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The America First Patriot

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Edition 002
Feb. 2024

FROM THE DESK OF AFSWFLC

PRESIDENT JAMES HOEL

Members,

Greetings to all of our America First SWFL Caucus members and friends. As the newly elected President of our club, I first want to express what an honor and privilege it is to be apart of our Execu-tive Board. Serving as your Vice President last year, I can tell you that I learned much about the history and pulse of where this club began and the direction of where we are heading. Many of you never get to see the work that is done behind the scenes by our wonderful board to keep this club moving. I can tell you that there is a heavy spirit of cooperation between board members with each officer and committee chair. That spirit of cooperation and love for country starts with our membership being united in the cause of freedom for all Americans. In this we are indeed united. Recently we have undergone some changes to our club, the actions taken were necessary to protect not only our membership, but also our treasury, Executive Board, and our club as a whole.

Throughout this process, I will tell you that the decisions were made after going through much deliberation and prayer to be guided in the right direction. The result so far has been overwhelmingly positive, not only from those outside our club, but more importantly, you, our members, have been very supportive and encouraging. I would like to personally thank you for that. For those who enjoy the social aspect of our meetings and club, I assure you that is not going to change. We will still have the same great guest speakers, the same great candidates and the same great elected officials giving us their updates. We will still enjoy our delicious luncheon from our wonderful Hospitality Committee, and we will always enjoy our loving association with each other.

So, what can we expect? Well, 2024 is shaping up to truly be a pivotal year for our county in so many different ways. It is time to get focused. Please join us at our next membership meeting to hear more about the latest changes and how we are going to navigate through this next chapter. Thank you so much to all of our board members and volunteers and especially to you, our membership who make our club what it is.

Best regards,

James Hoel – President

NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTED JANUARY 2024

President James Hoel, VP Terry Angley, Secretary

Mary Germani, Treasurer Donna DeFiore

Ron Turner, Sarasota Co. Supervisor of Elections spoke in January and swore in the new Board. President James Hoel, VP Terry Angley, Treasurer Donna DeFiore, Secretary Mary Germani

He said vote-by-mail requests made before Nov. 8, 2022, have expired and a new request must be made. Do this several ways. Online using the Mail Ballot Request Service in person at sarasotavotes.gov, any elections 4102134office (4000 S. Tamiami Tr., Venice), or by phone - 941-861-8618.

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot be mailed for the Presidential Primary: Thursday, March 7, 5 p.m.

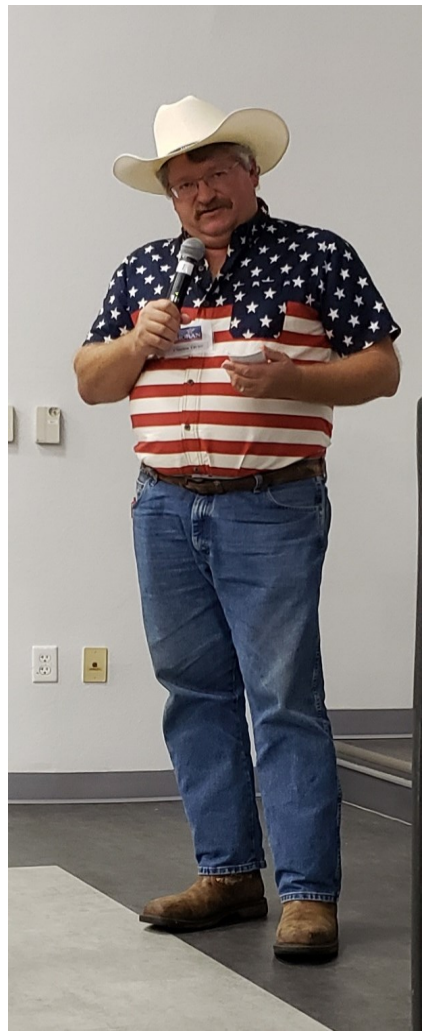
BECOME A CANDIDATE

Go to **sarasotavotes.gov** to see the list of openings, and have courage to get in the fight to keep our county conservative. **STAND UP** and make history.

"Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious

stupidity." ***Martin Luther King***

Candidates for Office and Elected Officials



Candidate Michelle Pozzie for FL House District 74.

Candidate Tom Knight for Co. Commissioner District 3.

