



Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

Chartered September 9, 1940

Volume 82, Number 5

Club Representatives

- President
Karen Mullins
727-222-0417
DWCUP727@gmail.com
- 1st Vice President
Donna Dennis
313-443-2587
Donnis33@hotmail.com
- 2nd Vice President
Ruthann Richwine
727-734-7591
RuthanRichwine@gmail.com
- Recording Secretary
Diane Lebedeff
727-266-2911
DLebedeff@gmail.com
- Treasurer
Karen Miracle
813-503-7777
Karen-MiracleLaw@hotmail.com
- Regional Rep.
Cora Kostka
727-201-7863
CFKostka@gmail.com
- Legislative Liaison
Karen Mullins
(Interim)
- Parliamentarian
Open

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, May 23, 2022

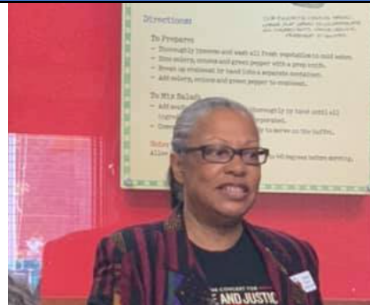
St Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus Library

Zoom

12 pm

NO PIZZA

GUEST SPEAKER



Yolanda Russell

Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Democratic Women's Club of Florida

Yolanda Russell is a fierce champion of diversity and inclusion.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Audacious Democrats,

A few fortunate board members got the opportunity to attend the 66th Annual Democratic Women's Club of Florida (DWCF) Convention at the lovely Rosen Center in Orlando. The Region 8 delegate, Cora Kostka, Mary Freeman, Donna Dennis, and I attended. (DWCUP is under Region 8 in DWCF)

Each of us came back invigorated to continue our march to November 2022! The women and men at the convention are determined to make their own districts blue, but Florida as well. The DWCF has over 3000 members who are engaged and ready to fight for our Democracy.

Sergeant-At-Arms
Jasmina Forcan
727-692-3472

Publicity Chair
Margie Murphy
727-281-2525
Margie@PurplePa
w.net

Newsletter Editor
Donna Dennis
Karen Mullins

DWCUP
DWCUP.org

Twitter
@DWCUP_727

Instagram:
@DWCUP_727

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DWCUP>

Email:
DWCUP727@gmail.com

DWCF, Inc.
DWCF.org

Nation Federation of
Democratic Women
www.nfdw.com

Florida Democratic Party
Fladems.com

Pinellas County
Democratic Executive
Committee
Pinellasedemocrats.com

I can say that we did miss you while at the convention. I am formally inviting you to add your talent and voice to the DWCF. Without it, we are not whole and not as effective in moving our values for Florida forward.

There were action items made available to us to make us feel accomplished and making a difference in Florida. Because it is a redistricting year, there were an abundance of candidate petitions, which added to the excitement. The candidates who were in attendance were all inspiring and informed.

Please know that we have the best roommates and Donna Dennis brings the best snacks! We carpool and we rest when we are tired. But most of all, we have fun!!

 **ACTION** 

For DWCUP, we need to work on reaching out to voters. I am asking you to come up with a postcard graphics and messaging. We are looking to reach out to single Pinellas Democratic women voters who were registered to vote but did not do so in the 2020 election. We need to accomplish this by the end of June. This will be a FAST turnaround time!

We are accepting donations for the DWCUP 2022 Postcard Drive: DWCUP.com/donate



Now for old business; I had said that we were to have social media training for the club. On that note, my training focus heavily on Twitter. With ownership of Twitter changing to an oligarch, the club will be moving away from Twitter to focus on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok. I am looking for trainers for these social media

platforms. Please contact me if you have anyone in mind.

I am asking **you** to reach out me or one of our board members for action ideas and future speakers for our club meetings.

NOW LET'S GET TO WORK!

Karen Mullins
(She/Her/Ella)

~You are the change. You are the government. You are the power.

DWCUP TUESDAYS
@ North Pinellas Democratic Outreach Center
Sign Up to Join Us @
1402 North MLK Ave. Clearwater
Come in and volunteer!
Open Mon-Fri
12-4pm
Sat
10am-12pm.
Info:
Office@pinellasdemocrats.com
727-327-2796

NAACP Clearwater/Upper Pinellas
Help us end voter suppression now by donating to the **Get Out the Vote Campaign**. Increased voter participation in the 2022 elections is critical. This campaign will target both registered voters who have not voted in recent elections and unregistered voters.
To cross barriers of mistrust, funds are needed to hire Black and Latino young adults who will door knock. Unregistered voters will be assisted with the voter registration process. They will provide, in English and Spanish, information on voting deadlines and voting options, such as how to vote by mail and early voting site locations.
Questions? Contact Phil Stone, Campaign Coordinator, (413) 992-7991 (cell); email PhilStone300@gmail.com.

