



REMEMBER

February 23, 2026 • No. 29

for the Bellwether Community

BLFIRE19 • November 16, 2026 • ATTEND • DONATE • SPONSOR

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

- **Here we go:** Nominations for the Bellwether, Ammer Honoree and Future Famers Classes of 2026 are closed, and now the Nominating Committee begins assessing all the submitted information for the BOD vote later this Spring with official announcements scheduled for June.
- **Fall forward:** The 19th annual Bellwether League Foundation Induction & Recognition Event (**BLFIRE19**) is scheduled for **Monday, November 16, 2026**, at **Georgia Southern University's** Savannah, GA, campus. Here's an easy way to remember: 1-1-1-6-2-6. Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for more details, including a revamped event schedule undergoing a deep polish for an enduring shine. Watch for the formal announcement in early March.
- **On the road:** Several BOD and AC members are traveling to a variety of industry events during the next two months. Be sure to look for BOD Chairman **Barbara Strain** (*Bellwether Class of 2021*), Board Outreach Ambassador **Fred Crans** (*Bellwether Class of 2020*) and AC member **Carl Meyer** (*Bellwether Class of 2019*) at the **Federation of American Hospitals Conference and Business Expo** in Las Vegas, February 23-25; Carl Meyer at the **HIDA Executive Conference** in Bonita Springs, FL, March 10-13; Barbara Strain, Carl Meyer, AC member **Ryan Burke** (*Future Famers Class of 2022*) and **Angie Bruns** (*Future Famers Class of 2024*) at the **Spring IDN Summit** in Orlando, April 20-22; and AC member **George Godfrey** (*Bellwether Class of 2025*) at the **SMI Spring Forum** in Dallas, April 28-30.
- **Rewarding scholars:** Encourage college students studying supply chain, interns at your organization or even staffers pursuing additional education to apply for any or all of BLF's three scholarships for 2026. The scholarships are open to students, interns and active professionals taking classes to further their careers. Applications are available and open now. Contact BLF or visit BLF's Philanthropy page at <https://www.bellwetherleague.org/scholarships.php#gsc.tab=0>.
- **Capstone crystallization:** As the **Georgia Southern University** supply chain student team works with **Piedmont Healthcare** on the 2026 Collegiate Capstone Project to be presented during the Bellwether Leadership Symposium at BLFIRE19, we invite universities and healthcare providers

This is our way of saying thank you for making a difference.



to submit proposals for the 2027 Collegiate Capstone Projects and beyond. If you work with a nearby college or university – or would like to establish a relationship with one – contact BLF for assistance in making a connection and consider applying for the Collegiate Capstone Project.

- **Assess yourself:** BLF’s newly updated **Supply Chain Maturity Assessment Tool (SCMAT)** is available for licensing. This useful tool enables healthcare provider organizations to self-evaluate the development, growth and quality of their supply chain operations. Contact BLF by email at info@bellwetherleague.org for licensing details. Proceeds are applied to BLF’s scholarship fund to support the next-generation supply chain executives, leaders and professionals. We encourage suppliers to help BLF spread awareness of this tool and to promote this valuable and worthwhile opportunity to their provider customers.
- **Medaling:** 2026 invoices for our Sustaining Partners at the Founding, Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze levels are scheduled to be distributed by month’s end. We appreciate and value our Sustaining Partners. Next month, we’ll launch the first quarterly alumni donation campaign at the start of Spring season.
- **Uplevel:** Would you like to contribute to BLF’s scholarship fund? Consider joining the four Sustaining Partners who “upleveled” in 2025 by adding \$1,000 to their annual commitment – Founding Vizient, Platinum GHX, Bronze Allina and Bronze BJC HealthCare. You and they will be glad you did. Make an individual professional donation or uplevel your sustaining or event partnership. Contact BLF headquarters if you have any questions.
- **Covered:** *Leaders & Luminaries* edition 8 went live back in November that features a look to 2030 and a special tribute to the military as BLFIRE18 was held on the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. and Veterans Day Eve. In case you missed it all, visit our website and click here, <https://www.bellwetherleague.org/leaders-luminaries.php#gsc.tab=0> or use the QR code below.
- **Connected:** Sign up for and/or routinely visit BLF’s LinkedIn page for photos and references to valuable news and views you can use about the foundation, including conferences we’re attending, events we’re hosting and content we’re posting. Visit BLF’s LinkedIn page and follow us at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bellwether-league/>.

- **Make a tax-deductible donation to BLF in 2026.** Your donation or sustaining partnership helps to educate, honor, inform and research healthcare supply chain performance excellence. *BLF is an **independent** 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable foundation so donations are tax-deductible.*
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Join with us to honor exceptional people doing extraordinary things.



REMEMBER: Your bimonthly record of professional recognition.

Visit us at www.bellwetherleague.org or email us at info@bellwetherleague.org.