Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

Another Superwoman

We continue our series on local superwomen with Cori Bostic, who became the FAMU Marching 100’s first female drum major.

Cori Bostic was twenty years old when she became the first female drum major for the renowned Florida A&M Marching One Hundred. She has since graduated and is currently living in Chicago and working as a hospital patient care technician. She is applying to medical schools and hopes someday to become a surgeon.

The following is an edited and condensed interview of Ms. Bostic by Phelicia Stiell:

At FAMU, you entered a completely male dominated situation where all the drum majors were men. How was it for you?

So the first thing I'm going to start with was just how I was raised. I was not raised with traditional gender roles in the household. And it was very clear from a young age they did what needed to be done. My mom had her job and what my mom could do best for the family was what my mom did for the family. It wasn't necessarily what the woman did for the family. And what my dad could do best for the family is what my dad did. For me, it wasn't necessarily a dad thing to do.

So coming into college and looking at the leadership that I wanted to attain in the band, I didn't look at drum major as, "Oh, there's never been a girl before this. That's something that I can't do." I looked at it as, you know what? I think I'm capable of that job. I need to find out what's required of me for that job and I'm going to go for it. And I looked at what I needed to be personally. I looked at what I need to be professionally. I looked at what I needed to be physically. I looked at what I needed to be mentally.

And I tried out. The first time I didn't make it. And I was angry. I was sad, you know. A lot of people around me were like, oh, it's because she's a girl. And it's not. The first thing that came to my mind when I didn't make it was maybe I wasn't ready. Maybe I wasn't the one that I needed to be. And it didn't come to me as a discouraging thing. It came to me as I need to be better for next year. And when I tried out the next year Dr. Chipman saw that I was ready and I made it, and it was and has been one of the brightest spots and the
brightest honors of my life. And I do understand the importance of being the first female drum major. It is extremely honorable to be able to hold that title.

**You are applying to go to med school. But what schools are you looking at?**

Obviously, Meharry [Medical College, an HBCU in Nashville] and Howard [University College of Medicine] were very attractive for me, but where I work right now is extremely diverse. And coming out of an HBCU and jumping into the real world, I found that I didn't have the diversity experience that I thought I had. So now I'm looking at med schools that have people from different walks of life so that I can be equipped in the professional world to be able to work with white people, Asian people, Hispanic people. That was a weakness that I found out I had coming out of college that I really, really want to home in on.

**Have you thought about a specialty?**

So I have really been looking into surgery. The work that I do now has been surgery heavy, and I see the impact that it has on people's lives. Also I like getting my hands dirty. That's the blunt and ugly truth. And so with the work that I do now, I really see how impactful it is, pre-surgery, post-surgery and then even post discharge. And I like the complexity of it, the attention to detail that you have to have, how one stitch, one staple is the difference between a good outcome and a bad outcome.

I love that. That is where I want to be. That is the type of person I am, and that's what I want my career to be held in.

**What do you currently do?**

So currently I am a patient care tech. I work in a hospital in a med-surg unit and so we get all sorts of patients. We get car accident patients, gunshot wounds, traumas, falls off of buildings, whatever comes to your mind, that's what we get. And my job is to be a part of the care team that gets them out of surgery and out of the hospital as well, whether they're discharged to a short-term facility for therapy and rehabilitation or they're discharged home. And we are a part of that education, that post-surgical education. OK, you're a diabetic and we just amputated your foot. Here are some ways that you can get around the house easier. Here are some tricks that we can teach you to make your life a little bit easier, those types of things. That's where I come in. I'm also helping with wound care. I'm on the nurse team. So we are the people that the patient sees the most, you know, the people who the patient sees before the surgery, prepping them and saying, “Hey, it's going to be OK. That doctor has done this procedure a thousand times.” And we're the same people that they see right after surgery. “You were a trooper in surgery. Are you in pain right now? Let me look at your wound, let me measure your stitches. Tell me if you feel anything.”

I have seen some very, very difficult things, and that has put into perspective: one, how precious life is, and two, we can't be selfish. We can't think that, well, because it's not affecting me, it's not affecting anybody else. There is a trickle-down effect. I unfortunately saw an eighty-five year old man lose his life to coronavirus, and he had never left his house. But his grandchildren came over and after his grandchildren left, that is when his health began to decline. And imagine the hurt and the regret that family is going to have because of, “Oh, I just wanted to go see my granddad!”

**So is there anything you would like to add to what we know?**

Yes, just one last thing in closing. Through my highest of highs and through my lowest of lows, I wouldn't change a thing. Being a drum major for FAMU has been one of the most integral experiences of my life. I am so thankful for have gone through every single thing
that I went through because it made me who I am today.

For more about this extraordinary young woman, here is a piece about her on CNN and another here.

