



Tempe Leadership

# Tempe Leadership Alumni News

January/February 2008

## President's Message

Leaders - welcome to 2008. As we start the New Year off with a sense of optimism and hope for what we will create this year, I would also like to take a moment and reflect on the accomplishments of 2007. We build on the past as we set a course for the future.

Tempe Leadership continues to accomplish a lot with the help of very dedicated volunteers (remember it is only through volunteer effort that TL is around). Before detailing out some of our successes – **thank you to all who make TL a success** – your volunteer efforts do not go unnoticed and without you we would not have one of the finest Leadership organization in the Nation!

Here are a few of the highlights and how the successes of 2008 can be created with your help :

- **TL Class XXIII**, and **TYL Class IX** (Tempe Youth Leadership) are filled with wonderful diverse members of our community and are actively engaged in learning about all aspects Tempe and Civic engagement. For 2008: you can talk about the program, identify potential candidates for another class of exceptional leaders in both programs and volunteer on the program committee.
- **Government Day** combined TL and TYL issue day was a great success! Both adults and youth got to know each other, shared experiences and perspectives and learned about how it really works. (Read the write up inside this issue). For 2008: See above – we are always looking for a few good people to get involved.
- **Conversations in Leadership** – Successfully launched in 2007, this unique event will continue to highlight prominent leaders and focus on their personal thoughts on leadership. For 2008: become a committee member, purchase a table for your friends or as a leadership development activity for your business, talk it up! This is TL's main fundraising event of the year.

- **Alumni Event** - Packed house at a new location, wonderful silent auction baskets from the classes (see article), great beverages and food, and lots of catching up with fellow TL alumni. For 2008: Help throw a great party for all your classmates by being on the committee, talk with them about the class baskets, connect, volunteer, and most importantly show up to the events this year! These great events are for you!
- **Board and Committees** – I again can't say enough about the active and involved volunteers we have running Tempe Leadership! For 2008: there will be some board positions opening up and always areas for you to participate!

With all this great history behind us 2008 is already shaping up to be a success. I look forward to seeing you, or hearing from you in 2008.



Yours in Leadership,

*Kathleen Clark, Class XVI, President*  
602-818-0416  
kclark@solutions-21.com

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[www.tempeleadership.org](http://www.tempeleadership.org)



All alumni have access to the website. Your **user id** is your **first initial and last name** (e.g. tsmith). Your **initial password** is your **last name**. The first time you login to the website, please change your password. If you can not remember your password for the Tempe Leadership website, e-mail and we will reset it for you.

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## Alumni Reception Recap

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### Donor Recognition

Besides all of the alumni volunteers and attendees that made the Alumni reception not only a fun time to reconnect with one another, but also an event that will net close to \$4,000 for the Tempe Leadership Program, there are several donations that need to be mentioned.

#### Special thanks to:

- Melissa and Joseph Lewis for not only the use of their lovely home, but also donations of beer, ice, and the beautiful floral arrangements donated by Melissa's company, Tabletops, Etc.
- Linda Wegener, event chair, for pulling together such a great event. Thank you also to Linda for donating the champagne and sparkling cider.
- Heidi Vail for the delicious and beautiful food donation from her company, Heidi's Events and Catering.
- SRP- for the printing and mailing of invitations, and the use of their sound system. These donations were coordinated by Marcie Greenberg and Dan Shook.
- Beth Fiorenza for coordinating the wine donation from Action Wine.
- Pen Johnson, who coordinated the table and chair donation from the Diablos.
- Harvey Gibson for coordinating Tempe Credit Union's donation of many cases of water.
- Costco for donating the wonderful cakes and Renee Lopata for coordinating this donation.
- Costco Home for the donation of a dining room set for the raffle (and, again, to Renee Lopata for coordinating this donation).
- Tempe Leadership Board members for their raffle donations.
- Mel Kessler and Pen Johnson for their ability to always step in and roll up their sleeves for whatever work needs to be done.

