



Vol. 14  
February 2026

## February - the Birthday Month of Presidents Washington and Lincoln

### A Letter from AFSWFLC

Hello AFSWFLC Members,

Another month has whizzed by, and suddenly we are one month closer to a critical election cycle. Hard to stay focused with the frigid weather and the chaos around the country, but focus we must.

Like the Democrats say, "Never let a crisis go to waste."

We have our AFSWFLC officer elections this coming membership meeting on February 11, at our normal time (11:00 AM light lunch – 11:30 AM meeting) at the Venice Community Center.

It's a very important meeting to get our organization and membership focused on the upcoming primaries in August. We have so much to do, and the elections will be upon us before we know it.

One point to emphasize is that there is something for all of us to do, whether it be for one hour a week or 40 hours a week. We need to match everyone up to something

they can have fun with and help our caucus elect the best candidates to support our America First/MAGA agenda.

So be thinking about what you'd like to do with the club, and we'll do our best to match you up with the best job or jobs that fit your skill sets, equipment available, and time you can allocate.

We can directly influence our local election; we have minimal influence on what is going on around the country. So, bring that mindset to the meeting where we take a giant leap forward to organizing for the next primary election August 18. I am truly looking forward to seeing every one of you. Borrowing the idea from that famous motel commercial that says, "I'll keep the light on" – instead "I'll keep the smile on."

God Bless all of you and please stay warm. The beautiful Florida weather is right around the corner. The chaos will sort itself out somehow, and we will ensure the election of our best candidates to represent us in the future.

All the best,  
Allyx Young, Newsletter Editor AFSWFLC



### March Meeting Date

March 11, 2026, is the next AFSWFLC meeting at 11 am to 1 pm at the Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice 34285.  
<https://www.yelp.com/biz/venice-community-center-venice> The speaker is still pending.

### Sarasota School Board Meetings

The board has recently changed the meeting times for board meetings from 6:00 p.m. to **10:00 a.m.** The board's next regular meeting is scheduled for February 17, then March 17, 2026.

Our Board decided to ask our members to send the school board the Resolution initiated by Bridget Ziegler, which basically stated: "We the undersigned fully back this Resolution supporting all law enforcement agencies in carrying out their duties for our safety."

**1-20-26 The Resolution passed 3-2.** Ziegler said comments were "demonizing" ICE, standing with her previous statements about the agency's ability to enter school campuses.

"That's not happening," Ziegler told the public. Staff will not be involved in ICE operations, nor should staff or students anticipate ICE raids, she added.

**The Gondolier** - The Republican Party of Sarasota County wants Sarasota County School Board member Tom Edwards off the board. And they want Gov. Ron DeSantis' help.

The announcement came Sunday night, about one week since Edwards was called out by fellow School Board member Bridget Ziegler for his participation in an anti-ICE protest.

In a news release, RPSC called Edwards' public comments to anti-ICE demonstrators about the fatal shooting of Renee Good by ICE agents in Minnesota "distorted fictional accounts" and a "disruption" to the community.

The RPSC said its request was made because Edwards was "recklessly" urging members of the public to support the violation of federal law and "promote disruption" of federal law enforcement.

"As a sitting School Board member, Edwards is actively undermining democracy and the law which makes him a horrific example to students, and he ought to be ashamed," the news release states.

On Monday, Edwards responded to the statement. "I must be doing a good job, because this is the second time they're trying to ask for my resignation," Edwards quipped.

The RPSC stated Edwards had shared comments about his lack of trust toward the School Board's commitment to its policy, which requires a warrant from law enforcement to enter schools — a "dangerous" and "irresponsible" rhetoric that leads to violence against ICE agents, the political organization said.

Edwards said his lack of trust lies not with the School Board's policies but with ICE agents.

**To email all School Board members:**

[schoolboardmembers@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:schoolboardmembers@sarasotacountyschools.net)

## **Sarasota Memorial Hospital Board Meetings**

There is a meeting on **March 24, 2026**. Contact Lisa Roulet: [lisaroulet@proton.me](mailto:lisaroulet@proton.me) for any information.

**2026 Meeting schedule:** Tuesday March 24 2:00 pm

Tuesday, May 19 2:00 pm

Tuesday, July 28 2:00 pm

Tuesday, Sept. 22 3:30 pm Regular board meeting, 5:00 pm Final Budget and Tax Millage meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 17 2:00 pm First meeting with newly elected board members

## **Michelle Pozzie - Candidate for School Board**

**Michelle Pozzie** - Is a candidate for Sarasota County School Board District 5. She has been active going to school board meetings and speaking there for many years. The Mission Statement for Sarasota County Schools: Engage, elevate, and empower every student, every day! She requested our members to send a letter of support to the school board on a Resolution that backs all law enforcement agencies in carrying out their duties for our safety.

