

## Class of 2022 Application



# We're looking for people to

# Lead the way!

*Congratulations  
Class of 2021*

*"Never doubt that a  
small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens can  
change the world; indeed, it  
is the only thing  
that ever has."  
—Margaret Meade*

Peter Adonizio Jr. Esq.

Michael Bass

Michaela Benczkowski

Michele Bound

Kathleen Brudzinski

Jaime Capece

Tony Connell

Gerard Gaughan, Esq.

Eric Grego

Jens Henniges

Holli Jeckell

Paula Kashuba

Lauren Kresge

Sara Labashosky, Esq.

Christopher Lupole

Timothy Ooms

Julia Palkovic

Gordon Pearson

Lindsey Riddell

Lucille Sassi

Tyler Serbin

Brittany Shoemaker

Jada Swinski

Brett Withjack

Marilouise Yermal

## Leadership Wilkes-Barre

Leadership Wilkes-Barre seeks to develop informed and committed leaders from all segments of the community who will serve, strengthen, and improve Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The deadline to apply for the next Leadership Wilkes-Barre Class is April 15, 2021. When sending in your completed application, please enclose a \$40 fee payable to Leadership Wilkes-Barre.

Applications proudly sponsored by:



**Commercial property and casualty insurers specializing  
in small- to mid-sized businesses.**

16 South River Street • P.O. Box A-H • Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703

[www.guard.com](http://www.guard.com)

## APPLICATION

Please complete and submit this application along with a completed *Sponsor and Participant Agreement* (attached) and a **\$40** application fee by **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. Checks should be made payable to Leadership Wilkes-Barre. **Applications will not be processed until the \$40 application fee is received.** You are also required to ask two references to complete and submit the attached *Confidential Reference Forms* **directly** to Leadership Wilkes-Barre by April 15<sup>th</sup>. No additional documentation is required. Do not send a résumé.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Name you prefer to be called (nickname)

How do you identify? Female Male Other Prefer not to say

### BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS

### HOME ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**JOB TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in Northeastern Pennsylvania: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in present employment: \_\_\_\_\_

### EDUCATION:

Begin with high school (include all degrees awarded, field of study, professional institutes, trade schools, and other specialized training):

INSTITUTION	DATE OF GRADUATION	DEGREE
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

(over)

**LEADERSHIP:** List major civic, business, and professional activities in which you have participated during the past five years. Include any offices you have held:

**HONORS AND AWARDS:** List any awards, honors, or special recognition you have received. Indicate the nature of your participation for each activity:

**CRIMINAL HISTORY:** Have you ever been convicted of, pled guilty to, or have pending charges regarding a criminal (felony or misdemeanor) offense?

If yes, please explain:

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Please identify and discuss a particular opportunity or problem you believe is crucial to Northeastern Pennsylvania:

How do you think the Leadership Wilkes-Barre program can help you fulfill your aspirations as a leader in Northeastern Pennsylvania?

What experiences, strengths, and characteristics will you bring to the Leadership program?

**TUITION:**

Tuition for the Leadership Wilkes-Barre program is **\$2,000** and is due by **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**. (This includes expenses to cover all materials, meals, a professional portrait and graduation expense.) A limited number of partial scholarships are available to persons who may not otherwise be able to afford tuition. If you need tuition assistance, state the reasons: (non-profit organization, entrepreneur, etc.)

If an accepted applicant must withdraw from the program, the Leadership Wilkes-Barre office must be notified on or before 8/1/21. If notification is received by that time, the balance of the tuition will be refunded. No refunds will be issued after October 1, 2021.

**REFERENCES:**

List the two persons whom you have authorized to complete the required Confidential Reference Forms:

<b>FULL NAME AND TITLE</b>	<b>BUSINESS OR HOME ADDRESS</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>
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A) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

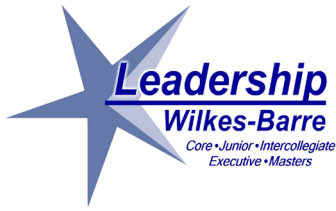
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE:**

Applications must be received by April 15<sup>th</sup> at:

**Leadership Wilkes-Barre**  
**4 Public Square**  
**Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701**  
**Phone: 570-270-5323**  
**Fax: 570-970-7836**  
**nicole@leadershipwilkes-barre.org**  
**www.leadershipwilkes-barre.org**



# LEADERSHIP WILKES–BARRE

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## ★ Program History and Concept ★

Leadership Wilkes–Barre was founded in 1981 in response to the community’s need for a steady supply of leaders who are both familiar with the general structure of the community, its problems and issues, and are also capable of organizing and directing the efforts of others. The nine–month core program is designed to develop well-informed, motivated leaders who have the skills and commitment to work together to strengthen Northeastern Pennsylvania. Leadership Wilkes–Barre is a private, non–sectarian, non–profit organization.

