



Leadership
Northwest
MISSOURI

Around the Northwest

Issue 3, December 2025

Our Mission

We build, strengthen, and inspire leaders through training and networking experiences.

Our Vision

We envision thriving communities and dynamic leaders.

Our Values

L-Lead
N-Network
W-Worth
M-Motivate
O-Opportunities

Our History

In December 1999, community leaders from Northwest Missouri came together at Conception Abbey to brainstorm about regional issues. One of the issues that came out of this forum was the need for leadership development on a regional scale. The group concluded that while there are many outstanding local leadership development programs in our communities and an excellent statewide program, there are no programs that address leadership development at the regional level.



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Scan the QR code above to visit our website, where you can read the most current press releases, find dates of upcoming LNWMO class sessions, and more in between newsletters!

Class of 2025



On July 17, Leadership Northwest proudly celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2025 at the Stoney Creek in St. Joseph. This milestone event marked not only the completion of an impactful leadership journey for our newest graduates, but also a historic moment for our organization—the Class of 2025 is the 25th class to graduate from Leadership Northwest.

Throughout their program year, members of the Class of 2025 demonstrated a strong commitment to personal growth, community engagement, and collaborative leadership. They invested their time and energy into learning about our region, strengthening their leadership skills, and building meaningful connections with one another and the communities they serve.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to each member of the Leadership Northwest Class of 2025. We are proud of all you have accomplished and look forward to seeing how you will lead, serve, and inspire in the years to come.

Lifetime Achievement



Jack and Ginny Vernon Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

Leadership Northwest Missouri proudly recognized Jack and Ginny Vernon as the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement

Award, presented by Kent Fisher, a member of the Class of 2002. Jack, an alum from the inaugural Class of 2001, and Ginny, Class of 2007, have long been treasured members of the Leadership Northwest Missouri community. Their dedication and servant leadership continue to inspire alumni and future leaders alike.

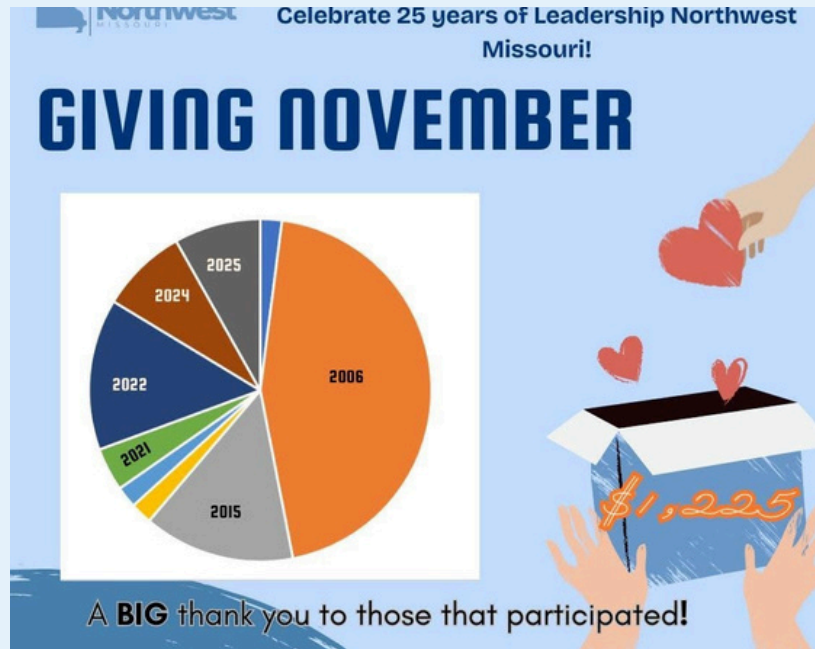
Throughout the years, Jack and Ginny have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to Northwest Missouri, most notably through their organization of the annual golf tournament—a cherished event that has raised vital funds for Leadership Northwest Missouri's mission. Their generosity ensures that the program can continue to foster new generations of servant leaders.

Jack Vernon's legacy extends far beyond his involvement with Leadership Northwest Missouri. His life was defined by a steadfast sense of purpose and pride in his community. From his honorable military service aboard the USS Henderson to his active participation in civic and fraternal organizations, Jack exemplified what it means to lead with both heart and humility. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the region, setting a powerful example for all who follow in his footsteps.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Jack and Ginny Vernon for their lifelong dedication to service and for embodying the values that make Leadership Northwest Missouri exceptional.

Giving November

This year, Leadership Northwest took the opportunity to celebrate a meaningful milestone—25 years of developing leaders and strengthening our community.



We launched our “25 for 25” campaign, honoring 25 years of Leadership Northwest by highlighting one class each day throughout the month of November. From our earliest cohorts to our most recent graduates, each class was featured on our Facebook page, sharing memories, reflections, and the lasting impact Leadership Northwest has had on their personal and professional journeys.

Celebrating

25 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST

Giving November Cont.