Michelle has a Democrat opponent, Beth Mayberry. So, we need to step up our campaign performance to help Michelle get elected.

### **Call to Action**

**Support H.R.3245** - The American Privacy Restoration Act

**IMPORTANT: Contact our representatives with regard to H.R.3245 — a bill to repeal The USA PATRIOT Act, a.k.a. the “American Privacy Restoration Act”, introduced by Representative Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL-13) Call House Representatives and Greg Steube at 202-224-3121**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/3245>

### **Call to Action**

**Senate Majority Leader John Thune** is under pressure to bring the **SAVE America Act** to the Senate floor for a vote. The bill, which passed the House and requires proof of U.S. citizenship to vote, is currently stalled in the Senate Rules Committee. CALL Sen. Thune and ask him to bring the SAVE America Act to the floor for a vote. A majority of Americans support proof of US citizenship to vote. 202-224-3121

## **Florida Resolution for Muslim-American Heritage Month**

The Florida legislature may be considering a resolution to dedicate February, 2026, as Muslim-American Heritage Month (HB 8001/S1578). Islam is completely incompatible with Christianity and with our Constitutional Republic. It calls for a perpetual state of war against the entire world until we submit to Islamic rule:

Americans should never celebrate Islam. Further, Christians should never celebrate Islam, because Islam specifically identifies Christians as meriting violent persecution:  
...the Christians say Christ is the Son of God.’ May Allah destroy them.” Quran 9:30

We are being programmed now by banks and companies selling products by using the word “submit” when you pay with a credit card. Mentally use another word like pay or enter instead of “submit.”

## **Voting for 2026 AFSWFLC Officers February 11**

Mike Stephenson and Barbara Vaughn were nominated for President, Tom Babicz and John Hallowell were nominated for Second Vice President. Dan Gauthier was nominated for the office of Secretary. We vote on Wednesday, February 11.

### **Blueprint for Liberty The John Birch Society**

Do you know America's founding principles? Are they worth fighting for? Come to the free workshop and renew your resolve to support our Constitution, Feb. 7, at the Hollow, 326 S. Moon Dr., 9:30 am to 4 pm.

Bring your lunch and drink. Contact Darlene at 941-266-4430

### **Hear Tom Vail Chair of FL for Life PC**

Sunday, February 8, 2 PM at The Hollow, 326 S. Moon Dr. Tom is speaking on a Citizen Initiative Petition to get an anti-abortion Amendment question on the 2028 ballot, and a roadmap for growing Republican Liberty Caucus membership and motivating FL citizens.

### **Offices Up for Election in 2026**

#### **Federal**

U.S. Representative, 17th Congressional District

#### **State**

Governor, Lt. Governor, Cabinet Members (Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Agriculture), State Senate District 22, 73rd House District, 74th House District, 75th House District

## **County**

County Commissioner Districts 2 and 4

Charter Review Board District 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Hospital Board Northern District Seats 1 and 2

Hospital Board Central District Seat 2

Hospital Board Southern District Seats 1 and 2

**School Board District 1, 4 and 5** (This is THE CRITICAL RACE!) – as of this date, vote for Robyn Marinelli and Michelle Pozzie.

**Judicial** – Numerous

Visit [RightVotes.com](https://RightVotes.com) for Conservative Voting Information



**Join AFSWFLC Telegram**

Click the link below to join our club's Telegram social media messenger.

**[CLICK THIS LINK](#)**

## Cathi Chamberlain: Rules for RINOs



Best-selling author Cathi Chamberlain

**Author/Speaker**

**(727) 320-7746**

*Rules for RINOs: Alinsky Tactics to Fight  
Republicans in Name Only*

**ORDER:** [www.amazon.com/dp/1733274316](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1733274316)

*Rules for Deplorables: A Primer for Fighting  
Radical Socialism*

**ORDER:** [www.amazon.com/dp/0692170987](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0692170987)

**WEBSITE:** [www.RulesforDeplorablesBook.com](http://www.RulesforDeplorablesBook.com)

Email Cathi Chamberlain at: [cathi.rulesforrinos@gmail.com](mailto:cathi.rulesforrinos@gmail.com)



### **AFSWFLC Speaks in Orlando**

**VIDEO - America First Conservatives Speak Out: CCN Covers  
Grassroots Press Conference**

Orlando, Florida November 7th — Michelle Pozzie and Coastal Conservative News brings you exclusive coverage of the America First grassroots press conference held during the Republican Party of Florida's quarterly meeting. Grassroots members and local conservative leaders gathered to call out Florida GOP Chair Evan Power and Executive Director Bill Helmich, accusing them of abusing their authority and purging MAGA-aligned members from party ranks without clear justification.

