



Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

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1940

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Membership Meeting

Monday, June 26, 2023 at 12pm

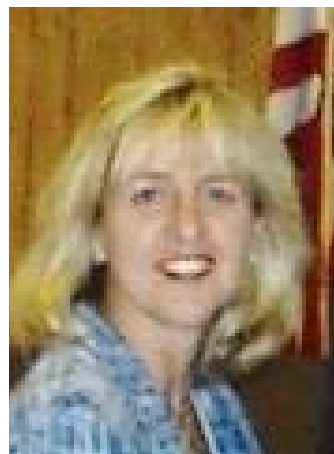
Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.

Snacks Available

Guest Speaker:

Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy
Mayor of Indian Rocks Beach

Candidate for Pinellas County Commissioner



Cookie Kennedy is the first woman to serve as Mayor of Indian Rocks Beach. She previously served on the city commission from 1999-2002 and 2008 to present. She's a native of Pinellas County and a business owner for over 35 years. She's a tireless advocate for the Gulf Beach cities and served on the Florida League of Cities Criminal Justice, Ethics and Personnel Board.

Cookie served for 11 years on Forward Pinellas and championed enhancing beach access, providing safe transportation. She has been fighting for beach renourishment and against off-shore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. The most

significant recent issue she's worked on is the Short-term rental problem in residential neighborhoods.

She spearheaded the Red Tide Summit in 2019 and has worked with all levels of government decision-making to protect Pinellas County. She

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Nation Federation of Democratic Women

www.nfdw.com

Florida Democratic Party

Fladems.com

Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee

Pinellasdemocrats.com

received the HOMETOWN HERO AWARD from the Florida League of Cities for her work concerning Home Rule.

Join us as Cookie talks about the issues and future of Pinellas County!

May DWCUP Meeting Recap 5/22/23



How exciting! We had a packed house for the DWCUP meeting of May 22nd. It was the official rollout of our major action project of the year: Getting two initiatives on the Florida ballot in Nov. 2024.

Meri Forte-Namuj, the new president of the Democratic Women's Club of FL (DWCF), was our featured speaker. Not only did she explain the current problem with voter registration here in FL, but she discussed the workaround solution being developed. This process will begin going into effect at the county level after July 1st. Then she focused on the two petitions, one to guarantee the right to abortion in the FL

Constitution, and the other to make it easier to protect the right to clean water for all Floridians. [See President's Remarks for specifics on these.] She demonstrated how to ask for petition signatures, as we need over 900,000 by Dec. 31st of this year.

Another featured speaker, Patty Cohn, is the new Chair of Region VIII, which includes all the Democratic Women's Clubs in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco and Hernando Counties. She stressed that the abortion initiative will SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES! We know that the majority of Floridians do believe in a woman's right to make her own reproductive decisions. Both leaders emphasized that this is a statewide project done in concert with the League of Women Voters and other groups. All the members and resources of the DWCF will be focused on this!

We also heard from Starre Emerson about a new effort on behalf of the Democrats of Pinellas County--Democrats Care. Participants will assist in existing social service programs, such as food banks and area clean-up events. While participating, we'll wear "Democrats Care" shirts to demonstrate our support of those efforts.

Finally, Nancy Armitage, our petition point person, handed out clipboards with petitions for both the clean water and abortion initiatives and went over the directions. I know the meeting ran long, but this is a major undertaking and we want to get the details right. We hope you're already out there getting petitions signed by Pinellas County registered voters! Remember to turn them in at the North Pinellas Democratic Outreach Office, 1402 N MLK Ave, Clearwater. The hours there are 12-4 on M-Th and 9-12 on Fri and Sat. If you can't make it there, call me at 313-443-2587 or bring completed petitions to our June meeting.

Thanks to all who participated!
--donna dennis

President's Report

HAPPY
PRIDE
MONTH



Happy Pride Month
Everyone! I was so pleased to receive an email from the City of Clearwater with a whole page of events celebrating Pride Month. And certainly, St Petersburg and several other Pinellas communities, have scheduled special events this month. And if you live in a community that hasn't done so or has canceled events due to the threat of legal action from the governor of Florida, call your elected officials and express your desire for courage and respect for ALL to commemorate Pride month.

The other major topic for this month is the rollout of the petition initiative for all Democrats and other concerned citizens in

Florida. This is entitled "Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion." In summary, this ballot initiative says: "No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's health care provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion."