Revised Candidate Forum Schedule

Meet-the-Candidate Forums, held virtually through an exciting partnership between the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee and the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1:00—2:00 PM
FL State House, District 9
Allison Tant and Jim Kallinger

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1:00—2:00 PM
FL State House, District 7
Taymour Khan and Jason Shoaf

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1:00—2:00 PM
FL State Senate, District 3
Loranne Ausley and Marva Harris Preston

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1:00—2:00 PM
Tallahassee City Commission, Seat 2
Curtis Richardson and Bill Schack

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1:00—2:00 PM
Superintendent of Schools
Rocky Hanna and Pam Hightower

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1:00—2:00 PM
Pro/Con discussion of ballot initiative to create a Children’s Services Council

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1:00—2:00 PM
Congressional Representative, District 5
Gary Adler and Al Lawson

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1:00—2:00 PM
2nd Judicial Circuit Judge, Group 4
Tiffany Baker and Amanda P. Wall

View the candidate forums live on the Democrat’s web site at Tallahassee.com or the Democrat’s FaceBook page at facebook.com/tallahasseeedemocrat. Download the app from the App Store or Google Play to get an alert when a forum is about to start. Visit Election Central at Tallahassee.Com/elections or https://www.youtube.com/user/TD for archived forums.
Vote411 Billboards Are Up!

Check out this video to see one of our billboards going up. Great locations. One at the Apalachee Parkway and Capital Circle SE intersection, and the other at North Monroe near I-10. Thanks to Margaret Boeth and Phelicia Steill and their team for making it happen.

Sally Butzin

Yard Signs

Yes, we still have some VOTE411 yard signs left and want them to be displayed, no matter what area you live in.

If you want a sign, please send an e-mail to the coordinator, Peggy Allen (margaretallen97@gmail.com), with your name, email address, and phone number. Peggy will send an email to you, letting you know where you can pick up the sign(s).

There will be a sign-up sheet on a clipboard. Please add your name, date, and signature.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Boeth at voterserviceslwvt@gmail.com or 508-4800 (C) or text.
Peggy Ramsey with her T-shirt and VOTE411 sign. Be sure to get yours!

Voting!

Know Anyone Who Isn’t Registered?

Perhaps you know someone who will turn 18 by Election Day. They can, and should, register to vote now. Or you may know someone who just moved to Florida. You may even have a friend who thinks their vote doesn’t matter. You can help us achieve our mission by encouraging them all to get registered. The deadline to register in Florida for the general election is October 5th. There are 3 ways to register in Florida: online, a paper application that is mailed or delivered to the Supervisor of Elections (SOE), or in person.

To register online, you need either a Florida driver’s license or a Florida ID issued by a driver’s license office, as well as the last 4 digits of your social security number. Tell folks to go to www.Vote411.org where they will be directed either to the Florida online registration system or, if appropriate, to a paper application. If folks need to, or prefer to, register on paper, but do not have a printer, they can call their SOE to ask that a paper form be mailed to them. While most third-party organizations, such as the League, have suspended in-person registrations due to COVID, folks can go to their county’s SOE office to register. (SOE offices are taking careful COVID precautions.) If someone has questions
about their eligibility to register, or needs assistance, one’s SOE is a terrific resource. For Leon County, go to www.LeonVotes.gov or call 850-606-8683. Folks in other Florida counties can find their SOE at: https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors/.

Are you already registered to vote in Florida, but need to update? The same methods described above can be used to update one’s address, name, or signature. Updating does not have to adhere to the October 5th deadline, but still should be done ASAP. If your signature has changed and you haven’t updated for many years, completing a paper form is a good idea.

Registering and updating is easy. Tell everyone you know to do it!

_Voter Services, LWVT_

**Power to the People**

The Center for Civic Education is offering a special [Power to the People](#) webinar series, which begins this Constitution Day, September 17, at 7:30 pm Eastern. Additional sponsors are Kansas State University and the Indiana Bar Foundation. Nationally known scholars present both sides of controversial issues.

Visit the Center’s website or click the links below to sign up.

**The Power of People and the Courts**
Thursday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern / 4:30 p.m. Pacific  
Scholars: Christopher Riano and U.S. District Judge Mae Avila D’Agostino

**The Power of Indian Sovereignty**
Thursday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern / 4:30 p.m. Pacific  
Scholar: David E. Wilkins, Professor, E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Professor in Leadership Studies, University of Richmond

**The Power of Movements: The Struggle to Pass the Nineteenth Amendment and Beyond**
Thursday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern / 4:30 p.m. Pacific  
Scholar: Lisa Tetrault, Associate Professor, Carnegie Mellon University

**The Power of Symbols: Monuments and Flags**
Thursday, October 8 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern / 4:30 p.m. Pacific  
Scholar: Brandon Hasbrouck, Assistant Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law

**The Power of the Criminal Justice System**
Thursday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern / 4:30 p.m. Pacific  
Scholar: Hernandez Stroud, Counsel, Brennan Center for Justice

**The Power of Free Speech**
Thursday, October 22 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern / 4:30 p.m. Pacific  
Scholar: David Hudson, Visiting Associate Professor of Legal Practice, Belmont University
The Power of Voting: The Electoral College, Gerrymandering, and Suppression
Thursday, October 29 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern / 4:30 p.m. Pacific
Scholar: Michael Li, Senior Counsel, Brennan Center's Democracy Program

Membership

Membership Retention – Wow!

