



Chartered
September 9, 1940



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**CLUB
REPRESENTATIVES**

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Monday, September 25, 2023 at 12pm
Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.
Snacks Available

GUEST SPEAKER

Reagan Miller

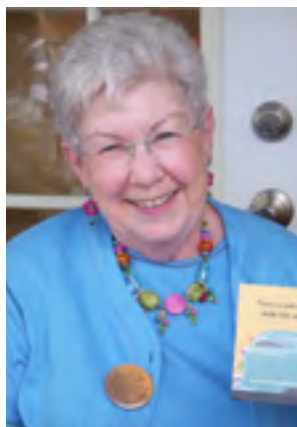
Topic: Banned Books in Florida



Raegan Miller is the Director of Development for the Florida Freedom to Read Project.

She is a mother of two children in public school and has been an advocate for public education since her children started school. She has served in various roles for local, county and state PTA. She has devoted a significant amount

of time to tracking education policy and has worked with elected officials to create policies that benefits all students.



IN MEMORIAM

Deanne Lange was a long-time member of the DWCUP. She lived in On Top of the World and served for years as Treasurer and Sunshine Chair. She was a good friend to many and a dedicated Democrat. She moved to Sun City AZ in 2010.

Thank you for your service, Deanne!



ADDITIONAL SPEAKER



Kathleen Beckman



Kathleen Beckman was born and raised in Michigan, where her family was and is committed to public service. She earned a BS in Psychology and Marketing, Teacher Certification for English Education, and an MA in Educational Leadership. She and her husband, Bryan, are the proud parents of Joshua, Sarah, and Michael. Beckman raised her family in Northern Illinois where she was a public high school English teacher. She and Bryan moved to Clearwater in 2016.

Beckman is a Guardian ad Litem with the Pinellas County Courts where she is a voice/advocate for children who have been removed from the home due to abuse or neglect.

Beckman was elected to Clearwater City Council in March of 2020.

Beckman proudly serves on the following boards/councils:

- Tampa Bay Estuary Program policy board
- First Vice President of the Suncoast League of Cities
- Chair of the Pinellas County Continuum of Care
- Leadership Board of Thrive by Five
- Barrier Islands Government Council, (the Big C)
- Clearwater Affordable Housing Advisory Council
- Pinellas Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board

Beckman's work in the city and on the boards she serves on represent her many passions: advocating for Clearwater residents and neighborhoods, our environment, small business innovation, housing solutions, and driving down costs for city operations, businesses, and residents.

In her free time, Beckman enjoys reading, cooking, biking, hiking and spending time with friends and family. She loves to engage with residents and frequently schedules walk-and-talks with residents to not only share a conversation but get some exercise together.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

September, 2023



I learned a new term last week: **Poly-crisis**. It explains why so many Democrats are weary and getting discouraged about the current state of affairs in our country. Briefly, it refers to the growing number of crises we worry about all at once.

I tested myself by making a list of the critical problems in this nation/world that I worried about in the last week. I'm sure your list would be similar but in less than 5 minutes I listed the following:

- Putin and Ukraine
 - Trump and DeSantis
 - Gun violence
 - Abortion rights
-
- Climate change and DeSantis' veto of funds to combat same
 - Increasingly extreme weather all over the globe
 - Poverty
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - Insurance crisis
 - Crippling of public schools through book banning, bleaching of history, tying teachers' hands, etc.
 - Exorbitant cost of medical care/denial of Medicaid funding in FL
 - Collapse of American democracy
 - Racism
 - Homophobia/anti-trans sentiment
 - Misogyny
 - Keeping Dems strong in the coming election cycle

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (con't)

September, 2023

We're all thinking: I can't fight on all these fronts! How do I move forward when I'm so discouraged? That's a fair question, but labeling the problem is the first step in developing a strategy. It's true; no one person can take on all of this and stay sane.

