

## **NORTH PORT AREA REPUBLICAN CLUB GENERAL MEETING**

January 26, 2026

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Meeting Called to Order by Mark Frandsen, President at 6:02 pm.

Invocation By: Sean

Pledge of Allegiance Led By: John

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Dignitaries, Officials and Candidates were introduced. Guests were welcomed.

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All in attendance were required to sign in. Members in good standing received name tags and lanyards. It was announced that no video or audio recording is permitted. Only persons wearing lanyards may ask questions of the speakers.

Mark began the meeting with the following topics:

- The next REC meeting will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Venezia on Route 41 in Venice. Doors open at 6:15pm and Meeting begins at 7:00 pm.
- Early Voting for the School Board Primary Election will run August 8 to 16 from 8:30am to 4:30pm. We will need many volunteers to staff our booth at the Biscayne Plaza location. While early voting may occur at any early voting location in the county, Election Day votes must be cast at your precinct. For Primary Election Day, on August 18<sup>th</sup> we will need to staff 2 locations from 7 am to 7 pm. The locations are Shannon Staub Library and the Biscayne Plaza.
- For the General Election, early voting will begin October 19 through November 1 from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm. We will need to staff the Biscayne Plaza for those dates. As before early votes may be cast at any Sarasota County Location. On Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup> we will need to staff both the Biscayne Plaza and Shannon Staub locations from 7 am to 7 pm. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
- The Pie Rally for Sarasota County Republican Candidates will be held on July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Robard's Arena.
- We will have our Candidate Picnic on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Location TBD.
- Our Annual Christmas Party will be on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Tarpon Point.

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Mark then introduced Ann Bunting, she is the chair of the Sarasota REC Election Operations. She presented us a list of currently registered candidates for state and county offices. Ann reviewed Absentee voting procedures and the importance of turnout for the primaries as it pertains to School Board, Hospital Board and Charter Review. Ann will also need volunteers for various election duties.

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The invited Candidates were then introduced and spoke briefly about their backgrounds and qualifications. First up was Dr. Tara Butler, a Candidate for the SMH Hospital Board, Northern District Seat 2. She is an ER Physician at SMH for the last 15 years. She has served on various hospital committees and is the mother of 4 children. She is committed to SMH attracting and keeping top tier staff and facilities.

Next was Mr. Oleg Lisitsyn who is a candidate for North Port Commission, District 5. He was born in the USSR (now Russia). Emigrated with his family at the age of 10 due to religious persecutions and looking

for better opportunities. He has lived in North Port for about 18 months in a Wellen Park neighborhood and serves on his HOA board. He states he has no political background and is a real estate agent. He has 5 sons that are all homeschooled. He wants a free town for his children to live. He thinks the challenges for the city are infrastructure, streets, taxes, and traffic. He will attend "North Port University" to learn about the city since he has only been here less than 2 years. He answered questions from members but noted that he is still learning about the issues.

The Candidate for the City Commission, District 4 spoke next. Lyudmila Dunchyk is a 25 year resident of North Port. She worked for a while as a paralegal in Venice. She has volunteered at a Homeless Shelter, her church and for kids' events. She is very involved in the Couples Ministry at her church and the homeschooling group for her children. She is running for City Commissioner because she wishes to maintain freedom and increase focus on families. She believes there is a lack of activities for families in the city. She also will attend "North Port University" to learn about City functions and she has thought about how she will fit in Commission duties with her commitments to church and family. She took questions from members but also admitted she is still learning about the issues.

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A round of Happy Birthday and Cake was served for our member Nina Kucipak who turned 102 years young earlier this month.

Meeting ended at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian L. Patricoski, Secretary