**America First & MAGA News Conference Video  
(If you missed it, click on link below)**

**[Click Here to view video](#)**

### **The John Birch Society**

The JBS provides many easy-to-read brochures to hand out to reach others and to take back control of Congress.

**Educational Materials** - books; literature; the *New American Magazine* - a monthly printed and online publication with timely articles about current events

<https://thenewamerican.com/> **SUBSCRIBE**

## **Additional John Birch Information**

**Action Alerts** - personal notifications via email or phone with details on critical upcoming legislation.

Action Alerts, available regardless of membership, contain a link to automatically contact your representatives. Sign up at: <https://jbs.org/subscribe/> Be informed and SUBSCRIBE.

### **What Does DEI stand for?**

**Diversity** means fewer white people.

**Equity** means stealing from white people.

**Inclusion** means exclusion of white people.

## **Venice Centennial Event February 18**

The next major centennial event is the unveiling of a statue of city planner John Nolen in Centennial Park at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18. The event is hosted by the Venice Area Historical Society. Centennial Park itself will be rededicated at 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 15. Here are two opportunities to meet and greet residents and hand them an AFSWFLC card.

**Silence in the face of Sharia is surrender and submission.**

## **Donations and Volunteers Are Needed**

We appreciate and welcome volunteers' **stamp** donations for our mission to reach new registered Republicans. We have a total of **159,794** total active registered Republican voters as of 02/05/2026. Our outreach program has welcomed over 10,000 newly registered Republican voters to Sarasota County. **First class stamps are \$.78.**

**The AFSWFLC website can be easily accessed by typing in your browser, [AFSWFLC.org](https://AFSWFLC.org)**

**Lots of club and community information can be found on our very own website.**



**Please Donate to the Lawfare Suit**  
**<http://www.americafirstswflc.org>**

**LEGAL DONATIONS** \*Please make checks payable to AMERICA FIRST SWFLCAUCUS and mail to: AFSWFLC. PO Box 352, Venice, FL 34285

The judge has not sent us her decision on our lawfare case.

**America First SWFLC** website: <http://www.americafirstswflc.org> Visit the website to see our pictures and newsletters, plus updates throughout the month.

**Call Our Officials**

<b>Gov. DeSantis</b>	<b>850-717-9337</b>
<b>Sen. Rick Scott</b>	<b>202-224-5274</b>
<b>Sen. Ashley Moody</b>	<b>202-224-3041</b>
<b>Rep. Greg Steube</b>	<b>202-225-5792</b>
<b>Fiona McFarland</b>	<b>941-361-2465</b>
<b>James Buchanan</b>	<b>941-429-4560</b>
<b>Danny Nix</b>	<b>941-899-0810</b>
<b>White House</b>	<b>202-456-1414</b>

**Legislation on Florida Bills**

The season has started and to keep you informed here is some information.

**Watch tracked bills:** <https://flsenate.gov>

Meredyth Morrow 908-343-5104 and Andy Dubois 352-933-6353  
[andy@libertycitizen.com](mailto:andy@libertycitizen.com)

The 2A group is working on bills to get supported. - **this takes action from the members to call and set appointments** - contact Kevin McAuliffe to get involved.

401-924-1744 [km727@aol.com](mailto:km727@aol.com)

12 Govt Operations House committee bills all passed last Nov. or Dec. that take away freedom of information. They are a done deal, and none seem to have anything to do with elections. But this is very concerning that with every single bill this committee passed this session, more and more is hidden from us. **We need to be diligent.**

Link to the Government Operations Subcommittee site:

<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committeesdetail.aspx?Committeeld=3303>

**FastDemocracy** <mailto:notifications@fastdemocracy.com> Sign up to get House and Senate bill updates.

**Our goals are:** 1. SOE must verify citizenship, 2. Continue cleaning up voter rolls, 3. More in-depth audits of election machines as well as precinct and count options, 4. Tighten VBM requests.

