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- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Karen Mullins  
727-733-5091
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Mary Ellen Landsburg  
727-443-7242
  - Corresponding  
Secretary/Publicity  
Chair  
Margie Murphy  
727-281-2525
  - Recording Secretary  
Diane Lebedeff  
727-252-3266
  - Treasurer  
Donna Dennis  
727-447-7380
  - Regional Rep.  
Cora Kostka  
727-546-1768
  - Legislative Liaison  
Karen Mullins  
Interim
  - Parliamentarian  
B.J. Star, ESQ.  
727-738-0007  
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Jasmina Forcan  
727-692-3472

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**DWCUP  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING  
Monday, March 22,  
2021--Zoom  
Guest Speaker Alex  
Sink**



Adelaide "Alex" Sink served as Florida's elected Chief Financial Officer from 2007 to 2011. As one of four statewide elected officials, she led the Department of Financial Services including responsibility for the state's treasury and accounting functions, served as a trustee for the state pension fund, and directed the insurance consumer advocacy work along with serving as Chair of Florida Healthy Kids (S Chip program) among many other responsibilities. Prior to elected office, Alex had a 26-year career at Bank of America. She was BAC Florida President from 1993 to 2000, leading the state's largest bank with \$40 billion in deposits and more than 9000 employees in over 800 branches.

In her 30+ years as a resident of Florida, Alex has been active in Democratic Party politics, was the second Democratic woman elected to state-wide office (Betty Castor previously served as the elected Commissioner of Education), and has served as a delegate to several Democratic National Conventions. In addition to serving as the state's Chief Financial Officer, in 2010, Alex was the first female major-party nominee to run for Governor, a race she narrowly lost in what was then the closest gubernatorial election in Florida history.

In 2008, Sink founded Ruth's List Florida, an organization to identify, recruit, train, mentor and elect more Democratic women at both the local and state levels. Since inception, Ruth's List Florida has helped elect 90 women to office, raised more than \$5,000,000 for endorsed candidates, and trained more than 1,800 women to run for office in Florida.



## President's Message

**Mary Freeman**

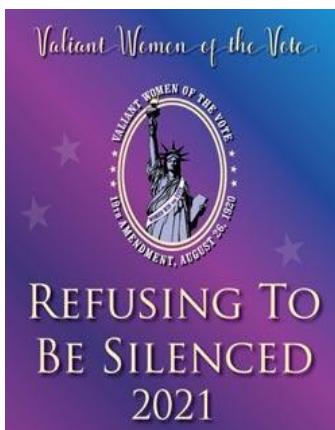
It's March and we haven't attended Tally Days. Hopefully we will be there next February as we all learn so much and have the opportunity to meet with our Legislators face to face. The DWCF Convention is scheduled for September. It will be the last time we meet in September due to concerns over hurricanes.

Starting in 2022, conventions will be held in May.

I hope all of you who wanted to attend our February Meeting with the fabulous Representative Val Demings, were able to do so. We were honored to have her as our "Black History Month" Honoree. She was so inspiring and I know she will continue to be a leader within the Democratic Party.

March is Women's History Month. Our Club, with its 80 years of service to Pinellas County, has much to be proud of. We are one of the first Democratic Women's Clubs in the Nation. September 9, 1940 is the Anniversary of our Club. Yes, 81 years. "Positive, Progressive and Proud," that is our motto.

Women's History Month celebrates the accomplishments and obstacles the female gender has overcome. In the past women were treated as second class citizens undeserving of mention in history books. Seen as inferior to men, voting, owning property or even speaking in public were frowned upon. Women's suffrage and the demand for equality turned the tides that drowned women of the past in sheltered, stifling lives. Finally, in 1981, the United States Congress passed a resolution declaring the week of March 8<sup>th</sup> as Women's History Week. The week grew into a month with President Jimmy Carter proclaiming March as "National Women's History Month" a month to celebrate women. both past and present.



