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**NOW ACCEPTING
2016 DLA
NOMINATIONS**



DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARDS
A PROGRAM OF LEADERSHIP TALLAHASSEE

[**Nominate Here!**](#)

Upcoming Events

**Building Better Boards:
The Basics**

March 23rd, 11:45am to
1:30pm, Chamber Offices

Opportunity Tallahassee
Thursday, March 24

Program Preview Party
Thursday, March 24

Guest Editor: Reggie Bouthillier (LT 14)



I visited Tallahassee for the first time in 1993 and fell in love with this place. Two years later I transferred within my former firm leaving Miami to make Tallahassee home. As I look back over the last 21 years I'm very thankful for this community and the people that make it so special.

Leadership Tallahassee was at the beginning of this journey, and allowed me to learn more

about Tallahassee and establish lifelong friendships. The experience was positively transformative. At the heart of Leadership Tallahassee is our community and the desire to improve it. Each year we bring together a new group of diverse leaders of many different backgrounds with the goal of cultivating this desire. There are countless stories of alumni giving back their time and talent to our community following their Leadership Tallahassee experience. Over the last 21 years I've had the opportunity to participate in many different community service organizations and efforts. Each of these experiences reinforced the importance of Leadership Tallahassee and the positive impact it had on me.

One of my current roles is serving you as Chair-Elect of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. On October 1, 2016, I will be honored to serve you as Chair. Over the last 21 years I've watched our community grow and change in so many positive ways. As much as I love Tallahassee, no place is perfect as

Sittig Hall
5:30PM - 7PM

2016 Legislative Wrap Up

Monday, March 28
11:45AM - 1PM
Florida Historic Capitol
Museum

LT Class 34 Apps DUE
by 5PM
Monday, April 11

[LT Calendar of Events](#)

YLT: Did You Know?

More than 150 local high school sophomores applied to be in the 13th class of Youth Leadership Tallahassee!

Stay tuned for the new class announcement in the May eNews!

Learn more about YLT and how we are actively training tomorrow's community leaders [here](#).

YLT Social Media

Like us on **Facebook** 

Follow us on **twitter**

Contact LT Staff

Barbara Boone
Executive Director,
Leadership Tallahassee
(850) 521-3112
bboone@talchamber.com

Amanda Corbitt

you know, and we also face many challenges. Today, I believe we are blessed with tremendous opportunities to continue positive growth and change, and propel our desire to confront these challenges. We must continue to improve our community. In many instances we can turn challenges into opportunities. This is not only the heart of the Leadership Tallahassee program, but also the Chamber. The Chamber represents 1,400 members comprised of over 50,000 employees. As such, the Chamber is the leading business organization in the Capital region.

As you've probably noticed in recent months there have been many changes at the Chamber. These changes are reflective of the Chamber adapting and planning for the future. The recent dissolution of the Economic Development Council (originally birthed by the Chamber) and the Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency's assumption of the role as the economic development agency reflects the evolved outcome of the November 4, 2014 decision of 65% of Leon County voters who overwhelmingly approved a 20-year extension of the sales tax, which included 12% (estimated at \$90.7 million) set aside to support economic development projects, programs, and initiatives. We are only one of two communities in Florida to take advantage of this opportunity. While this has been a dominating focus, I would encourage each of you to consider the other 88% (estimated at \$660+ million) of these dollars which will be dedicated to major infrastructure projects throughout Leon County. The economic impact will be substantial. Your Chamber was forward-thinking years ago in supporting this outcome. This support was critical to the success of this economic opportunity.

These recent changes have not been without debate. Leadership is not designed to be easy, and at times requires difficult decisions in the face of evolving, dynamic circumstances. We know from experience that everyone will not agree. Your Chamber Board has worked hard to embrace change, debate the possibilities, and make the difficult decisions. I'm proud of our Chamber Board for their hard work and caring about the future of our members and this community.

As most of the dust settles from recent decision-making, the Chamber is looking ahead to the opportunities that lie in the wake of these changes. This will require that we continue to adapt and change as an organization.

