



Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

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Membership Meeting

Monday, February 28, 2023

St Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus Library
2465 Drew St., 12 pm
Snacks Available

Guest Speaker



Jennifer Webb, is a former Democratic State Representative and long-time activist. She is currently working with the League of Cities. She is also a rep for the Carter Center Democratic Resilience Project and will share her insights with us, on topics including gerrymandering, efforts to suppress the vote in FL, and reenergizing Democrats in FL.

The President's Message



Hi Everyone!

Yes, it's me again. I am your new, old, fill in, president of the DWCUP. But more on that later.

First, I want us all to send love and support and gratitude to Karen Mullins for her outstanding work as DWCUP President. She's a strong, fearless, kind and extremely capable leader. We would have let her

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DWCF.org

Nation Federation of Democratic Women

www.nfdw.com

Florida Democratic Party

Fladems.com

Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee

Pinellasdemocrats.com

continue in this position forever. But her family issues are now paramount and require her full-time attention. We always believe in Family First! Karen, we are so grateful for your leadership!

I will need your help. I can't do this job alone. I'm so thankful for a board of beautiful Democratic women who will help me finish out Karen's term. Our election for new officers will be this November and WE NEED YOU! I'll have more on that too.

But for now, I'll hold the fort, so to speak. If you have a desire to help, please call, text or email me.

Democratically yours,
Donna Dennis

EVENTS

- ★ **DWCUP Executive Board Meeting**
 - **February 15th**
 - 11 am
 - Contact Donna at DWCUP727@gmail.com for location
- ★ **DWCUP Membership Meeting**
 - **February 27, 2023**
 - St Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus Library
 - Zoom
 - 12 pm
- ★ **[Tally Days-Democratic Women's Club of Florida, Reg VIII](#)**
 - [March 6-9, 2023 \(Tallahassee\)](#)
- ★ **[Municipal Elections](#)**
 - [March 14, 2023](#)
- ★ **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/>

President's Rant

As a retired educator, I am beyond appalled at DeSantis' ideas about education. He is now denying history and truth to Florida's students. Removing AP Black History from high school curricula is just one spoke in the wheel now running over Florida schools. Teachers are being gagged by the "Anti-Woke" decision by the governor. Now we're hearing that all the colleges in the state must inform said governor of any mentions in course



descriptions of diversity and inclusion. He means to deny the realities of American history in the very institutions that should encourage discussion and debate based on FACTS!

HISTORY IS NOT JUST WHITE EUROPEAN MALE HISTORY! We all know that. Ask any of our indigenous peoples. They were told their history was meaningless as they were killed and forced from their homelands. All of North America tried to erase their cultures in state-run institutions! Their reservations are frequently the least equipped to handle the needs of their people in most ways—employment, health care, mental health care, and much more.

And all of the history of America is impacted by and intertwined with the enslavement of People of Color. I know that none of us or our peers have ever been enslavers, but of course we should feel bad about the treatment of people as chattel. This country's history is filled with inhumanity! It is a national shame! In contemporary America, we deal with killings of black youth by police and no legislation is enacted to reform policing. It's not just a funding issue; it's about changing the culture and definition of American.

I'm a proud American. After reading the above, one might doubt that. But part of being an American is knowing what American history includes. In our own local communities, we know that black cemeteries were bulldozed and built over and largely black neighborhoods were taken by Eminent Domain for upscale housing and stadiums.

Racism is not in our genes. It has to be carefully taught. And Mr. DeSantis, that's what your administration is doing.

DWCUP Words of Inspiration

February, 2023

February, here in Florida, has been marked by our Governor's jarring efforts to limit the telling of Black History, including the elimination of feminist voices. His rejection of historical truth-telling seemingly rests upon the thought that students should not be made uncomfortable.

Yet, many of our greatest figures have addressed slavery in the strongest of terms, including the statements of Abraham Lincoln that:

"Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves"

"Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally."

Yet, it seems that the Governor desires that the offspring of generations of slavery speak in a way acceptable to him – ignoring the observation of Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Three hundred years of humiliation, abuse and deprivation cannot be expected to find voice in a whisper."

He also desires that American history be made lovely, even though some scholars would paint it otherwise, as did Colson Whitehead in his work *The Underground Railroad*:

“Stolen bodies working stolen land. It was an engine that did not stop, its hungry boiler fed with blood.”

As Democratic women, we are strong and we know that only the truth will make us free.

~Diane Lebedeff, Recording Secretary

“It is within our power. It’s in our hands, yours and mine, to stop the assault on American democracy” -President Biden

What President Biden Has Accomplished



[Executive Order on Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Americans](#)

[National Security Memorandum on Countering Biological Threats, Enhancing Pandemic Preparedness, and Achieving Global Health Security](#)

[A Proclamation on the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act](#)

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



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

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.

