



DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Of Upper Pinellas

Important Numbers:

- President
Mary Freeman
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- 1st Vice President
Karen Mullins
727-733-5091
 - 2nd Vice President
Mary Ellen Lansburg
727-443-7242
 - Corresponding
Secretary/Publicity
Chair
Margie Murphy
727-281-2525
 - Recording Secretary
Diane Lebedeff
727-252-3266
 - Treasurer
Donna Dennis
727-447-7380
 - Regional Rep.
Cora Kostka
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 - Legislative Liaison
Karen Mullins
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October 25 Speaker The Honorable Sean Shaw 12 Noon, ZOOM BALLOT INITIATIVES IN 2022

Sean Shaw is a proven fighter for the people of Florida. In his historic 2018 campaign for Attorney General, Sean fought fearlessly for bold policies that put regular Floridians first. Now, as an attorney and civic leader, he's continuing to stand up for working people.

Sean Shaw made history in 2018 as the Florida Democratic Party's first African-American nominee for Attorney General. Sean's progressive platform sought to expand rights for consumers and hold fraudsters, corrupt politicians, and special interests accountable. The election results proved the momentum for his candidacy: over 3,000,000 Floridians voted for his bold agenda, more than any other candidate for attorney general in state history.

Earlier in his career, Sean was an independent watchdog for the public as the state's Insurance Consumer Advocate — working to protect consumers from price gouging and insurance fraud. Every decision Sean made was centered on what was best for consumers, not wealthy special interests.

Elected to the State Legislature in 2016, Sean continued to fight for consumers, and championed equal rights and equal opportunity for all. As an attorney in private practice, Sean fought for victims of the BP Oil Spill, ensuring families and businesses — whose only fault was having an unlucky address — get what they are owed.

Today, Sean continues advocating for working people and is respected nationwide as a leader in the fight for economic and social justice. In 2019, he founded [People Over Profits](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to standing against corporate influence and fighting for the rights of everyday people.

Sean is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of Florida's law school. An attorney at the law firm [Vanguard Attorneys](#), Sean lives in Tampa.



President's Message Mary Freeman

As this is an election year for Democratic Women's Clubs throughout the state, we will be electing new officers this November. Some of you may have been contacted by our Nominating Chair Donna Dennis. If you have, I hope you gave it some thought as we need members to step up and take on a position as an officer or an appointed chair. I am your current President and the 1st Vice President, Karen Mullins, has agreed to run for the office of President. Anyone who fills a new position will have help from the former officer holder and the whole board. We know that the election of 2022 will be critical—help lead the way!

Duties of Officers

Section 1 President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and Board of Directors. The President shall appoint Chairs of the Standing Committees. The President shall appoint Chairs of Special Committees, subject to approval of the Board of Directors. She shall sign all contracts for the Club's business programs. She shall report to the Region Council Chair quarterly, completing the official form. In November the President shall appoint a Committee to audit the Treasurer's books. She shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed in these bylaws or assigned to her by the Club or the Board of Directors, and shall coordinate the work of the Officers and Committees of the Club in order that the objectives maybe met.

Section 2 Vice-Presidents

The Vice-Presidents in their designated order shall perform the duties of the President in her absence or disability to act. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the President, the Vice-Presidents in their order shall fill the vacancy. The First Vice-President shall be Chair of the Program Committee. The Second Vice-President shall be Chair of the Hospitality Committee.

Section 3 Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall record the Minutes of all meetings of the Club and the Board of Directors. She shall keep records of all Standing Rules and amendments to the bylaws adopted for the Club. She shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to her.

Section 4 Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary shall attend to such correspondence as the President and the Board of Directors require, and shall keep accurate files of all correspondence. All correspondence in the name of the Club shall be signed by corresponding secretary or their designee.

Section 5 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Club and shall disburse them only by authorization of the Club membership or Board of Directors. She shall keep an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements and report on them It each regular membership meeting of the Club and Board of Directors after which they shall be filed for audit. She shall present an annual report It the close of the Club year. The Audit Committee shall examine the report and attest to its accuracy.