Representative Val Demings is surely a woman to celebrate during Women's History Month. I have added a link to the Video of Val Demings speaking at our February meeting for all of you who weren't able to attend:

<https://youtu.be/y64ICvVxZjA>

## These Three Women Are Making Super Bowl History As The First Female Referee And Coaches

Super Bowl LV marked a historic moment for women in the National Football League when a record-breaking three women took to the field Sunday, the most women to ever be represented during a Super Bowl game.

Down judge Sarah Thomas is the first female referee to officiate a Super Bowl game. It's not Thomas' first time breaking glass ceilings: she broke barriers officiating college football before becoming the NFL's [first full-time female](#) referee in 2015, and was the first woman to officiate a playoff game four years later.

While last year's Super Bowl saw the San Francisco 49ers' assistant offensive coach [Katie Sowers](#), become the first woman (and openly gay person) to coach a Super Bowl, this year marks another milestone: its Tampa Bay Buccaneers has two women on its coaching staff: [Lori Locust](#), a defensive line assistant, and assistant strength and conditioning coach [Maral Javadifar](#), who have both been with the team for two seasons.

"M.J. (Maral Javadifar) and I are here to help Tampa Bay win," Locust said during a [press conference](#) last week. "We acknowledge the fact that there hasn't been many before us, but it's not anything that we keep in the forefront of what we do on a daily basis."

## Biden Administration Announces Special Health Insurance Enrollment Period through [HealthCare.gov](#)

FLORIDA -- Beginning yesterday, February 15th through May 15, the Biden-Harris Administration has

opened [HealthCare.gov](#) for all Americans to have the ability to sign up for health insurance. This is an opportunity for every American to be able to explore their options for health insurance, find a plan that works for them, and have one less thing to worry about as we work to overcome the coronavirus pandemic.

For President Biden, this is personal. He believes that every American has a right to the peace of mind that comes with knowing they have access to affordable, quality health care. And, this open enrollment period is building on the success of the Affordable Care Act which allowed over 100 million people to access health care coverage where they no longer have to worry that an insurance company will deny coverage or charge higher premiums just because they have a pre-existing condition. **"Health care is a right, not a privilege, and President Biden knows that."** said **Florida Democratic Party Chair Manny Diaz**. "Opening

this Special Enrollment period for [healthcare.gov](#) will provide Floridians with even more access to affordable health care which is much needed as we continue to face this deadly pandemic. Furthermore, it is an important step by the Biden Administration towards achieving coverage for our 2.6 million uninsured Floridians." This Special Enrollment Period complements the commitment the President made in the American Rescue Plan to make health insurance coverage more affordable and accessible for millions of Americans.

During our March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Darden Rice will join us and give a short report on her campaign for Mayor of St Petersburg.

## Our Legislature: Democratic Women's Club of Florida Liaison Report

The modus operandi is the same as last year's Florida Legislative agenda, suppress voters, annihilate [Home Rule](#) and ignore healthcare for male and young citizens, over legislate women's health.

With Democrats losing 5 seats in the Legislature this past election cycle, we lost 30 opportunities to introduce bills in the Legislature as each member can present 6 bills in a Legislative session. \*

ALEC, [American Legislative Exchange Council](#), has once again designed/written legislation for all the Republican held states with their eye on suppressing any NON-Republican votes, [Senate Bill 90](#). The flavor of the year is attacking Vote by Mail (VBM). As most Republicans vote in person, via early voting and election day, ALEC has decided to limit the length of VBM request will be limited to one calendar year. Currently the request is good for 2 years, as the major elections happen in even numbered years. The SB 90 has sailed through the committees and is poised to pass in the legislature in March. (Oppose)

This year, in order to curtail the will of the voters, Senator Rodriguez has introduced a Resolution that will amend the Florida Constitution. [Senate Joint Resolution 1238](#) will increase the percentage of elector votes required to approve an amendment to or a revision of the State Constitution 6 from 60 percent to 66 and 2/3 percent. (Oppose)

Senator Diaz has introduced [Senate Joint Resolution 340](#) which would require a Supermajority Vote Required to Enact a Single-payor Healthcare System. This too is a change to the Florida Constitution. This will essentially stop any move to Universal Healthcare similar to the United Kingdoms' [National Health Service](#) or Medicare for All. (Oppose)

Our [Senator Brandes](#) is busy shutting down the [Tampa Bay Regional Transit Agency](#). His bill, [SB 1130](#) which will be the downfall of regional mass transit. This will impact our region's ability to attract new clean industry to the area.

