

## An interview with Al Leland

*Al Leland, former President of Bank One Dayton and former Senior Vice President and Division Manager for Fifth Third Bank, currently works under the banner of Leland Consulting, LLC. Al specializes in working with closely held companies and families on issues related to succession. Leland Consulting not only looks at management and leadership, but also evaluates ownership, ownership control and tax efficient value transfer.*

### **How did you get involved in the Club?**

**AL:** Two things drove me to become involved with the Club. The first was that I had a client contemplating a significant gift to the renovation campaign and felt I needed to understand how the monies would be utilized. I needed to find out a little bit more about the Club and its operations, which prompted me to begin asking questions. Jack Sullivan lived next door to me and invited me to a special event. There was a tent on the side yard, and we had a nice presentation from Charley Harper, graphic artist and author of the book, *Beguiled by the Wild, the Art of Charley Harper*, which catalogs a number of his humorous lithographs. We chatted with other attendees for a while, Jack gave me a tour of the Club and next thing you know I was filling out an application.

### **What kind of Club things interested you?**

**AL:** Several. One, I'm a bit of a history buff – not a history major but I appreciate the edifice and the history that goes along with it. I continue to work with the Kettering Family, and Boss Ket is so integrally tied to the Club that understanding his relationship and devotion to the Club has been helpful to my efforts on behalf of the Family. The members of the Club have certainly broadened my horizons, and I find most of them to be fascinating people with interests and expertise that differ significantly and always challenge the mind.

### **You served on some of the boards.**

**AL:** Yes, I was on the Board of Governors for a period of time. Unfortunately, I had to resign from the Board when I assumed the Presidency of Bank One; the Bank Board felt I needed to reduce my commitments outside of the Bank. Several years later, I was elected to the Engineers Club Foundation board and just recently completed my second term. This fall I assumed the Chairmanship of the Engineering and Science Foundation, an entity that emanated from the Club.

### **What changes have you seen?**

**AL:** Obviously a lot of the renovation of the building has been completed and, as I say that, I can hear Leatha Stewart reminding me to encourage contributions to the roof fund. Club operations have changed as well; we were pretty much just a catering facility when I first got involved. Today I see more Club members doing

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things together as a Club. Much of that is spurred by the continuing success of the Barn Gang's Tuesday luncheon programs. And I think that the scheduling of social and educational functions that we can all get behind has helped tremendously. Receiving regular emails and mailings that let members know what's going on prompts me, at least, to attend a few more functions and stay involved.

I've also seen a change in terms of the governance of the Club and the relationship between the Club and Foundation boards as well as the relationship with the Engineering and Science Foundation. The three entities had some unresolved and misunderstood issues from the past, but now they are very cooperative and constructive.

### **What would you like to see?**

**AL:** I think that the Club needs to continue to generate new members and find the niche where it can really provide a benefit to members that will encourage participation. It's a great place to have lunch and/or a business meeting. I am of the impression that we have been reasonably successful with the Friday night dinners and special events. We have a great downtown location enhanced by having the heart of Riverscape at our front door. I hope we can attract younger members and become more family friendly, adding more dimension to the Club as time goes on. Most importantly, I hope that the membership will continue to preserve the legacy so that the Club and its history will be available to the community for generations to come.

## Call for nominations

The Technical Committee is soliciting nominations for the 2008 Wilson Charboneaux Award, made to individuals or institutions for contributing to public understanding of science and technology.

The 2007 awardee was the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. The 2008 award will be presented at the annual meeting June 3, 2008. Nominations may be sent to Dr. Joseph P. Martino at [jpmart@bright.net](mailto:jpmart@bright.net), or given to Brenda McQueen at the Engineers Club to be forwarded to the committee.