One of the most rewarding parts of the campaign was seeing the classes reconnect and engage with one another. Alumni commented, shared posts, and celebrated together, reminding us that Leadership Northwest is more than a program—it's a community that spans generations.

At the conclusion of the 25 days, we were thrilled with the response. The energy, participation, and generosity shown throughout the campaign truly reflected the spirit of Giving Tuesday and the enduring strength of our alumni network.

Thank you to everyone who participated, shared, and gave in celebration of 25 years of Leadership Northwest—and to those who continue to believe in our mission. A special shoutout to the class of 2006 for having the largest number of donations in our campaign!



Class of 2006

If you missed Giving November but would still like to support Leadership Northwest, it's not too late. Donations can be made anytime through our website by using the QR code on the right. Your gift helps ensure we can continue developing leaders and serving our region for many years to come.



Board & Alumni

Board Members

Jackie Spainhower-President
Rachel Brown- Vice President
Kasi Norris-Secretary
Brittany Higgins-Treasurer
Sarah Battreall
Marcie Cutsinger
Brittney Siddens
Carolynn Sollars
Cole Soptic
Carrie Watkins
Jordan Wright

Kendra Pickering - Executive Director

Upcoming Meetings

January 8 - Zoom
January 22 - Conception Abby
February 12 - Zoom
March 12 - Zoom

ALUMNI

Do you need to update your records with LNWMO?

Click on the update icon below to update your records on-line so you don't miss out on future communications.

UPDATE

Click on "update" image above to go to the website and update your information.

Board Member Spotlight Cole Soptic



Meet Board Member Cole Soptic

A proud Class of 2023 graduate, Cole Soptic works at Farmers State Bank as a Customer Service Representative.

He joined the board to help make a difference in northwest Missouri and support LNWMO's strong momentum.

Outside of work, Cole enjoys exploring car shows and cheering for the NCMC Pirates.

Keep in touch via Facebook by clicking on the links below!

[Leadership Northwest Missouri](#)

[Leadership Northwest Missouri Alumni](#)

[Leadership Northwest Missouri](#)

[Community Events](#)

Class of 2026

We are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to the Class of 2026! These new students will embark on their exciting journey with a two-day retreat at the picturesque Conception Abbey from January 21-22, 2026. Representing 13 counties across the region, this class brings a rich diversity of backgrounds and experiences. We can't wait for them to begin this incredible adventure!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company/Organization</u>	<u>Home/Work County</u>
Crystal Berry	25th Hour Communications	Sullivan
Ramsay Blair	United Electric Cooperative/United Fiber	Andrew
Kimberly Brake	Community Hospital Association	Atchison
Michael Evans	Altec Industries	Buchanan
Jeremy Glenn	Second Harvest Community Food Bank	Buchanan
Christa Horne	American Family Insurance	Caldwell
Kelly Hulett	BTC Bank	Daviess/Harrison
Gabrielle Jandron	Bohemian Feelz Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork	Nodaway
Mindy Kelly	Carroll County Memorial Hospital	Carroll
Kimberly Meeker	North Central Missouri College	Grundy
Cameron Mullock	US Bank	Nodaway
Kiefer Nemyer	Nemyer Marketing LLC & Tarkio College	Atchison
Brett Oertwig	St. Lukes MNC/WMH	Livingston
Rachel Peter	Northwest Missouri State University	Nodaway
Jonathan Schneider	The Hearing Connection	Buchanan/Clinton
Matthew Stine	Missouri Department of Transportation	Buchanan
Mindie Stovall	Carroll County Memorial Hospital	Carroll
Scott Sullins	BTC Bank	Holt/Andrew
Latha Varghese	Stuber Health Center	Buchanan
Diane Williams	Harrison County Group Homes	Harrison

Welcome!

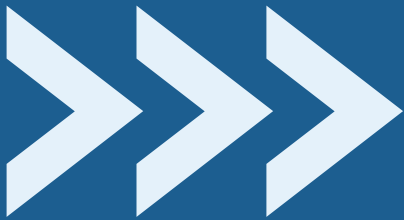
2026 Sponsorship Opportunities



Platinum Level
\$1,500 and up

Platinum Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend a class session and share business information
- VIP seating at the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony (complimentary)
- Opportunity to feature job openings with alumni leaders
- Business feature post on Facebook page
- Featured in 2024 class media release
- Banner displayed at events



Gold Level
\$1,000 - \$1,499

Gold Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend a class session and share business information
- Invitation to attend the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony (complimentary)
- Opportunity to feature job openings with alumni leaders
- Business feature post on Facebook page



Silver Level
\$500 - \$999

Silver Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend a class session and introduce yourself and your organization
- Invitation to attend the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony
- Opportunity to feature job openings with alumni leaders



Bronze Level
\$100 - \$499

Bronze Level

- Featured on LNWMO website and Facebook page
- Invitation to attend the annual LNWMO graduation ceremony

SPONSOR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE VITAL TO OUR MISSION.