



Manatee Matters

May 2022 Newsletter

Check our website for event updates, current issues, how to get involved and how to donate.

Visit our website

2022 Gala: A Democratic Night to Remember



By William Clapper – The Manatee County Democratic Gala was certainly a night to remember.

A sellout crowd of 320 Democrats cheered as three of the gubernatorial candidates gave solid reasons why the current governor must be voted out of office. Former governor Congressman Charlie Crist, current Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried and state Senator Annette Taddeo shared personal stories and each gave rock solid reasons why they should be the next governor of Florida.

Two local awards were presented during the ceremonies. Michelle Grimsley, chair of the Manatee County Democratic Black Caucus accepted the Bill McGrath Memorial Award on behalf of the MCDBC for its efforts to register voters and promote vote-by-mail. Graciela Greenberg, former chair of the Manatee County Democratic Hispanic Caucus, accepted the John Lewis Memorial Award for her lifetime dedicated to community and democratic values. The Lewis Award commemorates the legacy and contributions of Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, who fought for civil rights and the elimination of racial segregation.

Manatee County Democratic Party chair Tracy Pratt gave the assembly a glimpse of the party's accomplishments the past year and prepared county Democrats for the battles ahead.

"With right-wing attacks on our school boards and overt corruption on our county commission, we know we must remain vigilant and fight for our Democratic values at all levels of government," said Pratt.

[Story continued here](#)

[Gala photos below and more on our website.](#)



The Gala raised \$50,000+ thanks to generous donors and bidders.



A sellout - 320 people attended the Gala at GROVE.



Lucy Lapides presented an award to Michelle Grimsley for MDBC.

Florida Black Caucus Annual Conference

Ain't No Stopping Us Now is the theme of this year's Democratic Black Caucus of Florida's annual conference. The 39th conference is scheduled for May 20 to 22, in Orlando.

Click each link for more information:

- [Conference Registration](#)
- [Conference Itinerary](#)
- [Hotel Accommodations](#). The host hotel, The Rosen Centre, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, is offering a special rate of \$119 per night.

For more information, contact Vida Addison. Derrick Scott or Jill Lewis-Daggs of the Democratic Black Caucus of Florida, (448)-444-5250; registerdbcf@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE
**Democratic Black Caucus
of Florida
39th Annual Conference**
May 20 - 22, 2022



**ROSEN CENTRE HOTEL
9840 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

"Ain't No Stopping Us Now!"
THE DBCF IS ON THE MOVE

Grimsley to Speak at AMI-WM meeting



Michelle Grimsley will be the featured speaker at the Anna Marie Island and West Manatee Democratic Club meeting, May 16, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Doctor's Garden, 5312 Holmes Blvd. #B, Holmes Beach (next to the Doctor's Office).

Grimsley, a third generation Manatee County native, will present and facilitate a discussion, *The 2022 Florida Legislative Session: Up, Down and All Around*. Currently, she is Chair of the Manatee County Democratic Black Caucus and served as a lobbyist and a legislative staff member in the Florida House of Representatives.

"We are aghast at the outcome of the 2022 Florida legislative session for many different reasons," said an AMI-WM spokesperson. "Get the low down about what happened from someone who was there. Engage in a conversation about where we go from here."

Bring lunch, or plan to have lunch at a nearby restaurant. Contact Barbara Beckwith bbeckwith02@gmail.com to register for the meeting or to ask a question.

The AMIWM Democratic Club is seeking to expand its membership. Join the Go Blue Drive by asking three friends to join. [Click here for the meeting flyer](#).

Adult Learning Educator at Women's Club Lunch



The Democratic Women's Club's May meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, at Peridia Golf and Country Club, [4950 Peridia Blvd. E, Bradenton](#).

Elena Kostenko-Farkas, executive director of Project Light of Manatee, Inc., an adult English learning school, is the featured speaker. She has taught various subject areas for more than 30 years and has worked with different students' age groups as a teacher, program director and university instructor.

To register for the luncheon meeting, contact WDC president Joanie LeBaron, joaniebaron0108@gmail.com.

Register Voters at Area Events



In this critical election year, Democrats need to have a presence at community events or specific locations throughout the county. Staffing an event or maintaining a specific location is an alternative to canvassing door-to-door to obtain voter registrations and enrollments in Vote by Mail.

There are many events in Manatee County that pose as ideal opportunities to set up an information table or roam through a crowd. Food distribution drive-throughs are also ideal places to establish a voter registration presence.

Volunteers work with Manatee County Democratic Party representatives and receive training, clipboards and forms to be filled out by folks attending the event.