We have presented the clean water petition at several club meetings, and appreciate the efforts of Nancy Armitage, our local petition point person. I personally want to thank her for her assistance in preparing the clipboards with petitions, directions, pens, folders, etc. handed out at our May meeting.

If you need to turn in petitions or pick up more, our local hub is the North Pinellas Democratic Outreach Office, 1402 MLK Ave N, Clearwater. It's north of the North Greenwood Rec Center and N Greenwood branch of the public library. Office hours are 12-4 Monday-Thursday and 9-12:30 on Friday. In addition, you may bring completed petitions to our next membership meeting.

This is a STATEWIDE effort. Here's the detailed information from our state organization, the DWCF:

OUR EXCITING NEW DWCF STATEWIDE INITIATIVE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.

**JOIN US FOR THIS IMPORTANT ROLL-OUT.
FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN AFFECT IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY
CHANGE IN FLORIDA**

The Democratic Women's Club of Florida will advocate for, collect or facilitate the collection of two crucial citizen-led ballot initiatives: Florida's Right to Clean and Healthy Water, and the Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion-- protecting the right to abortion services. We recently passed a resolution at the 2023 DWCF Convention for the Florida state constitution to guarantee the right to clean water. Moreover, the DWCF Platform declares that we oppose any anti-choice agenda, a stance that is further supported by the National Federation of Democratic Women. In tandem with the ballot initiative efforts, the DWCF will actively work statewide to increase voter registration and VBM enrollment, as Florida Republicans currently have nearly 500k more voters on the rolls than Democrats. We all agree that DeSantis' leadership has been extreme and polarizing. The ballot initiatives are non-partisan, incredibly meaningful, and should encourage Floridians of all persuasions to have their voices heard. Who doesn't desire healthy, clean water? Or who believes government forced pregnancy should be embraced and encouraged? We MUST get these issues on the ballot. With DWCF help statewide, we can do it!

We need Region Chairs, Club Presidents, and Members who will lead or become a club resource for these campaigns to join this informational meeting. Explore the many ways that your DWC can make an impact in your area. Find out how this important work will impact the DWCF for exciting opportunities going forward, and how we plan to measure our work to further support our contribution to the Florida Democratic Party, and substantially affect all Floridian's ability to be happy, have opportunity to earn and thrive, and to be safe.

We have opportunities for club members to join us for these meetings. Please attend if possible.

Here are the dates, times and links:

Tue June 6 @ 7PM ET/6PM CT

Topic: DWCF 2023 PETITION/VR/VBM Roll-Out

Time: Jun 6, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89834215113?pwd=eTFpSjA2NzFnWlhIZFVVUj95dy9iZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 3421 5113

Passcode: 615296

One tap mobile +13052241968,,89834215113#,,, *615296# US

Sun June 11 @ 7PM ET/ 6PM CT

Topic: DWCF 2023 PETITION/VR/VBM Roll-Out

Time: Jun 11, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89716882831?pwd=aHlyN3ZoWXdPR0hkWIVBYXBvWktMUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 1688 2831

Passcode: 406547

One tap mobile +13052241968,,89716882831#,,, *406547# US

Mon June 12 @ 10 AM ET/ 9AM CT

Topic: DWCF 2023 PETITION/VR/VBM Roll-Out

Time: Jun 12, 2023 10:00 AM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82997551424?pwd=TDZtRHZtd2l1Zkd3anpzUkFZYVduUT09>

Meeting ID: 829 9755 1424

Passcode: 258896

One tap mobile +13052241968,,82997551424#,,, *258896# US

Stronger together,

Jane Schlechtweg, 3rd Vice President

Democratic Women's Club of Florida

513-312-9001

Note to all DWCU members: You may join any of these Zooms for details on these ballot initiatives and your role!

June 2023 - Pride for All

Words of Inspiration

In June, we celebrate Pride Month. In this past year, demonization of so many portions of human kind has become popular on the right.

All of a sudden, grooming has become a popular accusation. But we know the truth is this:

“Gays are not interested in making other people gay...But homophobes are interested in making others homophobic.” – Stephen Fry

Yet, in truth, lesbians, gays, trans and others who live their on truths are simply part of humanity. As an unknown brilliant Anonymous remarked:

“If Harry Potter taught us anything, it’s that no one should live in a closet.”
As Democratic women, we defend – in the words of former President Obama – the right of all to “love who they love.” We stand strong in defense of rights of all for -- as we know -- once rights fall, they may fall for all of us.