Toiletries: DWCUP collects unused toiletries at each in person meeting for local charities. Please look for the PINK basket to drop off your donations.

Household Batteries: DWCUP's Jessie Forcan takes household batteries (not rechargeable) to recycle in Pasco County.



DWCUP Annual Membership Dues:

\$25.00

Get the best deals here:

TIERED MEMBERSHIPS

PLATINUM Member:

3 years for
\$70.00 ✓

SILVER Member:

5 years for
\$100.00 ✓

GOLD Member:

Member for Life
\$250.00 ✓

Make your dues payment here:

<https://dwcup.com/donate>

Your membership is valid through January 31, 2023.

The 66th Democratic Women's Club of Florida Convention



DWCF Convention Lunch



The Groovy DWCF Delegation



The 'Royalty' of DWCF Region 8 Delegation



Gwen Stefanski, Chair, Region 8, DWCF



Cora Kostka and DWCF President Monica Readus

Gubernatorial Candidates



Cora Kostka and Congressman Charlie Crist



Donna Dennis, FL Senator Annette Taddeo



Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried and Karen Mullins



@poet1deep, a Recited a poignant poem at the PerSisters Rally on race challenges. He is a leader in his own right.



DWCF PAC's Grassroots Team Accomplishments



Nancy Hurlber, DWCF PAC Chair



Region 8 Delegation

Orlando Sentinel

Press Coverage of the DWCF*



Charlie Crist mingles before the start of the Democratic Women's Clubs of Florida forum for the three major Democratic gubernatorial candidates at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando on Friday, April 29, 2022. Charlie Crist, Nikki Fried and Annette Taddeo all participated in the forum. (Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel) (Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel)



Annette Taddeo mingles before the start of the Democratic Women's Clubs of Florida forum for the three major Democratic gubernatorial candidates at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando on Friday, April 29, 2022. Charlie Crist, Nikki Fried and Annette Taddeo all participated in the forum. (Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel) (Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel)



Nikki Fried, left, and Charlie Crist share a moment during the Democratic Women's Clubs of Florida forum for the three major Democratic gubernatorial candidates at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando on Friday, April 29, 2022. Charlie Crist, Nikki Fried and Annette Taddeo all participated in the forum. (Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel) (Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel)

***Click on photos for link to the article. Must have an Orlando Sentinel subscription to read the article, unfortunately.**

EVENTS

- **DWCUP Executive Board Meeting**
 - May 18, 2022
 - 11 am
 - Contact Karen at DWCUP727@gmail.com for location
- **DWCUP Membership Meeting**
 - May 23, 2022
 - St Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus Library
 - Zoom
 - 12 pm
- **DWCUP Night Out**
 - July 6, 2022
 - TBA
- **Florida Democratic Party's Leadership Blue**
 - July 15 - July 17
 - JW Marriott Tampa Water Street in Tampa, FL



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- **Leadership Blue Gala**
 - July 16
 - 6:00 PM EDT Doors Open
 - Gala scheduled from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
 - To purchase your tickets to the GALA: leadershipblue.com
 -
- **Democratic Women's Club of Florida, 67th Convention**
 - April 27-30, 2023
 - The Rosen Center, Orlando, FL
- MORE EVENTS:
 - Click Here: <https://www.mobilize.us/pinellascountydec>

DWCUP Words of Inspiration

May is devoted to Mental Health Awareness, a concept increasingly important during the years of stress we have all experienced and now exacerbated by news from Ukraine

In order to bring energy to our causes, we must attend to our own self-care – physical, emotional, social, financial. As Buddha advised, caring for oneself has an impact beyond the self: “You, yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection.”

As women, we often must be encouraged to attend to our own needs, so I offer these wonderfully pungent and full-of-truth observations:

“You are not alive just to pay bills and lose weight.” (Caroline Dooner)

“Self-care is giving the world the best of you, instead of what's left of you.” (Katie Reed)

“You are worth ... the time it takes to slow down, be still, and rest.” (Morgan Harper Nichols)

“Keep taking time for yourself until you're you again.” (Lalah Delia)

As Democratic Women and as individuals, we must remember that self-care makes us strong, peaceful, joyous, and productive ... and even helps us become better Democrats.

Best wishes for a wonderful month of May! And remember to treasure and care for yourself.

~**Diane Lebedeff**

We deserve the freedom to be healthy, prosperous, and safe.

