



Chartered
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**CLUB
REPRESENTATIVES**

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DWCUP727@gmail.com

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2nd Vice President

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OPEN

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Newsletter Chair

Jan Walton

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Ruthann Richwine
Karen Miracle

Webmaster

Polly Kraus

MEMBERSHIP MEETING:
Monday, April 22, 2024 at 12pm
Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.
Snacks available

GUEST SPEAKER
CARL ZIMMERMANN
Chair, Greater Pinellas Democratic Club
Florida's Insurance Crisis



Carl began his political campaign in 2005, running to represent District 48 in the Florida House of Representatives.

It was nearly impossible because the North Pinellas seat was the most Republican seat in Florida, previously held by Gus Bilirakis. But Carrie Wadlinger of the Pinellas County Democrats asked and he agreed.

Carl was a teacher and he knew that to be competitive he needed to become an expert on the hot issues at the time. He determined

insurance to be *the* key issue.

After speaking at a Democratic meeting in early 2005, Ann McDowell came chasing after him, impressed with his delivery. She said she wanted to help him, immediately wrote a check for the maximum amount, and told him she was going to school him on insurance. As it turned out, property insurance was about to blow up.

DWCUP Website

DWCUP.org

Twitter

[@DWCUP727](https://twitter.com/DWCUP727)

Instagram

[@DWCUP727](https://www.instagram.com/DWCUP727)

Facebook

facebook.com/groups/DWCUP

Email

DWCUP727@gmail.com

DWCF, Inc.

DWCF.org

Nation Federation of Democratic Women

www.nfdw.com

Florida Democratic Party

Fladems.com

Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee

Pinellasdemocrats.com

Carl didn't win in 2006, losing by less than two percent. He ran again in 2008 and lost by one percent. Carl decided he was done.

Two months before the qualifying date in 2012, two different consultants called Carl, telling him he needed to run again. The Florida districts had been redrawn. Dems were going to do well this cycle. He said no. And then Democratic consultant Mark Hanisee called to say he had to run—Carl was the only one who understood insurance.

Carl ran and was elected to represent District 65 in the Florida House in 2012 by fifty-three percent.

Carl worked as a teacher in Pinellas County Schools for thirty-five years, teaching TV production at Countryside High School in Clearwater and building a nationally recognized, award-winning broadcast journalism program.

Carl is now the President of the Greater Pinellas Democratic Club and most recently ran for the Pinellas School Board. He lost to a Mom's for Liberty candidate.



Dear Democratic Women,

The DWCUP is in need of a Recording Secretary!

This person needs to attend two meetings/month (or secure a sub when you can't be there), summarize the meeting in writing, and send out to other board members via email.

In addition, this person has a say in the direction and activities of our group. Please contact Donna for more information at 313-443-2587 or dwcup727@gmail.com.

Thank you!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2024



The Florida Supreme Court finally released its decisions this week. In a classic “Only in Florida” moment, the six-week abortion ban was upheld and will go into effect at the end of this month. Later in this newsletter, you’ll see information on how we can help those impacted by this draconian measure.

On the same day, the Court also approved putting the right to an abortion on the November ballot. This would, if passed, ensure the right to an abortion in the Florida constitution. This will be no easy feat, however, as *sixty percent* of the voters must approve the measure. Last

year we were all about getting petitions signed to get this on the ballot, and this year, it’s all about **GETTING OUT THE VOTE!**

It feels like everything we believe in is on the line: Preserving our Democracy, ensuring human and civil rights, and making America sane again.

Note also, that the use of recreational marijuana will be on the November ballot. If the right to abortion and cannabis can’t get younger voters out, I don’t know what will. But as we know, we’ll need Democrats of all ages, plus NPAs and supportive Rs, to get these measures passed.

Please make a commitment now to spend an afternoon a week at the North Pinellas Democratic Outreach Office, 1402 N MLK Jr Ave, Clearwater, to help out. From calling to post-carding to bagging candidate collateral and more, all of us are needed. We have candidates for Congress, the County Commission and School Board who need our assistance as well in the August 20th election. And of course, we need to exert every possible effort to re-elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in November!

Also in this newsletter:

- DWCF Convention information—call Donna if you want to go
- We need a Recording Secretary—also call Donna if interested
- The North Pinellas Dems are hosting a Memorial Weekend picnic—see info
- Please note: No Zoom at April meeting (Donna will be out of the country)

Thanks for all you do!

Donna Dennis

DWCUP MEETING RECAP of March 25, 2024

We had a terrific meeting in March. Our featured speaker was Dr. Susan MacManus, noted political analyst and Emeritus Professor of USF. She shared eye-opening information about Florida voters in 2024.

