

CEO Michele McKenna retires

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Michele McKenna

New Leaf's CEO and Executive Director for the past seven years, Michele McKenna, retired in March 2022. Michele has worked at New Leaf since 1993 in the finance department, becoming Director of Finance and then eventually CEO.

Michele has been at the center of New Leaf's success for the past three decades, and she will be sorely missed. Everyone at New Leaf extends sincere and heartfelt thanks to Michele for her years of dedication, hard work, and well-placed humor.

(Continued on next two pages.)



CEO Michele McKenna retires (cont.)

During Michele's tenure as CEO the scope of New Leaf's contracts and operations increased exponentially. Michelle also oversaw the acquisition of two properties adjacent to the New Leaf office in downtown Oak Harbor. These buildings have allowed New Leaf to expand its operations and host events in service to its employees and the broader community.

New Leaf has seen a number of changes during Michele's time, including new offices, new staff, new computer and network systems, new logos and community engagement programs, new crew members (of course) and the constant and never-ending refining and restructuring New Leaf's administrative processes. Michele has been at the heart of it all.

Following Michele's announcement of her retirement, the New Leaf Board of Directors appointed Field Manager Steve Jacobs to the position of interim CEO.



Above: Michele celebrates retirement with receptionist Nancy Mendoza.

Below: Michele enjoys one last stogie. Pictured here with Steve Jacobs at the January 2022 Oak Harbor Chamber luncheon.



CEO Michele McKenna retires (cont.)

As she begins retirement, Michele looks forward to spending more time with her family, including her grandson Sully. Michele has earned the right to relax and be a grandma.

With retirement comes the question: How does one step out of the workforce (lovingly known as the “rat race”) and take a breather—not for a day or two, but forever? As she faces this prospect, Michele offers some final words:

It has been quite a ride, for sure! I can't believe it's been 29 years at New Leaf! I have really enjoyed working with everyone here during my tenure. I will miss everyone and the work that New Leaf does. I wish continued success for New Leaf and all the New Leaf people, from the staff to the crews, and I hope you all continue to do great things in our community and for people with disabilities. I will miss all of you dearly. Best wishes and stay in touch! - Michele McKenna



Michele McKenna with the New Leaf staff, February 24 2022, at 1091 Dock St.

Grounds Orientation 2022

Spring is here. It happens every year. The grass starts growing, the weeds start coming up, and all the soggy autumn leaves and winter debris has been cleared away—until the next wind storm. And so Grounds begins again in earnest.

Outgoing Grounds Project Manager Adam Troyer (who is moving to QC and Safety to support QC & Safety Manager Mo Morrison) and New Grounds PM Blake Schulle, along with HR Director Michelle Leach, Benefits Manager Melissa Nuanez, and Quality Control and Safety Manager Mo Morrison led the crew through Grounds Orientation this year: Safety and operations trainings, hearing tests, and a decent amount of administrative tasks. As always, we have an inside view on the action.



Grounds Orientation 2022 (cont.)

And so, in this year two thousand and twenty-two, Grounds has begun in earnest. The debris is out there. Good luck, team.



Holler for a Dollar!

New Leaf would like to extend a sincere thanks of appreciation to the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director Vicky Graham for all the support and friendship they have offered to New Leaf over the years.

New Leaf has been a proud and happy member of the community and we're always happy to join Chamber events, including the monthly luncheons and the fun "Holler for a Dollar" opportunity to speak to the Chamber community about one's business or NPA. Some New Leaf folks have had fun with this occasion lately.



