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**CLUB  
REPRESENTATIVES**

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**2nd Vice President**

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**Recording Secretary**

OPEN

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**Hospitality Chairs**

Ruthann Richwine  
Karen Miracle

**Webmaster**

Polly Kraus

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**  
Monday, May 20, 2024 at 12pm  
Social time 11:30

**Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.**  
Snacks available

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Lindsay Cross**

**Florida House Representative  
District 60**



Lindsay has dedicated her life to improving the lives of Pinellas County families. An environmental scientist with more than two decades of experience, she has protected water quality and habitats in Tampa Bay and statewide, and created more parks for people and wildlife.

In the State Legislature, Lindsay has continued her mission of protecting Florida's natural environment and water by fighting against the use of radioactive waste material in road construction and championing more than \$1 billion in water and land conservation funding in 2023 alone.

Representative Cross continues to fight for our health and quality of life. She's committed to delivering on her campaign promises, passing legislation to increase affordable housing and sponsoring bills addressing water quality, resilience, and healthcare costs.

Her passion for Florida, its residents, and its invaluable natural beauty led her to choose St. Pete as her home. Raised in the Midwest,

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Lindsay appreciates the transformative power of public education, inspired by her parents who were public school educators.

With a degree in Environmental Health and a minor in Spanish, Lindsay's academic journey took her abroad to study in Costa Rica

and Spain, developing her language skills. Her professional career includes advanced or leadership roles in the private sector, government and non-profit sectors, contributing to remarkable improvements in water quality and environmental health.

In her first legislative session, Lindsay achieved significant results by securing over \$2 million for road improvements, parks, water quality, workforce development, and the arts in her district, demonstrating her effectiveness as a freshman member of the minority party.

Beyond her legislative work, Lindsay leads outdoor adventure travel for women and teaches yoga. She's also deeply committed to volunteering for numerous community causes ranging from the arts and youth education to leadership development and environmental restoration.



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](mailto:dwcup727@gmail.com).

Thank you!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY 2024



Hi, Everyone!

First of all, my thanks to Cora Kostka for chairing the April meeting. Thanks also to speakers Carl Zimmermann and Cookie Kennedy for their presentations, as well as to Mary Freeman and the whole board for taking care of everything while I was away.

As some of you know, I just returned from two weeks in Japan. Although we had no English-speaking TV channels in our hotels, it was clear that news from the US is all over the world.

A former president of the USA on trial for paying off a porn star and cooking the books to cover it up—that is disgusting to say the least. The Japanese are far too polite to ask how so many Americans can

be supporting him for re-election to the presidency. But it seemed odd to those who broached it, not to mention how sleazy it feels to all of us.

Another concern is the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. The war is not abating, and each side is suffering. This grievous war is causing a current wave of college campus protests. The world has long been wary of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Arab states, and the protests seem to show that there's fear of escalation of war in the Middle East and no foreseeable resolution, which impacts the entire world. Although Japan is more attuned to the Ukraine-Russia conflict, those I spoke to do not want to see any more violence anywhere.

Part of that is the problem of the Japanese economy. Many Americans don't realize how strong our economy is compared to other nations. The American dollar is incredibly strong. We came out of the Pandemic very well compared to many other countries. In fact, I'd urge anyone interested in traveling to Japan to book it now. The yen is at its lowest point compared to the American dollar since 1990. The bargains there are amazing! My first dinner there came to a total of \$6.67.

Here at home, remember that this month's meeting is a week early, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Rep Lindsay Cross will talk to us about her work in the State House. We all want to help her win re-election, as she is one of the few elected Dems in this county. She is a great speaker—you'll be glad you came to hear her!

Thanks for all you do.

Donna Dennis



# UPDATES

## DWCUP MEETING RECAP of April 29, 2024

President, Donna Dennis, was traveling in Japan, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Cora Kostka led the meeting. After the Pledge of Allegiance, we held a moment of silence in honor of Bob Graham.



Our guest speaker, Carl Zimmermann, President of the Greater Pinellas Democratic Club and former representative in the Florida House, presented his analysis of Florida's insurance crisis, beginning with legislative actions in the aftermath of 1992 Hurricane Andrew's devastation of the Homestead area.

The Democratic legislature at the time set up mechanisms that have become Citizens and the catastrophic reserve fund that all policies in Florida pay into. A pivotal change later – allowing insurance companies to separate their Florida entities from their national companies – reduced the risk pool and therefore raised the rates.

