



Chartered
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Parliamentarian
(Open)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Monday, October 23, 2023 at 12pm
Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.
Snacks Available

GUEST SPEAKER

Nancy Velardi

Topic: Banned Books in Florida



Nancy Velardi began her teaching career in New York City, where she worked as a paraprofessional for 7 years before switching to teaching. She taught for two years in Brooklyn, New York before moving to Pinellas County Florida in 2001. Nancy taught 10th grade English at Pinellas Park High School until her election to the presidency of the local teacher's union, PCTA, in the

summer of 2020.

Nancy had campaigned on the premise of returning autonomy to the teachers in the classroom, which had been gradually taken away by the State legislature and poor decisions made by local administration. Unfortunately, the day after the election, the schools were closed due to the COVID pandemic and the direction of Nancy's presidency veered to address the immediate concerns of providing safety in the schools for the re-opening. The issues of protection for the teachers and students in the over-crowded classrooms was successfully met, but what followed would prove to be an even more difficult battle.

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**Nation Federation of
Democratic Women**

www.nfdw.com

**Florida Democratic
Party**

Fladems.com

**Pinellas County
Democratic Executive
Committee**

Pinellasdemocrats.com

As soon as the pandemic hysteria died down, the Governor and his legislative posse took it upon themselves to delve further into the rights of the teachers in the classroom to an unprecedented extreme that is still damaging public education.

The raging culture wars are still ongoing and will prove to be the destruction of public education if teachers, parents, students, and private citizens do not stand up to demand the return to the teaching of pure, honest history and the complete acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community within our ranks.

Nancy Velardi's presidential term ended on June 30, 2023, but she is still an activist engaged in returning sanity and local control to the districts here in Florida, and especially Pinellas which has been her home for the past 22 years. Retired now from the school system, Nancy is determined to spend much of her newly acquired free time to combat the evil that is permeating our school curriculum and causing teachers to flee the system in greater numbers.

Words of Inspiration

September includes some of America's most significant holidays and days of recollection. It starts with Labor Day, saluting labor movement contributions to raising the American standard of living. On September 11th, we remember the tragedy of the World Trade Center and how Americans stood up in unity. During the month, holidays highlight America's diversity, notably American Indian Heritage Day and the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, as well as include holidays of many religions, such as Rosh Hashana, Ganesh Chaturthi, Yom Kippur, and The Prophet's Birthday.

In this month, let us reflect upon what is wonderful about America and work against the coldhearted and distorted sense of entitlement which underlies discrimination and exclusion. Let us hold in our hearts and minds this two-word poem (George MacDonald, 'The Shortest and Sweetest of Songs'): **Come Home**. Democratic women, let us celebrate the best of America in all its variety, with respect for all our citizens and a restored sense of national unity. Work Blue. Vote Blue!

Diane Lebedeff
DWCUP Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

October, 2023



It's been happy news this month to introduce Kathleen Beckman's campaign for Mayor of Clearwater. Never has this city seen such a diligent, inclusive, approachable candidate for mayor. She has done outstanding work in her term as City Council member. Decisions she's made are based on data and accountability and transparency. She has been door-knocking in every precinct in Clearwater. She spoke at our September meeting and attended a Meet n Greet at my condo complex last Friday. You'll see more of her information within this newsletter. Please look it over and for Clearwater voters, please support her. To all of you,

please support her with your encouragement to all the Clearwater voters you know, and if you can afford to, please use the QR code to send a gift (or use the website, <https://Beckmanformayor.com>).

In other news, the US government is still open—for now. What a mess our Congress has become! Collaboration, cooperation and compromise have become vilified, when these are the means a democracy requires to work. I would tell all members of Congress to leave their egos at the door, block all calls from lobbyists and PACs, and go back to basics—do the work the voters of America elected you to do. Provide safety and security for all, with liberty and justice for all. Why have we made life so damn difficult?

You don't need my venting (which probably won't stop me). I do want to focus our attention on several issues that deserve it. To this end, I've borrowed (with permission) several articles from the Greater Pinellas Club newsletter about our state and national issues. These include new laws in this state, our educational system, gerrymandering and unions. Please take a look and enjoy!

-donna dennis

KATHLEEN BECKMAN FOR CLEARWATER MAYOR



**The election is March 19.
Please contact me if you
have questions or ideas.**

**A STRONG LEADER, DEDICATED TO
RESIDENTS, AND TO A VIBRANT
FUTURE FOR CLEARWATER!!**

WHILE ON THE COUNCIL, KATHLEEN HAS BEEN A STRONG LEADER FOR NEIGHBORHOODS AND SMALL BUSINESSES, LOWERING COSTS, INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY, AND ENSURING TRANSPARENCY. AS MAYOR, KATHLEEN WILL ALWAYS ADVOCATE FOR YOU!