To volunteer for these activities, [Sign up here](#) with the Manatee Dems. You will be contacted as needs arise. If you are new to voter registration, you will have opportunities to shadow experienced volunteers.

If you know of potentially productive events or locations, contact Phyllis at phylismyers@gmail.com

County Seeks Democratic Poll Workers

The Manatee County Supervisor of Elections is looking for Democrats to serve as poll workers for the primary election this August. The SOE strives to have an even split of Democratic and Republican poll workers.

Poll workers staff polling places and the number of available poll workers could impact how many polling places are open on election day. There are five paid positions at each polling place: Certified Clerk, Certified Assistant Clerk, Certified Tabulator Inspector, Certified EPB Ballot Inspector and Election Deputy.



If you have the time and ambition to be a poll worker contact the Supervisor of Elections Office, (941) 741-3823, info@votemanatee.gov or visit the SOE website, <https://www.votemanatee.com/Poll-Worker/Become-a-Poll-Worker>. A poll worker application form is on the website.

Join the Follow Up Call Team



Registering new voters is not enough to ensure that they actually vote. Recently registered voters need contact from like-minded voters to provide encouragement and comfort to build confidence and pride in the voting process.

The Follow-up Call Team is an initiative Indivisible Manatee developed to provide support to the voters who register during neighborhood canvassing efforts. A volunteer will call the voter after their registration becomes official.

The newly registered voter will be congratulated and asked if they got their Voter ID Card. Closer to the elections, calls will be made to ensure each voter received a mail ballot, answer questions they may have and let them know which candidates and measures Democrats support.

Indivisible provides guidance and training. You will not be given more names than you can handle and calls will be to Democrats. For more information, contact IndivisibleManatee@gmail.com.

Blue Wave Voter Outreach May 15

Manatee County's Blue Wave Coalition's monthly voter outreach event is Sunday, May 15 at 3 p.m. with drinks and snacks provided. Join us in going to low voter turnout precincts to obtain voter registrations and enroll voters in Vote by Mail (VBM.) A voter enrolled in VBM is two times more likely to vote than one who is not enrolled.



Meet at the Democratic headquarters in Orange Blossom Shopping Center, 435 Cortez Road West in Bradenton. You will go in teams of two to selected Democratic blocks. Training materials will be provided before the event and new volunteers will partner with someone who has visited neighborhoods. Spanish-speakers are needed for Hispanic blocks. [SIGN UP HERE.](#)

After completing your assigned blocks, return to headquarters to socialize with other participants. Wine, beer and snacks will be available. Contact BlueWaveManatee@gmail.com with questions.

S.T.R.E.A.M. Sponsors a Joshua Assembly



S.T.R.E.A.M., a nonpartisan, multi-faith and civic community project, will sponsor a Joshua Assembly, Monday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. at PEACE Presbyterian Church (in the Lakewood Ranch area), 12705 SR-64, Bradenton.

S.T.R.E.A.M., (Stronger Together Reaching Equality Across Manatee) seeks justice and solving critical problems in Manatee County by addressing the root problems.

For more information, contact Tina Juillerat, info@streammanatee.org or visit www.streammanatee.org.

Dems Bring Voter Registration to Neighborhoods

Join other Democrats Saturdays for Door-To-Door canvassing efforts in nearby neighborhoods. Canvassing teams meet at Democratic headquarters, 435 Cortez Road, Orange Blossom shopping Center, Bradenton, at 4 p.m.



You will be delivering important voter registration and Vote From Home information to Democratic voters' doors. After canvassing your selected neighborhood, gather with like-minded Democrats for food and beverages at Democratic headquarters.

Team with a friend or let us know if you would like a walking partner. Never talked to voters before? We give you training and pair you with an experienced canvasser.

We use COVID-safe practices when engaging voters. Stop by Democratic headquarters for your materials, walk lists and instructions. We send teams to nearby neighborhoods. [SIGN UP HERE.](#)

How To Get Involved



Meet like-minded people
at fun events!

Click for Events
List

The Manatee County Democratic
Party is a 100% **volunteer
organization**. All contributions of any
size are appreciated; \$22/month goes
a long way to help elect Democrats in
the 2022 elections.

Donate Now

Resource Links

[Manatee County Democratic Party](#)

[Florida Democratic Party](#)

[National Democratic Party](#)

[Manatee County Board
of Commissioners](#)

[The Florida Channel](#)

Manatee County Democratic Party
435 Cortez Road West
Bradenton, Florida 34207
(941) 301-4336



Contact
Us