Diane Lebedeff
DWCUP Recording Secretary



Legislative Liaison Report Jean Greenawalt 5/22/23

Legislative session ended May 5. Jean Siebenaler has been our lead. Rose LaChapelle will be taking over. Jean sent us a bill-tracker spreadsheet before every meeting. Details on the many bills we opposed can be found in my last report.

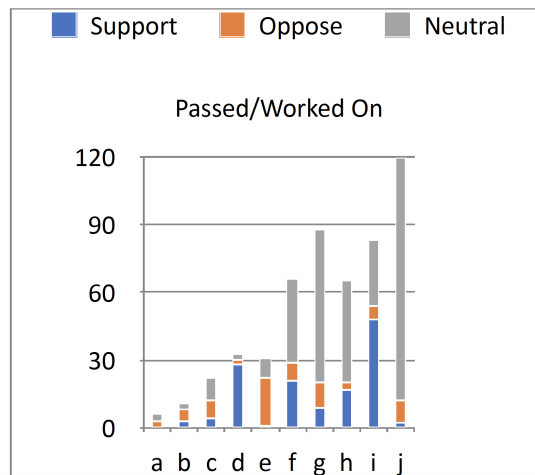
The following highlights them. These bills have been signed by the Desantis or are about to be:

- Abortion Ban
- Permit-less gun carry
- Public funding of private education
- Immigration - increased penalties, driver license invalidation, fly immigrants from state to state
- No DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) in education
- No ESG (Environment, social, governance factors) when investing state money
- Ban transgender bathroom use
- No gender-affirming care for transgender minors (note - those currently under treatment may continue)
- Children may not be present at drag shows (pride festivals are at risk)
- Can't Say expansion - now you can't say they
- Shield Desantis travel and visitor information
- Increase Desantis militia from 400 to 1500 people
- Union-busting for teachers
- Allow medical providers to deny care based on their conscience
- Many bills allowing the state to take over local government control and education control. Also limits ability for citizens' groups to get action.
- Make it harder to register votes and allow Desantis to continue as governor while running for president
- Make school board elections partisan

I attended Jean Siebenaler's wrap-up zoom on 5/21. She not only highlighted what we opposed, but also said that many bills passed that we do support in the areas of Environment, and Women, Children, and Facilities.

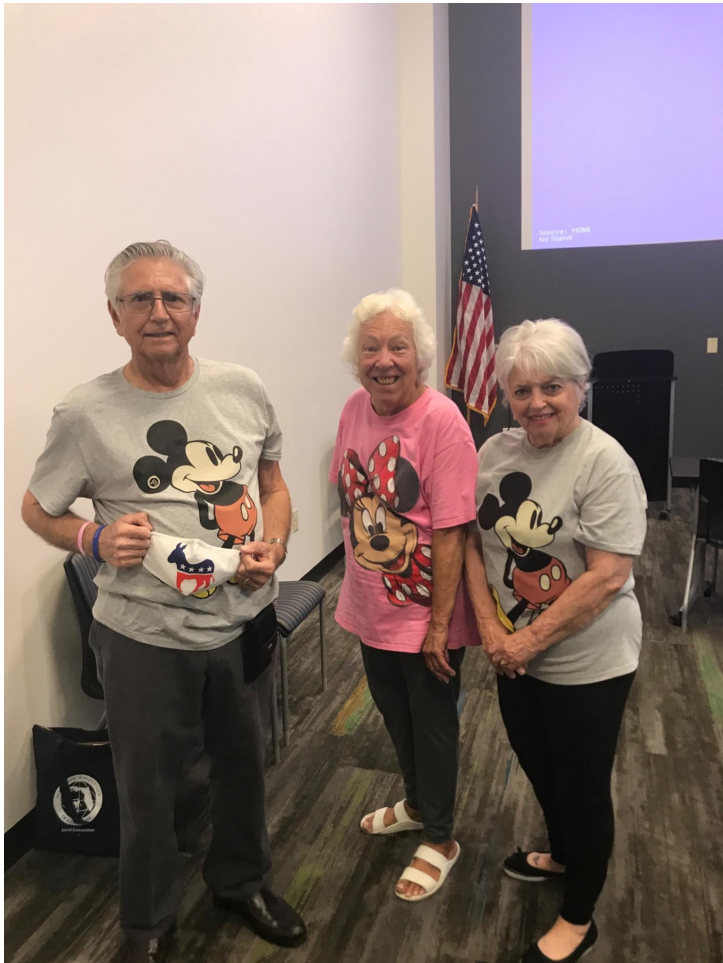
I analyzed the spreadsheet to break down what was done. Each record in the spreadsheet pertained to both the house bill and companion senate bill. I did not include a few misc bills that were neutral. I ignored bills that were filed but never saw any action. 286 entires passed, 239 entires worked on, and 1256 filed.

