



BLFIRE18 • NOVEMBER 10, 2025 • ATTEND • DONATE • SPONSOR

February 21, 2025 • No. 23

for the Bellwether Community

REMEMBER

What's happening with the Healthcare Supply Chain Leadership Hall of Fame™

The Board of Directors (BOD) and Advisory Council (AC) are working on these key projects:

- Mark your calendars:** The 18th annual Bellwether League Foundation Induction & Recognition Event (**BLFIRE18**) is scheduled for **Monday, November 10, 2025**, at Wayne State University in Detroit. In the next edition of REMEMBER (scheduled for late April), we'll share with you our thoughtful and unique reason for moving BLFIRE18 a month later from our historical and traditional spot at the start of National Healthcare Supply Chain Management Week.
- Giving:** To date, eight Sustaining Sponsors have renewed with us for another year. They are Founding **Vizient**, Platinums **GHX** and **Wingfoot Media**, Silver **St. Onge** and Bronzes **Allina Health**, **BJC**, **Geisinger** and **Northwestern**, the last of which has agreed to "uplevel" to Platinum from Bronze. Also, four agreed to donate \$1,000 each to BLF's scholarship fund for 2025, earning them the "+" educational sponsorship designation for the year: They are Founding+ **Vizient**, Platinum+ **GHX** and Bronze+ **Allina Health** and **BJC**. We thank them for their continued generosity and their appreciation of supply chain educational efforts. If you would like to "uplevel" your organization or to donate to or sponsor the Collegiate Capstone Project and/or scholarship fund, email BLF HQ at rickdanabarlow@bellwetherleague.org.
- Serving:** BLF Chairman Barbara Strain, Bellwether Class of 2021, will be serving on a panel during the Becker's conference on February 26 with several other organizational leaders. Strain, along with Fred Crans, Bellwether Class of 2020, also will be attending the Federation of American Hospitals Conference and Business Exposition in Washington, March 5-7, where BLF will have a promotional table



Harpist Laura Utley at BLFIRE16 in 2023.

showcasing who we are and what we do. We'll be debuting our new Hall of Fame sign in advance of BLFIRE18 and have event programs, magazines, monogrammed pens and our updated Beacon award design. Be sure to stop by if you're attending.

4. **Serving again:** BLF offers hearty congratulations to **Raymond J. Seigfried**, Bellwether Class of 2012, who re-entered the Delaware state legislature, this time elected to the State Senate representing District 5, after winning a special election last weekend. Senator Seigfried previously served in the State House of Representatives for District 7, from 2018 to 2020.
5. **Volunteering:** We salute those serving on our four committees this year.
 - a. Serving on the **Nominating Committee** (*that oversees Future Famer, Ammer Honoree and Bellwether Honoree nominations*): Co-chairs Barbara Strain (Bellwether Class of 2021) and Gary Rakes (Bellwether Class of 2021), Jake Groenewold (Bellwether Class of 2021), Chico Manning (Future Famers Class of 2024), Sue Tyk (Bellwether Class of 2022), Anand Joshi, M.D., (Ammer Honoree Class of 2024), Gail Kovacs (Bellwether Class of 2024) and Rick Barlow.
 - b. Serving on the **Pioneer Subcommittee** (*that oversees Bellwether Honoree nominations from the early 20th century to the 1980s*): Chair Gary Rakes, Fred Crans (Bellwether Class of 2020), Dave Hunter (Bellwether Class of 2024) and John Strong (Bellwether Class of 2011).
 - c. Serving on the **Marketing Committee** (*that oversees communications and promotions*): Chair Ryan Burke (Future Famers Class of 2022), Angie Bruns (Future Famers Class of 2024), Carl Meyer (Bellwether Class of 2019), Jake Groenewold, Barbara Strain and Rick Barlow.
 - d. Serving on the **Professional Development Committee** (*that oversees panels, webinars, Collegiate Capstone Projects and collegiate outreach programs*): Chair Rachel Anderson (Future Famers Class of 2023), Tom Harvieux (Bellwether Class of 2021), Tom Lubotsky (Bellwether Class of 2022), Fred Crans, Barbara Strain and Rick Barlow.
 - e. Serving on the **Philanthropy Committee** (*that oversees donations, scholarships and sponsorships*): Co-chairs Barbara Strain and Rick Barlow, Joe Colonna, Chico Manning, Carl Meyer, Gary Rakes and Sue Tyk.
6. **Debuting:** BLF is launching two service programs this year ... technically, one is an updated relaunch. The first is scheduled to debut at the University of Arkansas. Several Bellwether Community members will participate in our inaugural "**BLF Goes Back to School**" panel discussion, sharing relevant and useful information about provider-based healthcare supply chain management with attending students. BLF opens this educational opportunity to all colleges and universities offering undergraduate and graduate supply chain programs. This program joins our annual Collegiate Capstone Projects and dedicated scholarships as insightful ways BLF can introduce college students to mission-driven, provider-based supply chain and ideally open the door to hands-on internship opportunities. The second is BLF's **Supply Chain Maturity Assessment Tool (SCMAT)**, which enables healthcare provider organizations to self-evaluate the maturity of their supply chain operations. BLF originally licensed SCMAT for several years before the pandemic, but renewed interest motivated us to update the tool for the post-pandemic era. If you are a provider organization interested in assessing your supply chain operations internally, contact BLF HQ by email at rickdanabarlow@bellwetherleague.org and include "SCMAT" in the subject line.
7. **Opening:** Applications currently are online for BLF's 2025 educational scholarships. Click <https://www.bellwetherleague.org/scholarships.php> for access to applications for the **Jamie C. Kowalski Scholarship**; the **Lillian R. Matiska Scholarship** and the **Robert A. Simpson Scholarship**.