Brandes has also moved to abolish the antiquated Florida Constitutional Revision Committee, [SJR 204](#). (Support)

The elephant in the room, is [House Bill 1](#). Also created by ALEC and was introduced by [Rep. Fernandez-Barquin](#). This bill will essentially make it harder to protest. If any of the protest evolves to a riot, all involved in the initial protest may be charged. This bill has a plethora of redundancies, in that, it basically states or restates laws that are already in place. (Oppose)

The Democratic Women's Club of Florida President, Patricia Farley, is concerned about the bills that will be introduced this week. The most egregious bills tend to show up last minute.

\* [The Rules with Joint Rules and Florida Constitution Florida House of Representatives](#)

Report by:  
Karen Mullins



## **Barbara Scott resigns as Pinellas County Democratic Chair**

### **Scott said she will remain active with the Party until new leadership is elected.**

Barbara Scott has resigned as chair of the Pinellas County Democratic Party, she confirmed Tuesday.

"I am resigning as chair but will remain involved until new leadership is elected and ensure a smooth transition," Scott told Florida Politics in a text message.

Vice Chair **Jeff Cox** will take on the role as acting chair. Cox recently replaced former Vice Chair **Johnny Boykins** at a routine reorganization meeting back in December, in what some party insiders described as a coup.

Boykins, along with several other party members seeking reelection to the board, were voted out and replaced by new party members in an effort led by the progressive caucus, he said, but he would not go as far as labeling it a coup.

"I know that we did good work," Boykins said about Barbara Scott and himself. "The party decided to move in a different direction. My position has always been: We agree more than we disagree, and we have a lot of work to do to keep Pinellas blue."

## **Join Us at Edgewater Park 51 Main St., Dunedin March 5, 2021 at 4:00PM**

**DUNEDIN, FL** - 2020 marked the centennial of the passing of the 19th Amendment. To celebrate this important and historic milestone, the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS) and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation have partnered to launch a historic marker program commemorating the history of women's suffrage in the United States.

The City of Dunedin in conjunction with the Florida State Coordinator for the National Votes for Women Trail program applied for the marker. The first marker in Florida, honoring suffrage leader Elizabeth Skinner, will be dedicated at 4:00 pm on March 5, 2021, at Edgewater Park – 51 Main Street – Dunedin, FL 34698.

The marker in Dunedin, FL will honor the suffrage work of Elizabeth Skinner, and is being placed at the former site of Library Hall, where she hosted suffrage meetings and Florida Federation of Women's Clubs meetings.

### **Barrier Breakers, Inc.**

Sending a call out for help to a Mother with 4 little boys whose husband has left her with nothing.

If you can help, even a little bit, Send to:

**Barrier Breakers**

**1745 Grove Dr.**

**Clearwater, FL 33759**

**Thank you, Lee Callaghan**

### **FYI**

### **Florida 13 Congressperson Phone Numbers:**

Senator Marco Rubio (R):

DC (202)224-3041 Local (813)287-5035

Senator Rick Scott (R): DC (202) 224-5274

Representative Charlie Crist (D):

DC (202) 225-5961 Local (888)205-5569

## OUR VALUES

“ Democrats believe that cooperation is better than conflict,  
unity is better than division, empowerment is better than  
resentment, and bridges are better than walls. ”



## Time to pay our annual dues!

**Annual Membership Dues \$20.00**

### TIERED MEMBERSHIP

**PLATINUM** - 3 years for \$50.00

**SILVER** - 6 years for \$100.00

**GOLD MEMBER** - Member for Life \$200.00

Make checks out to DWCU or  
Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas.

Mail to Donna Dennis  
223 Island Way #4B  
Clearwater, FL 33767



Next Meeting  
April 26th  
On Zoom  
11:30 – 1:30pm  
Speaker  
Susan Glickman,  
Southern Alliance  
for Clean Energy