Program Coordinator,
Leadership Tallahassee
(850) 521-3115
acorbitt@talchamber.com

LT Social Media



LT Public Page



LT Grads Page



@LeadTLH

[Donate via PayPal Here](#)

Front and center to this change will include a deep dive into strategic planning on how we can improve as an organization to better serve our members, and enhance the business community, the economic ecosystem, and our quality of life in Tallahassee. We will be transparent in these efforts as a Board as we tap into a diversity of opinions from our leaders and members, and embrace this next exciting journey in the future of our organization.

I hope to have the opportunity to work with you and encourage your input and feedback.

Thanks to each of you for your support of Leadership Tallahassee, the Chamber, and our community.

Opportunity Tallahassee - few spots left!

The 2nd session of Opportunity Tallahassee (OT) #BackForMore, chaired by **Jon Brown (LT 30)**, is **Thursday, March 24, 2016**. OT takes components of a LT year-long experience - like Government, Arts & Culture, Education, Healthcare, Human Services, Sustainability, and Public Service - and presents them in a one-day, action-packed, "Wow, I never knew that", immersive behind-the-scenes look at our community. OT was on the shelf since 2012 and was re-launched this past October. This upcoming Spring 2016 class will be only the second class in this new era. As we told the first class, hold onto your seats - this will be a blast!

Registration is \$325 for Chamber members and \$375 for non-Chamber members.

Questions? Contact [Barbara Boone](#).

[Click here to register for Opportunity Tallahassee.](#)

Program Preview Party to follow OT

Invite friends, colleagues and family member to join you and other LT grads/affiliates for the Program Preview Party on **Thursday, March 24, 2016, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Sittig Hall @ Florida League of Cities on Kleman Plaza**, 301 S. Bronough Street. They will meet and greet Leadership Tallahassee alumni at this **free event** and learn more about plans for the 2016-2017 Leadership Tallahassee Class 34.

For more information or RSVP contact Barbara Boone
bboone@talchamber.com.

2016 Legislative Wrap Up

REGISTER HERE



LEADERSHIP TALLAHASSEE
A PROGRAM OF THE GREATER TALLAHASSEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2016 Legislative Wrap Up

For LT Grads & Guests

Monday, March 28, 2016 | 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Florida Historic Capitol Museum

400 S Monroe Street

\$20 registration fee, includes lunch, parking on your own

Sponsored by



If you have any questions, contact Barbara Boone
at BBoone@TalChamber.com

LT 2.0 moves to April 22nd!

REGISTER HERE



LEADERSHIP TALLAHASSEE
CONNECT MORE  LEARN MORE  LEAD MORE

GROWING PAINS

April 22, 2016 | 8:30am - 5:00pm

LT 2.0, our program for LT graduates to continue learning about the community. It features all that comes with Tallahassee's fast-paced development. "What is it all about?" you might wonder. Here are some highlights:

- **Talent retention for all sectors by providing unique spaces for creativity to blossom**
- **Blueprint 2000 projects that have come to fruition**
- **Real estate developments that are taking root**
- **The established social scene that is branching out**

We will be visiting diverse locations across Tallahassee, including INIE, The Centre of Tallahassee, Madison Social, and Challenger Learning Center. More locations to come!

The committee chaired by Park Broome (LT 31), including Reggie Ellis (LT 31), MaryRose Sirianni (LT 31), Casey Grigsby (LT 31), Pam Doffek (LT 32) and Lori Billberry (LT 32) are finalizing the agenda.

Cost is \$50 and includes transportation + lunch.

**LT 2.0 Sponsored by
AT&T Florida**



For registration information, or to learn more, go to
www.LeadershipTallahassee.com

LT 33 Spotlight: Burn, Baby, Burn!