CHAMPION FOR NEIGHBORHOODS & SMALL BUSINESS

Kathleen puts the safety and vibrancy of neighborhoods first, across the entire city. That includes having great parks with easy access, and continuous investment that improves neighborhoods, increases safety and walkability, and helps small businesses flourish.

REDUCING COSTS

Kathleen continuously advocates for lowering the cost of city operations, and lowering home related costs for residents. The city is now on track to save millions in the near and long term, that residents can benefit from.

INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY

Kathleen is an outspoken leader for Clearwater's Greenprint 2.0 Sustainability Plan and goals. She leads to improve the health and resiliency of our community.

ENSURING TRANSPARENCY

Kathleen follows through on her commitments to bring transparency to city plans and spending. Kathleen champions City department dashboards, setting measurable goals and tracking progress.



info@BeckmanForMayor.com



BeckmanForMayor



(727) 437-2729



www.BeckmanForMayor.com



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jean Greenawalt, 9/25/23

2023 Legislative session ended May 5.

These links can be used to review all bills and analyses:

flsenate.gov

myfloridahouse.gov

This is the link to Democratic Women of Florida:

<https://www.dwcf.org/>

Rose LaChapelle is the Legislative Committee chair for the Democratic Women of Florida and will be leading zoom meetings when the 2024 legislative session starts. The purpose of the meetings is to learn and talk about the bills, develop talking points, and then distribute alerts so that we can contact our senators and representative to let them know how we feel. Once we start that process I can forward the alerts to you so that you can contact our legislators. Let me know if you want to be on the list.

She is getting us ready for the 2024 session. County legislative delegation meetings are being scheduled. No agendas have been published yet, so I don't know what local bills they will be discussing.

Thursday, October 26, 2023

1 PM – 4 PM

Pinellas County Legislative Delegation Meeting

9200 113th St N, Seminole, FL 33772 (SPC Seminole Campus)

You may register to speak through October 19, 2023, 10:00 a.m., at

<https://form.jotform.com/232566106711148>

November 29, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

9200 113th St N, Seminole, FL 33772

(SPC Seminole Campus)

This is their website link and what they state the purpose of the meeting is:

<https://pinellas.gov/legislative-delegation/> “Every year, the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation establishes a process for and considers local bills. The Delegation is comprised of all members of the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate elected to represent any portion of the County.”

SEPTEMBER DWUCUP MEETING RECAP

Mary Freeman

We had a full house for the meeting of Sept. 25th, plus several on Zoom. There is so much going on!

First, my apologies to those of you on Zoom. I inadvertently muted myself a couple of times. Many thanks to Jan Walton for agreeing to assist with the Zoom side of the meeting. We're working on the logistics so that this process will work smoothly in future meetings.

And thanks to all who have signed petitions—to get clean water and abortion on the Florida ballot, and now for Kathleen Beckman for Mayor of Clearwater. Nancy Armitage is doing a superb job of keeping track of the ballot petitions for our club and Pinellas voters.

Raegan Miller delivered an eye-opening presentation on the Florida Freedom to Read Project (fftrp.org or [@FIFreedomRead](https://twitter.com/FIFreedomRead)). Recently, this group has helped get over 250 books put back on the shelves of school libraries. Raegan gave us a step-by-step approach to advocacy with schools, educators, friends and the community. She also gave us Talking Points to use in addressing Censorship as well as a “How-to” for filing an appeal in a school district. We greatly appreciate the work of this organization! We also heard from Nancy Vellucci about her experience with books pulled from the shelves in the schools of her grandchildren. This is a growing issue and we all need to remain vigilant.

Clearwater City Council member, Kathleen Beckman, discussed her work on the council and her decision to run for Mayor of Clearwater. She would continue her work to make Clearwater a great place for ALL who live, work and travel here.

Mary Freeman discussed the duties of club officers as she's the Nominating Committee Chair. The election takes place at our November 27th meeting. Please contact her, 727-415-6629 or Maryf1969@verizon.net. She's also looking for volunteers to assist in planning the DWUCUP Holiday Party. Please reach out to her if you would like to help!

Someone left a black sweater at the end of the meeting. I'll have it at the next meeting. Any other questions? Contact donna at 313-443-2587 or dwcup727@gmail.com.



We need YOU!

