



RISING LEADER PROGRAM

April 30, 2025 • ACLI Office • Washington, D.C.

ACLI

AGENDA

(as of April 29, 2025)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

7:15–8:00 AM	REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING BREAKFAST
8:00–8:15 AM	WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS Speaker: David Chavern , President & Chief Executive Officer, American Council of Life Insurers
8:15–9:00 AM	A CONVERSATION WITH ACLI BOARD CHAIR RICH BIELEN Moderator: Ethan Olson , Senior Director of Financial Reporting, Protective Life Corporation Speaker: Rich Bielen , President & Chief Executive Officer, Protective Life Corporation
9:00–9:10 AM	REFRESHMENT BREAK
9:10–10:30 AM	LEADERSHIP SESSION: MASTERING COMMUNICATION- THE ESSENTIAL LANGUAGE OF LEADERSHIP (PART ONE) Speaker: Heather Wiser Soubra , PCC, Founder and CEO of Wiser Way Coaching and Director of The George Washington Leadership Institute at Mount Vernon
10:30–10:45 AM	REFRESHMENT BREAK
10:45 AM–12:00 PM	LEADERSHIP SESSION: MASTERING COMMUNICATION- THE ESSENTIAL LANGUAGE OF LEADERSHIP (PART TWO) Speaker: Heather Wiser Soubra , PCC, Founder and CEO of Wiser Way Coaching and Director of The George Washington Leadership Institute at Mount Vernon
12:00–1:00 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH Enjoy networking with attendees, take advantage of the ACLI media room to record your interview regarding the ACLI Rising Leader Program, and get an updated headshot.
1:00–2:00 PM	ACLI STAFF BRIEFING: STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE Hear our senior staff provide an update on advocacy efforts at the state and federal level as well as ACLI involvement with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Speakers: Paul Kangas , Vice President, Financial Services & Principal Deputy Vince Ryan , Regional Vice President, State Relations
2:30–4:00 PM	U.S. CAPITOL TOUR Discover our Capitol's vast history as you explore the magnificent building where some of the most pivotal moments in American history took place. Led by a guide from the Capitol Historical Society, this captivating experience offers an insider's look at this world-famous building. You'll have the unique opportunity to hear the secrets and stories that have shaped America's political landscape with fascinating anecdotes and insider knowledge at every turn.
5:00–6:00 PM	CLOSING RECEPTION

7:00 AM	Arrive at ACLI for group transportation to The George Washington Leadership Institute
<i>7:15-8:15 AM</i>	<i>Travel from ACLI to The George Washington Leadership Institute (Transportation provided)</i>
8:15-8:45 AM	NETWORKING BREAKFAST
8:45-9:00 AM	WELCOME AND OVERVIEW: CONNECTION BEFORE CONTENT Speaker: Heather Soubra , PCC, Director, George Washington Leadership Institute
9:00-10:15 AM	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP IN TIMES OF CHANGE: LESSONS FROM WASHINGTON, LINCOLN, ROOSEVELT, AND CHURCHILL Taking advantage of the lessons of history, this interactive presentation identifies eight common traits that these four remarkable leaders used to guide their countries through times of great crisis and change. This presentation emphasizes the importance of strategic vision, effective communication, visibility, and collaboration in dealing with the inherent anxiety created by crisis and change and in charting a positive way forward. The session will culminate in a facilitated discussion where participants reflect on their own leadership styles and identify strategies to enhance their ability to lead through change. Speaker: Dr. Peter Cressy RADM, USN ret, George Washington Leadership Institute
10:15-10:30 AM	REFRESHMENT BREAK
10:30 AM-12:00 PM	LEADING THE WASHINGTON WAY IN A MODERN WORLD In this interactive workshop, we will delve into the art of effective personal and organizational communication strategies, drawing inspiration from the timeless leadership principles of George Washington. By exploring Washington's pillars of leadership, we will examine the importance of strategic vision, execution, patience, and organizational character, and how they can be applied to propel 21st-century leaders to success. Speaker: Heather Soubra , PCC, Director, George Washington Leadership Institute
12:00-12:45 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH
12:45-1:30 PM	RARE BOOKS TOUR Step behind the "exhibition glass" and view firsthand authentic books and documents from Washington's own library, learning more about the character of the leader through his own words and collection. This emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning. Speaker: Dr. Joseph Stoltz , Military Historian and Adjunct Faculty
1:30-3:30 PM	THE SITUATION ROOM Take an active role in deciding history. In Mount Vernon's most immersive learning experience, each individual is assigned a role in the international crisis of the Genet Affair—from President Washington and his cabinet to members of the Senate and the press, to representatives of the foreign powers of Great Britain, France, and the Indian nations. Similar to Model UN or military war games, the Situation Room allows each participant to make decisions that influence the outcome of the simulation. The result is an exercise in leadership, decision-making, persuasion, teamwork, and working under pressure. Speakers: Dr. Joseph Stoltz , Military Historian and Adjunct Faculty Clare Moore , Program Advisor
3:40-4:00 PM	CLOSING MODALITY: INSIGHT TO ACTION Wrap up the day by synthesizing the lessons learned into actionable strategies. Participants will engage in a reflective discussion to identify key takeaways and develop personal action plans for leading through change. Speaker: Heather Soubra , PCC, Director, George Washington Leadership Institute
4:00-5:00 PM	TOUR OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MANSION Learn from Washington's best autobiography – his home. Not only is the Mansion one of the finest examples of American colonial architecture, but it reflected his character and personality, as well as his vision for our new nation.
<i>5:00-6:00 PM</i>	<i>Travel from Mount Vernon to ACLI Office</i>
6:00 PM	ARRIVE AT ACLI OFFICE