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# The Leading Edge

Spring/Summer 2015 Volume XX

## Graduation Ceremony 2015



Miramonte Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

Friday June 26, 2015

6pm - Reception

7pm - Dinner & Program

Cost: Class of 2015 Complimentary  
\$65 per alumni or guest

## Graduation Speaker

**Sir Alfred J. DiMora,**

**Founder & CEO, DiMora Motorcar**

A native of Rochester, New York, Alfred J. DiMora came to Santa Barbara, California where he built limited-production luxury cars as an early employee of recently-formed Clenet Coachworks Inc. He later co-founded Sceptre Motorcar Company, and their Sceptre 6.6S won the Best-of-Show award at the Los Angeles Auto Show in 1978. After Clenet Coachworks Inc. halted production and filed for bankruptcy, DiMora bought the assets and revived production at his new factory in Carpinteria, California. As owner, CEO, and Chief Automotive Designer at Clenet, he created and manufactured the Series IV Sportster and designed the prototype Series V Clenet. Altogether, over 580 Clenets were produced and sold to celebrities, royalty, and other motor enthusiasts around the world.

President Reagan declared 1986 the Centennial Year of the Gasoline-Powered Automobile. Mr. DiMora's Clenet was selected as the Official Centennial Car. As a result, he and the automobile were honored at the Automotive Hall of Fame in Michigan. Clenets were called "Drive Art" by Automotive Age and the "American Rolls-Royce" by Fortune.

As an entrepreneur and business consultant, Mr. DiMora has advised and built companies in industries as diverse as chemical recycling, public relations management, software development, television infomercial production, and real estate development.

In the mid-1990s, he innovated in chemical recycling, automobile and truck antifreeze production and distribution, and hazardous waste management at PRS, Inc., in Salt Lake City, Utah. He served on the American Society of Testing and Materials Committee as the first non-chemist. During this period, he created and marketed the first ready-to-use 50/50 antifreeze, which quickly went on to be a bestseller.

In 1997, Mr. DiMora founded Star Bridge Systems, Inc. to advance reconfigurable computing technologies. Star Bridge created powerful, high-performance computer platforms and a new software language called Viva, for a new supercomputer platform called hypercomputing. Star Bridge customers include NASA, the U.S. Air Force, and the National Cancer Institute. Mr. DiMora served as Chairman, CEO, and President before leaving the firm to return to California to pursue his first love—motorcars.

As owner of DiMora Entertainment, Mr. DiMora is a major participant in the development of very large Ferris wheels to be constructed in North America and Asia. He is also Vice President for Finance of Envision Entertainment Corp., producers of such major Hollywood movies as Freelancers starring Robert De Niro and Forest Whitaker and The Frozen Ground starring Nicolas Cage and John Cusack.

Mr. DiMora owns a telecommunications company, DiMora Mobile, and he serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Luna Mobile, Inc., developers of the Luna ROX series of smartphones.

Sir Alfred J. DiMora was inducted into the Knights of Malta in 2001. He is a member of the Motor Press Guild and the Society of Automotive Engineers. He was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame of Gates-Chili High School, and he was honored with a star on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars.

## President's Message

Scott Wilson, LCV 11

As we wrap up another year of Leadership Coachella Valley, I am left excited and in awe of this program, the Class of 2015, and our imprint on a brighter future. As leaders, we aren't afraid to set new precedents and try new things. The Class of 2015 did so in a big way, with the first-ever Class Project.

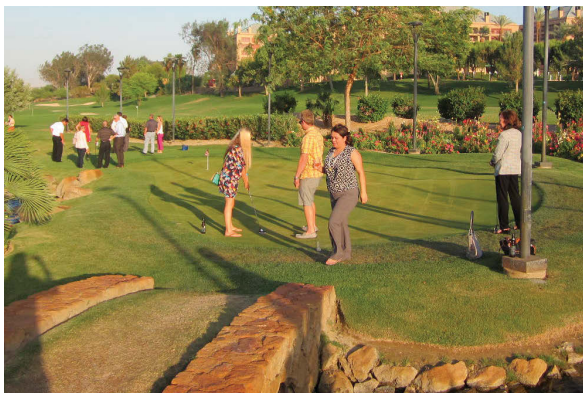
The Leadership Coachella Valley program ventured into new territory as we expanded our alumni events with a brand new Polo Mixer in February, generously sponsored by Massage Envy, in addition to our classic Putt Putt Mixer sponsored by Wilson Johnson Commercial Real Estate last month. We were also excited to unveil a brand new website, to help us usher in a new set of leaders, as we head into a more brilliant tomorrow.

