



THE LEE INSTITUTE

Collaborating for strong communities.

1st Quarter 2009

Calendar

February 12

[Leaders for School Board Workshop - School Finance](#)

Charlotte, NC

February 23-24

ALF National Director and Board Meetings
Sacramento, CA

February 26

ALF Waccamaw Region Class I Welcome Bkfst.
Conway, SC

March 5

ALF Charlotte Region Class IX Leadership in Action

Gastonia, NC

March 5

[Free Parent Workshop: How to be an Effective Healthcare Advocate](#)

Huntersville, NC

March 6

[David E. Yoder Symposium: Preventing Problem Behaviors in Children with Developmental Challenges](#)

Chapel Hill, NC

March 12-13

ALF Waccamaw Region Class I Orientation

Location

March 31

["Creating Collaborative Communities" with Peter Block](#)

Charlotte, NC

April 2

ALF Charlotte Region Class IX Facilitative Leadership

Monroe, NC

April 2

In This Issue

- Project Spotlight: Mecklenburg County Justice and Safety Committee
- Two Views; One Country
- ALF Class IX update and new chapter launch
- What we are reading (and suggest to you!)

Project Spotlight

Mecklenburg County Justice and Safety Task Force

Last fall, The Lee Institute worked with the Mecklenburg County Manager's Office to design and manage the Mecklenburg County Justice & Public Safety Task Force. The Task Force was charged with "working together to determine how to best allocate resources to make the most impact on crime and the Criminal Justice System."

The overall goal of the designed process was to inform members of the Task Force about the complexity of the Criminal Justice System and the issues surrounding justice and public safety in Mecklenburg County. After this information was presented, the Task Force established for itself decision-making criteria which were applied in making preliminary and then final recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

The Task Force selected simple consensus as their decision-making process. When consensus could not be reached, voting was used, with a 75-80 percent majority necessary to approve any action. During the decision-making process, most decisions were reached through consensus.

The process designed by The Lee Institute for the Task Force included the following sequence:

1. Developing broad criteria to be used as a guide in developing the final recommendations;
2. Working in small groups to develop broad observations and conclusions;
3. Using the broad observations and conclusions to develop a list of preliminary recommendations;
4. Ranking the preliminary recommendations;
5. Using the ranking results to develop a list of final

ALF Waccamaw Region
Class I StrengthsFinder

April 21

[Community Breakfast
Forum on Public Education](#)

Charlotte, NC

April 21-26

ALF Waccamaw Region
Class I Outward Bound
Pisgah Nat'l Forest

April 30

ALF Charlotte Region
Class IX Innovation
Workshop
Charlotte, NC

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recommendations;

6. Ranking the final recommendations to create the final priority order;
7. Developing action steps for each recommendation;
8. Creation of a draft report by County staff for review and editing by Task Force members.

The Task Force's Full Report is available through the County Manager's page of the county's website: www.charmeck.org.

What We are Thinking

Two Views; One Country

My guy won.

My guy lost.

Why isn't everyone delighted with this outcome?

Why can't people remember that not everyone voted for the winner?

It's the beginning of real change in our country.

It is one election in a long history of presidential elections.

Barack Obama is a transformational leader.

Can Barack Obama be a transformation leader?

This is a historical election.

This is a historical election.

This country is in a ditch.

This country is in a ditch.

The mainstream media wants to play on our differences.

The mainstream media wants to play on our differences.

We are not red state or blue states; we are the United States.

There are red people living in blue states and blue people living in red states.

Can you give a bit to make this work?

Can you stop smiling long enough to listen to my ideas?

Is it possible to still find common ground in our country?

Is it possible to still find common ground in our country?

Can you get on board with this tidal wave of change in this historic time?

Can you understand that dissent is patriotic – and I still want to think and react to what is happening – not just who is leading it?

Responsibility; individual freedom; commitment to the common good—values I can believe in.

Responsibility; individual freedom; commitment to the common good—values

I can believe in.

I will give a bit if you can.

I will give a bit if you can.

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At The Lee Institute, we work to make sure all voices are heard - from the loudest to the quietest, from all perspectives on either side of the aisle. One of the things we tell our clients is that the opinions of diverse groups often have enough overlap to leverage collaboration. Even in the case of our most recent election, there is common ground to be found.

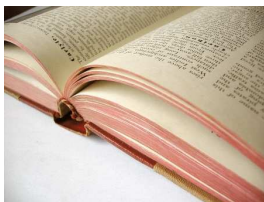


American Leadership Forum Update

The Lee Institute's flagship leadership program, American Leadership Forum (ALF) is currently in its ninth year. ALF Class IX launched in August 2008 with 24 participants representing 12 counties in the Charlotte Region. The group has already participated in sessions such as Dialogue, Diversity and Ethics, as well as a tremendous trust-building Outward Bound experience in the North Carolina mountains. In February, the class will participate in a "Taking Stock" retreat.

The Lee Institute is also working closely with the Knight Foundation and the Waccamaw Community Foundation to launch an ALF program in Horry and Georgetown Counties in South Carolina. There are currently 22 members of the inaugural class, which will launch in mid-March. Several South Carolina-based Senior Fellows from the ALF Charlotte Region will join us for the Welcome Breakfast on February 26 as well as the Orientation Dinner on March 12.

Finally, we are engaged in recruiting class members for the ALF Charlotte Region's 10th class, marking a significant milestone here in our region. If you would like to recommend someone for this program, please contact Jeanette Sims, Director for the ALF Charlotte Region, at 704-714-4444 or jsims@leeinstitute.org.



What We are Reading

[Zfive.org](http://zfive.org) - A website created by the Mecklenburg County Infant Mental Health Collaborative aimed at raising awareness and connecting people who share a concern about the social and emotional development of children ages zero to five.

[CSSP.org](http://cssp.org) - The Center for the Study of Social Policy provides policy analysis and technical assistance to states and localities around areas such as family and children's services, neighborhood-based services, education reform, disability and health care policy. The "Publications Search" function provides access to a multitude of publications on some of these topic areas that have been made available to the public free of charge.

Common Purpose: Strengthening Families and Neighborhoods to Rebuild America

— Lisbeth Schorr lays out in her 1997 book what is required to replicate successful practices to strengthen the lives of children and families and to rebuild communities. She describes the common pitfall when taking successful innovations to scale: policy makers and funders frequently dilute

best practices in order to have them reach more people for less money. The result is poor outcomes, which eventually lead to defunding. She argues that we know what works; the challenges to broad-based implementation are found in replication with fidelity and in sustained funding.

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The Duke Mansion Update

Learn more about The Duke Mansion, the other part of our nonprofit organization, which preserves and protects a 1915 National Register of Historic Places home by making it available to the community as a historic inn and meeting place. Please visit www.DukeMansion.org or call 704-714-4400.

— Special rates are available for overnight stays, meetings and events.