Where we are now is Citizens is a solid investment with good reserves – a model, the only company that paid in full after Hurricane Ian – yet the legislature requires it to reduce its number of policies, and the catastrophic reserve is underfunded.

Several candidates addressed the meeting:

- Joanne 'Cookie' Kennedy presented her background of service in Pinellas County, including as Indian Rocks Beach Mayor, and discussed her candidacy for the countywide District 1 seat on the Pinellas County Commission seat in 2024.
- Candidates for Congressional District 13, Whitney Fox and Sabrina Bousbar, reviewed their backgrounds and platforms.

District Chairs updates:

- District 59: Polly Kraus – regular meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, next on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Working on outreach to engage 2500 registered Democrats in the district.
- District 58: Kathleen Keohane – the focus is on vote by mail renewal alerts; voting by mail tends to result in higher voting percentage. Upcoming post card campaign and looking into the thousands of voters removed due to 'dead' letters sent by the county.

Announcements:

- At the DWCF Convention, May 16-19 in Orlando, our club will be represented by Donna Dennis, Cora Kostka, Nancy Vellucci, and Jean Greenawalt.
- North Pinellas Dems Memorial Day Fundraising Picnic, 12:00noon, Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> at Philippe Park in Safety Harbor. Ticket info: [www.northpinellasdemocrats.com](http://www.northpinellasdemocrats.com).
- Club member Karen Mullins was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.
- North Pinellas Dems holding a candidate forum, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM at the Dunedin Scottish Cultural Center.

# UPDATES



## Weekly Talking Points - May 8, 2024

### LEADERSHIP BLUE 2024

*Last weekend, Florida Democrats gathered together at Disney for Leadership Blue 2024, our annual fundraising event and last statewide gathering before the 2024 elections.*

#### **TOPLINE: Florida Democrats are fired up and ready to Take Back Florida.**

- Over a thousand people joined together for panels, workshops, and town halls designed to prepare Florida Democrats for the fight ahead of us.
- From panels on gun violence prevention and reproductive rights to town halls uplifting the voices of people of color, Leadership Blue 2024 was a time to engage in the issues affecting the people of Florida.
- At the Leadership Blue Gala, Chair Nikki Fried [unveiled the Florida Panther](#) as our new mascot and called on Democrats to “answer the call of our generation” in the upcoming elections.
- To open the gala, Brevard School Board member Jennifer Jenkins starred as Sen. Katie Britt in an [SNL style spoof](#) to hold Florida Republicans accountable.

### REPUBLICANS FAILING FLORIDA

#### **TOPLINE: Republican leadership continues to fail the people of Florida.**

- MASS SHOOTINGS: This year, Florida [leads the nation](#) in mass shootings — a consequence of the culture of killing that Florida Republicans have enabled.
- TEACHER PAY: Florida is currently [50th in the nation](#) in teacher pay, intensifying our years-long teacher shortage and driving educators out of the state.
- KIDS LOSING HEALTHCARE: After [over half a million](#) Floridian children lost their health insurance last year, Ron’s administration has kicked [thousands more](#) off of Kidcare in a violation of federal law.
- Floridians deserve leaders who are less concerned about making Donald Trump happy and more concerned with protecting our interests.

### ABORTION BAN

*Women in Florida are now living under one of the most extreme abortion bans in the country. The six-week ban signed into law by Ron DeSantis went into effect on May 1st.*

**TOPLINE: Donald Trump, Rick Scott, and Florida Republicans are to blame for Florida’s extreme abortion ban.**

- Florida's extreme six-week abortion ban has virtually no exceptions and puts women's lives at risk.
- This ban goes into effect alongside Florida's mandatory 24-hour waiting period — signed into law by Rick Scott — and a requirement to have two in-person doctor's appointments before accessing abortion care.
- In November, Florida voters can reverse this extreme ban and restore reproductive freedom in our state by voting yes on Amendment 4 and re-electing President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

## **RICK SCOTT**

**TOPLINE: Rick Scott is fully behind Florida's abortion ban but he's running from his extreme anti-abortion record because he knows it could cost him his Senate seat.**