**Thank you all for your donations and help.  
Your generosity is appreciated.**

### Silent Auction Results

Give yourselves a huge pat on the back for the wonderful baskets each class created for the reception! A whopping \$2,305.00 was received.

Congratulations are in order for **Classes III, IV, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, XIII, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI** and **XXII** for their participation in this fundraiser.

It is official.... **Class XXI** has the bragging rights for 2007-2008 as the best class ever!

Their auction basket "Out and About in Tempe" donated \$400 to the Tempe Leadership Program

**Congratulations to Class XXI! ....  
The Best Class Ever!**

The highest bid of \$400 was attained by Class XXI for their "Out and About in Tempe" Basket earning them the "Best Class Ever" bragging rights. Close by in the bidding process was the Class VII basket entitled "Travel" that sold for \$350. Class XII's basket, known as the "Dirty Dozen", closed at \$240, while Class XX's basket, "ASU" sold for \$200. The creativity and thought that went into each basket was superior to many silent auctions seen previously. All alumni should be commended for their participation. The benchmark is certainly high for next year's event. *Sharon Doyle chaired the silent auction* section and is to be thanked for communicating to each class the need for the basket fundraiser.

### Conversations in Leadership 2008

**First Committee Meeting (everyone welcome)  
Wednesday, January 16, 7:30 am**

8267 S. Pecan Grove Circle  
Tempe, 85284

Graciously hosted by Linda Wegener.

RSVP to Renee Lopata - [renee@tempechamber.org](mailto:renee@tempechamber.org)

Come and share your ideas for speakers, marketing, logistics etc - everyone is welcome! We are an energetic and fun committee that loves to put on this premier event. Come and be a part of TL History in the making.

Yes, there will be food and coffee!



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## Class XXIII Introduction

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Twenty-three strangers dropped off at a Y camp, full of kids, bunk beds and bad food. One and half days of ropes courses, emotional breakthroughs and again...did I mention the bad food?! Another reality show? Is this Survivor? Are we back in Girl/Boy Scouts? No, it is Tempe Leadership Class XXIII's first retreat. It actually was an incredible start to what so far has been a great experience.

Day one we learned about each other. All of us had to give 3-minute introductions. It was very creative with drawings, musical interpretations, comedies and just plain fun. Next we did Ropes courses, where we had to help each other as a team succeed through the obstacle. There were bumps and bruises, but actually only one injury of a sprained ankle. That evening and into the next day we did some emotional exercises. We learned more about each other and what makes each of us tick. When it was all said and done, we walked away with an appreciation of our new teammates and our wonderful differences.

Thank you Tempe Leadership for making this incredible experience possible.

*Submitted by Jessica Christensen, Class XXIII*

## Welcome Class XXIII

Mary Allion \* Camala Bailey \* Christina Cenzano \*  
Don Chandler \* Jessica Marie Christensen \*  
Keri Dawson \* Martha Garner \* Jodie Garth \*  
Jeanne Gonzales \* Chris Gonzalez \* Amy Greenland \*  
Michael Jennings \* Robert Kizere \* Barbara Lloyd \*  
Shirley McKean \* Nicholas Miner \* Judi Nelson \*  
Kate Otting \* Carmen Sanchez \* Jack Smith \*  
David Wahls \* Jason Walker \* Kevin Webster



Mike Jennings, Class XXIII  
Public Safety Day



Robert Kizere, Class XXIII,  
and "Buddy" – Public Safety Day

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## Class XXIII Issue Day Recaps

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### Issue Day 1: Public Safety

Class XXXIII got off to an early start with its first Issue Day and a visit to the Tempe Police Department South Station on Hardy Dr. between Elliot and Warner. The parking lot was an impressive sight with the amazing display of the SWAT Van, a patrol car, various pieces of armor and technical equipment. We weren't shy when it came to asking questions, sitting in the van and handling the weapons. Assistant Police Chief Angel Carbajal gave us a very entertaining lesson on the general operations of the department along with Ken and Mary's Crime Prevention and Crime Analysis rundown.