- Women's clout has grown in every aspect of politics.
- More women are getting elected to Congress and over forty-one of the Florida State Legislature is female.
- Younger voters are more likely to register as NPA (No Party Affiliation) than D or R.
- The three youngest groups of voters now equal 58% of the electorate. Gen Z and Millennials are more likely to support issues than candidates.
- The way we reach out to voters must differ with age group. "Women are all about Instagram." More people are getting their news on digital devices than from TV or print media. In 2024, we must focus on texts, memes, blogs, streaming, podcasts, influencers and AI (Artificial Intelligence).
- Younger women are more liberal than young men. Younger people are more persuadable than older people.
- Women are not showing up to vote enough. Mothers of young kids and professional women are not showing up in multiple elections.
- WE MUST BREAK THROUGH THE CYNICISM TOWARD POLITICAL PARTIES. There are now "double-haters" who won't vote for either party. We must then encourage attention to the down-ballot races (offices other than President). We also need a message that is sunny and bright and relatable.
- Abortion, cost of living and guns are the major issues for 2024.



During the meeting, former President Mary Freeman was presented with the Lifetime Membership Award in gratitude for all the years of leadership and devotion she's given to the DWCUP.

Kathleen Beckman shared her thoughts after the loss of her mayoral campaign. She will continue her activism on behalf of the residents of Clearwater, especially in the area of affordable housing. She and Bryan knocked on over 10,000 doors in this campaign, and we are sincerely grateful to them both. Now we'll see "Kathleen Unleashed" as she continues to be a local activist. She even baked brownies and served us all. The Sweets-Fest included VOTE cookies from Ruthann Richwine and Karen Miracle and cupcakes and Easter candy from Margie Murphy. We could all feel the sugar rush in the room!



Several candidates for Congressional District 13 spoke. We heard from Peter Owen, Mark Weinkrantz, and the newest candidate in the race, Liz Dahan. This August primary offers us some amazing choices! We can replace Luna-tic!

UPDATES



The Florida Supreme Court ruled that in thirty days, Florida will have a six-week abortion ban, eliminating access to care in the South. BUT we can vote to restore access in November. Follow @Yes4Florida and vote #yeson4 in November!

Over the next seven months, it's up to us to hold Republicans accountable for making Florida home to one of the strictest bans in the country.

FROM THE FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

A toolkit -- at the links below -- includes talking points, statements, and sample posts and graphics to share on social media to continue talking about the stakes in 2024.

The toolkit is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Direct Support Options

If you want to support the **Yes on 4! AMENDMENT TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WITH ABORTION**, go to the sponsor: **Floridians Protection Freedom (FPF)**: <https://floridiansprotectingfreedom.com/donate/>

FPF is a coalition of several major organizations. They are well organized, well managed, and they have a strategic plan for success.

If you want to donate to help women get reproductive health care, refer to:

National Network of Abortion Funds [Click here to donate to Florida's abortion funds.](#)

When the 6-week ban goes into effect in May, costs to support patients will skyrocket as abortion funds help patients leave the state for care. Funds donated here will be split among the following (or you can donate directly to one of these):

- [Access Reproductive Care Southeast](#)
- [Broward Women's Emergency Fund](#)
- [Emergency Medical Assistance Inc](#)
- [Florida Access Network](#)
- [Tampa Bay Abortion Fund](#)
- [Women's Emergency Network](#)



DISTRICT REPORTS/UPDATES

Check Mobilize regularly for volunteer needs and events. <https://www.mobilize.us/>

DISTRICT 58

North County Outreach Center - 1402 N. MLK Ave, Clearwater, FL 33755.

Office hours are:

Monday: 12:30-3:30 pm / Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 12-4 pm / Friday: 9-4 pm

Drop in any time to help.

Kathleen Keohane
610-348-6834

DISTRICT 59

Meeting: Tuesday, April 9th at SPC Seminole Community Library. Our speaker is Jennifer Griffith, our Pinellas Democratic Party Chair.

We welcome any Democratic candidates who would like to introduce themselves to the District.

We will be planning a canvassing event for the end of April to get our volunteers out in the most densely Democratic precinct in District 59. We will discuss the new Clean Water Petition and the Expansion of Medicaid Petition. VR training and gearing up for this Fall. We need to turn out and personal connections matter!

Polly Kraus / text (727) 709-9469

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Use these links to review all bills and analyses: flsenate.gov, myfloridahouse.gov

Use this link to view weekly update videos on Fridays, and videos of proceedings:
thefloridachannel.org

The 2024 legislative session ended on March 8. Many of the highlights:

Good - passed:

- Social Media and Minors
- Education - AI, learning and tutoring advancements, school safety, education regulations, health training for high-risk school athletics, voucher program modifications.

- Environment - red tide mitigation, ban balloon release, sea level rise residency, coral reefs, reclaimed water.
- Health - behavioral health teaching hospitals, substantial bill to support staffing, loans, birth centers, training.
- Housing - energy and flood resistance support
- Insurance - improvements to Citizens
- Voting - AI in political advertising (disclaimers, filing complaints)

Bad - passed:

- Education - anti-woke teacher prep, school chaplains, teach about Communism (but not Black history?)
- Environment - harder to fight climate change - even removing the term, preempt local regulation of charging stations, ban offshore wind.
- Housing - preempt local building regulation, prohibit public camping (without necessary help for the homeless)
- Rights - harsher penalties for illegal immigrant criminals, no IDs for illegal immigrants, shoot bears, preempt local regulation of complaints against law officers, ban cultivated meat, website resources for women that will probably be anti-abortion.
- Workers - local governments can't set wages and standards on contracts, youth can work more and at harder jobs, union busting.