- Florida's [abortion ban](#) is now in effect – Florida women are living under one of the strictest abortion bans in the country.
- Florida is ground zero in the fight for control of the Senate and the fight for reproductive freedom.
- Last week, Scott [pledged](#) to "[sign any anti-abortion bill](#)."
- Democratic leaders in [Tampa](#), [West Palm Beach](#), [Orlando](#), and [Tallahassee](#) have spoken out against Scott's support of Florida's abortion ban.
- Rick Scott is going to run from his support for the ban, but [take his own word for it](#) — he would've signed the bill into law himself if he was governor.
- Scott can't help it – he's doubled down on his support of the near-total ban, saying "[If I was the sitting governor, and the six-week abortion ban came in front of me, I would sign it. I've always said I would sign it.](#)"
- Rick Scott is hiding because his extreme anti-abortion agenda is at odds with Floridians, [nearly 70 percent](#) of which support reproductive freedom.
- This November, Floridians will reject this extreme abortion ban and send Rick Scott into retirement.

## Our Club Has History!

The DWCUP is one of 66 Democratic Women's Clubs of Florida. On September 9<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate our 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary.

On September 9, 1940, women had had the right to vote for only twenty years. Florida was not one of the states that ratified the Nineteenth Amendment during 1919-1920. In fact, neither house of the Florida legislature had even voted on the measure. Though the legislature would pass a law in 1921 that provided the vote to all residents, it was not until 1969 that it symbolically ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, which was passed by Florida's Senate and House of Representatives on May 13, 1969, and approved on May 22 without the signature of Governor Claude Kirk.

A group of women in Pinellas County gathered together on September 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Mrs. Ralph Richards with a desire to bring the women of Upper Pinellas into closer cooperation. The organization formed there was named the Democratic Club of Upper Pinellas County. By September 30<sup>th</sup> they had seventy-five members. Today, this same organization has over one hundred members.

As that group of women gathered together with no prior examples to follow, they accomplished the unimaginable, that today their small group would still be here providing a platform for Democratic Candidates to get their message out. Enlightening, informing and educating women in Democratic politics.

The Democratic Women's Club of Florida, Inc. (DWCF, Inc.) had its official state beginning in 1956, although there had been individual Democratic Women's Clubs located across the State of Florida for over fifty-seven years. The organizational meeting for the state club took place at the Princess Martha Hotel in St. Petersburg on May 24, 1956, the day chosen by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt as Democratic Women's Day, and consisted of eighteen active Democratic women who became the Club's inaugural members. From that small beginning under the leadership of its first President, Audrey Black Ringling Haley of Bradenton, the Democratic Women's Club of Florida, Inc. continues to grow.

Members of the DWCF, Inc. preserve Florida Democratic women's history by submitting past documentation about our Club's history for inclusion in the library at the University of Central Florida where DWCF, Inc. materials are archived and researched by students and others who study and analyze the Democratic Women's history of Florida.

In the early 1980's, DWCF, Inc. became a full member of the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW). DWCF is a separate entity from the Florida Democratic Party (and not overseen by the FDP Clubs and Caucuses Committee) but DWCF is

recognized as the Florida Democratic Women's Caucus because DWCF maintains full membership in the NFDW.

The two main objectives of the founding members of the DWCF, Inc. were to unite all Democratic Women's Clubs in Florida by providing a forum for discussion of public matters, supporting qualified candidates for public office and encouraging qualified Democratic women to seek elected positions. The DWCF is secular organization, embracing diversity, and inclusion.

The spirit of volunteerism is as alive today as it was years ago. DWCF, Inc. members and clubs support campaign activities. The DWCF, Inc. recruits women to run for both elective and appointed political offices. Members support Democratic Party nominees throughout the state by working in their campaigns and by donating to the DWCF Political Committee which disseminates money to DWCF-endorsed candidates. Members are trained in leadership and campaign skills through a variety of curricula training opportunities. The Legislative Chair and Legislative Liaisons of the DWCF, Inc. serve as the grassroots legislative advocacy arm of the DWCF, Inc. Members monitor and lobby for or against legislation that has a dramatic impact on the lives of the citizens of Florida.

Thanks to Mary Freeman for the historical background.



## 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, at SPC Seminole Community Library.**

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

Be part of our volunteer outreach in the most densely Democratic precinct in District 59. 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 find representatives, review bills and analyses: [flsenate.gov](https://www.flsenate.gov/),  
[myfloridahouse.gov](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/)



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](http://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 DWCUP are also members of the DWCF (Democratic Women's Club of Florida). Please go to the website, [www.dwcf.org](http://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](http://dwcup.com/donate)

#### NEXT MONTH'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

**Monday, June 24, 2024 at 12pm**  
**Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.**