Following lunch we were treated to lessons on use of force (lethal and non-lethal and firearms) and the process and procedures related to a narcotics investigation. I think the highlight for many class members was the hands-on portion of the firearms education with the video scenario of a typical police situation. It definitely was an eye-opening experience and gave us a better understanding of the hazards officers face every day. Tempe Police officers have our utmost respect!

*Submitted by Jodie Garth, Class XXIII*

### Issue Day 2: Human Services

Class XXIII received a reality check on our Human Services Issue Day. We were shown the pain, brokenness and disadvantage of so many in our city. But we also walked away proud to live in a city that has so many agencies and individuals pouring their lives into bringing redemption and restoration in the brokenness.

We toured a number of agencies including the new Multi-Gen Center, La Mesita, Salvation Army, Tempe Adult Day Care Centers, Boys and Girls Club and The Centers for Habilitation. We were riveted by the sheer number of our fellow citizens who struggle to get basic services and who so often get forgotten. But it was intensely inspiring to hear the vision and see the efforts of our fellow citizens who made it their life mission to address these areas of human and social brokenness.

One of our Tempe Leadership classmates, Jack Smith went out of his way to put together a collection for La Mesita's needs and encouraged everyone to give.

It is safe to say, we will never look at our city the same way. Everyone walked away wanting to help more.

*Submitted by Chris Gonzalez, Class XXIII & Jessica Christensen, Class XXIII*

### Issue Day 3: Media/Public Relations

Media/Public Relations Day started off with a panel discussion featuring Jose Miguel from ABC 15 and Alia Rau from the Arizona Republic. Both panelists were very candid with their responses as dialogue developed. A major topic of discussion was how the web affects the reporting process and ultimately the readership of an article.

A fun activity for us was our own hand at reporting. Fortunately, we got to put our heads together and report as a group of 4 or 5 - a scenario that took on potentially several different possibilities of focus. Sharing of the different reports followed.



Mary Allion, Jack Smith and Christina Cenzano, Class XXIII Media Day

A brief break and a trip across town to tour ABC 15's newsroom followed; then a media training lesson culminated by an on-camera interview of five brave classmates. Jessica, Keri, Robert, Mary and Barbara did an excellent job for their first-time camera interview with a topic about which they had to pretend to be passionate and knowledgeable. Hats off to them on a job well done.

*Submitted by Jodie Garth, Class XXIII*

### Issue Day 4: Elementary & Secondary Ed.

At our Issue Day on November 2, 2007, Class XXIII was exposed to the elementary and secondary education for the City of Tempe. We were able to meet the three superintendents and ask questions about the challenges our school districts face. We were split into small groups and sent out to visit different schools so we could come back together over lunch and give our "report." (Luckily, everyone passed!)

We finished our day at East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT). We all agreed that it was amazing to see such a first class opportunity for our high school students to prepare themselves for a career versus the expectation of college. Councilman Arredondo was able to explain all of the work it took to get EVIT to become a reality.

*Submitted by Nick Miner, Class XXIII*

### Issue Day 4: Higher & Alternative Ed.

Arlene Chin, Class XXII member and liaison with ASU and the Tempe Union High School Districts, greeted us to kick off Higher Education Issue Day. We met at the Fulton Center at ASU where we had a 45-minute PowerPoint presentation by Linda Gover, Associate Vice-President in Enrollment Management. The basis of Linda's presentation was how ASU impacts our nation as well as our community.

It was an atypical, rainy day in Tempe and we managed to miss the rain drops even though we walked much of the campus throughout the morning. Our second stop was at the very impressive Decision Theater and a presentation by Dr. John Skinner. 3-D glasses and some incredible computer work made for a fun and information session.

Another walk across campus to Gammage for a tour by Colleen Roggensack. Did you know that it cost \$900,000 to replace the carpet at Gammage, and that comes at no cost to taxpayers due to some expert financial management by Colleen and her staff?

