



# Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

Chartered September 9, 1940

Volume 82, Number 3

## Club Representatives

- President  
Karen Mullins  
727-733-5091  
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  
727-252-3266  
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)

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, March 28, 2022  
12PM  
St. Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus Library  
2465 Drew St, Clearwater, FL

## GUEST SPEAKER

**Representative Michele Rayner** is here to discuss the Legislative Session. Rep. Rayner is running for US FL Congressional District 13.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fierce Warriors, Happy Women's Month! We will be celebrating the women who inspired us and carried us to this moment.

Some of my personal heroes are from the "Roe v. Wade" decision era. Gloria Steinem, Dorothy Pittman-Hughes, Bella Abzug and dozens more that modelled this mind to be not only accepting of my humanity, but to proudly embrace my femininity.

In a post Roe v. Wade America, the backlash of the Women's Movement didn't settle in until the early 1980's, the time of my high school graduation and the start of my college years. We are repeating the backlash on women along with the backlash of proudly electing President Barack Obama. This is being played out in the State Legislatures/Assemblies under Republican control throughout the United States.

• Parliamentarian  
Open

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](http://www.nfdw.com)

Florida Democratic Party  
Fladems.com

Pinellas County  
Democratic Executive  
Committee  
[Pinellasdemocrats.com](http://Pinellasdemocrats.com)

So, the end of the Florida Legislative session is here. We are all still reeling from the onslaught of bills that only benefit a few white males be passed and we are waiting for the Governor to sign them into law. The Courts will hear a few of the challenges to our Democracy.

If there was ever a time to engage with your neighbors, today is that day. If you are involved with ANY no-profit organization, please reach out to the membership to echo the pleas of the Democratic Women's' Club of Upper Pinellas to get Democratic candidates elected to the Florida Legislature. We cannot do this alone.

The author of, "Wrapped in the Flag," Claire Connor, said this on Facebook, February 15, 2022:

"I JUMPED ON FB TONIGHT TO LET ALL OF YOU KNOW THAT I APPRECIATE THE MANY MESSAGES OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT YOU ALL HAVE SHARED WITH ME. THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE NOT BEEN EASY. IT IS A HORROR TO REALIZE THAT WHAT MY JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY PARENTS DREAMED OF AND WORKED FOR IS INCHING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO REALITY. I PRAY THAT THE COUNTRY WILL WAKE UP -- AND SOON."

Claire has been warning us for years that we would be in this exact spot someday.

I have to say that we have more work to accomplish. Getting like-minded people registered to vote in Pinellas County is paramount as is getting them to sign up for Vote by Mail (VBM).

Our messaging: **"WE DESERVE THE FREEDOM TO BE HEALTHY PROSPEROUS AND SAFE."**

Can you spend some time knocking on doors, making phone calls, or sending out postcards to our kind democrats? Please do so, now. NOW **LET'S GET TO WORK!**

Karen Mullins (She/Her/Ella)

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

Please find our ACTION ALERTS on our LinkTree site. Please click through to find all our alerts. <https://linktr.ee/DWCUP727>

# TALLY DAYS

## DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF FLORIDA

Some of our lucky board members got to travel to Tallahassee for Tally Days

In March 2023 we will be returning to Tallahassee for DWCF Tally Days. We have your spot waiting for you. Email: [DWCF727@gmail.com](mailto:DWCF727@gmail.com) for more information



### What President Biden Has Accomplished:

- **JOINT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR. AND PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU ON THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROADMAP FOR A RENEWED U.S.-CANADA PARTNERSHIP**
- **FACT SHEET: BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION DELIVERING RESULTS 100 DAYS INTO INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION**

<https://oliverwillis.com/joe-biden-accomplishments-the-full-list/>

**List of Current DWCUP Members:**

Turza Allen	Irene Bosek
Jan Allyn	Joann Boyer
Mary Louise Ambrose	Theresa Bromm-Boesen
Helen Amburgey	Julie Ward Bujalski
Joe Barkley III	Peggy Caine
Gwen Bassick	Lee Callaghan
Kathleen Beckman	Judith Carberry
Heidi Blaine	Cora Kostka
Nancy Coltrain	Marilynne Kuestner
Carol Cross	Mary Ellen Lansburg
Beth Davis	Kathryn Larkin
Elizabeth Dearling	Diane Lebedeff
Donna Dennis	Donna Marino
Roberta Farr	Christine Michalek
Leni Fernandez	Karen W Miracle
Louise Fletcher	Glenn Reihing
Rene Flowers	Anne Richter
Jasmina Forcan	Ruthann Richwine
Shelby Freeman	Victoria Roush
Mary Freeman	Holly Russell
Dana Garlick	Marleen Salo
Janet L Goen	Eliseo Santana, Jr.
Suzanne Gow	John Schreiner
Ilene Heinke	Janis Sharp
Kathleen Keohane	Jackie Shepherd
Joyce Monahan	Janet Skinner
Karen Mullins	Dina Smeltz
Marjorie Murphy	BJ Star
Kathleen Murray	Dawn Wightman
Marissa Myers	Claretha Witherspoon
Kelly Nelson	Eileen Wright
Eileen O'Sullivan Smith	Mary Yeager
John Ondriezek	
Patty Day Perkey	

**Clearwater City  
Council Election**  
Tues., March 15th

**ONE** day in person  
voting 7am-7pm



\* Deadline to REQUEST a mail ballot  
Sat., March 5th.

