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CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

President

Donna Dennis
313-443-2587
DWCUP727@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Cora Kostka

2nd Vice President

Nancy Vellucci

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Legislative Liaison

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Margie Murphy

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Jan Walton

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Ruthann Richwine
Karen Miracle

Webmaster

Polly Kraus

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

GUEST SPEAKERS

Charlie Justice
Pinellas County Commission
District 3

Whitney Fox, Candidate
Florida Congressional District 13



Charlie is a Pinellas County Commissioner, elected countywide in 2012. Husband to Kathleen for twenty years and proud father of two young daughters, Charlie grew up in the heart of Pinellas. He attended St.

Petersburg College and the University of South Florida. While in college, he saw Pinellas County grow at an exponential rate. He became active in local politics, and served as the legislative aide to Representative Lars Hafner.

Five years later, Charlie earned the opportunity to represent us as a State Representative and then as State Senator. He succeeded in strengthening rights for our military, bringing home millions in beach re-nourishment funds, standing strong for our natural resources and protecting our coastline from near shore oil drilling and mandating stronger consumer protections.

DWCUP Website

DWCUP.org

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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

On the County Commission, Charlie works with many community partners addressing the poverty issues in Lealman, Midtown and throughout Pinellas. He worked to pass ordinances providing relief for wage theft victims, assistance to human trafficking victims, and expanded the Pinellas' human rights ordinance.

Charlie's leadership was recognized by his peers when they selected him to serve as Chairman of the Pinellas Commission. He also has served as Chair of the Tourist Development Council, the Pinellas Economic Development Council, and in leadership positions of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas Board, the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Pinellas Historical Preservation Board.



Whitney Fox is running to represent Florida's 13th District in Congress.

As a mother of two young girls and the daughter of a single mother who worked tirelessly as a nurse to support her family, Whitney Fox understands the hardships facing Florida families.

She believes it's time we had a

representative focused on supporting hard working Americans, protecting our fundamental freedoms – including a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions, and increasing opportunities for everyone in Pinellas County.

While Congress continues to play politics and ignore a growing affordability crisis, Whitney has been working across the district to address real issues like improving transportation options for all, providing access to healthcare for the elderly, and partnering with local organizations on food insecurity.

Whitney is running for Congress because families need our support. She knows that a thriving community creates a thriving economy and in order to accomplish this, we must take care of our people first. Whitney understands that this requires access to quality public education, affordable healthcare, investments in community infrastructure, and safeguarding our environment. She knows that we must fight to keep the American Dream alive in Pinellas County and work together to protect and grow the middle class.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JANUARY 2024



Happy New Year! I'm almost biting my tongue as I say that. This new year is an election year that fills many of us with dread. How ugly will it get? Fears about the possible return of Agent Orange to the White House frightens us to death. And many fear the enthusiasm lag for our current President, Joe Biden. He has tremendous achievements, as we frequently list. Yet the public wants a flashy, charismatic leader. The age issue comes up daily. Biden has led our nation with courage and grace. Very steadily, he copes with two wars which seem nearly unresolvable, and an economy that's doing well by many measures, though the public screams "inflation." Congress is broken and the judiciary seems biased. The border crisis is terrible, but not new to this administration. I haven't heard any good ideas coming from anywhere as to a solution for that problem. I guess we'd have to not only get

Congress moving, but fix the problems in Honduras, Venezuela, Guatemala, Mexico, et al.

And the divisions in this country continue, with only a brief pause for holiday gatherings, and the reminder that love and peace will always be the best way.

Where does that fit in the coming year? Loving democracy to the point where we will get off our butts and work hard for the candidates and issues that can save the USA, is what I'd say. Work for local Democrats and nonpartisan races that can make our area more humane and responsive to the needs of our people. Put your energy into avenues that are positive; hasn't there already been enough meanness, negativity and smear tactics? Vitriol is too easy and solves nothing.

As your new Board convenes and begins planning the year ahead, please help and support us. Come to meetings, work at the North Pinellas Democratic Outreach Center, volunteer on the campaigns from the top to bottom of the ballot. Hard work holds fear at bay; we cannot quit and we won't lie down and be run over.

Your DWCUP Board for 2024-26 (Elected officers):

President	Donna Dennis
1st Vice-President	Cora Kostka
2nd Vice-President	Nancy Vellucci
Treasurer	Kathleen Keohane
Recording Secretary	Theresa Bromm-Boesen
<i>Appointed Chairs:</i>	
Legislative Liaison	Jean Greenwalt
Hospitality	Ruthann Richwine, Karen Miracle
Publicity	Marjorie Murphy
Newsletter	Jan Walton
Webmaster	Polly Kraus

Other needs

(This is where YOU come in!)