The Menstrual History Questions and Other Medical Information on Student Athletes

Dear Legislative Team Members,

HOT OFF THE PRESS from Amy Weintraub at Progress Florida: The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) executive director has switched his recommendation for the student athlete pre-participation physical exam form! He is **recommending that students only need to turn in to the school a signed form from their health care professionals (HCPs) stating they are fit to play their sports.** The rest of the form with medical history and physical findings would be kept with their physician, including the section regarding menstrual history information. An emergency meeting has been called for Thursday at 10:30am that will presumably supplant the Feb. 26-27 meeting regarding this issue.

So the news is looking good that student athletes' private medical information will stay solely in their HCP's medical records and protected by HIPAA, which is where this information belongs. **Never let it be said that advocacy doesn't work.**



Here are some recent articles about the new situation:

- [FHSAA calls emergency meeting to weigh scrapping athlete menstrual history questions](#)
- [Controversy over updated FHSAA menstruation questions prompts emergency meeting](#)
- [FHSAA wavers on menstruation questions for female high school athletes](#)

Thanks so much for your activism on this issue,

Jean Siebenaler

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF FLORIDA

OPPOSE HB 543 Concealed Carry of Weapons and Firearms Without a License

Dear DWCF Legislative Team Members,

The Permitless Carry gun bill -- ***HB 543 Concealed Carry of Weapons and Firearms Without a License*** -- is being fast-tracked with only two committees in the House, and is already scheduled for its first hearing in the **Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee** on **Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 2 pm ET**. If you are able, we urge you to watch the committee hearing on the Florida Channel at [Home - The Florida Channel](#). We will certainly be discussing this bill in our meeting on Tuesday night.

In the meantime, we need you to contact the House committee legislators below AND your own local House Representatives, even if they are not on this committee. Tell them you want them to **VOTE NO** on this bill when it comes before them. Don't give them a pass. Hold them accountable.

Here are some **talking points** you can use when voicing your opposition about this dangerous bill in your letters, phone calls, social media posts, and other discussions. You can find these and more at excellent websites including: Everytown [Home | Everytown](#), Giffords [Home | Giffords](#), Prevent Gun Violence Florida [Prevent Gun Violence in Florida \(preventgunviolenceflorida.org\)](#) and others:



- This bill would allow people who have never passed a background check or fired a gun in their lives to carry hidden, loaded guns in public crowds.
- The gun lobby calls this "Constitutional Carry" which is a myth. There is no constitutional right to carry an unregistered firearm wherever a person goes.
- Between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022 FL Dept of Agriculture denied 28,994 applications for concealed weapon licenses and revoked 8,129 licenses. Passing permitless carry would get rid of these guardrails.
- Studies show that weakening public carry laws is associated with a 13–15% increase in violent crime rates, as well as an 11% increase in rates of homicides committed with handguns.
- States where Permitless Carry is legal experienced a 22% increase in gun homicides for the three years after the law's passage, more than doubling the 10% increase for the country overall.
- Florida already ranks as the 24th worst state in terms of Gun Death Rate Rank in the US, with one gun death every 3 hours. Allowing permitless carry will only take us farther to the bottom of the list.
- Law enforcement officers have no way of differentiating between people who are lawfully carrying guns and people who are illegally carrying guns. Could result in cops relying on their own inherent bias to police these criteria.
- Police departments across the country have reported a drastic uptick in guns stolen from cars, coinciding with the passage of weak public carry laws that allow gun owners to carry and store guns in their vehicles.
- Most Floridians want stronger, not weaker gun laws.
- Even people living in permitless carry states do not support permitless carry. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of adults in the 25 states with permitless carry oppose these policies.

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Thank you,

Jean Siebenaler

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF FLORIDA

DWCUP Annual Membership Dues:

\$25.00

Get the best deals here:

TIERED MEMBERSHIPS:

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3 years for \$70.00 ✓
- SILVER Member:**
5 years for \$100.00 ✓
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Member for Life
\$250.00 ✓

Make your dues payment here:

<https://dwcup.com/donate>

Your new or updated membership will be valid through **January 31, 2024.**



Next Meeting

Monday, February 28, 2023

St Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus Library

12pm-1:30pm

Meeting after Next:

March 28, 2023

Rob Lorei

St Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus Library

12pm-1:30pm

Tally Days

March 6-9 2023

Democratic Women
EDUCATE
LEAD
PERSIST

**SAVE THE
DATE**

**The DWCF 67th Annual
Convention and
PerSisters Rally**

April 27-30, 2023

**Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando
Florida**