

Manatee Matters

March 2022 Newsletter

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

[Visit our website](#)

Manatee Dems Party at GROVE April 24

Remember the “good old days” when you enjoyed gathering in person with fellow Dems? The good old days are back! The 2022 Manatee County Democratic Party Gala, our premier fundraising event, is at GROVE in Lakewood Ranch, Sunday, April 24, starting at 5 pm.

Funds raised during the Gala allow us to expand voter outreach programs, recruit and assist candidates, and increase our Democratic presence in Manatee County.

Jenelle Taylor, Gala Girl, returns to host the evening’s events including a fun cocktail hour, delicious dinner, motivating speakers and of course our great silent and live auctions. You’ll also be able to preview and bid on the expansive selection of silent auction items: art, jewelry books, and gift certificates for goods and services; online during the week before the Gala. Details to follow.

[Story continued here](#)



DWC Scholarship Luncheon March 8



On Tuesday, March 8, the Democratic Women’s Club of Manatee County will hold its annual Marge Kinnan and Shirley Snyder Scholarship Luncheon and Silent Auction at the Palm Aire Country Club, 5601 Country Club Way in Sarasota. The event begins at 11:00 am and includes music, fashion and featured political speaker Dr. Dana N. Thompson Dorsey (photo at left).

Dr. Thompson Dorsey is an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of South Florida. She will speak about the

difficulties people of color have climbing “the ladder” - political and corporate - ending with a brief discussion about critical race theory. She is recognized as an expert on racial equity and education law and policy issues by national media; she has been quoted in the New York Times and interviewed on National Public Radio.

If you would like to attend, please call Joanie LeBaron at 941-243-0169 immediately so she can arrange to pick up your check and meal choice no later than Sunday, March 6th.

Manatee Dems' Weekly Voter Outreach Door-to-Door

This year marks a time in our lives when we need to make a difference. We must raise our voices and defend our values. When we register Democrats to vote we give them their voice, and together we are closer to bringing Florida back to a place that celebrates our differences and respects all citizens.



Join us in this effort. It is easy and we will be out registering voters every Friday and Saturday in March, beginning at 3:30 pm. Meet at the Manatee Democratic Headquarters, 435 Cortez Road West.

There will be a short training or refresher before each shift on how to register voters and registering them to vote by mail. After you and your shift partner finish up, return to headquarters to share your experience and mingle with like-minded Dems.

Whether you can donate your time to this important effort for a couple of hours or as a frequent volunteer, we need your help and welcome you. Sign up [here](#). If you have questions, contact Dan Coppinger, dancopy@gmail.com, 978-995-8750.

Manatee County Black Democratic Caucus

Professor Calls Out CRT Foes, Book Banners



By Wil Clapper (Feb. 28, 2022) – University of Tampa professor Dr. Caryl Sheffield shined the light of truth on the current ban Critical Race Theory movement and questioned the wisdom of banning books in public schools during a recent Zoom presentation.

More than 50 people tuned in for the presentation, "Critical Race Theory and Book Banning: Countering Mass Hysteria With Culturally Responsive Teaching," sponsored by the Manatee County Democratic Black Caucus.

Dr. Sheffield explained CRT as an academic framework used to combat racism in institutions and is most often taught in law school. It acts as a lens to analyze systemic racism in schools. CRT theory is not taught in any Florida public school, even though state legislators are pushing bills that would ban the teaching of CRT.

"I take offense with Republicans who want to ban the teaching of Critical Race Theory," said Dr. Sheffield. "They want to make an issue out of a non-issue."

[Story continued here](#)

LGBTQ+ Caucus at Pride Fest

The Manatee County Democratic LGBTQ+ Caucus will have an information table at this year's Manatee Pride Festival, Saturday, March 5, noon to 5 pm. The festival is on the Bradenton Riverwalk, 452 3rd Avenue W., Bradenton.

The Pride Festival is a major fundraising event to benefit ALSO Youth, which provides advocacy, leadership, support and outreach for LGBTQ youth in Manatee and Sarasota Counties.



You are welcome to stop by the table, meet some LGBTQ+ members, learn about the caucus and how to become a member. The LGBTQ+ Caucus meets the third Wednesday of the month, 6 to 7 pm. For more information, contact Kent Noel, ManateeLGBTADems@gmail.com.

Manatee County's Blue Wave Voter Outreach Party



Manatee County's Blue Wave Coalition's monthly voter outreach event is Sunday, March 20 from 3pm - 5pm, with a party following afterwards.

Meet at the Democratic Headquarters, Orange Blossom Shopping Center, 435 Cortez Road W., Bradenton.

We face the most crucial mid-term election of our lifetime. If Republicans gain control of Congress, our democracy and the will of the voters will be threatened. Republican legislators in Tallahassee are striving to further limit voting. With eight months to the general election, we are striving to register voters. Your vote is your power and the way to remove from office those who threaten and attack our democracy.

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.

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.

You will go in teams of two to selected Democratic blocks. Once you have completed your assigned blocks, return to headquarters to socialize with other participants. Wine, beer and snacks will be available. [Sign up here.](#) Contact BlueWaveManatee@gmail.com with questions.

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.*

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Resource Links

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Contact
Us