**Defend Florida has Voter Integrity ZOOM calls on Tuesday nights at 7pm.** [DefendFlorida.org](https://DefendFlorida.org)

**Citizens Renewing America Alliance** Phone call every Thursday, 5-5:30 pm  
<https://slingofdavid.com/signup> 4919 Pass WG8Fw2

### **MAKE CONTACT: Congress at your Fingertips**

If you call 877-827-3321 you can get the **Congress at your Fingertips** book for \$20. Request the book by email at: [books@cqrollcall.com](mailto:books@cqrollcall.com)  
The Congressional Quarterly (CQ) website is <https://info.cq.com/demo/>  
Then call any governor, senator or representative directly.  
Call: Rep. Greg Steube **202-225-5792**. Tamzin Rosenwasser

**Spend Cash on Fridays!**  
**Support our economy by using cash.**

### **Get Involved!**

**Write a 250 word or less letter to The Venice Gondolier editor.**  
**Ronald.dupont@yoursun.com** Sign your full name, include an address and phone number, but it won't be used.  
**Mail letters to: The Venice Gondolier, Letters to the Editor, 200 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34285.**  
**PLEASE make rebuttals to liberal letters. Jump in and voice your opinion.**

### **Letters to the Editor from Our Conservatives**

#### **People opposing School Board are just sheep**

Editor: Attention Conservatives: Have you ever been curious about how a flock of sheep behaves? But there aren't any flocks of sheep around here to observe? Oh, I beg to differ.

All you need to do is attend a school board meeting! You won't get in, of course, because the head "sheep herder(s)" have gathered up hundreds of sheep to carry often nasty, vile, mostly untrue signs, use a variety of noise makers, and break into the line of people queued up for entrance, a dozen or more at a time.

This is, of course, at the direction of their "herder(s)" and with their assistance. Sheep are very vocal and when prompted by their herder will repeat, loudly and obnoxiously, whatever the herder directs them to say. They don't know what they're saying or understand the facts of the supposed issue. They simply bleat what they've been told to bleat (usually via bullhorn) until the herder's directions change.

At the school board meeting, the shepherders received dozens of "speaker cards" in advance, which they promptly filled out and submitted — ahead of any and every one wanting to speak in support of the resolution.

Many "speakers" and other attendees were minors who should have been in school, along with parents and teachers who should have been more responsible.

If you're somewhere between dismayed and outraged about how our young people are behaving these days, watch the shepherders they're following. In the end, it was a waste of the sheep and the shepherders' time. The resolution was approved, 3-2.

**Barbara M. Vaughn**

### **People are protesting only because they dislike Trump**

Editor: A recent issue of the Gondolier reported on the anti-ICE protests in Venice. When I first saw or read about these many protests, I was confused ... why would people protest a law enforcement agency that is arresting and deporting criminals who entered our country illegally during Biden's ridiculous open border policy? Presidents Clinton and Obama also did the same thing when they were presidents and I do not recall seeing protests against their enforcements.

After much contemplation about the "why," I determined the reasons for the current demonstrations are due to one or more of the following: The Trump haters will protest anything that the President initiates even if the initiative is to increase the safety of U.S. citizens. If Trump is in favor, they must be against it.

The protestors are unaware that many of the protests are organized and supported by organizations and individuals who hate our country. These organizations pay many of the protestors to create hate and division.

The ICE protests draw attention away from the recent reports of fraud and corruption of our federal social assistance programs, especially the current focus on the multi-billion-dollar frauds in Minnesota.

In the future, when I encounter groups of anti-ICE protestors, I will sound my horn 3 times ... not in support of their protest ... but to acknowledge that they are uninformed activists who are supporting criminals and U.S. haters. I would ask your readers to do likewise.

**Richard Ross**

## **What is America First Southwest Caucus?**

**We are an active grassroots organization dedicated to traditional economic and social conservative Constitutional Republic values. We pool our talents and energy into electing conservatives to public offices. Patriots to save our country. We're a working and social club where you can share your ideas for America's future with friends to implement political plans into action.**

**Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month (except December) at Venice Community Center (Ballroom D), 326 S. Nokomis Ave. near Jervey Library on the island. Light refreshments served at 11:00 am. Guest speakers are scheduled.**

**We make it happen! We are America First SWFLC!**

## **MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS DUE**

If you know a Republican, NPA, AMF, or patriotic conservative who wants to join the America First SWFLC, bring them to a meeting for informative, political news and entertainment, plus meet new conservatives with a similar heart for America, or send them to our website at <http://www.americafirstswflc.org>

**Annual membership dues:** \$35 individual, \$60 couple, and \$20 each additional family member.

**Time to renew your membership dues.** Bring cash or a check to the meeting or use the link below to pay by credit card. Send checks to our P.O. Box 352, Venice, FL 34285-0352. <http://www.americafirstswflc.org>

**Disclaimer**—The views expressed within the articles in this newsletter do not necessarily express the views of the Editor or AFSWFLC. They are provided here for information only!