## ★ Mission Statement ★

Leadership Wilkes–Barre seeks to develop informed and committed leaders from all segments of the community who will serve, strengthen and improve Northeastern Pennsylvania.

## ★ Program Objectives ★

- Bring together current and emerging leaders representing a broad cross-section of the community: business, the professions, government, education, religion, the arts, ethnic and minority groups, service and community organizations.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Inform participants of the concerns of our community, its problems, challenges, solutions and the resources available.
- Create and implement group projects that address needs in the community.
- Stimulate a commitment and a responsibility to serve and strengthen our communities.
- Build a network of community trustees through class participation.

## ★ Application Process ★

Persons interested in being a member of the Leadership Wilkes–Barre class should submit a completed application and \$40 application fee to the Leadership Wilkes–Barre office by April 15, 2021. The Leadership Wilkes–Barre Selection Committee reviews each application. Applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance in May.

## ★ Selection Criteria ★

- Interest in serving the Northeastern Pennsylvania community through volunteer and/or appointed leadership roles or advocacy roles;
- Ability to set and achieve personal goals resulting in a position in their career field that reflects significant achievement relative to age and experience; and
- A record of achievement in community activities that indicates a capacity for increased responsibility including positions of leadership in volunteer organizations.

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Each year a maximum of 50 participants from various sectors of the community are selected. The diversity of each Leadership class is carefully considered. Given this factor and the limited class size, some highly qualified candidates are turned down each year. We encourage applicants to re-apply should they not be accepted the first time.

★ **Leadership Wilkes–Barre Tentative Calendar for 2021-2022** ★

<i>Date</i>	<i>Session Topic</i>
August TBA .....	Program Overview
September 9 & 10* .....	Team Building/Consensus (Opening Retreat)
October 7.....	Vision and Mission
November 4.....	Volunteerism & Servant Leadership
December 2.....	Collaboration/Arts & Recreation
January 6.....	Making Your Voice Heard: Communication/Media
February 3.....	Cultural Perspectives/Emotional Intelligence
March 3.....	Board Trusteeship/Leadership Skills
April 7.....	Government/Justice: Influencing Public Life
May 5.....	Closing Retreat
June 2.....	Annual Dinner and Graduation

\* *The Opening Retreat is held on a Thursday & Friday. Attendance is mandatory.*

Monthly sessions are typically held on the first Thursday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The opening program is a two-day retreat. Program packets are designed to provide participants with background information relating to each topic. A commitment of personal time is also expected to work on projects that serve the community.

Continuing education credits are available for interested participants.

★ **Leadership Wilkes–Barre Board of Directors** ★

CHAIR

Lissa Bryan Smith, Geisinger

FIRST VICE CHAIR

James Brogna, Allied Services

SECOND VICE CHAIR

Terri Morgan, M&T Bank

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Melissa Wolf, CPA, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP

Philip Amend, One Source HR Solutions, *Chair, Advisory Council*  
 John Augustine, Penn’s Northeast  
 Robert Belza, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins  
 Eric Bleiler, JK Financial Advisory Svcs, Jones Kohanski & Co., PC  
 James Brogna, Allied Services  
 Donald Brominski, UGI Penn Natural Gas, *Executive Committee*  
 Rebecca Brominski, Luzerne County Community College  
 Lissa Bryan-Smith, Geisinger, *Chair, ELWB Planning Committee*  
 Joseph Calore, Commission on Economic Opportunity,  
*Chair, Alumni Council*  
 Kieran Casey, Esq., Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald, LLP  
 Ida Castro, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine  
 Gerald Champi, FNCB Bank  
 Robert Chepalonis, Martz Trailways  
 Cassandra Coleman, PA Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial  
 Kevin Engelman, Wells Fargo  
 Kathleen Foley, Misericordia University  
 Karen Friar, Benco Dental