Charter Review Board Member #4 Clay Taylor. The CRB meets May 15 in Sarasota, October 16, in Venice at 6 pm.

REQUEST FROM THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

The Sunshine Committee sends inspirational messages to our members who have had an illness, surgery, other need or celebration. Please send the name of anyone who could use some encouragement and prayers to newsletter@americafirstswflc.org to have a card sent.

When You're Dead, You Don't Know You're Dead – The Pain is Felt By Others. The Same Thing Happens When You're Stupid. Anon.

Keep the pressure on elected officials. We the People are still the government.

Gov. DeSantis	**850-717-9337**
Sen. Rick Scott	**202-224-5274**
Sen. Marco Rubio	**202-224-3041**
Rep. Greg Steube	**202-225-5792**
Joe Gruters	**941-378-6309**
Fiona McFarland	**941-361-2465**
James Buchanan	**941-429-4560**
Michael Grant	**941-613-0914**

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NOTICES

Member Engagement Committee

February 2024 Report

Orientation Meeting: The next orientation meeting will be scheduled on February 22, 6 pm at Linda Miller's home, 19751 Cobblestone Cir., Venice.

New Member Luncheon: New members can meet one another and learn about the newly formed **American First SWFLC** plus meet a representative of the Executive Board and members of this committee. Attendees will be encouraged to get involved in the 2024 **America First SWFLC** activities and election action. Volunteer Survey forms will be distributed and discussed. More will be forthcoming from Linda Miller and Rick Ross. Member Engagement Committee Chairs

Attend a Sarasota School Board Meeting

Feb. 6 & 20, 6 to 8 pm, 1960 Landings Blvd., Sarasota 34231. The meetings are open to the public and are held on the 1st (from 3pm-5pm) and 3rd (from 6pm-8pm) Tuesdays of each month, except for one meeting in July and December. Citizens are welcome to speak under "Hearing of Citizens" after any Special Presentations and/or the Superintendent's Report. Hearing of Citizens cards can be found in the lobby, which should be filled out prior to the meeting with your name, contact information, and topic and handed to the Sarasota County School Board Representative. Speakers are required to arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting to complete a speaker's card.

School Board

Phone: (941) 927-9000 ext. 31147

To email all School Board members:
schoolboardmembers@sarasotacountyschools.net

Attend the Sarasota Memorial Hospital Board
Meetings are the third Mondays. February 19 , 2024, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm SMH Main / Boardroom, Auditorium. 1700 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota 34239. An independent review of hospital C0VID policies must be done. Contact Lisa Roulet **lroulet@comcast.net**

Rich Mazur - America First SWFLC Political Action Team has ongoing training meetings to learn how to visit Newly Registered Republicans.

- Join our team as the "Welcome Greeters" for Republicans in your precinct.
- Visit between 5-10 voters/month. It is **not door-to-door, but an A/C car to the front door. Minimal walking.**
- Work as a 2-member team to pass out an introductory informational letter, contact information for federal, state and local officials, Comparison of Democrat/Republican on issues and "the

Inconvenient Truth of the Democrat Party to make your welcoming experience 100% enjoyable. It's fun to see Republican faces light up when you greet them.

Next meeting TBA: **Please let Rich know if you will be able to attend or not and give him your precinct number.** Special materials are prepared for you with your precinct number.

Thanks,

Rich Mazur **America First SWFLC** Political Action Team

rtmgolf04@gmail.com 860-519-6939

Adopt A Legislator Watch Coalition

Attention:

Meredyth Morrow and Mia Kinsey have a meeting on **Wednesday, February 28, Jacaranda Library, 6 pm to 7:30 pm**. Youth Room

Bill watching has started. Be educated and involved voters; write letters to the editor, join precinct committee people, be election day table greeters, poll watchers, bill lobbyists, and even candidates for office.

Patriots, God woke you up for a reason.

Stay United. Stay Together. Stand Strong.

Update On Adopt A Legislator

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

Our group has started monitoring bills as they are filed and will be having a ZOOM meeting to explain this process and encourage anyone

Meredyth Morrow

interested to attend. Email me for dates and times. ammdmorrow@gmail.com

Meredyth Morrow 908-343-5104

Liberty Lobby Days went well. About 40 from Sarasota, Charlotte and Manatee counties joined our group, and two men in their 80s! Age shouldn't stop your participation.