- Join us on Saturday, October 7 from 10:30 - noon for a **DISTRICT 58 Fall Volunteer Meet-up and Training** at the North Greenwood Library Community Room. Address: 905 N. MLK Jr Ave., Clearwater, 3375

Sign up on Mobilize:

<https://www.mobilize.us/pinellascountydec/event/580036>

- We have a number of unfilled positions for Precinct committeeperson (PCP) and Block Captain throughout the district. We need volunteers who enjoy talking to voters, making phone calls, sending texts, dropping literature, writing postcards, and working at tabling events to register voters and sign them up to vote by mail. Covering will not happen without your help! **Now that the weather is cooling, we will be doorknocking. Will you volunteer to take a turf?**
- **Drop by the North County Democratic Party Outreach Center** at 1402 N. MLK Jr. Ave., Clearwater, 33755 to pick up a packet of postcards to work on at home. We are open Monday through Thursday from noon-4 and on Friday from 9-4 pm. We need some volunteers to fill in for those who are ill or traveling. **Interested?**
- **We have several phone banks in progress.** We are focusing on the large number of voters who are no longer signed up to Vote By Mail or have never requested a mail ballot. If you speak Spanish, please consider calling self-identified Hispanic voters to let them know about upcoming elections, check to see if all eligible citizens in their household are registered to vote and signed up for Vote by Mail. Come into the office for a short training. We will set you up to use MiniVAN to make calls.
- **Our District volunteers are meeting in person on October 12 at 7 PM.** We will be enjoying the beautiful view from an event space on Island Way, Clearwater. Call or text for details.

Kathleen Keohane, District Chair

kathleen.keohane@pinellasdemocrats.com

610-348-6834

Friday, September 29th 5pm-7:30pm Petition
Gathering & Voter Registration on the Pinellas Trail &
Main St, Dunedin!

Join Us!

<https://www.mobilize.us/pinellascountydec/event/580924/>

Invitation to All Hardworking Summer Volunteers, Refreshed Snowbirds & New Volunteers

in Safety Harbor, Oldsmar, Palm Harbor, Tarpon Springs & Dunedin north of SR 580



D57 Fall Meeting & Social!

Sunday, October 8th

2Pm – 4PM

Shelter #2, Philippe Park, Safety Harbor

Sign Up Now at <https://mobilize.us/s/lplova>

Questions or to RSVP - Contact Ilene Heinke, D57 Chair
ilene.heinke@pinellasdemocrats.com

Jarline Dotson, D57 Vice-Chair/Zone Lead, Zone Leads: Donna Solomon, Don Grimme, Nancy Armitage, Margie Friedman, Kathy Smith, Carol Levinsky, Jeanie McKnight, Allison Miller, Carmen Landers, Kurt Allebach, Additional District Leads: Patti Retherford, Lacy Hollings, Patrick Clare, Digit Grimme, Karen Weiss, Ann Pelishek, Sarah Mueller, Other Elected or Appointed Precinct Committee Persons: Linda Maschek, Tyler Williams, Jackie McDonald, Julia Heinke, Sydney McShane, Dimitri Leventis, Greg Silver, Arthur Bochner, Drinda Lombardi, Diane Lebedeff, Sharon McAuley, Garry Scheuer, Nancy Velucci, Bruce Heinke, Donna Jones, Marcie Linder, Malanda Schmitz, Amy Callaghan, Bill Wadsworth, Joan Walko, Jay Goley, Becky Goley, Eileen Smith, Steven Kahn, Jean McKnight, Paul Ford, Geri Doherty, Tom McKone, Lisa DesCoteaux, Joanne Cordes, Kerri Kennedy, Sandra Sperry, David Traylor

OCTOBER is
Domestic Violence
AWARENESS
MONTH

A large, stylized purple awareness ribbon graphic that starts as a horizontal line and loops into a vertical shape on the right side.

OCTOBER is National Domestic Violence month.

Purple Porch Project

Light up your porch with purple for Domestic Violence Awareness.

To promote the National Domestic violence Hotline, the Pinellas coalition
TO END Domestic Violence

is selling yard signs.

Since 2018, Harbor House has created more awareness through our Purple Porch Project in honor of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Lighting up residential porches, businesses, public buildings and schools with purple lights and **yard signs symbolizes support for survivors of domestic violence and strengthens awareness in our community.**

With as little as \$20 donation, you can have a yard sign to support the families of domestic violence.





Pinellas County Democratic Veterans Caucus

PICNIC

Veterans Day... Sat. November 11
Shelter 4, Veterans Memorial Park
9600 Bay Pines Blvd.

SAVE THE DATE

This will be your opportunity to have fun... support those who have served... meet elected officials and candidates... learn more about the caucus... enjoy good food.

All proceeds will support local candidates and veteran causes.

Ticket sales will open soon. Stay tuned!
Donations gratefully accepted any time.

Contact Judith St. Onge, DEC Member, US Army Retired.

Stonge756@aol.com



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

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

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Monday, October 23, 2023 at 12pm
Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.