Please promote this opportunity among your student interns and fellow professionals. College students earning a degree or certificate in supply chain and supply chain professionals earning certification and additional training and development are eligible. **Deadline: July 1, 2025.**

8. **Gratifying:** Thanks to everyone who submitted nominations for the **Bellwether Honoree, Ammer Honoree and Future Famers Classes of 2025**. With 2025 nominations now closed, the Nominating Committee will be busy for the next several months assessing all the content received. We anticipate announcing the Future Famers Class of 2025 in May, the Ammer Honoree Class of 2025 in June and the Bellwether Honoree Class of 2025 in August.
9. **Learning:** Visit BLF's "Leaders & Luminaries" page (<https://www.bellwetherleague.org/leaders-luminaries.php>) for all the printed and audio-visual content developed and produced by BLF. In fact, as the television season prepares to head into reruns once NCAA Basketball's March Madness begins, tune into BLF for something absolutely fresh and new. Check out Fireside Chat – Episode 2, "Comparing Healthcare Capabilities to Outside Industries." It's live now!
10. **Sharing:** Visit **BLF's LinkedIn** page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bellwether-league/>. Connect with others to learn about BLF and share insights with industry thought leaders, pioneers, mentors, innovators, influencers and executives! Ryan Burke, BLF Marketing Committee Chair, plugs you in.
11. **Spreading the word:** If you've earned the privilege to be called a Bellwether Honoree, Ammer Honoree or Future Famer you should be sharing and showing that honor to the world. *Wear your lapel pin.* Tell everyone! Include your status symbol in your bio, CV, email and letter signature lines and PowerPoint presentations. Spread. The. Word!
12. **PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO BELLWETHER LEAGUE FOUNDATION IN 2025 OR BECOMING A SUSTAINING SPONSOR!** Your donation or sustaining sponsorship helps to educate, honor, inform and research healthcare supply chain performance excellence. *BLF is an **independent** 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, so donations are tax-deductible.*

Promote your healthcare supply chain thought leadership and vision

Become a Sustaining, Event or Program Sponsor or donate! Opportunities include:

- Bellwether Leadership Symposium
- *Leaders & Luminaries* multimedia content
- Hall of Fame VIP Reception
- Hall of Fame Photography Session
- REMEMBER e-newsletter
- Beacon Awards (e.g., crystal lighthouses)
- BLFIRE Videography
- BLFIRE Event Program
- Collegiate Capstone Projects
- Philanthropic grants and dedicated scholarships

Join our team to honor exceptional people doing extraordinary things, and also to recognize and grow your customer base.

Visit www.bellwetherleague.org and contact Bellwether League Foundation headquarters via telephone at (847) 466-7425 or email at rickdanabarlow@bellwetherleague.org.