\* It must be returned by mail or in  
person **NO LATER** than March 15th  
by 7pm to be counted.

\* Ballot drop off 315 Court St. Rm 117

\* Fill in the oval with a black pen.

\* Sign, date, phone number and email  
on the outside of the return envelope.

\* Check for your mail ballot at  
[votepinellas.com](http://votepinellas.com)

\* Call **NOW** to request a mail ballot  
727/464-8683

or go on line [votepinellas.com](http://votepinellas.com)

Office Hours: M-F 8am-5pm



**What's Next?**

Primary Election  
Tues., August 23rd

▲  **DWCUP Annual  
Membership ▲**  
**DUES INCREASE April 1, 2022**

**So, get your membership  
NOW!**

**Annual Dues:**

**\$20.00**

Will be **\$25.00** on  
April 1, 2022

**Get the best deals here:**

**TIERED MEMBERSHIPS**

**PLATINUM Member:**

3 years for \$50.00 ✓  
Will be **\$70.00** on  
April 1, 2022

**SILVER Member:**

6 years for  
\$100.00 ✓  
Will be \$100.00 for **5 years** on  
April 1, 2022

**GOLD Member:**

Member for Life \$200.00 ✓  
Will be **\$250.00** on  
April 1, 2022

**Make your dues payment here:**

<https://dwcup.com/donate>

Your membership is valid through  
**January 31, 2023.**

**North Pinellas Democratic Outreach Center**

**DWCUP Tuesdays!**

1402 North MLK Ave. Clearwater  
Come in and volunteer!

Open Mon-Fri

12-4pm

Sat

10am-12pm.

**Info:**

[Office@pinellasdemocrats.com](mailto:Office@pinellasdemocrats.com)

727-327-2796

**Vote Chase:**

**NAACP Clearwater/Upper Pinellas**

with the support of **League of Women Voters**

**North Pinellas, West Pinellas NOW,**

**Indivisible Safety Harbor,** and

the **Democratic Women's Club of Upper**

**Pinellas,** are working together to reach

out to voters who did not vote during the last

election. This will be the 1st time that there will

be a consortium between

these epic non-profits.

There will be a focus on canvassing including

voter registration and VBM initiative built into

the drive. Contact

Karen Mullins, [dunedin7@gmail.com](mailto:dunedin7@gmail.com)

for more information.

**EVENTS:**

- **DWCUP Executive Board Meeting**

- March 16<sup>th</sup>
- Safety Harbor

- **DWCUP Membership Meeting**

- March 28<sup>th</sup>
- 12 pm
- Library, St. Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus, 2465 Drew St. Clw

- **Democratic Women's Club of Florida, 66<sup>th</sup> Convention**

- April 28-May 1, 2022
- The Rosen Center, Orlando, FL

- **MORE EVENTS:**

- Click Here: <https://www.mobilize.us/pinellascountydec>

- **DWCUP Coverage of North Pinellas Outreach office on Tuesday**

12-4pm

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

## DWCUP Words of Inspiration

March, 2022

The month of March bears the label of Women's History Month which strikes many as combining notes of both hope and increasing challenge.

As to hope, the 2022 theme of America's Women's History Month is "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope," tasks women undertake so well, both in our family and in so many spheres. As to hope, we know that women are making powerful progress in many professions and career areas.

As to challenge, we see so many state legislatures taking away women's' choice over their own bodies, lives, and health. As to challenge, we know that pay equity and constitutional equality – demands which the women's movement took up in the mid-1960s – are still far from being achieved.

As Democratic women, we continue our struggle to achieve full social equity and equality. Let us remember both Hillary Clinton's statement that "Women's rights are human rights," and the Native American view that "The honor of the people lies in the moccasin tracks of the woman." Let us press onward!

. ~**Diane Lebedeff**

# Strong Back. Soft Front. Wild Heart.

## Brené Brown

One of the most valuable gifts in my life was from my mom. She taught us to never look away from pain. The lesson was simple and clear:

*Don't look away. Don't look down.*

*Don't pretend not to see hurt.*

*Look people in the eye.*

*Even when their pain is overwhelming.*

*And when you're hurting and in pain, find people who can look you in the eye.*

We need to know we're not alone—especially when we're hurting.

From the dehumanizing trans laws in Texas to the invasion of Ukraine, I know so many of us are hurting right now. Let's not look away from each other. Let's not look away from the moments of joy and connection in our lives because we feel guilty—the world needs us to put more joy into the world. And even though our \$5 donation or a single call to a representative might feel small compared with the enormity of the issues, let's not look away from helping. It matters so much.