Regional Representative, Words of Inspiration, Phone Chair, Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Environmental Chair, Social Media Chair, Fundraiser Chair.

If you want more information about any of these roles, please call me at 313-443-2587 or email me at president727@gmail.com. Thank you!

DWCUP Holiday Party December 11, 2023



Our DWCUP Holiday Party was a terrific celebration with a delicious potluck of dishes contributed by members. Thanks to all who attended and to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Clearwater for use of the community room.

The highlights included recognition of the service of our outgoing officers – Ruthann Richwine, Diane Lebedeff, and Karen Miracle.

Mary Freeman and Patty Cohn led the installation of the 2024 Officers: Donna Dennis, Cora Kostka, Nancy Vellucci, Kathleen Keohane, and Theresa Bromm-Boesen.



The delightful Christopher Calhoun and pianist Cheryl Brath entertained us with holiday and Broadway songs.

Special guest Meri Forte-Namuj brought us greetings from the Democratic Women's Club of Florida.

And a surprise treat was guest Jennifer Griffith, Chair of the Pinellas County Democratic Party. Her talk, and the 2023 Year in Review by Donna Dennis, reminded us of the work we have accomplished AND fired us up for the pivotal year ahead.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

These links can be used 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

This link has good commentary on what the Florida government is up to:

floridaforall.substack.com

2024 Legislative session will begin January 9. As of this report, 1106 bills have been filed.

Both parties are working on three huge bills to deregulate and simplify education laws - SB 7000, 7002, and 7004. I can't possibly review all bills, so if anyone has an interest and can do that, please do.

Both parties are also working on two large health care bills. One addresses health care provider shortages (doctors, nurses, dentists...) through loans, and expanding residency slots. Incentives for those willing to stay in Florida and work in underserved or rural areas with the most need. Other topics such as birth centers, ER diversion, schools, expanding nurse activities, and much else is covered. Another provides loans to fund ideas to help underserved or rural areas - technology, improving outcomes, and expanding access.

As I reported previously, Democrats are proposing bills – ensuring that a woman who has an abortion is not penalized, modifying Stand Your Ground so that a person who can retreat from conflict safely must. An assault weapons ban, and forbidding guns in schools, museums, bars (a long list), and safe gun storage. Responsible transfer of gun ownership and ways to make it harder to steal a gun. Social media protection for minors. Property Insurance - making it harder for a company to deny a claim and prohibit insolvency if the company does business in another state. Can't use gender identity to excuse a perpetrator's loss of control. Keep protestors 150 ft. away from health facility and oversight of pregnancy support and wellness services. Prevent bad actors from running by having them be a member of your party for a year. Remove the wording that says slavery was ever good for a person.

Democrats are proposing new bills since my last report –

Task force on public safety in urban communities, making it up to the state to determine voter eligibility, requiring holocaust and African American history in public, charter, and private schools, freeing colleges from political interference and allowing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion measures. Training teachers for mass casualty events. No bans on contraception.

As I previously reported, Republicans are proposing bills –

prohibiting public funded entertainment to be canceled due to performer's use of social media or political affiliation, removing mandatory 3-day waiting period when buying a gun (but still wait for background check), owners of plug-in cars will pay \$200 for a license. 15-17 year-olds can work more hours.

Changing the current 15-week abortion restriction to 12 weeks, prohibit the abortion medication sent through the mail, and strict documentation required if raped. Police are required to be in the presence of ballot boxes at all times. In education, wording as to IB courses was expanded to include 'or equivalent'. Disallowing voting machines and software from foreign countries and having the option to count votes by hand. Forbid local governments from removing statues. Changes to motor vehicle insurance, including repealing uninsured motorist.

