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CLUB OFFICERS & CHAIRS

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Polly Kraus

MEMBERSHIP MEETING Monday, January 27, 2025 at 12pm

Door opens/Social time 11:30

Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.

GUEST SPEAKER David Jolly



David Jolly is an American attorney, former lobbyist, and formerly Republican politician who served as the U.S. representative for Florida's 13th congressional district from 2014 to 2017. representing the communities of St. Petersburg, Clearwater, and the surrounding beaches.

As a Member of the House Committee on Appropriations, David had oversight over virtually every federal program and was responsible for working with the Committee in crafting the annual budgets of federal departments and agencies. David has also worked in a professional staff capacity with the United States Congress, serving for nearly 20 years in a variety of professional roles.

David practiced securities law and served as a vice president at a government affairs firm in Washington D.C., and has owned and operated his own law firm, government affairs firm, and communications firm. Today, David serves on several corporate boards, including both private and publicly held companies.

David is a frequent guest analyst on MSNBC and CNN, and has been a guest or featured on *Real Time with Bill Maher*, *Morning Joe*, *CBS World News*, *NBC Nightly News*, and *Vice News*. His work can be found in *The Washington Post*, *Time Magazine*, *CNN.com*, the *Tampa Bay Times* and other print outlets.

David has a B.A. from Emory University in History and a J.D., *cum laude*, from George Mason University. David and his wife Laura reside in Belleair Bluffs, Florida.

DWCUP Website

DWCUP.org

Instagram

[@DWCUP727](https://www.instagram.com/DWCUP727)

Facebook

facebook.com/groups/DWCUP

Club Email

DWCUP727@gmail.com

**Democratic Women's
Club of Florida, Inc.**

DWCF.org

**Nation Federation of
Democratic Women**

www.nfdw.com

Florida Democratic Party

Fladems.com

**Pinellas County
Democratic Executive
Committee**

Pinellasdemocrats.com

EVERYONE MUST RENEW their mail ballot request. Do it now!

Florida law requires you to renew the request every two years and we have all reached the renewal time.

Renew online at votepinellas.gov/VoteByMail. Or call the Pinellas Supervisor of Elections office (from 8:00 am-5:00 pm M-F) at [727-464-8683](tel:727-464-8683) to renew your mail ballot request.

Important Upcoming Dates

January 20 – MLK Day

January 27 – DWCUP Monthly Meeting

February 10 – Dem Women's Nite Out
at Lucky Lobster

February 24 – DWCUP Monthly
Meeting

March 31 – DWCUP Monthly Meeting
(last Monday in March)

April 28 – DWCUP Monthly Meeting

**PAY YOUR DWCUP MEMBERSHIP
DUES FOR 2025
SEE THE LAST PAGE OF THE
NEWSLETTER FOR PAYMENT
OPTIONS**

DWCUP PRESIDENT'S REMARKS JANUARY 2025



We **still** won't go back. That's the message to keep in mind as we may now tend to shrink away from the political arena and news in general. But know this: You have many allies. You are not wrong or out of touch. Our shared values are solid. We will continue to work together and support each other as Democrats.

To that end, your Board is already working on plans for an active year ahead. We have dynamic speakers coming to talk about the state of our world, state and county—and the way forward.

We'll continue hosting the Democratic Women's Nights Out, as these give us an opportunity to gather and share and just have a good time! Tally Days is coming up, where we go to Tallahassee and speak with legislators, attend legislative hearings, and work with Democratic women from around our region. We'll help with campaigns for elections in Districts One and Six on April 1st. And we'll plot a course forward for the year.

You'll hear more details about all these upcoming events and activities. For now, join me in remembering **President Jimmy Carter** for an incredible lifetime of service to America, all with humility, compassion, and ethical conduct seldom seen in political leaders anymore.

Plan to attend our meeting on **Monday, January 27th at Noon**, when we'll hear from David Jolly about the state of politics in Florida and the USA. Many of us have followed his progress from Republican Congressman to his break with the Republican Party and utter disdain for the MAGA movement. His analyses on local and national media outlets are insightful and perceptive.