More walking, still missing the rain drops, to the Hassayampa Academic Village, lunch with Rachel Beech, Coordinator of Student Engagement for Residential Life, and student presenters. After lunch they talked about how the W.P. Carey School of Business Residential Community has enriched their college experience. We then were invited in to their homes (dorm rooms) for a brief visit.

We moved on to Rio Salado College with another PowerPoint presentation by Drs. Linda Thor and Chris Bustamante and Jennifer Freed explaining what each college in the Maricopa Community College District had to offer and a very thorough explanation of the on-line programs offered at Rio Salado College.

We finished up the day with a tour of KJZZ and KBAQ broadcasting studios. Timothy McDonald was on the air for KBAQ and we were welcomed in to his studio to talk with him. While songs were playing on the air and then watching/listening first-hand to his broadcast

*Submitted by Jodie Garth, Class XXIII*



Decision Theatre - Higher Education Day

## Issue Day 5: Government



Tempe Leadership class XXIII all got together on December 14th for Government Issue day after having being rescheduled from November due to conflicts of schedule. Despite the change everyone was up early and on the bus at 7:30 promptly to take a tour of the City facilities and services. During the tour we were informed of how Parks and Services were improving the many parks in Tempe and what we can be looking forward to in the future. We were also able to take a tour of the Tempe recycling center and even saw where all of our street signs are made. Being able to actually visit these sites and see them with our own eyes definitely made appreciate the many men and women that keep our wonderful city running.

After the tour we arrived at City Hall where we met the members of this year's Tempe Youth Leadership class. We were all impressed with the maturity and leadership skills that these young students exuded. We want to wish them continued success in the future as they become the future leaders of Tempe.

During our time together we were able to listen and meet many important facets that keep the city running. Assistant City Manager, Jeff Kulaga, gave us the overview of how the city works and what keeps the city in order. It was after him that Cecilia Robles came in to inform us how financially the city is able to operate and how each year the budget is projected so they stay within their parameters.

During lunch, we were privileged to sit and talk with Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman, Council Member Onnie Shekerjian and Vice-Mayor Hut Hutson.

After lunch we were visited by a Tempe Leadership alumnus from class XX "Dos Equis", State Representative Ed Ableser. He discussed the situation that District 17 and the state faces and what he is doing to ensure that Tempe is represented. After Ed we spoke with Tempe's City Attorney, Andrew Ching, who informed us of the roles that the mayor and the City Counselor play and then briefly described his role and a few of the many cases that Tempe faces.

From there we went on a tour lead by Mark Vinson and looked at how the buildings in downtown Tempe were formed and specifically the history behind the upside down triangle we call City Hall. With all this knowledge we were well prepared along with Tempe Youth Leadership to have a Mock City Council meeting and see what a city council meeting looks like and what issues they may face. In our mock meeting with tackled the issue of whether or not to allow a tattoo shop open in a Tempe neighborhood. After hearing the statements from the owners and the citizen this council voted 5-2 in favor to approve the business.

Unfortunately we were quickly told that Tempe City Council faced this actual issue and voted 0-7 against allowing the business to open.

All the members of Tempe Leadership class XXIII want to thank everyone that made this year's Government Day informative and a success. We also want to take the time to thank all Tempe Leadership alumni and our Tempe Leaders for their guidance and for allowing us to follow in their footsteps. We wish everyone a peaceful New Year.

*Submitted by Jason Michael Walker, Class XXIII*

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## Tempe Youth Leadership

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I thought our most recent Issue Day was going to be about a bunch of politicians talking for endless hours, but my Tempe Youth Leadership Government Day turned out to be a lot more than just that.

One of my favorite parts of the day was when we were talked to (for what I wished was an endless amount of time) by Jeff Kulaga, the assistant city manager. I've never really understood how my own government is run; however, he explained it so that we high school kids could digest all of the information while staying awake. Even though that was the most informative part of the day, I enjoyed the question and answer session with the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council Member Shekerjian. They all were personable, yet gave an inside look to what it took to be leaders in our own communities. They spoke of their families, scheduling, and even kept us entertained with a few personality quirks.

