

Seeking information:
Cindy Jacques from
Mercy Health Plans
goes over some of the
Leadership Oakland
information at the
program.

Photos by
Bill Hansen

Leadership Oakland Selection Criteria

Application to Leadership Oakland is open to all persons living or working in Oakland County and the Detroit metropolitan area.

The selection committee will be seeking participation from various ethnic, minority, age and gender groups to represent a cross-section of the community.

Participants should be active in business, non-profit organizations, education, organized labor, government, the arts, religious, service or community organizations.

Participants must be members in good standing of a participating member of commerce of the Oakland Leadership Council. Twenty county chambers of commerce participate.

The selection committee looks for candidates who demonstrate the following characteristics:

- A sincere commitment, motivation and interest to serve Oakland County.

- Genuine concern for the future of the county and region.

- Potential for advancement to top leadership positions within their organizations.

- Willingness and ability to make the time commitment required.

- Intention of seeking appointments to community boards, commissions or key volunteer leadership positions.

For an application and more information, call (810) 952-6880 or write Leadership Oakland, 4555 Corporate Drive, Troy, Michigan 48068. The e-mail address is lsu@online.com.



Benefiting Oakland: County Executive L. Brooks Patterson spoke to a group of over 100 about the benefits of Leadership Oakland.

Applicants sought for leadership class

BY JENNIFER PLACINTO
STAFF WRITER

More leaders are being sought in Oakland County.

And people who work and live in the county are qualified for the job, if they are interested in learning more about the community they serve and in giving back to that community.

Leadership Oakland is accepting applications for its 1997-98 program following a kickoff program at the Skyline Club in Southfield Tuesday. More than 100 participants and interested candidates attended the evening event to receive more information and acquire applications for the 50 available spaces.

Maryanne Dunleavy, relationship manager at Metropolitan Banking West in Novi, plans to apply. "It seems like an excellent program," Dunleavy said. "They seem to reach out to a lot of charity groups," the Farmington Hills resident said, adding, "Through that exposure (Leadership Oakland), you can find what interests you the most so you can contribute as a volunteer."

City of Birmingham communi-

ty development director Patricia McCullough, of Rose Township, decided to apply after hearing about the program from her friend, Julie Grantham, an economics instructor at Oakland Community College and a graduate of Leadership Oakland.

"There were so many things in Oakland County that I didn't know about and I've lived here 30 years," Grantham said, adding that she enjoyed learning about the diversity of those who live and work in the community. "It was a great opportunity to get contacts for speakers in my class. I was able to recruit some part-time instructors."

Grantham, a Rochester Hills resident, said the relationships continue to grow after graduation through alumni activities and established contacts. "The people you get to know through Leadership Oakland are people who want to be involved in the community," she said.

Mario Agoeta, director of marketing administration for Health Alliance Plan of Southfield and Detroit, is following a company tradition. "We have a real big commitment to Oakland County," the St. Clair Shores resident

said. "So much of our success is dependent upon people who live and work in Oakland County and it is vital to us to continue that."

Mercy Health Plans in Farmington Hills is offering two Leadership Oakland scholarships for qualified applicants.

"If there's no money or education in the community, the community can't survive," said Cindy Jacques, a Southfield resident and member of the Southfield Chamber of Commerce.

Jacques added that Leadership Oakland participants mentor children and professionals in the community. "I really believe this is where the action is," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, adding that there are 40,000 businesses in Oakland County generating over \$20 billion. "It's a huge investment of the private sector... and it's growing every year," he said, adding that 63,000 new jobs will be created by the end of 1998.

Participants in Leadership Oakland are involved in networking to develop contacts in various sectors of the community, charity work, learning more about issues facing the commu-

nity from economics to education to the environment, and problem-solving activities.

"Leadership Oakland to me is a great investment. You can become part of the solution," and, Patterson said, when a problem needs to be solved, "you will have that association."

Once selected, Leadership Oakland's 1998 participants are required to participate in a three-day September retreat and at least 80 percent of the monthly sessions through June to graduate. The one-month sessions cover a multitude of topics, including economy, government process, education, the justice system, arts and entertainment, racial diversity and the future of Oakland County.

Upon graduation, contacts have been established and there

are more opportunities to stay involved in Leadership Oakland to develop even more contacts.

The cost is \$1,800, but people who submit their application by May 9 will have the \$50 application deposit waived, bringing the tuition to \$1,750. A limited number of scholarships are available to qualified individuals who otherwise might not be able to participate.

Applications are due no later than July 8. Candidates will be notified of the selections in August.

For an application and more information, call (810) 952-6880 or write Leadership Oakland, 4555 Corporate Drive, Troy, Michigan 48068. The e-mail address is lsu@online.com.



Future leaders: Margo King (left), one of the Leadership Oakland founders who's now on the executive committee, with Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce representatives Jody Serpen (community affairs director) and Maria Esposito (president).

WAND honors women's peace efforts

BY JENNIFER PLACINTO
STAFF WRITER

Many women will be remembered by their children this Mother's Day, but a handful of metro area women will also be honored for their peace efforts.

Over 200 women are expected to attend the 10th annual Mother's Peace Day Breakfast Thursday, May 8 at Temple Beth El, northwest of 14 Mile and Telegraph in Bloomfield Township.

Hosted by Women's Action for New Directions (WAND), the event will cater to "anybody that is concerned about the defunding of programs for people and

thinks that there is no money in the national budget to pay for these things," said WAND member Arlene Victor, a Bloomfield Township resident. "We're here to tell them there is a slew of money in the military budget."

The breakfast program begins at 8:30 a.m. It costs \$20 per person.

WAND is a national organization that works to educate the public about federal funding and national security needs. WAND's mission is to empower women to act politically to reduce militarism and violence. The group lobbies Congress to spend less on

arms and more on people and the environment and supports progressive women lawmakers.

"We are spending a fortune on the military budget... while the holes in the fabric of our society are getting larger and larger," Victor said.

WAND will honor the following women: Tobin Hanna-Davies, an Ann Arbor City Council member, Detroit resident Kathleen Straus, president of the State Board of Education of Michigan, Maryann Mahaffey, president of the Detroit City Council, Detroit resident B. Pennie Milender, chairwoman of Michigan Coalition for Human Rights and Vic-

tor, former national president of WAND.

"Were honoring women in this community who advocate for our children which we consider our country's national resource," Victor said.

West Bloomfield Township resident Dr. Alexa Canady, renowned chief of neurosurgery at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, will be featured speaker. Her address will focus on the physician's role in confronting violence.

For reservations, call (810) 968-5099. Tickets will be sold at the door.



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