Nearly 90% of our Tallahassee League Members renewed during our recent renewal campaign. At first blush one might applaud the renewal strategy and campaign; after all, **75% is the average retention rate** according to the State League and 90% is therefore pretty impressive. *(Note, this is our first year of tracking retention rate so our first data point. Three data points are needed to trend.)*

It was a great campaign (thank you all who participated!), but I believe credit also belongs to our incredible membership base, as well as the value placed on the League’s role as a Defender of Democracy, particularly during an election year.

In 2010, Cathi Hight penned an informative article that talks about **why members renew** with an organization that I believe will resonate. She begins with a discussion of **Civic Responsibility** and offers a poignant analogy: **just like chivalry still exists and men open doors for women and walk on the outside of the pavement, there are still entities (members) who support the “fair share” concept and feel it’s their civic duty to be a member.** This was my first impression of every member I met when I became active with the Tallahassee League in 2017.

I joined to network with other civic-minded individuals, and I found MANY others with the same desire to be part of and give back to the community. Whether they just attended events or were more actively engaged in committee work, we shared a need to be proactive rather than reactive community members. I really like being affiliated with a respected 100-year old organization whose sphere of influence can be trusted and whose education and advocacy efforts are driven by grassroots study and action; I suspect many of you feel the same. I will stay (renew) with the League because it stands above all the political noise with the contacts, skills, and clout to represent not just my concerns, but the concerns of many whose voices might otherwise be silenced by one political party or another.

Thank you for renewing and remaining In League with us.

*Trish Neely, Membership Chair*

**New Members**

Kassie Ernst
And a special Thank You to **Kassie Ernst** for joining at the Susan B. Anthony level!

**What's Happening this Week**

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

**Monday**, September 14.

10:00 a.m. [Pre-Bid Meeting on RFP 0134-20-RT, Public Infrastructure MISC Projects](#). The Edison Restaurant. 470 Suwanee Street.

10:00 a.m. [Scoring Meeting for RF 0110-20-RT, South City Transit Center](#). Virtual Meeting.

12:00 p.m. [CWG Organization & Bylaws Committee Meeting](#). Virtual Meeting.

1:30 p.m. [City of Tallahassee and Big Bend Chapter Florida Police Benevolent Association Negotiations](#). Virtual Meeting.

2:00 p.m. [Scoring Meeting for RFP 065-20-RT, Hopkins HP2 Steam Turbine Major Inspection](#). Virtual Meeting.

6:00 p.m. [Greater Frenchtown/Southside (GFS) Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting](#). Virtual Meeting.

**Tuesday**, September 15.
12:00 p.m. **CSWG Education & Economic Security Committee Meeting**. Virtual Meeting.

12:30 p.m. **Welaunee Master Plan Update**. Virtual Meeting.

1:00 p.m. **City of Tallahassee and International Association of Firefighters Negotiations Session**. Virtual Meeting.

3:00 p.m. **Leon County Commission Meeting**. Virtual Meeting.

4:00 p.m. **Tallahassee Independent Ethics Board Meeting**. Video Conference.

5:00 p.m. **CSWG Health & Education Committee Meeting**. Virtual Meeting.

5:30 p.m. **Transit Advisory Committee Meeting**. Gemini Building, 5th floor conference room.

6:00 p.m. **Tallahassee Human Relations Council Meeting**. City Hall, Florida Room.

6:30 p.m. **Code Board Public Hearing**. Renaissance Center, 2nd floor conference room.

**Wednesday**, September 16.

11:00 a.m. **Scoring Meeting for NO. RFP-086-20-CC for Federal & State Lobbying Services**. Virtual Meeting.

1:00 p.m. **City of Tallahassee and Big Bend Chapter Florida Police Benevolent Association Negotiations**. Virtual Meeting.

1:00 p.m. **Scoring Meeting for RFP 066-20-RT – Hopkins Unit 1 Stack-Cooling Tower Demolition**. Virtual Meeting.

**Thursday**, September 17.

12:00 p.m. **Audit Committee Meeting**. Virtual Meeting.

3:00 p.m. **Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency: includes 6:00 Budget Public Hearing**. Virtual Meeting.

5:00 p.m. **Welaunee Master Plan Update**. Virtual Meeting.

**Friday**, September 18

11:30 a.m. **Tallahassee/Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls Full Commission Meeting**. Virtual Meeting or Renaissance Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

**Monday**, September 21.

12:00 p.m. **Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority Meeting**. Virtual Meeting.

1:30 p.m. **Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRPTA) Meeting**. Virtual Meeting.
Or contact us at lwvtallahassee@gmail.com
850-309-3005

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