Legislators were surprised at how many citizens were interested in the bills being presented. Some were aggressive toward us, but after our concerns, they discussed our topics. They sometimes disagreed, but agreed on some things.

Hand counting ballots and open carry are out, but giving 18 year-olds the right to carry was considered.

Six Judicial Committee members need emails, X (formerly twitter) and phone calls made for health and medical freedom bills pending. That will be a Call to Action.

Call Andy Dubois 352-933-6353 or Meredyth Morrow for info.
andy@libertycitizen.com

Watch tracked bills **here** Subscribe **here**

See a Call to Action on Citizenship Verification from Meredyth at the end of the newsletter. Please make your voice heard.

From Meredyth: As a background, several of us met with all the main leaders receiving this letter, most were very hesitant about any election bill that touched VBM--Hand Counting Machines, BUT they ALL said they were for Citizenship Verification and could support that, and we have two bills ready to pass if they get enough pressure to do so.

Please take two minutes to copy and paste the email addresses and send this letter (refine and make it your own or just send as is) to the Senate Leaders AND THEN forward this request to all your friends and ask them to do the same. Please.

passidomo.kathleen@flsenate.gov,
burgess.danny@flsenate.gov,
albritton.ben@flsenate.gov,
grall.erin.web@flsenate.gov,
ingoglia.blaise.web@flsenate.gov,
martin.jonathan.web@flsenate.gov,
mayfield.debbie.web@flsenate.gov,
avila.bryan.web@flsenate.gov

Dear Florida Senate President Passidomo and Ethics and Election Chairman Burgess,

There is a concern that all patriotic American citizens can agree on: Only US Citizens can vote in our elections.

Senator Gruters has sponsored SB 1602 **Elections** and SB 1168 **Forms of Identification.** Both of these bills help to address this issue that the Supervisors of Elections and Secretary of State Byrd have stated needs to be fixed. With your help, it is possible to get these two bills on the committee calendars and heard, and more importantly, passed this year.

The basis of SB 1602 is developing a procedure for DHSVM to submit reports to the SOE and the Depart. of Elections for people who have received a Florida ID or DL that has proven to be a non-US Citizen. Documentation is already there, and confirmed, but now it needs a formal pathway to be instituted. This bill ensures that the DHSMV sends updated information to the Election Departments to confirm citizenship.

This requirement is already in our FL Statutes under 98.045 but is currently not being checked, this simple change will allow this to happen.

We are asking for you to fix this problem and help to keep our elections safe.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to following this bill into its existence.

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

Defend Florida has Voter Integrity ZOOM calls on Tuesday nights at 7 pm DefendFlorida.org

To any members questioning why we returned our RPOF charter and started a new club outside the purview of the Republican Party of Florida, the following should provide ample proof why such drastic actions were necessary to prevent the Establishment Republicans, currently in control of the RPOF, from taking over our activist club. The Executive Board had to act fast and decisively to prevent the RPOF from taking action. Unfortunately, the holiday period prevented the board from being as transparent with the overall membership as normal for such major changes. Our Club was in serious jeopardy of losing everything. Time was of the essence. Note: personal names and email addresses are redacted in email below.

RPOF ISSUES NEW CLUB CHARTERING RULES

From: [redacted]
Date: Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 9:24 AM
Subject: LOCAL CLUB UNITY AD HOC COMMITTEE PROPOSAL MEMO
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
External [redacted]

Committee Members,

[redacted] **Please see his message below.** [redacted]

RPOF Friends;

Attached is the redlined version of the new Rule 1, having to do with Club Chartering. Well, there is no red in it, but strike-through text is removed and underlined text is added.

One concept that you need to be aware of is that chartering a club is, essentially, giving that organization a license to use a name that, under Florida Statutes, we control . . . Republican. It's a bit like a franchise agreement. The point being, we have the right to set the standards for which we will allow somebody to use our name. Think of it as a McDonalds franchise. If a McDonalds franchisee started selling puppy dog tail nuggets instead of Chicken Nuggets, McDonald's would have something to say about that, as it would hurt the reputation of the brand.

Please read it carefully, as there are many important provisions. I going to summarize some of the major components for you, here.

