Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

Meet Your Board Members (cont.)

The last two Board members in this series of introductions are among the newest. Here are a few words about them from old-timers:

Donna Hayes-Austin is one of our newest Board members. Even before joining the Board, Donna has been an active member of the Public Education Committee, including volunteering to host last year’s Hot Topics event at Hartsfield Elementary School. Donna is a strong voice for equality and justice. We welcome her to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Sarah (Sally) Butzin, President LWVT

Katie Bohnett is one of our younger board members and is full of energy! She travels all over Florida for her new full-time job. She was instrumental in organizing our Centennial Celebration and handling the ticket sales. She also frequently assists our Treasurer at hot topics (remember those?) by collecting money and recording attendees.

Linda Davis

Donna Austin

For over 25 years, Dr. Donna R. Austin has influenced the landscape of public school education by enhancing the learning process for students to achieve optimal academic and personal excellence. Her passion is creating mentoring programs for economically disadvantaged students and building positive relationships.

Discovering a need for changing the narrative about Title I schools, Dr. Austin joined the League of Women Voters (LWV). As a member of the LWV, she works on increasing the public’s understanding of laws and rules that govern the operation of education systems. Dr. Austin agrees with Nelson Mandela: “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”

Katie Bohnett
Katie Bohnett came to Tallahassee from Colorado Springs in 2002 to attend Florida State University, and aside from some temporary work relocations, is proud to call it home. After a successful role in Charlie Crist’s 2006 Gubernatorial campaign at 21, she went on to become his youngest Director and Senior Staff member. Fifteen years later, she has held many positions in Republican, Democratic, and Independent campaigns including that of Linda McMahon for U.S. Senate in 2012 and of Congressman Charlie Crist’s successful 2016 run. She has experience in state government, campaign management, development, and association management and is currently the Florida State Organizer for REFORM Alliance, a national criminal justice reform organization. She joined the League of Women Voters in 2018 and joined the Board in April of the same year. She was also a voting delegate in the 2020 LWV National Convention in June of that year. Her hope for her second term on the Board is that the LWVT can overcome the challenges of this pandemic to succeed in our most fundamental purpose of “empowering voters and defending democracy.”

Amendment 4

Rain on our Amendment 4 Parade

In a previous Weekly Voter (June 15th), we summarized Judge Hinkle’s May 24th ruling about the voting rights of returning citizens (former felons) in Florida. Among other things, the ruling said that the State could not require a returning citizen to pay the legal financial obligations associated with their felony before restoring their voting rights if the returning citizen was unable to pay.

After this ruling, which was viewed as a major victory for voting rights, the LWVFL, under the guidance of Cecile Scoon, began developing detailed guidelines for registering returning citizens in a manner consistent with Judge Hinkle’s complex ruling.

On June 2nd, The State appealed to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and on July 1st, the Court issued a stay on Judge Hinkle’s ruling until it can be reviewed by the full appeals court. Consequently, the League has postponed its plans to register returning citizens who still have legal financial obligations, but who are unable to pay. However, the League WILL move ahead with registering returning citizens who have completed all terms of their sentence, including any legal financial obligations. We will notify everyone as soon as the League training for this has been finalized.

Voter Services
"American Experience: The Vote"

LWVT is proud to continue to sponsor quality television programming on WFSU TV. *American Experience: The Vote* is a different look at the fight for woman suffrage.

Exploring how and why millions of 20th-century Americans mobilized for — and against — women's suffrage, *The Vote* brings to life the unsung leaders of the movement and the deep controversies over gender roles and race that divided Americans then — and continue to dominate political discourse today.

This is another two-part program. Part I will air on Monday, July 6, at 9:00 p.m. (also at 1:00 a.m. on July 7 and at 3:00 a.m. on July 8). Part II will be shown on July 7, at 9:00 p.m. (and again at 1:00 a.m. on July 8 and at 4:00 a.m. on July 9).

Part 2 shows the mounting dispute over strategies and the pervasive racism of the time, particularly in the South. Watch a trailer from Part 2 here: [Part 2 trailer](#)

New Members

Kendra Lumadue  
Kay Cleary  
Gary Printy

SBA Members

Thanks to all who have renewed, and a special thank-you to those (listed below) who recently joined or renewed at the Susan B. Anthony level:

Emma Guilarte
What's Happening this Week

N.B.: Even if not so noted, many of these may be virtual meetings. Always check.

6 Monday. 1:00 p.m. Tallahassee and Police Benevolent Assoc. Negotiations Session. Virtual Meeting.

6 Monday. 6:00 p.m. Water Resources Committee. Virtual Meeting.

7 Tuesday. 9:00 a.m. Downtown Redevelopment Committee Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

7 Tuesday. 6:00 p.m. Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Commission. Virtual Meeting or City Commission Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

7 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m. The Village Square “Equality in Life” Virtual Town Hall Meeting. Contact: Liz Joyner 850 264-8785

8 Wednesday. 10:00 a.m. City Commission Workshop. Virtual Meeting.

8 Wednesday. 12:00 p.m. CSWG Health & Education Committee Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

8 Wednesday. 3:00 p.m. City Commission Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

9 Thursday. 1:00 p.m. Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Budget Workshop. City Commission Chambers, City Hall. 300 S. Adams St.

9 Thursday. 1:00 p.m. Leon County Development Support & Environmental Management. Zoom Contact: Amy Thrailkill 850 606-1325.

9 Thursday. 3:00 p.m. Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Meeting. City Commission Chambers, City Hall. 300 S. Adams St.

10 Friday. 11:30 a.m. CSWG Violence & Safety Committee Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

13 Monday. 12:00 p.m. CSWG Organization & Bylaws Committee Meeting. Virtual Meeting.
Or contact us at lwvtallahassee@gmail.com
850-309-3005

League of Women Voters of Tallahassee | 1400 Village Square Boulevard, Suite 3, Box 115, Tallahassee, FL 32312-1231

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