What is to be done? First, deal with what's in front of you each day. In your own sphere of influence, how can you have an impact? For example, I walked into a store yesterday. It featured homemade canned goods, from jams to trail mixes, barbecue sauce, etc. All very tempting. Then I noticed one group of products with a MAGA label. I walked out of the store having made NO purchases at all. It was a tiny, one-woman protest, but where we put our dollars matters.

I came home and sent a contribution to the people of Maui, who have lost everything. I went to an Indivisible meeting (this community has no Dem group) and offered input and a contribution. I offered to host a Meet n Greet for our marvelous candidate for mayor of Clearwater, Kathleen Beckman. I pick up other people's trash as I walk Tuffy. I'm not saying all this to toot my own horn, but to demonstrate that fighting oppression and working for Democratic causes is a lifestyle.

Stay informed. We all know that many are now substituting opinions and outright lies for facts. Instead, be ready to offer another viewpoint to others, not in a shouting or bullying manner, but with a sense of curiosity. Ask, "Why do you believe that?" And offer a "Did you know...." Without rancor. We have to be the ones to demonstrate civility and a will to get along with all. Just living in a Democratic silo will not bring this nation and world together.

In our club, we ask you to volunteer. For example, Beth Davis is chairing a postcard drive. As many times as we tell everyone to check their voter registration and vote-by-mail status, there are still thousands who have not updated their records with the Supervisor of Elections office. Our postcarding effort is an attempt to alert area Dems. If you haven't volunteered already, contact Beth Davis, 727-742-3797. Or go to the North Pinellas Dems office one afternoon (1402 MLK Ave, Clearwater) and volunteer there for any number of different activities. Get more petitions signed, both for abortion rights and clean water. Ask everyone you know if they're a registered voter! We know we have to get Dems to the polls next year and fight the enthusiasm lag.

Take a break when you must and keep yourself as healthy as possible. And keep on fighting for our Democratic beliefs! None of us can do it all, but we can all do SOMETHING!

-donna dennis

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jean Greenawalt, 8/28/23

2023 Legislative session ended May 5.

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

flsenate.gov

myfloridahouse.gov

Rose LaChapelle will be leading zoom meetings when legislative sessions resume. Looking forward to the zoom meetings with her! In the meantime, there has been two zoom webinars sponsored by DWCF: “DE&I - Understanding How Florida’s Demographic Changes Influence.

Our DWCF” with speakers Phillip Miner and Yolanda Russell on August 6th, and “Understanding Senate Bill 7050 Confirmation” on August 20 with speaker Brad Ashwell. I get the notices in an email, but anyone can attend these by signing up on dwcf.org so keep an eye out for webinars of interest.

DE&I - Understanding How Florida’s Demographic Changes Influence Our DWCF

Phillip cited many statistics based on data on the Office of Economic & Demographic Research website <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/>. Did you know that 49 percent of women Democrats did not vote last year! 67 percent Hispanic, 55 percent Black, and 42 percent White did not vote. Florida population growth is due to people moving into Florida more so than the birthrate. Black and Hispanic cultures are not monolithic - don’t assume minority groups will always vote Democratic. We must engage minority groups to persuade them to vote Democratic. We must also strive to increase the diversity of our clubs.

Yolanda talked about looking for recruitment opportunities by approaching people by caring. Let them know we care. Develop a community resources flyer to help new people moving in. Find out what the minority-owned businesses are and frequent them. Provide material for minority newspapers as well as for local neighborhood papers. Participate at food drives and other volunteer events. Make ourselves known!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT (con't)

Jean Greenawalt, 8/28/23

Understanding Senate Bill 7050

Brad addressed two main areas of concern: Voter Registration and Vote by Mail (VBM). The law has made it difficult for 3rd party voter registration groups (3PVRO) to handle voter registrations as many of us have been made aware of in previous DW-CUP meetings.

Collectors can no longer fill out forms, they must fill out receipts, certain convicts or non-US citizens cannot handle the forms, tightened timelines, exorbitant fines, etc. Not being able to copy filled out forms and not allowing non-US people to handle the forms are currently “enjoined”, meaning blocked, while being legally challenged. Bottom line - inform and engage voters to send registrations themselves, without even being part of a 3PVRO.