Good - died (or withdrawn, laid on table):

- Guns - reduce age to eighteen, open carry.
- Health - anti-vax if covid ever happens again.
- Environment - ban wind energy, support fracking
- Rights - ban preferred pronoun, fetal personhood, forbid removal of monuments, gender and biological sex on ID's, anti-transgender health rules, easier to sue media for defamation, ban flags at government buildings (LGBTQ), raise threshold for amendment approval to 2/3, total abortion ban.
- Voting - essentially voter suppression
- Workers - harder to file unemployment claims.

Bad - died (or withdrawn, laid on table):

- Education - remove teaching that enslaved benefitted from slavery, repeal anti-woke education, African American and Holocaust instruction in all schools.
- Environment - climate resilience, everglades protection, mangrove restoration, study carbon sequestration, renewable energy and carbon reduction goals.
- Guns - ammunition sales background checks, assault weapons ban, safe gun storage, ghost gun regulation.
- Health - Medicaid expansion

- Housing - tenant rights, rent limitations, air conditioning for rentals, increase affordable housing inventory.
- Insurance - limit claim denial, insolvency rules,
- Voting - voter eligibility database, revoke registration limits, election day holiday, campaign finance auditing, additional early voting sites.
- Workers - worker heat illness prevention
- Rights - no punishment for woman who has abortion, air-condition prisons.

Legislative Liaison
Jean Greenawalt
April 1, 2024



DWCF
68th Annual
Convention



May 16 - 19, 2024



68th Annual State Convention

MAY 16-19, 2024

Programming

**LUNCH
FRIDAY, MAY 17
12:30 PM**



REP. CHRISTINE HUNCHOFSKY



SEN. JASON PIZZO



REP. FENTRICE DRISKELL

**DINNER
SATURDAY, MAY 18
8:00 PM**



**(D-NY)
THE HON. MICHAEL BLAKE**

**LUNCH
SATURDAY, MAY 18
12:30 PM**



REP. DAN DALEY



REP. ANGIE NIXON



More Info
www.DWCF.org

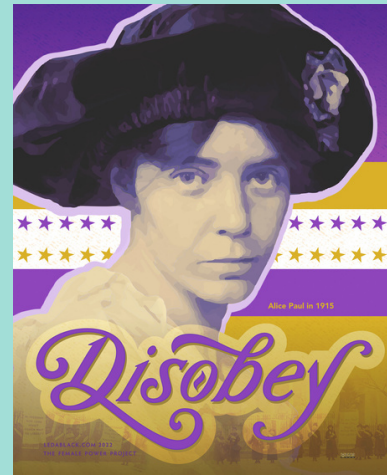


**1500 Sandlike Road
Orlando, Florida 32809**



Friday Night

PERSISTER RALLY



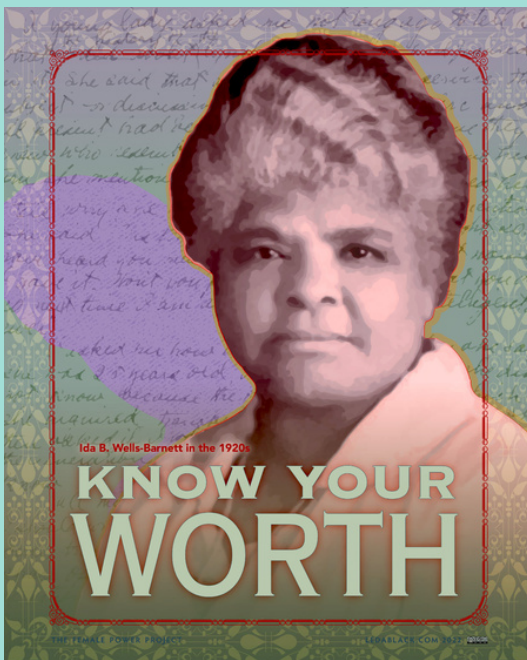
Southwestern
Buffet

Honorable Judy Mount

Rep Anna Eskamani

Rep Kirsten Allington

Rep Carlso Guillermo
Smith



MUSIC



Sat. May 25th
@ noon

MEMORIAL DAY

FUNDRAISER

PICNIC

Tickets: \$25 or 2 or more \$20 each. Kids under 12 are free.



CLICK QR CODE OR VISIT:
WWW.NORTHPINELLASDEMOCRATS.COM



FOOD 🍔 MUSIC 🎵 RAFFLES 🎟 CANDIDATES

Philippe Park Shelter #2

2525 Phillippe Pkwy, Safety Harbor, FL 34695

NORTH PINELLAS DEMOCRATIC CLUB announces our annual picnic will be in the spring this year, on Saturday, May 25th at noon at Philippe Park, Shelter #2 during Memorial Day weekend!

Elected officials, candidates, music, raffles, and delicious food catered by The Ozona Pig. A great time with fellow Democrats as we look forward to the Primary and General elections ahead this year. There is much to do and no better way than a fun afternoon together to get started!



MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS!

All members of the DWCU 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

NEXT MONTH'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Monday, May 20, 2024 at 12pm
Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.