a	Gun Safety
b	Civ_Human Rights & Immigration
c	Voting and Elections
d	Environment
e	State Preemption Bills
f	Education
g	Criminal Justice_Legal
h	Health & Safety
i	Women, Children, & Family
j	Economy_Infrastructure



Note how much we supported bills in Environment, Education, Health, and especially Women, Children and Family. Note how we opposed Guns, State Preemption, etc. Note how many of each subject area are even worked on. We need people who can analyze these bills in the various subject areas. If you have experience or know of anyone willing to help in any one area, please let me know. I know someone who is an environmental expert - I will be asking him!

Disney Pride!

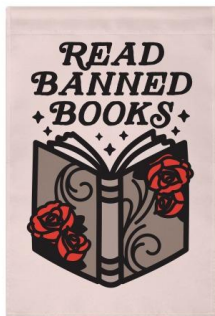


Shelby, Cora and Mary show that we're all for Mickey in his competition with DeSanctimonious.

A Note from Ruthann Richwine, VP DWCUP:

Wow! And thank you to those who responded so quickly for the request for monthly callers to remind everyone of the upcoming meeting. Two people responded and that is a perfect number at this time. Thank you, Starre and Theresa!

Ed note: The club still needs volunteers for meeting hospitality. Please let me know if you're interested. And we're thrilled that Ruthann is doing better now after fracturing her hip.



EVENTS

★ DWCUP Membership Meeting

- **June 26, 2023 at noon**
- Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.
- Zoom

★ MORE EVENTS:

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

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.



10 CLASSIC BANNED BOOKS BY WOMEN AUTHORS

As you plan your summer reading, here are some modern classics by women authors that have been banned in various places for reasons to do with sex, politics, racism, misogyny, or simply fear of the disruptive.

1. *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
2. *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
3. *The Harry Potter series* by J K Rowling
4. *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
5. *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi
6. *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel
7. *Forever* by Judy Blume
8. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
9. *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath
10. *The Women's Room* by Marilyn French

I'M WITH THE BANNED



MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PERKS!

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:
\$25.00**

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



Next Meeting

**Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.
Speaker: Deb Anderson
12pm-1:30pm**

**Meeting after Next:
June 26, 2023**

**Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.
12pm-1:30pm**

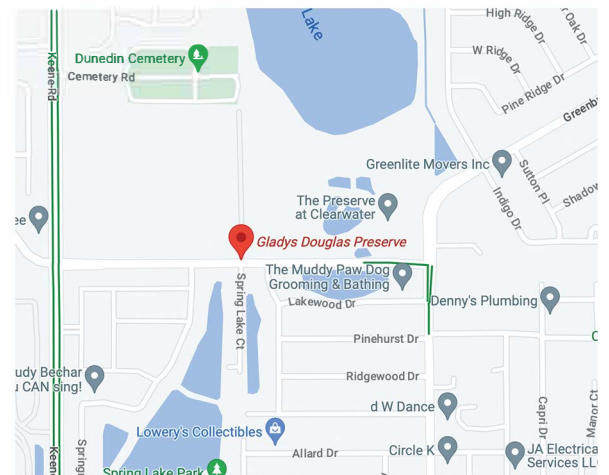


Annual Fun Day

Monday, July 24, 2023

Start at 10am

Gladys E. Douglas Preserve
1900 Virginia Avenue
Dunedin, FL 34698
(Click Here to Visit Site)



Walk Around the Preserve

Dunedin council member, Jeff Gow, will lead the group on a tour.

Parking

A temporary parking lot has been established and is located on the left-hand side as you enter the preserve at the main entrance.



Meet for a Delightful Luncheon at the
Lucky Lobster
941 Huntley Ave in Dunedin

Parking

Is free in the lot on the west edge of the restaurant or in the parking structure off Main Street. Each participant is responsible for her/his own lunch cost and tip.

Sign Up!

To sign up for the tour, luncheon or both, contact Ruthann Richwine:
ruthannrichwine@gmail.com, 727-734-7591