This newsletter announces our addition of "Act Blue," a secure online payment method. You may now pay dues, register for events and make donations to the work of the Democratic women's club by going to our website, dwcup.com. Thank you!

Grieving...

The past year and a half, we have all been dealt a hand of cards with all the same cards. Covid19 has taken some and made some of us a bit more empathetic to those around us. The hand we were given; we cannot lose, nor can we win.

That is how I am feeling today. Our inspiring Club was to reunite at an annual celebration of not only the 81st anniversary of our Club, but the fact that we had survived and thrived in the face of Covid. A celebration that will have to wait until December, but even that may be a far reach as Covid variants evolve and mutate.

The 1st year of Covid, we had hope. We thought the virus would run its course and there was, as Dr. Anthony Fauci promised, a vaccine that would free us from the bonds of self-isolation. There was anticipation of dinner with friends and too numerous in person meetings.

This year we were dealt another in surmountable hand. This time the Delta variant and the whiplash mask suggestions from the CDC (Centers of Disease Control, US). I am still reeling.

And I am grieving as I am sure some of you are as well. I find solace in the prospect of future in person meeting. The hope that even with our Zoom meetings, we will accomplish what we are here to do: ELECT DEMOCRATS!

When there is a glimmer, there is a way to move ahead. I see it...in ALL OF YOU!

As we are entering the holiday season and the legislative season at the same time, let's take time to be thankful for all our Democratic principles and standards. We will move forward to the 'glimmer' of hope.

~Karen Mullins

**BANS OFF
OUR BODIES**
WE ARE MARCHING

10.02.21 — Tampa Bay - Downtown St. Pete

Join Donna Dennis and Karen Mullins at Vinoy Park, downtown St Petersburg, Saturday October 2 from 4 - 6. They will be tabling for the DWCUP. After the Rally there will be a march to the St. Pete Pier. The abortion ban that recently went into effect in Texas is unacceptable for people there, and it is certainly unacceptable for Floridians. Yet some Florida legislative leaders are planning to make it the law here in our state. Join us as we rally with friends, family and neighbors from across Tampa Bay on the waterfront in downtown St. Petersburg.

Vote-by-Mail (previously known as Absentee Voting) is available and no excuse is required. The last day to [request a vote-by-mail](#) ballot is 5pm, 10 days before the election. You can return your absentee ballot request form through the mail or in person. Voted ballots must be received by 7pm on Election Day in order to be counted. You can sign up to [track your absentee ballot](#) on your Department of State website. Contact your local elections office for more information. Absentee ballots begin being counted on Election Day.

Requesting and Returning your Vote-by-Mail Ballot

To request a vote-by-mail ballot, you can fill out the online application on your [county Supervisors of Elections' website](#). You can also request a ballot in writing through the Supervisor of Elections, in person at the Supervisor of Elections or by telephone to the Supervisor of Elections.

All requests for a vote-by-mail ballot must be made no later than 5pm on the 10th day before an election. You can still pick up a vote-by-mail ballot from the Supervisor of Elections up until, or including Election Day.

Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections no later than 7pm on Election Day in order to be counted. **Ballots can be returned by mail, in person, or at a secure drop box.** It's important to follow all instructions on a vote-by mail ballot to make sure it is counted. You can correct a missing or mismatched signature on your vote-by-mail ballot.

Note: You must renew your mail voting application and submit a form of identification every two years.

How to Vote in Person if Vote-by-Mail Ballot was Requested

A voter who has requested a ballot may still vote in person. The voter should bring the ballot (marked or unmarked) to the polls to turn the ballot in and vote a regular ballot. If the voter does not bring the ballot to the polls for whatever reason, the Supervisor of Elections' office will need to confirm that the ballot has not already been returned and received. If the ballot has not been received, the voter will be allowed to vote a regular ballot. If the ballot has been received, the ballot is deemed cast and the voter to have voted. If the voter believes the office is incorrect for whatever reason, the voter is allowed to vote a provisional ballot.





Holiday Celebration!

The Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

Tuesday December 14, 2021

11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Dunedin Golf Club

1050 Palm Blvd, Dunedin, FL 34698

Holiday Luncheon

Choice of Chicken Marsala or
Stuffed Shells (vegetarian) Entrée

Attire

Dressy

Entertainment

Live Entertainment

More information:

Donna Dennis 313-443-2587

Or Mary Freeman 727-415-6629

Tickets are \$50.00 per person and are limited.