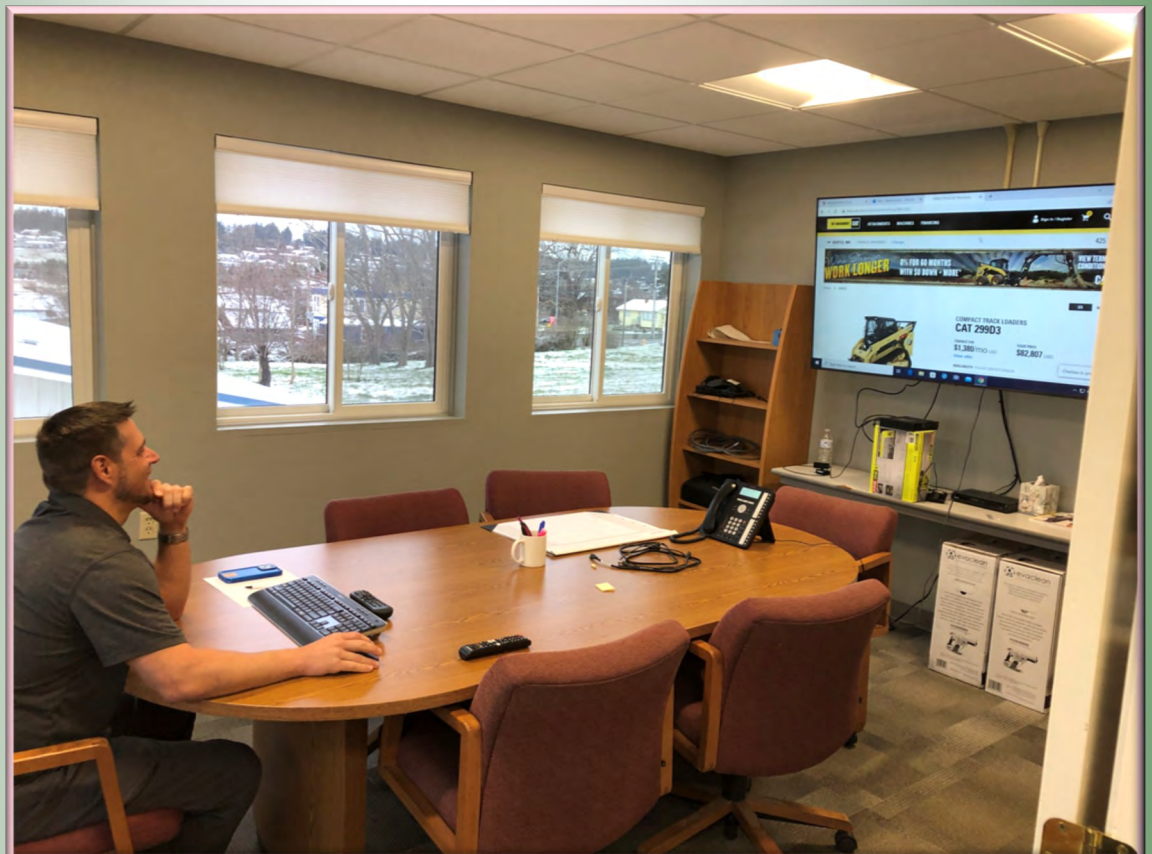
Right: Documentation Manager Ryan Brooke hollers for a dollar. Below: Interim CEO Steve Jacobs hollers for a dollar.



Hard at Work



Above: Director of Finance Cathy George shows off an impressive collection of financial documents. Below: Steve Jacobs makes use of the 2nd floor conference room to research tractor parts.



Hard at Work



Above: Glenn Kincaid and Steve Jacobs help out on floor care. Below: John Trimbull, Rodrigo Olaguera, and Joe Bottenburg meet with rehabilitation engineer Paul Nishman, the creator of the Commissary Helper program, to go over updates.



Hard at Work



Top Left: Cathy George gets a needed signature from Director of Operations Glenn Kincaid.

Top right: Mo Morrison and Brent Bowden take care of business.

Bottom: Jacob Davis of the CDC crew does a deep clean on a trash can.

Hard at Work



Above: QC & Safety Manager Mo Morrison, Maintenance Specialist Scott Taylor, and QC & Safety Assistant Adam Troyer speak with Interim CEO Steve Jacobs at the same time.

Below: Grounds 2022 season is here. Check out the choreographed trimming.



New Leaf Recruiter Program!

Did you know that if you refer someone to New Leaf and they apply and get hired, you start getting money? Know anyone who needs a job?



Become a New Leaf Recruiter!



Get \$600 for every person you recruit who joins New Leaf!

If you refer someone to New Leaf you could get up to \$600.

Refer a friend to New Leaf. Tell them to mention your name in their interview. If they do, and if they get hired:

After <u>30 days</u>	You get	\$100
After <u>60 days</u>	You get	\$100
After <u>90 days</u>	You get	\$200
After <u>180 days</u>	You get	\$200

If your friend has good evals, you get money deposited into your next paycheck.

Saint Patrick's Day fun

Right: CDC crew member Keith Harrell gets into the festive spirit.

Below: Steve Jacobs at the Oak Harbor Saint Patrick's Day Parade.



Saint Patrick's Day fun



Right: Director of Operations Glenn Kincaid knows how not to get pinched.

Below: The HR team says every day is a good day.



New Leaf recycles and composts

New Leaf was recently recognized by NASWI for leading recycling and composting efforts on the base. Thanks Galley Project Manager Lindsey Westman for being a champion!