### Counting the Homeless

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires Continuums of Care (CoC) to conduct a point-in-time (PIT) count of persons experiencing homelessness at least every two (2) years.

The Tampa/Hillsborough County CoC conducts a homeless count annually. Count the homeless! There's an app for that! and hopefully, the information will be put to good use. The process started long before I got involved. My involvement consisted of replying to the email, attending an approximately 1 hour Zoom Instructional Meeting. A Point in time is a limited period in January that throughout the U.S. the homeless are counted. The clients are asked questions such as: Where did you sleep last night? Do you have access to medical care? Is there a history of physical limitations? Is there a history of mental illness? Data entry is to be exactly what they tell you. I chose the early shift so at 5:45am, the group of volunteers were pulling on the identifying t-shirts and reviewing the "app for that". We then separated to various locations. It was cold and blustery. My assignment was at a place where meals were served..... at 8am. It was 6am and there were several there

waiting. The first interviewee and I laughed our way through the questionnaire. We both were new to "an app for that"! We viewed the questions and picked the most appropriate answers. We decided, "on the street" was most appropriate as there was no description for where he slept. It was not in a bed, like you and I. He then took charge and helped recruit several interviewees explaining what we were doing. Queen Saint was quite willing to talk to me. She said we were all angels. She wants the lady at the No Name Refuge fired because she wouldn't give a her a raw chicken to cook. The lady said she didn't have a kitchen. Queen explained she knows how to build a fire and would be able to cook the chicken in her pot. Did the lady at No Name Refuge think she was stupid?

My job was to answer the computer questions.... one fella said no to having mental illness. He later talked of being hospitalized in a psych hospital but didn't know what for. His mother kicked him out when he was 18 because she was glad to get rid of him and he's been homeless ever since.

How do I answer that with a computer and the instruction to answer what the other person said? A 40-year-old fella left his new house, fancy car, job and is living on the streets. He is happy now.... none of the hassle of life.

He gets to sleep on the beach. One couple is living in a hotel.... they are only homeless 9 days a month when their money runs out. His ex-wife is with them. They are helping her out because she's alone. 9AM, it was time to close our shift. The time went quickly. I'd like to give a "shout out" to the police involvement. The day I worked, there was a "Cold front" coming in. The police came more than once to encourage relocation to an actual shelter. Respect flowed between both parties, which told me loud and clear the police were not feared within this particular group of people. I just wonder how many police academies teach that this will be one of the jobs they will need to do.

We have preconceived notions on who the homeless are. Yes, there is substance abuse and mental illness. Yes, some are there due to bad luck (and a poor personal support system) and are trying to find their way out of a hole. I admire their spunk for survival, organization skills, industry (possessions are in a backpack, it's miles to walk for meals or health care or to simply sleep.) and positivity (most were open to conversation and most of them had a plan to survive and improve their lot whether it was based on reality or not). Religions teach us to love our neighbor but doesn't define that neighbor as only one who looks and acts like you or me.

~ANONYMOUS

Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas, Inc.

(727) 643-9683 |

VKelly@HLPinellas.org

Office Address:

647 1st Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Mailing Address:

740 4th Street N, Suite 206, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

[www.PinellasHomeless.org](http://www.PinellasHomeless.org)

<https://www.thhi.org> › homeless-pit-counts

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/monitoring-progress/point-time->



**DWCF 66th Annual Convention**  
**April 28 - May 1, 2022**

hosting our 66th Annual State Convention April 28th through May 1st, 2022, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in the beautiful city of Orlando, Florida. Our Annual Per Sister's Rally will also be held on April 28th.

The **Democratic Women's Club of Florida** is an active organization of Democratic women and men. We have more than 3500 members and 63 local area Clubs, throughout the state working together to make Florida a better place for all its residents. Our mission is to educate, encourage, inform the citizens of Florida to successfully register to vote, to participate in the election process, and to elect the best Democrats candidate.

The DWCF uplifts the morals and integrity of Democratic values.

We are seeking your support to help further the incredibly important work of our organization as the largest Democratic Caucus in Florida, we fulfill through activism, issues/ legislative discussions, and advocacy for policy that advances a healthy, prosperous, safe Florida for its constituents.

We kindly, thank you in advance for your sponsorship. The DWCF Convention Committee is bringing together an impressive group of outstanding speakers and workshops for 2022. The 2022 theme is: **Women Leading with Vision, Working with Persistence. Email Karen Mullins for more information.**

[DWCUP727@gmail.com](mailto:DWCUP727@gmail.com)

**Next Meeting**

**Representative Michele Rayner**

St. Petersburg College, Library  
2465 Drew St, Clearwater, FL (Drew St. & Old Coachman Rd)  
March 28th  
12pm-1:30pm

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

**Democratic Women's  
Club of Florida**

**66th Annual Convention**

**Per Sister's Rally**  
**April 28 - May 1, 2022**  
**Rosen Centre Hotel,**  
**Orlando, FL.**

It gives me great pleasure to present you with an opportunity to partner with the Democratic Women's Club of Florida. We are