Finally, at the end of the day, I was lucky enough to be "elected" Mayor for our very own mock City Council Meeting. I think that after the long day of learning about the system, it was a good experience that I was able to apply my knowledge in some way while getting a taste of what leading the city feels like. Overall, my day was extremely well spent: getting involved with an aspect of my government and ending the day as Mayor Emily Patten.

*Submitted by Emily Patten, Junior, Corona del Sol  
Tempe Youth Leadership Class IX*



TYL Class IX members experience Government Day

## Upcoming Tempe Chamber Events

### February 21, 2008 – Tuscany in the Desert

Join us on a culinary journey through Tuscany as never experienced before. This evening of exquisite dining, drinks and dancing is set to the romantic mood of Italy's Tuscany region. Known for its stunning landscapes and artistic legacy, the city is home to some of the finest wines and cuisine that Italy has to offer. We capture this locale and bring it here across the miles so that the desert too can share in the celebration of all that is Tuscany.

#### Tuscany in the Desert

February 21, 2008  
The Waterfront  
5250 S. Lakeshore Dr., Tempe  
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
\$40 per person

### February 29, 2008 – Breakfast for Chamber Champions

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast for Chamber Champions features a full breakfast and the presentation of several awards to the Tempe business community. These awards include: Business Excellence Awards 2008, The Volunteer of the Year Award, The Spirit of Tempe Award, and the Tempe Leadership Outstanding Community Leadership Award.

This event is sponsored by APS and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

#### Breakfast for Chamber Champions

February 29, 2008  
The Fiesta Resort  
2100 S. Priest Dr., Tempe  
7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
\$45 per person

**Tempe Leadership is sponsored by the  
Tempe Chamber of Commerce**



**Stay connected with local businesses at  
[www.tempechamber.org](http://www.tempechamber.org)**

## Alumni Updates

The SRP Arizona Dragon Boat Festival is a homegrown Tempe Leadership event when three **Class XVI members, Al Dickie, Marcie Greenberg, and Shauna Warner** became the founding board members of the Arizona Dragon Boat Association. The Festival is now in its 5th year, with the Special Olympics as its charity, hosting 50 teams and providing entertainment for two days. If you'd like to be on a paddling team, or are interested in forming a corporate team for the March 29-30 Festival to be held on Tempe Town Lake you can find out more about it on [www.azdba.com](http://www.azdba.com) or email us at [Teams@azdba.com](mailto:Teams@azdba.com)

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**Class VII** (the BEST class) had a great reunion in September. Thanks to John Kane for opening his lovely home to the group. Attending were John Kane, Todd Marshall, Rick Kalvin, Tom Sands, Jim Garth, Gail Fisher, Joseph Lewis and Linda Spears. Classmates Frieda Rothermel and John Hollister joined the group at the Don Carlos reception. Good luck to Frieda in her move to Costa Rica.

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**Randy Clawson, Class IV**, has completed all requirements to receive his C.E.M., which stands for Certified Energy Manager, from the Association of Energy Engineers, a national association.

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**Melissa Denton, Class XIV**... I have changed jobs and homes again. I now live at 829 Wooded Lane in Marshall MI, a small 4 mile square community full of lovely Victorian homes. I am happily working at Starr Commonwealth, which has adjudicated adolescent boys. The boys are fun, and the staff is very warm and friendly. So, I'm feeling rather blissful.

I've also changed grad school programs. I pretty much wrapped up the special education administrative certification last year – one class and an internship left, which I'll do this year. I've started financial planning classes, which I love. I may or may not take the certification test, but I'm having a lot of fun planning for myself and friends who will let me meddle.

I still think fondly and often of Tempe and all of the wonderful people there -- Tempe Cares, TYL, the Tarts, the Board, and, of course, the best class. The best of 2008 for you all....

