomplished leader in our region. Allen Carlson, director of UF's Sarasota Innovation Station and former President & CEO of Sun Hydraulics, joins us to share his philosophy on business and leadership.

Open to Members Only \$20 // Limited to 20 Attendees



Visit us online for a full calendar

Visit www.lwrba.org/events for more information on these and other upcoming Alliance events.



LWRBA Luncheon // Meredith Scerba

Wednesday, February 15 // 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club, 7650 Legacy Boulevard

Meredith Scerba, Executive Director for the 2017 World Rowing Championships, joins us to share how the community can become a part of the history being made with the 2017 WRCH coming to town. In partnership with Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch.

Members \$25 // Non-members \$35



Networking Social // Grill 8000 at Stoneybrook

Wednesday, March 1 // 5:00-7:00 p.m. Grill 8000, 8000 Stone Harbour Loop

Join your Alliance friends at Stoneybrook Golf Club at Heritage Harbour's Grill 8000 for our March Networking Social. This event is the perfect opportunity to make new connections to grow your business. Includes complimentary appetizers and cash bar.

Free for Members // Non-members \$10



Sporting Clays // 2017 Sporting Clays Tournament

Friday, March 3 // 12 p.m. Registration & Lunch, 1 p.m. Tournament Begins Ancient Oak Gun Club. 16800 SR 64 East, Lakewood Ranch

Get ready for our 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Tournament. Suitable for expert marksmen and beginners alike, this event promises to be a fun day of shooting at LWR's own Ancient Oak Gun Club. Includes lunch and awards ceremony.

Individuals \$125 // Team of 4 \$400



Executive Briefing // Protecting Intellectual Property

Wednesday, March 8 // 7:30-9:00 a.m. Keiser University, 6151 Lake Osprey Drive

Attorney Doug Cherry will cover issues of common situations companies encounter in the intellectual property and digital era, such as use of brand names, social media, keeping electronic records, copying materials off the internet, and more.

Members \$10 // Non-members \$20



LWRBA Luncheon // State of the Ranch

Wednesday, March 29 // **11:30** a.m.**-1:00** p.m. Polo Grill & Bar, 10670 Boardwalk <u>Loop</u>

Find out the latest happenings from around Lakewood Ranch as Schroeder-Manatee Ranch CEO Rex Jensen presents an update on the "State of the Ranch." Hear about recent successes, as well as what's in store for our community down the road.

Members \$25 // Non-members \$35

RAISING THE CURTAIN... AND A FEW EYEBROWS!

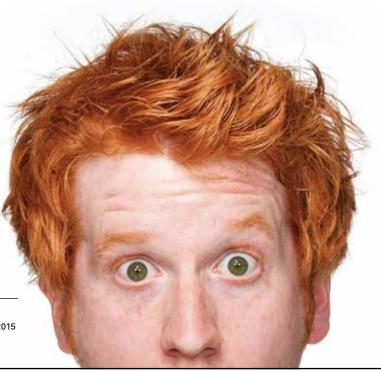
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UPCOMING YLA EVENTS

Thursday, January 26 // 5:30-7:30 p.m. Networking Social at The Capital Grille

Thursday, February 23 // 5:30-7:30 p.m. Networking Social at Craft Growlers to Go

Thursday, March 23 // 5:30-7:30 p.m. Mentor Connect at Cowork LWR

Pay it Forward. Shining a Light on Non-Profits.



The Circus Arts Conservatory, home to Circus Sarasota and Sailor Circus, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization recognized for both performances and community outreach service in Sarasota, Bradenton and beyond. Showcased in a one-ring, Europeanstyle Big Top, Circus Sarasota features circus acts acclaimed for world-class artistry. The lives of thousands of K-12 students and disenfranchised community members are impacted each year by CAC Education and Humor Therapy outreach Programs. The Sailor Circus Academy provides rigorous athletic training and life skills for area youth. As part of its mission, The CAC spends nearly 80% of revenues to support its year-round community outreach programs. www.CircusArts.com



Congratulations Sandies Winners!

The Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance announced this year's winners at the 2016 Sandies Awards on November 18th.

One of a Kind Award

Kim French, Willis Smith Construction, Inc.

Rising Star Award

Jonathan Marsh, Home Helpers of Bradenton

Ray of Sunshine Award

Peggy Kronus, Willis Smith Construction, Inc.

Networking King Award

Ken Burke, Hometown News USA

Networking Queen Award

Morgan Gerhart, Goodwill Manasota

Bull by the Horns Award

John Barnott, Manatee County Government

Young Professional of the Year Award

Ryan McIntyre, McIntyre, Elwell and Strammer General Contractors. Inc.

Best Rancher Award

Felicia Seedorf, Chapman & Associates Real Estate Appraisers

Volunteer of the Year Award

Sally Ullman, Sally Ullman Photography

Check out page 12 for event photos.

Welcome New Members!

Air & Energy

All Children's Hospital Foundation

Allegiant Private Advisors

Autolife Insurance Group, Inc.

Barrett Realty

Bemer Therapy

CalAtlantic Homes

California Pizza Kitchen

Der Dutchman Restaurant & Catering

DutchCrafters

Everglades University

exceler8

Florida Internet Realty

Fresh Kitchen

Fuzical Lakewood Ranch

Glisson-LeBlanc Insurance

Gulf Coast Ketamine Center

Gulf Side Inspection and Concierge

Hampton Inn & Suites Sarasota Bradenton Airport

In Demand Home Services

Lakeshore Development, LLC

Lakewood Ranch Florist

Listening 2 Leaders

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Moore Fowinkle Schroer Agency, Inc.

Pauer Mac

Pillar to Post Home Inspection

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Solgen

SRQuality Kitchen and Bath

Suncoast Charities for Children

Suncoast Festivals

Symbiont Service Corp.

Taylor Morrison

The Circus Arts Conservatory

The Cookie Cottage

Valcarcel Law

Wallace Welch & Willingham

For a complete and up-to-date list of all LWRBA members, visit

www.lwrba.org/MemberDirectory.

Photo Gallery









































Say Cheese!

As 2016 drew to an end, our events season was in full gear. Our members connected at Networking Socials and Luncheons, and even mingled with Lakewood Ranch residents at our Main Street Block Party. But the highlight for us was having the opportunity to recognize nearly 50 hard-working volunteers at our 2016 Sandies Awards.

For more photos from these and other events, check out the LWRBA Facebook page! www.facebook.com/LakewoodRanchBusinessAlliance











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Annette Sciolino-Gueli
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2010-2015 Board of Directors
2010-2014 Events & Fundraising Co-Chair
2010 Chaiman's Award
Winner of two Sandies Awards



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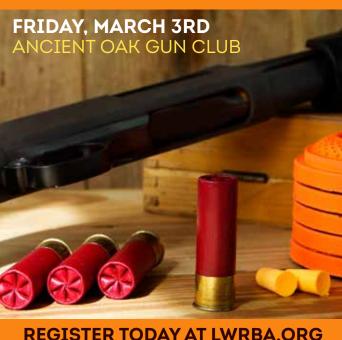


Ken Swan



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Member Tip. Increase Your Power of Connection through an Annual Sponsorship.

2017 Annual Sponsorship opportunities are still available. This is an incredible way to give your company ADDED visibility to our 550+ business members throughout the year. We have an incredible package of benefits at 4 different price points. Don't wait, as some of the categories are industry specific and limited to only one company per given industry.

For more information, contact Heather Kasten at HeatherKasten@lwrba.org or 941-757-1664 x104.

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