The law has shortened timelines for Vote By Mail requests and rejects multiple ballots returned in one envelope. Voters must either vote, update their records, or request a mail ballot within the last two federal elections. Public notices of names removed from the voter rolls is to be put on the elections website and not published in newspapers. (I didn't see anything on votepinellas.com). Most important point - requests for VBMs is abysmal! We need to inform and engage voters who may be thinking they will get a VBM but they won't.

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 cold-hearted 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

**WEST PINELLAS
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
FOR WOMEN**



Thursday September 21, 2023

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

In lieu of Chapter Meeting

Black Women's Equal Day Mixer

The Woodson African American Museum of Florida

2240 9th Avenue

St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Come join us at the Woodson African American Museum of Florida for an educational evening advocating for black women! This in-person event will be held at 2240 9th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL, USA. Get ready to connect with like-minded individuals, share stories, and build a strong community. Let's come together to uplift and support each other. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to highlight black women's achievements and promote equality. See you there!

In coalition with
the Woodson Museum African American Museum of Florida,
Tampa NOW and Pinellas NOW

West Pinellas NOW



AUGUST DWCUP MEETING RECAP

Mary Freeman

Pinellas County Commissioner Rene Flowers spoke about important issues in the county. For example, one lady needed help after being scammed when renting an apartment from someone who did not own it. The lady had just had knee surgery and needed a place that was easy to access. Renee started a Go Fund Me page for her and raised \$7,995 which helped her and her 2 grandchildren find an apartment that suited their needs. Renee advised that everyone looking to rent should check with PinellasRealtor.org to make sure they are legitimate. Rene also spoke about the importance of getting voters registered and getting them to the Polls. She mentioned how she and the other County Commissioners were meeting frequently in regards to Hurricane Idalia.

Jarine Dotson presented Petitions for Clean Water and to put Abortion on the ballot.

Beth Davis presented a slide show describing the numbers of Democrats, Republican and Independent voters in Pinellas County. She passed out Postcards for our Postcard Project and 18 members signed up. These postcards are designed to help voters make sure that not only is their registration current, but that Vote by Mail requests are up-to-date as well.

Mary Freeman announced an “Upward Movement Meeting” will be held on a date to be announced. This meeting is for current and future Board Members and will be hosted by DWF President Meri Fort-Namuj. The structure of a club, members, members’ roles and growth will be discussed, in addition to how to build a bench and why you should.

Mary Freeman

maryf1969@Verizon.net

727-415-6629

July 24th Funday!



Despite the cloudiness, 14 members toured the Gladys Douglas Preserve. Dunedin City Commissioner Jeff Gow led the tour giving the history of the property.

Craig Wilson, Dunedin City Arborist talked about the various plants that are very rare.

Pete Wells, Dunedin Park Manager assisted with the tour. Some stayed to go look at Lake Gerry but were hindered when a Florida downpour interfered.

Attending were Susan Soto, Norma Cox, Maura Hedrick, Christy Spencer, Kathy Murray, Polly Kraus, Lois Ezell, Mary Ellen Lansburg, Peter Boeson, Theresa Brom Boesen, Karen Miracle, Joyce Monahan, Kathleen Koehane and Anne Richter.

Lunch at Lucky Lobster was next on the agenda.

Diane Lebedeff, Deloris Reichenburg, Cora Kosta, Doris Hansen met the group members there to total 15 members attending the luncheon.

Click [here](#) to visit the Gladys Douglas Preserve website.





The DWCUP needs a member who is willing to monitor the Zoom participants during the monthly membership meetings. We have several members who cannot attend in person and really need for our club to offer the Zoom component. If you would be willing to do this, contact Donna Dennis, 313-443-2587 or dwcup727@gmail.com. The club has a Zoom account; you would simply be the onsite monitor.

Thank you!





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Regional Rep.

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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, September 25, 2023 at 12pm

Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.

