



Meet the 2022 First Term Trustee Nominees

James A. Higgins is a Naugatuck resident and serves on the borough's finance board along with committees for special projects under Mayor Hess. He also participates in parent-teacher organizations at four of the Naugatuck Public Schools. James has dedicated his life to helping youths in the region. He became a licensed foster parent and has cared for multiple youths over the previous years by opening his home. As of 2022, he's currently in the process



to adopt four children and is awaiting court proceedings. James has a personal mission to be the human he needed when he was a youth.

James is deeply rooted to civic organizations which include Young Professionals of Waterbury Region, Exchange Club of Waterbury, Building Equitable Opportunity Committee for Connecticut Community Foundation, Credit Union League of Connecticut, and more. He's previously served

on the boards for Main Street Waterbury, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Waterbury, Finance and Audit Review Commission in Waterbury, and Ambassador for the Waterbury Regional Chamber. His community involvement exemplifies his core values of commitment, leadership, and integrity. James received the 2017 Volunteer of the Year award at the 23rd Annual Malcolm Baldrige Chamber Awards.

James currently serves as the President and CEO of Skyline Financial Federal Credit Union in Waterbury, CT. In 2021, he was appointed President and CEO by the board of directors, James entered the position as the youngest CEO in the State of Connecticut for financial Institutions at age 33. He's successfully driven 20 years' worth of infrastructure upgrades and progression at the credit union within six months by virtualizing most of the operations, adding new technology to support today's banking needs, negotiating contracts for

reduced expenses, and increasing the support members needed. James received the 2020 Outstanding Credit Union Young Professional Award by the Credit Union League of Connecticut. James previously worked for FD Community Federal Credit Union as the Chief Operating Officer, Webster Bank as a Vice President, Fiserv as a Business Consultant, Indeed as an Account Executive and 3PL Worldwide as the Operations Director. James has adopted a new professional motive which is: It is time to reinvent the wheel.

James graduated from Albertus Magnus College with a Bachelor of Science with cum laude, in Business in 2013, and a Master of Administration in Business and Leadership in 2016. James received the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and College's in 2016.

Janie L. McDermott grew up in the Appalachian foothills of eastern Kentucky, where most of her family still resides. The first in her family to attend college, she completed her B.A. in English at UCONN.

Janie served as a paralegal for 13 years before returning to law school when her youngest child went off to kindergarten. Janie's decision to begin law school in her mid-30s was driven by a desire to serve as a voice for those who often do not have the wherewithal to speak for themselves.

During law school, Janie worked with the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky (AppalReD), the ACLU of Connecticut, and was a fellow at Yale Law School's Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization.

Janie now works primarily with individual clients and nonprofits at Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey, in its Waterbury office. Janie is actively involved with the firms Pro Bono and DEI Committees, and often serves as a mentor to incoming interns and summer associates. She and her spouse have worked to instill in their family the importance of civic engagement and volunteerism. Janie also currently serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Litchfield Community Center.



Adrienne Parkmond is a Waterbury resident and multi-talented Executive who oversees all program operations of The WorkPlace, Inc.—a large regional workforce nonprofit based in Southwestern Connecticut. With nearly 20 years of experience in the field, Adrienne has developed and implemented successful programs that have been recognized nationally as state of the art workforce development programs. As a workforce development advocate, Attorney Parkmond has been a force in supporting the community to prepare people for careers while strengthening the workforce for employers.

Adrienne is a tireless contributor to the community currently serving as the board chair for Waterbury Promise, president of the New Haven Pearls of



Excellence Foundation and on the Foundation's Building Equitable Opportunities grantmaking committee. Adrienne is the past president of the board of the CT Women's Education and Legal Fund, past president of the Waterbury Chapter of The Links, Inc., and served on two charter revision commissions for the City of Waterbury, as well as the city's Human Rights Commission and the Board of Assessment Appeals. Adrienne has served the community through several other board and volunteer roles.

Adrienne engages in public speaking on issues relating to education, training and workforce development and is faculty at Post University and Naugatuck Valley Community College.

In 2001, Adrienne was chosen as an awardee for the NAACP's 100 Most Influential Blacks in CT in 2021.

Adrienne holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance from Villanova University and a Juris Doctor from Quinnipiac University School of Law.