Republicans are proposing new bills since my last report – vague bill that criminalizes “harassing” police officer, requiring you to buy an interlocking ignition device if you refuse DUI test, making it easier to convert public schools to charter schools, lift limitations on private school sports participation, tax exemptions for spaceports, and for aircraft sales and leases, less scrutiny for building permits, proposing infrastructure changes that could lead to fracking. Raise threshold to amend constitution from 60% to 66.7%. Remove local control over agritourism. Option to count votes by hand instead of using a machine. Investigating complaints against law enforcement or correctional officers to be handled at the state level and not local, outlaw reparations, ban cultivated meat. Tell the federal government that China is a polluter, also tell federal government to fix immigration. Not allowing companies that the state does business with to use preferred pronouns. No business taxes at the local level. Making it easier to evict people. Government units cannot display political flags (like LGBTQ?). Volunteer chaplains in public and charter schools. Allow fraternities and sororities to discriminate. Immunizations and their tracking up to the state, not the federal government. 3-day waiting period only for handguns, not all firearms.

I have written software to scrape flsenate.gov to produce a spreadsheet with all of the links to the bills and the links to their companion bills. I run it every Saturday. I put my comments in one of the columns which is then carried into the following week. I can't say I am an expert in everything. If anyone would like me to send you the spreadsheet, let me know.

Jean Greenawalt
December 30, 2023

BREAKING NEWS AS OF JANUARY 5, 2024 **Abortion petition gets 910K signatures**

The amendment still needs the approval of the Florida Supreme Court to qualify for the 2024 ballot.

As reported in the *Tampa Bay Times*, Floridians Protecting Freedom needed 891,523 verified petitions to make it on the ballot. As of January 5th, the Division of Elections had verified 910,946.

More than 63,000 of those petitions came from Pinellas and more than 71,000 came from Hillsborough. The most validated petitions, at about 54,000, came from Congressional District 14, which is composed of parts of Hillsborough and Pinellas.

Thanks to the DWCUP members who worked hard on this petition drive.

CONDOLENCES

The DWCUP extends its deepest condolences to Karen Mullins and her family on the passing of her husband,
Eddie.

Karen served as the president of this group until Eddie's illness required her resignation. We hold her close as she copes with this loss.

Condolences may be sent to Karen at
678 Oakwood Dr., Dunedin, FL 34698.

Rest in peace, Eddie.

THE DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF FLORIDA

2024 FUNDRAISER

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20% DISCOUNT THRU
12/31



VIP RECEPTION: 6PM-7PM DINNER & PROGRAM: 7PM

JANUARY 20, 2024

As a distinguished guest access a cash bar, enjoy hand selected hors d' oeuvres, and mingle with some of the most influential Democrats from around the state of Florida. Buffet dinner options include chicken piccata, a roast beef carving station, and delicious pasta options. City parking is available to guests; for advance handicap parking please email: mfortenamuj@gmail.com. In addition to ticket pricing options listed below, single tickets and table sponsorships may be purchased thru January 10, 2024. VIP tickets are for VIP reception only. Speakers will be announced in December 2023. For questions or inquires or discounted hotel please contact Planner: call or text JoAnn (305) 299-0892

TICKETS

VIP RECEPTION: \$100/P OR \$150/P AT DOOR

BUFFET: \$200/P OR \$250/P AT DOOR

SPONSORSHIP TABLES/DINNERS VIP AD/PERKS

ULTRA BLUE: \$4,050 2 TABLES/16 DINNERS 8 VIP FULL PAGE AD/VIP PHOTO

PLATINUM: \$2,430 1 TABLE/8 DINNERS 8 VIP HALF PAGE AD/VIP PHOTO

GOLD: \$2,000 1 TABLE/8 DINNERS 8 VIP HALF PAGE AD

SILVER: \$1,980 1 TABLE/ 8 DINNERS & VIP QUARTER PAGE AD

1 Table \$1280

\$720 3 TICKETS/3 DINNERS 3 VIP NO AD

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2nd Annual PINELLAS COUNTY DIVOTS FOR DEMOCRACY GOLF TOURNAMENT AND FUNDRAISER

PRIZES INCLUDE \$10,000 HOLE-IN-ONE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024

Check in begins 7:45 am

Bardmoor Golf Course and Tennis Club

8001 Cumberland Rd, Seminole, FL 33777

www.bardmoorgolf.com

Go to www.divotsfordemocracy.com

- ◆ Register As A **PLAYER** - beginners welcome
\$90 per player/2 person scramble
Includes cart, breakfast snacks, lunch,
gift bag, chances to win great prizes!
- ◆ Register As A **SPONSOR**
- ◆ Register As A **VOLUNTEER**
(knowledge of golf not necessary to volunteer)
- ◆ **DONATE** to help elect leaders who
support our DEMOCRACY
GO TO SECURE.ACTBLUE.COM/DONATE/DIVOTS



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, February 26, 2024 at 12pm
Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.