NAS Whidbey Island

March 9 at 9:22 AM · ⚙️

DID YOU KNOW...Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Recycling Center has a compost program – one of the few, if not the ONLY one among Navy installations – that has been going strong for 20 years?

In Fiscal Year 21 NAS Whidbey Island had well over 400 tons of compost. That's more than 400 tons that is NOT going into a landfill. Most of the compost comes from the Galley which, in FY21, amounted to 86 tons of food scraps.

The yard waste housing residents set out, and the New Leaf contractors also contribute significantly to the compost. The compost comes from many other areas on the installation as well. The commissary, NEX, the clinic, Child Development Center and various MWR facilities contributed to the compost program.

In this photo Lindsey Westman, New Leaf Galley Project Manager, dumps some food waste that will be taken out and picked up for composting at the recycle center.

So next time you put out your yard waste consider where it's going. Also, make sure you keep things like trash and dog or cat waste out of it!

[#teamwhidbey](#) [#flynavy](#) [#compost](#)

Views of New Leaf

The morning flag raising at New leaf. Doing the honors: Director of Human Resources Michelle Leach.



Employee Spotlight

Michael Joseph Hamernik — Grounds Maintenance

AKA “Hammer” AKA “Hambone”

Where are you from?

Coupeville. I’ve lived here on Whidbey Island my whole life.

How long have you worked at New Leaf?

About 15 years! I have loved working outside and cutting down trees since I was a kid, so I am happy to work on the Grounds crew.

What is something that you like to do outside of New Leaf?

I like playing video games sometimes, but I mostly like being outdoors. I love my job and I like mowing and trimming even when I’m not working. When I was a child I loved cutting down trees with my grandfather on my mom’s side.

What is your favorite thing about working at New Leaf?

I like training new crew members. I love working with Gene; he’s the best. I also like using the stand-up mower.

Is there anything about working at New Leaf that you don’t like?

The trees! There are too many trees. The pine needles get in the cobble beds and it’s a pain to clean up. I think we should cut down all the trees everywhere. But maybe that’s not a good idea.

Is there anything that people at New Leaf might not know about you?

I have been involved in the Special Olympics my entire life, and in 2019 I was named the Special Olympics Athlete of the Year. I compete in bowling, cycling, and basketball, and I have several Special Olympics medals. Also I have a girlfriend named Victoria. I call her Honeybear and she calls me Cuddlebear.



Happy Anniversary

Gordon Carswell	27 years	Jennifer Cheatham	8 years
Steven Jacobs	24 years	Zachary Glovier	7 years
Mo Morrison	19 years	Carrie Johnson	7 years
Jerry Deaver	18 years	Jorden Szypula	5 years
Tyler Olson	16 years	Christopher Myers	5 years
Juliana Coleman	14 years	Sherilyn Sligh	4 years
Michael Johnson	13 years	Timothy Murphy	4 years
Evelyn Holt	12 years	Nancy Mendoza	3 years
Josefina Rousselle	12 years	Samantha Groves	2 years
Helen Wright	12 years	Stephen Fontenette	2 years
Melinda Soliman	12 years	Jeannie Patrick	1 year
Jason Sodano	12 years	Carol Ishizaka	1 year
Violeta Soliman	12 years	Dominic Jeannet	1 year
Joseph Bottenberg	10 years		

Happy Birthday

Jessica Zook	April 04
Michael Hamernik	April 11
Violeta Soliman	April 15
Nena Guzzi	April 16
Donovan Rapp	April 27
Carrie Johnson	April 27
Dawson Cook	April 29
Scott Taylor	April 30
Nancy Mendoza	May 3
Helen Wright	May 19
Steven Jacobs	May 20
Christine Westman	May 26
Shea Niles	June 01
Michael Johnson	June 03
Cathy George	June 03
Jason Sodano	June 07
Nathan Sodano	June 07
Tylan Watts	June 08
Jerry Deaver	June 09
Shane Madeiros	June 11
Michelle Leach	June 18
Kenneth Rollins	June 21
Nicole Bustillo	June 22
Mitch Mitchell	June 26
Christopher Myers	June 27
Jacob Bevill	June 29

Welcome new employees!

McGillis, Bayley – Jan Day	Foster, Chloe – Galley
Bravo, MaryGrace - Smokey Point	Welch, Lorena – Jan Day
Dawson, Jennifer – Smokey Point	Bowden, Brent – HR/Vocational Asst.
Aston, Jaime - Grounds	Plumley, Michael - Grounds
Guzzi, Nena – WI SS	Hancock, Katherine - Grounds
Clavette, Jacob – WI SS	Stewart, Colin - Grounds



Come back and visit us sometime Michele!