Jack Jones, Luzerne Bank  
 Jackie Kendzor, Bershire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies  
 Stacey Kile, Geisinger Health Plan  
 Dan Landesberg, Geisinger  
 Michael Lombardo, Quad Three Group, Inc.  
 Monica Marshalonis, Borton-Lawson  
 James Martin, Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame  
 Terri Morgan, M&T Bank, *Executive Committee*  
 Frederick Pettit, Esq., King’s College  
 Brian Stahl, Esq., Hourigan, Kluger & Quinn PC, *Executive Committee*  
 Nicole Strauser, Prudential  
 Jennifer Stull, Esq., PNC Bank  
 Wico van Genderen, The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business &  
 Industry  
 Rachel Wiernusz, Community Bank, N.A.  
 Carl Witkowski, III, Group Capital, LLC  
 Melissa Wolf, CPA, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP  
 Michael Wood, Wilkes University  
 John Zemetto, Navient



# Leadership Wilkes-Barre Sponsor & Participant Agreement

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Leadership Wilkes-Barre requires the participant to attend full-day seminars on the first Thursday of each month from September through May, beginning with a two-day retreat on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

## TO THE SPONSOR:

Nominees for the Leadership Wilkes-Barre program must have the support and commitment of their business or organization. The signature of the applicant's supervisor is necessary as an indication of support for participation in the program.

\_\_\_\_\_ has my full support for the time and personal commitment required to participate effectively in Leadership Wilkes-Barre.

*Sponsor's Name (please print):* \_\_\_\_\_

*Title:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Business/Company:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Business Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*E-mail Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

## TO THE PARTICIPANT:

As a participant in Leadership Wilkes-Barre, I am willing to attend all of the functions sponsored by the program, and I understand that attendance at the retreat is mandatory. I also agree to miss no more than two seminars.

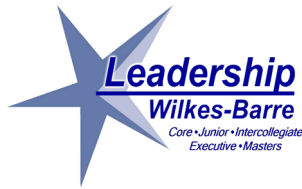
*Participant's Name (please print):* \_\_\_\_\_

*Title:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Business/Company:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to Leadership Wilkes-Barre  
with your completed application and a \$40 application fee.  
Checks should be made payable to Leadership Wilkes-Barre.**



## LEADERSHIP WILKES–BARRE

You have been asked to complete a reference form for a candidate for Leadership Wilkes–Barre, a program designed for individuals interested in leadership development and service to the community.

Leadership Wilkes–Barre offers selected participants an opportunity to acquire the personal skills and gain the community knowledge necessary for the exercise of effective volunteer leadership. The nine month course of study which begins in September has been designed to teach leadership skills and explore the major components of community life: the legal system, human services, the environment, the economy, local government, workforce issues, diversity, the media and board membership. Experienced community leaders and professionals participate in each seminar.

Participants for the program will be selected on the basis of completed application and reference forms which must be returned **before April 15<sup>th</sup>**. Preference will be given to candidates who, in addition to their potential for leadership, would contribute to the overall diversity and strength of the class.

Leadership Wilkes–Barre is a member of the Association of Leadership Programs.

Please complete **both sides** of this form and return it **before April 15<sup>th</sup>** to:

LEADERSHIP WILKES–BARRE  
FOUR PUBLIC SQUARE  
WILKES–BARRE, PA 18701  
PHONE: (570) 270-5323 FAX: (570) 970-7836  
E-MAIL: NICOLE@leadershipwilkes-barre.org

I recommend \_\_\_\_\_ for participation in Leadership Wilkes–Barre.

Reference Name	Position/Title
Company/Business	
Address	City/State/Zip
Telephone Number	
Reference Signature	Date

(over)



**LEADERSHIP WILKES-BARRE  
CONFIDENTIAL REFERENCE FORM (cont.)**

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*Please type or print*

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

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Please evaluate the applicant in the categories below:

	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Superior</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Communication Skills					
Cooperation					
Creativity					
Dependability					
Energy Level					
Initiative					
Judgment					
Leadership Potential					

Why do you believe this applicant should participate in Leadership Wilkes-Barre?

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*Please return to Leadership Wilkes-Barre before April 15, 2021.*