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## **Alumni Updates, *continued***

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**Rebecca Hudson, Class XX**, graduated from ASU in December! During her first semester as a graduate student she have an internship at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and then next fall she hopes to start working on her Masters degree in Environmental Studies and Public Policy.



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SRP employees honored **Al Dickie, Class XVI**, and **Kathy Stevens, Class XIII**, on December 4 ,2008 at the SRP Karl F. Abel Volunteer Recognition Awards. The prestigious award acknowledges remarkable commitment to volunteerism and is the only way in which SRP formally recognizes its individual employees.

Al Dickie, Manager, Property Management and Services, was recognized for his contributions to the Arizona Dragon Boat Association and the SRP Arizona Dragon Boat Festival held every March on Tempe Town Lake. Al wrote the group's incorporation papers, obtained IRS 501(c)3 status, drafted volunteers and served as the group's vice president. Every year Phoenix Sister Cities hosts a dragon boat team from Tai Pei. Al arranges for the team of 25 paddlers, coaches, a captain and translators to be hosted at the festival by a local team. He provides them with meals, transportation, entertainment and sightseeing trips. Beyond that, Al is a skilled "steersperson" for two local Dragon Boat teams, proving his leadership abilities are as effective on the water as they are in the office.

Kathy Stevens, Community Relations Representative, Special Projects, was recognized for her contributions to the *Tempe Center for the Arts*. Friends of Tempe Center for the Arts (FTCA) was formed to help develop the Tempe Center for the Arts into a regionally known venue for exciting and diverse cultural experiences. Kathy Stevens has devoted volunteer hours to the group since its inception, working to bring a dedicated sales tax to the ballot in 2000 that financed the Tempe Center for the Arts. Beyond working to finance the project, FTCA worked closely with the City in selection of architects, helped determine the best location for the Center, and continues to support the Center in an ongoing advisory and fundraising capacity.



John Williams, SRP President, and Al Dickie  
*Photo by James Eastwood, SRP*

**Catherine May, Class XVIII** ... Soon after graduating from TL, I joined the Board of Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development. Janet Garcia, a TL classmate, was, at the time, Executive Director of Tumbleweed.

Tumbleweed serves abused, abandoned, troubled, and neglected youth and has a drop in center (for homeless youth) in the downtown Tempe area.

I have continued to serve on the Board and have been elected to serve a two year term (2008-09) as Board President.

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**Joel Navarro, Class XIX**, is running for Tempe City Council. His web page is [www.navarroforcitycouncil.com](http://www.navarroforcitycouncil.com)

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**Deborah R. Ortiz, Class XVII**, has launched a new management consulting and public speaking corporation called Ortiz Leadership Systems, LLC. Deborah is serving as the corporation's vice president.

Ortiz Leadership Systems is based in Tempe, Arizona, and was founded by Deborah and her husband, Andy. Andy and Deborah are internationally-recognized leaders and scholars, and have spoken across the United States and internationally on various topics related to success, motivation, and personal and organizational development.

E-mail Deborah at: [deborahortiz@ortizleadership.com](mailto:deborahortiz@ortizleadership.com).

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**Nikki Ripley, Class XXII**, and her husband had their baby! Collin Hayes Ripley was born November 28th.

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**Helena B. Valenzuela, Class XIX**, just completed her PhD in Justice Studies at ASU.

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**Jason Michael Walker, Class XXIII**, has been awarded the Gem Award - Green Employee of the Month for November at University of Phoenix.

## **Let us hear from you!**

If you have an accomplishment or update you'd like to share with other Alumni, please send a short synopsis or picture to [tom@tempechamber.org](mailto:tom@tempechamber.org).



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## **Board of Directors 2007 – 2008**

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### **Editor's Note:**

If you have comments about this issue of the Tempe Leadership News or suggestions for future issues, please contact JoEllen Johnson at [joey718@cox.net](mailto:joey718@cox.net).

## *Happy New Year!*

