



Bentonville/Bella Vista Chamber of Commerce

# INFORMER

## Newsletter

### Regional Leadership Day

The members of the Fayetteville, Springdale and Leadership Benton County programs came together, as they do each year, for the Regional Leadership Day. Each year the communities take turns hosting the group of approximately 100 leaders to hear speakers cover topics of interest for all Northwest Arkansans.

The day started off with a panel focused on post secondary education, including Richard Hudson of the University of Arkansas, Dr. Becky Paneitz of Northwest Arkansas Community College, Dr. Chip Pollard of John Brown University and Dr. George Burch of Northwest Technical Institute. Topics ranged from scholarships, degree programs, state funding and many more.

Touching on the cultural quality of life in Northwest Arkansas were Kelly Kemp of the Jones Center for Families, Eric Edelstein of the NWA Naturals, Terri Trotter of the Walton Arts Center and Chris Crosman of Crystal Bridges museum being built in Bentonville. Their discussion focused on the amenities of Northwest Arkansas.

A more serious topic of water and wastewater was covered by Alan Fortenberry of the Beaver Water District, John Sampier of the NWA Conservation Authority and Delia Haak of the Illinois

River Partnership. The class was propelled to think more in depth about the water resources that Northwest Arkansas is so fortunate to have.

The afternoon session was highlighted by inspirational speaker Paul Vitale. The classes enjoyed his words that focused on looking inside themselves to find what is truly important and how to use that in being a leader.

The "hot button" topic of transportation was discussed by a panel including Scott Bennett of the Arkansas Highway Department, NWA Council Director Mike Malone who spoke on the idea of a Regional Mobility Authority for NWA, Scott VanLaningham of Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport, Jeff Hawkins of the Regional Planning Office and Phil Pumphrey of Ozark Regional Transit.

The day concluded with a panel of the five area chamber executives, answering questions for the class about a variety of topics.

The Leadership Benton County Class will focus on leadership skills at the next meeting in December at the Soderquist Center for Leadership and Ethics. The group will continue with the training that they began during the opening retreat in August. It promises to be a very good day!



*Paul Vitale speaks to class members during Regional Leadership Day*