Stay with us. That's the most important message of all.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 27th!

Donna Dennis

DWCUP By Laws Update

Established in 1940, the DWCUP is one of the oldest Democratic women's clubs in the country. We are affiliated with the Democratic Women's Club of Florida (dwcf.org) and therefore align our by laws with that organization. To that end, the Board has made a review of the DWCUP by laws and is in the process of making necessary revisions. Find the by laws on the DWCUP website.

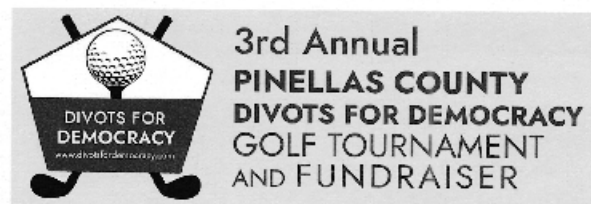


The city of Clearwater and the NAACP Clearwater Upper Pinellas County Branch presents the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, at the North Greenwood Recreation Center, 900 N. Martin Luther King Jr., Ave., Clearwater.

Participate in a march that begins at 11 a.m. at the North Greenwood Recreation Center and proceeds to Coachman Park and The Sound.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Participants explore and enjoy the park, family-friendly activities'

1:30 p.m.: The Sound gates open. 2 p.m.: Keynote speaker, bands and various performances.



PRIZES INCLUDE \$20,000 HOLE-IN-ONE

(Split 50/50 with Divots for Democracy PAC)

BEGINNER PLAYERS ARE WELCOME!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Check in begins 7:00 am

Bardmoor Golf Course and Tennis Club

8001 Cumberland Rd, Seminole, FL 33777

Help elect DEMOCRATS in Pinellas County!

♦ **BE A PLAYER**-4 person team best ball only **\$99** per player!
Includes cart, breakfast snacks, lunch, gift bag,
silent auction, chances to win great prizes!

♦ **BE A SPONSOR**-sponsorships from **\$100-\$5,000**
RECEIVE **10% CASH** for each paid sponsorship referral

♦ **VOLUNTEER**-knowledge of golf not necessary

♦ **DONATE** to help elect leaders who support our
DEMOCRACY - go to **SECURE.ACTBLUE.COM/DONATE/DIVOTS**
or scan QR code →

www.divotsfordemocracy.com

PAID FOR BY THE DIVOTS FOR DEMOCRACY PAC



DWCUP 2024 Year in Review

Annually, at our final gathering of the year, the President of the DWCUP presents the Year in Review to members. Reflecting on 2024, I'm going to borrow a line from Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities": "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

We started 2024 with a new board, which includes: 1st VP—Cora Kostka, 2nd VP/Membership—Nancy Vellucci, Treasurer—Kathleen Keohane, Recording Secretary/Newsletter Chair—Jan Walton, Regional Representative—Donna Dennis, Legislative Liaison—Jean Greenawalt, Publicity—Marjorie Murphy, Hospitality—Karen Miracle and Ruthann Richwine, Campaign/Fundraising—Liz Dahan, Bylaws—Karen Mullins
IT'S THE BEST TEAM EVER!

We hit the ground running in January, hearing from Pinellas County Commissioner Charlie Justice, and candidate for Congress, District 13, Whitney Fox. We heard about new bills being considered by the FL State Legislature and acquired enough signatures to get abortion on the November ballot. Special events included the local NAACP MLK Breakfast and the DWCF Fundraiser in Ybor City.

February included our celebration of Black History Month with Linda Brewton of the North Pinellas NAACP. Many of us were working hard on the mayoral campaign of Kathleen Beckman and the City Council campaign of Javante Scott. In addition, some of us attended the Planned Parenthood fundraiser in Tampa.

The phone banking, canvassing, and lit drops continued into March and the municipal elections. We hosted more candidates for Congressional District 13. Our guest speaker in March was Dr Susan MacManus. Her astute analysis of the Florida electorate was illuminating, distressing and prescient. During that meeting, we awarded Mary Freeman the Lifetime Membership Award for her outstanding service to this club.