RSVP by November 30, 2021 , with this form:

Name & Phone Number:	
Ticket Quantity:	
Meal Choice:	
Your Occupation:	
Please make out your check to DWCUP :	DWCUP C/O Donna Dennis 223 Island Way, #4B Clearwater 33767

RED ALERT: Trans kids under attack in Florida

I have urgent and terrible news to share with you: Republicans have just launched their latest attack against transgender youth by introducing one of the cruelest bills we've seen in Tallahassee — the Transgender Youth Medical Care Ban.

This dangerous bill threatens to imprison doctors for providing life-saving care to transgender youth and puts politicians between trans youth, their parents, and their doctor.

This legislation has *nothing* to do with the health and safety of children — the cruelty is by design. It's literally cut and paste language from right-wing political strategy groups like the Heritage Foundation that seek to put a target on the backs of transgender youth as an election strategy to mobilize far-right voters. It's coming from the same anti-LGBTQ playbook they used to create and pass last session's hateful Transgender Youth Sports Ban.

[There's no time to waste: we need YOU to rush a message to lawmakers telling them to STOP this bill and protect transgender kids from these attacks!](#)

This fight isn't going to be easy, Mary. The bill sponsor — State Representative Anthony Sabatini — has built his reputation on extremist legislation, and GOP leaders in Tallahassee are embracing it. Governor Ron DeSantis has already stated that he'd be willing to sign a bill outlawing life-saving care for transgender youth.

[Stopping this bill is a matter of life and death for so many kids across the state — and we're going to need YOUR help every step of the way.](#)

Rush a message to lawmakers telling them to STOP this bill and protect transgender kids from these attacks!



Booster Shots

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has endorsed booster shots for older or more vulnerable Americans, including people 65 or older, nursing home residents and people ages 50 to 64 who are immunocompromised. The CDC panel also offered the option of a booster for those 18 to 49 who have chronic health problems and want one, although there is little evidence that younger people are at risk of waning immunity. The booster had already been approved for people with weakened immune systems. For now, this authorization is limited to the Pfizer vaccine and Moderna's booster application isn't as far along. A major study is also underway to determine whether mixing-and-matching booster doses is safe and effective.

CVS, Walmart, Sam's Club stores, Publix and Walgreens in Florida have begun offering Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine boosters.

CDC advisers said they recommend booster shots be administered once patients are at least six months past their last Pfizer shot

As Florida punishes schools, study finds masks cut school COVID outbreaks 3.5X

Universal masking prevents some school outbreaks and lowers case rates.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STEPS IN: The U.S. Department of Education announced Thursday that it would send roughly \$148,000 to one Florida school district, Alachua County Public Schools, reimbursing it for money that has been withheld by the state because of their mask mandate. The award is the first under the department's new Project to Support America's Families and Educators (Project SAFE) and the latest salvo in an escalating fight over masking in schools between Florida's Republican governor, Ron DeSantis, and President Biden's secretary of education, Miguel Cardona

Schools with universal masking were 3.5 times less likely to have a COVID-19 outbreak and saw rates of child COVID-19 cases 50 percent lower in their counties compared with schools without mask requirements. That's according to two new studies published Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The new data lands as masks continue to be a political and social flashpoint in the US. And children—many of whom are still ineligible for vaccination—have headed back into classrooms.

The US continues to see a patchwork of mask use and other protective measures in schools as the 2021-2022 school year gets underway. Many schools in many states do not have universal masking requirements even though the CDC and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) both recommend universal masking in schools. In some states, state leaders have prohibited schools from issuing mask requirements—and even penalized them for requiring masks.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is among the leaders who have banned mask mandates in schools. And, although the ban is being challenged in court, DeSantis is withholding money from school boards that have issued mask mandates anyway.

Public health experts say that masks are a critical tool to help protect children, teachers, and staff from the spread of the pandemic coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. Masks are intended to be one key layer of a multilayered approach that also includes vaccination for those eligible, physical distancing when possible, improved ventilation, testing, quarantining, improved hygiene, and disinfection and cleaning.



Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Every month is the right time for celebrating Hispanic American women, but this dedicated month is a great opportunity to share more of their stories, and to honor their contributions!

Beginning in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson, the celebration was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15.

September 15 of every year was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. All declared independence in 1821. In addition, Mexico, Chile and Belize celebrate their independence days on September 16, September 18, and September 21, respectively

ANNOUNCING!

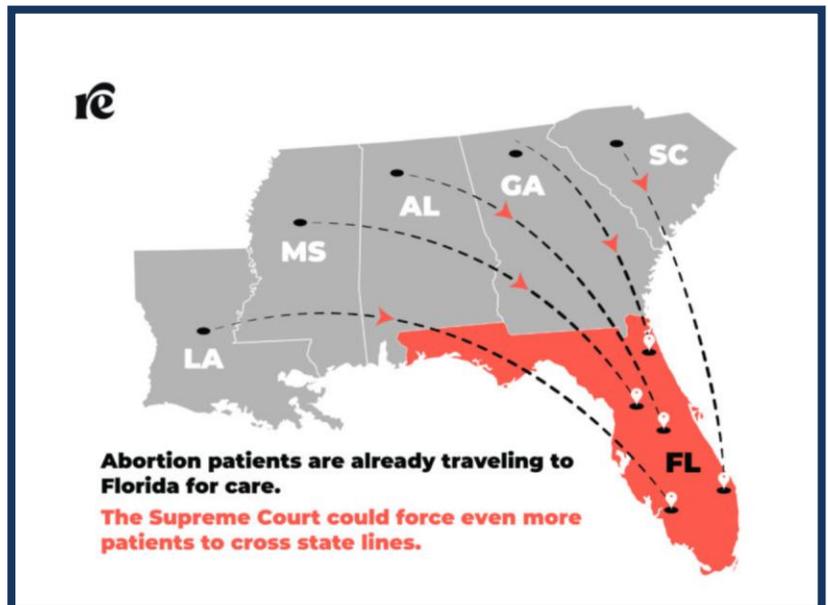
We have now added **Act Blue online payment to our website. Whether it's dues, event payment or a donation to The work of the DWCUP, you can use Your credit card! Go to dwcup.com.**

2021 DWCF Convention

The DWCF 2021 Convention was held virtually September 9-11. On September 9 all State Officers and Chairs reported for the quarter. On the 10th there were several breakout sessions held. The Gala was held September 11 virtually using “Lunch Pool” which is similar to Zoom. Donna Dennis, I and Cora Kostka dressed for the event as if we were live at a Gala. Unfortunately, there were some hiccups with Lunch Pool. Despite this we did enjoy the outstanding guest speakers, Representative Anna Eskamani, U.S. Representative Lois Frankel and Judy Mount, Vice Chair of the Florida Democratic Party.



Region VIII 2021 Elected Officers
Region Chair – Gwen Szafranski
Vice-Chair - Jennifer Moore
Treasurer - Joan Gatewood
Secretary - Donna Dennis



Time to pay our annual dues!
2022 Dues must be paid by February 28, 2022

Section Two of the DWCF By-Laws;

Section 2. State dues: Each year this Club shall pay State dues as determined by the Democratic Women's Club of Florida Inc. (DWCF) and applicable Region dues, per active, student and lifetime members by February 28 annually, payable to the State Treasurer. Associate Members and Honorary Members are neither subject to State nor Region dues. A Club will lose active status for failure to pay State and Region dues.

Members who have not paid their dues by February 28 will be removed from the DWCF Membership List.

Annual Membership Dues \$20.00

TIERED MEMBERSHIP

PLATINUM - 3 years for \$50.00

SILVER - 6 years for \$100.00

GOLD MEMBER - Member for Life \$200.00

**YOU MAY NOW PAY DUES ON OUR WEBSITE, dwcup.com,
Using ACT BLUE!**

**OR make checks out to DWCF or
Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas.**

**Mail to Donna Dennis
223 Island Way #4B
Clearwater, FL 33767**



November Meeting
November 22, 2021
Noon
Zoom