LT 33's Sustainability Day March 3, sponsored by

Awards4U was chaired by **Mat Tharpe (LT 31)**, standing in for **William Smith (LT 31)** who was being honored out of town, and coordinators included **Kevin McGorty (LT 13)** and **Rose Rodriguez (LT 16)**. Tall



Timbers hosted the group and the Class developed a greater understanding and appreciation for our ecological assets and their importance in maintaining a high quality of life in Leon County and the Red Hills. They also realized they did not know much about wildlife and native plant species as Tall Timbers staff tested their Nature IQ and **Lane Green (LT 5)** set the stage for the afternoon's activities highlighting "Smokey Bear Got

it Wrong"! The Red Hills Farming movement was featured as another "unique to Tallahassee" sector and after lunch provided by Tall Timbers and Tharpe Construction, the crew headed to the great outdoors. A wagon tour of TTRS revealed much to absorb about Jones Tenant Farm, red cockaded woodpecker, pine trees and what else? Quail! Mother Nature was smiling on Class 33- they got to do aprescribed burn - which was deemed "Awesome!". And this comment from the day's evaluation: "It was a fantastic day from start to finish. I learned so much. I have lived around the controlled burns for over 25 years and I thought I knew a lot but this brought it all together for me. I have known Lane Green for many years and I feel sorry for any LT class that hasn't had the benefit of spending time with him out at Tall Timbers. How lucky we all are to live where we do! Yesterday was an awesome experience." Agreed!



Thank you to our Sustainability Day Sponsor:



YLT Spotlight: Super Interview Day!



More than 150 local high school sophomores had the opportunity to interview for Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 13. We are so glad to have offered many of those students their first interview experience with three Leadership Tallahassee program

graduates.



Several students from the current YLT class volunteered to help with the logistics of the day as well as serve as a resource and friendly face to all YLT applicants. Superintendent Jackie Pons stopped by to greet and encourage the students.



*THANK YOU to **ALL** of the Leadership Tallahassee graduates who dedicated their time to volunteer in this exciting process of selecting a new class of inspiring young people. We look forward to announcing the next class in the May eNews!*

Movers & Shakers

New Jobs, Promotions, etc. -

Kristen Black (LT 28) is the new Director of Development and Communications for Elder Care Services. **Kimberly Dixon (LT 25)** joined Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor. **Melanie Quinton (LT 31)** joins

Centennial Bank as a Lending Officer. **Mickey Moore (LT 24)** has been selected to serve as President of the TMH Foundation.

Boards, Appointments, etc. -

Congratulations to all of the LT Grads who were selected as one of the 2016 Top 25 Women You Need to Know: **Linda Butler (LT 21), Roxanne Hughes (LT 31), Frances Aidman Conaway (LT 7), Ida M. Thompson (LT 31), Karen Walker (LT 16), Kimberly Clark Menchion (LT 25), Stefanie Bowden (LT 32), and Allison Harrell (LT 27). Maggie Theriot (LT 28)** will be honored at TCC's "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government" during Women's History Month on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at TCC. **Jack Campbell (LT 23)** and **Kitty Flynn (LT 10)** joined the 2016 Volunteer Leadership Board for the Tallahassee area unit of the American Cancer Society, Florida Division.

Our Condolences to:

Brenda Jarmon (LT 25) on the passing of her mother.

John Wood (LT 3) on the passing of his father.

2015-2016 Officers

Kim Smiley, *Chair* (LT 22)
Kim Kelling-Engstrom, *Chair Elect* (LT 28)
Kelly Otte, *Secretary* (LT 21)
Adam Watson, *Treasurer* (LT 27)
George Smith, *Immediate Past Chair* (LT 24)

2015-2016 Board

Leanne Adkins (LT 29)
Debbie Bergstrom Breeze (LT 14)
Reggie Bouthillier (LT 14)
Elaine Bryant (LT 29)
Sue Dick (LT 16)
Reggie Ellis (LT 31)
Brian Fairhurst (LT 25)
Karen Frost (LT 30)
R. Jai Gillum (LT 25)
Ben Graybar (LT 26)
Mike LePorin (LT 30)
Jimmy Nystrom (LT 31)
Rob Renzi (LT 28)
Marcia Thornberry (LT 27)

Sondra Timpson (LT 31)
Melissa VanSickle (LT 29)

Leadership Tallahassee, Inc. | 850-224-8116

bboone@talchamber.com | <http://www.leadershiptallahassee.com>

P.O. Box 1639 32302 | 300 E. Park Avenue 32301 | Tallahassee, FL 32302