In April, the FL Supreme Court overturned decades of precedent that the FL Constitution's Privacy Clause protects the right to abortion. We worked even harder on Amendment 4 to make that right a part of the same constitution. We heard from Carl Zimmermann, former local state rep, on the insurance crisis in FL and possible solutions. In fact, the Tampa Bay Times ran an op/ed from Carl. Also, we voted for Congressional Districts 13 & 14 reps to the state Dem convention.

During May, several of us attended the DWCF State Convention in Orlando and had a fantastic time meeting with colleagues from all over the state. We heard great speakers, discussed critical issues and partied hard. Here in Pinellas County, we heard from State Rep Lindsey Cross on her work in the state house. She is a valiant warrior seeking to preserve our environment and quality of life.

A word here also about the District Chairs. Throughout the year, they increased their efforts at accelerating grass roots work on the campaign. One result of their efforts was a board decision to change



the structure of our club meetings to expand to a double-length format, with regular meetings followed by workshops where all participated in these grassroots tasks, from texting, postcard writing, lit bundling and more. These district chairs willingly jumped in to engage more local activists. Our District Chairs are Ilene Heinke, Kathleen Keohane and Polly Kraus.

In June, we had our first Democratic Women's Night Out at the Lucky Lobster in Dunedin. Ruthann Richwine chaired this effort, and the event was tremendously successful. We could see our reach extending as more and more women (and men) found us and joined us. We held another Women's Night Out during October and saw even greater numbers. The servers at Lucky Lobster said that we were the largest group they've ever had there. During this year, we have seen phenomenal growth, with an increase to 135 members currently.

Our member Bryan Beckman announced his candidacy for State Representative in District 58. We want to thank Bryan for his outstanding work. He knows how to conduct a campaign!

We also want to thank VP Kamala Harris for picking up the gauntlet and running a strong, positive campaign for the Presidency of the United States. We are all still grieving her loss to the



despicable twice-impeached, convicted sexual predator who will be sworn in on January 20th.

How low has our nation sunk?

But I'm proud of the incredible resilience I've witnessed from our Democratic women and men since that election. I was utterly despondent, but I thank all of you for lifting me up. We will hold our heads up and move forward. We won't drink the

Kool Ade and we'll continue working for our values.

We had wonderful candidates for local, state and national offices. We saw local school board wins for candidates who beat back the Moms for Liberty candidates. We became a place for all Democratic candidates in Pinellas County to find support and supporters. We worked for the school referendum and discussed all the amendments on the ballot. We hosted fundraisers, Meet and Greets, phone banks, and debate watch parties. Many of us attended the Pinellas County DEC Unity Brunch. We urged all to vote by mail through sending out postcards, calling and texting and sign-waving and more. We worked early voting, made huge signs for the polls for voters to know who we suggested they support, and some of us took abuse from the opposition. This club has never worked harder. We worked our butts off and gave more than we could afford and kept on going. We endured crippling hurricanes that tried to stop us in our tracks. We chased ballots. We lived with anxiety but never stopped. I've never been prouder of being part of a group of people than I have being president of the DWCUP in 2024. I love this club!

So let us now take a deep breath and celebrate ourselves and the new year. Take care of yourselves and stay engaged. We shall endure. We are PerSisters! Thank you for all that you do!



MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS!

All members of the DWCUP are also members of the DWCF (Democratic Women's Club of Florida). Please go to the website, www.dwcf.org, and get registered, create a password and take a look at all the features of the organization. There is a special members section as well. Get an idea of what's going on with other clubs in the state, the Florida Democratic Party, and so much more!

DWCUP Annual Membership Dues: \$25 Get the best deals with a tiered membership!

● **PLATINUM MEMBERS:**
3 Years for \$70

● **SILVER MEMBERS:**
5 Years for \$100

● **GOLD MEMBERS:**
Member for Life \$250

Pay your membership dues here:
dwcup.com/donate

NEXT MONTH, MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Monday, 6sw, 2021 at 12pm
Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.