VIA: League of Women Voters of Florida

Overview of Senate Bill 90 Court Ruling & Updated Voter Registration Guidance

Last Updated: April 15, 2022

On **March 31, 2022**, a federal court in Tallahassee highlighted over twenty years of intentional discrimination against Black voters in the state of Florida. The case, brought by the League of Women Voters of Florida and others, was filed within minutes of **Florida's Senate Bill 90** (2021) becoming law. The plaintiffs (the League and other voting and civil rights groups) proclaimed the law had numerous elements of voter suppression. The court found that in many ways, Florida's Senate Bill 90 was part of a twenty-year discriminatory history and an act of voter suppression. In a 288-page ruling, several provisions of Senate Bill 90 were struck down and enjoined as the court found that they were unconstitutional or violated the **Voting Rights Act**.

Key takeaways from the court ruling:

- The **warning provision** in Senate Bill 90 requiring Third Party Voter Registration Organizations (3PVROs) to tell citizens that a 3PVRO may not turn their application in on time and that they could register to vote in other ways has been struck down.
- The provision in which Senate Bill 90 prohibits providing assistance to a voter such as **providing water**, a snack or "comfort assistance" within 150 feet of the entrance of a polling place has been struck down.
- The provision in which **drop boxes** were limited to regular business hours and required a Supervisor of Elections (SOE) to provide a paid employee to monitor a drop box or be subject to a \$25,000 fine has been struck down.

Provisions of Senate Bill 90 that remain intact:

- Voters must request mail ballots every election cycle (**every two years**)
- Voters must sign voter certificates on back of vote-by-mail envelopes
- Voters must provide one of three ID numbers to request a vote-by-mail ballot:
 - **Driver's license**
 - **State identification card**
 - **Last four digits of social security number**
- Voter registration applications must still be turned into the SOE's office where the voter resides or the Division of Elections in Tallahassee within 14 days of completing application or before book closing, whichever first occurs.
- There is still **a 2-ballot limit per election** on the number of ballots a person can possess from non-family members. A violation is a misdemeanor.
- Canvassing board activities can be observed by candidates and party members and signatures can be challenged.

Updates to the League's Voter Registration & Assistance procedures following this court order:

- League members do not need to display or verbalize the previously required disclaimer or warning.

- League members, volunteers, and citizens can now assist voters waiting in line at a voting site generally (providing water/snacks or assisting a person with mobility issues), but a volunteer or citizen cannot provide information on voting, candidates, or elections.
- Drop box usage will no longer be subject to Senate Bill 90's provisions. SOEs can return to allowing drop boxes to be utilized in the same manner that they have been in past elections including the 2020 election.
- The presiding Judge placed a ten-year preclearance requirement on new voting laws that could impact the provisions which were overruled or that could impact 3PVRs.
- League members should also ensure that they check their local SOE's website for any county specific updates/policy changes due to this ruling.
- Expanded details on the Florida Legislature's intentional discrimination against Black voters:
 - Based on expert testimony and review of the Legislature's actions in the last twenty years, "... This Court finds that the Legislature enacted some of SB 90's provisions with the intent to discriminate against Black voters," (Page 38).
 - The court also found: "At some point, when the Florida Legislature passes law after law disproportionately burdening Black voters, this Court can no longer accept that the effect is incidental. Based on the indisputable pattern set out above, this Court finds that, in the past 20 years, Florida has repeatedly sought to make voting tougher for Black voters because of their propensity to favor Democratic candidates" (Page 65).

Appeal filed:

- Florida's Secretary of State Laurel M. Lee has appealed this ruling. The Republican National Committee, Republican Senatorial Committee, Supervisor of Elections Alan Hays of Lake County, and Tommy Doyle of Lee County have also appealed.
- What does this mean? The parties listed above will file briefs to an appellate court to try to overturn the League and our partners win. The parties have also filed a motion to stay the trial court's ruling. The League's lawyers are preparing a response against the motion for stay. The trial court's final order will remain the law, until and if, there is either a stay or if the order is overturned on appeal.
- Updates and changes to this guidance will be provided as needed as this matter progresses.

Questions regarding this information or updated guidance?
Please contact the League of Women Voters of Florida directly.

Email: info@lwvfl.org | Phone: 407-377-5777

What Biden Has Accomplished:

Biden [signed](#) the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, providing over \$1.2 trillion in infrastructure spending in every state in the country



Biden [signed](#) “Ending Importation of Russian Oil Act,” which statutorily prohibits the importation of energy products from the Russian Federation; and H.R. 7108, the “Suspending Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus Act,” which suspends normal trade relations with the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus and seeks to further leverage trade and human rights sanctions.

Biden [allocated](#) \$5 billion from FEMA for communities affected by climate-related disasters

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/>



Next Meeting:

May 23, 2022

Yolanda Russell

On Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

St Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus Library

12pm-1:30pm