The Class of 2015 has spent the last 9 months using the Leadership Coachella Valley foundation to expand their knowledge and discover new passions when it comes to important issues for our region, like education, workforce development, tourism, and healthcare, and I am confident in their ability to effect change in our region in the coming months and years.

Of course, none of this change and growth would be possible without the crucial individuals and businesses that support Leadership Coachella Valley. Thank you to the business and organizations that make up our Gold, Bronze, Copper, and Alumni Corporate Sponsors, and our individual Alumni Council sponsors. Your monetary and in-kind contributions are essential to our mission and success. Thank you to our session hosts and speakers who generously donated their facilities and time to make our sessions the best they can be. A very heartfelt thank you to administrator Linda Davis for her support - we could not do it without you! Thank you to all the alumni for maintaining your connection to the program by attending alumni events. Finally, thank you to my fellow board members, who volunteered their time in planning sessions and attending events, and who make up the heart of this exceptional program.

Congratulations on a wonderful year and I am looking forward to seeing everyone at graduation on June 26!

## Putt Putt Mixer at Indian Wells Golf Resort



Annual Alumni Putt-Putt Mixer. The team winner of the 9-Hole putting challenge were treated to Starbucks gift cards, topped off by a surprise hole-in-one to start (and end) the closest to the pin putt challenge.

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## Class Project

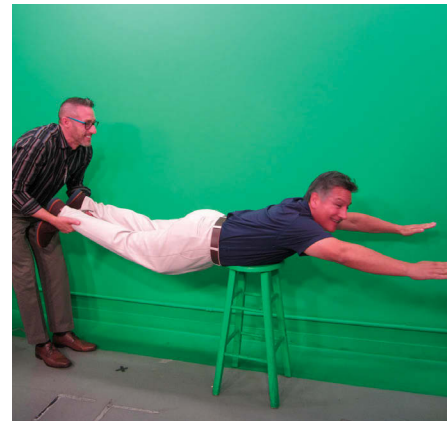
The Class of 2015 was challenged to develop a legacy class project grounded in the mission of LCV, and make an important impact in our community.

The students came together earlier this year to make their project a reality. Students took it upon themselves to raise funds for a matching scholarship program administered by the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP), called Pathways to Success.

Under the leadership of class members Donna Sturgeon and Valerie Powers-Smith, this year's class raised \$2652.50. They worked with Honorary Board Members Tracy Stockman and Amir Afsar in securing additional monies from Leadership Coachella Valley to take advantage of CVEP's matching funds for a

\$5000 scholarship for a local low-income high student attending a four-year institution. The Class of 2015 Scholarship Team also included Brett Klein, Amy Lawrence, Mike Peroni, Katy Empey, Sara Weaver, Judy Ziegler, and Eric Ceja.

Kudos to this year's LCV class in their teamwork and leadership to make such a great impact on our local high school students' lives!



Another great year of inspiration, knowledge, and fun with the Class of 2015

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Matt Rifkin

Energy Consultant  
HelioPower

## Honorary Members

**Amir Afsar**

Attorney  
Afsar Law Group

## Tracy Stockman

VP Desert Region Real Estate  
Pacific Western Bank

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Class Liaison: Linda Davis  
Palm Desert Area  
Chamber of Commerce

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Leadership Coachella Valley  
72559 Highway 111  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

## Applications for 2016

Student Liaison Anna Frost (LCV 11)

The 2015 LCV Class graduation is near and we are busy planning for 2016! If you are a current LCV class member, or an LCV Alumni, you are aware of what this program has to offer. We are recruiting for Leadership Coachella Valley's Class of 2016 (roughly 40 people). Is there someone in your company, your business association or in your mental file who you feel would be a great candidate for LCV? If so, please send Anna Frost (LCV 11), LCV Student Liaison, a quick email at [anna-marie.frost@twcable.com](mailto:anna-marie.frost@twcable.com) with the candidate's name and contact information and she will do the rest! Or, applications can be found and submitted online at [www.leadershipcv.org](http://www.leadershipcv.org), or by contacting 760-346-6111 or [leadershipcv@gmail.com](mailto:leadershipcv@gmail.com).

Applications must be fully completed and received in the Leadership office at the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce by 4:30pm on July 31, 2015, and all applicants will be notified of their status on or before September 1. Interviews for applicants may be scheduled by the selection committee.



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**Facebook**

Visit us at [facebook.com/leadershipCV](https://facebook.com/leadershipCV), where you can [like](#) our Facebook page to stay up to date with the program. You can like and comment on our posts and photos, and [share](#) with your friends and colleagues.

## OUR MISSION

Leadership Coachella Valley is a program designed to identify, motivate and develop future community leaders. The program encourages involvement by providing knowledge and perspective on valleywide needs and concerns. Each month, participants meet current community leaders in forum and group discussion settings.