Administerial Components:

Granted Club Charters MUST be signed by all three, of the County Chairman, State Committeeman, State Committeewoman

Renewed Club Charters MUST be signed by all three, of the County Chairman, State Committeeman, State Committeewoman

Special provisions for 10 year clubs are removed. Renewal requires the same process as any other club.

The Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida may revoke a club charter for good cause. This is subject to appeal.

A club charter may be revoked by all three of the Chairman, State Committeeman and State Committeewoman, for good cause. This revocation is NOT subject to appeal.

Clubs that have their charter revoked shall NOT expend any more funds without the permission of the Republican Party of Florida.

Assets of dissolved or non-renewed clubs shall be turned over to the Republican Party of Florida, to be split between RPOF and the County Club, withing 90 days. The last officers of the club will be responsible for handling that transfer.

Clubs are required to report their roster information to the Republican Party of Florida, in a manner prescribed by RPOF, just as County Executive Committee are.

Club Officers will be required to sign a club modified version of the RPOF Loyalty Oath.

Clubs will be required to file a self-audit with RPOF, for the purposes of financial accountability. This will be a form developed by Constitution and Rules. It will be simple and will likely take about 10 minutes to fill out.

As opposed to revoking a charter for an entire club, there is now a provision to remove club officers (F)

Club Activity Components:
The point of this is that clubs can be clubs. They gather, raise funds to support the activity of the club (i.e. meeting place rent, snacks, etc). They can have speakers, discussions, etc. They CANNOT engage in activity that is the purview of the Republican Party (National, State or Local).

Clubs may NOT certify, screen or recommend Republican candidates or conduct a poll of any sort, either of public or their members, on the subject of primary candidates.

Clubs may NOT prevent REC leadership from visiting club meetings or addressing the membership, if they should request to do so.

Clubs may NOT engage in any activity that would require it to register with election authorities. In other words, clubs CANNOT register as political committees and engage in election activity.

Clubs may NOT contribute to candidates, except, as allowed by law, to the nominee of the Republican Party in a general election . . . see D for more details

Clubs may NOT issue a voter guide

RPOF will be sending out the fully integrated and updated RPOF Rules of Party Procedure, very shortly.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks, so much,

[redacted]

Make contact: *Congress at your Fingertips*

If you call 877-827-3321 you can get the ***Congress at your Fingertips*** book for $20. You can then call any governor, Senator or Representative directly. You should call, too: **202-225-5792.** Tamzin Rosenwasser

A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

Gov. Abbott Issues Statement On Texas' Constitutional Right To Self-Defense

"We are all Texans now. "

TX Gov. Greg Abbott today issued a statement on Texas' constitutional right to defend and protect itself as President Joe Biden continues to attack Texas and refuse to perform his duties to secure the border.

"The Executive Branch of the United States has a constitutional duty to enforce federal laws protecting States, including immigration laws on the books right now," reads the statement. "President Biden has instructed his agencies to ignore federal statutes that mandate the detention of illegal immigrants. The failure of the Biden Administration to fulfill the duties imposed by Article IV, § 4 has triggered Article I, § 10, Clause 3, which reserves to this State the right of self-defense. For these reasons, I have already declared an invasion under Article I, § 10, Clause 3 to invoke Texas's constitutional authority to defend and protect itself. That authority is the supreme law of the land and supersedes any federal statutes to the contrary."

"The intention is clear: To overrun America, exterminate all Americans and replace them with imported illegals who have no ties to the Constitution or American culture." Mike Adams

Editor's Column

Since the Biden inauguration of 2021, our nation has been in an illegal invasion of 11 million. Here are some headlines from that action.

Migrant crisis broke new record in December with 302k encounters Officials confirm

Ex-FBI officials warn Congress of 'new and imminent' border danger: 'The country has been invaded' Coalition of former FBI officials calling on leaders to act

Border patrol agents arrested two **child sex offenders, murder convict** trying to enter US illegally

Democrats are 'refusing' to hold Joe Biden accountable for this border crisis: Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., House will release the impeachment articles against DHS Sec. Mayorkas

Texans' concern is protecting Americans: TX Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick criticizes the Biden administration and DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas over mishandling of the Texas border crisis

My questions are: Why did it take Gov. Abbott so long to react when millions of illegals have breached our sovereign borders? Will the lackluster Republicans impeach Secretary Mayorkas?

American First Southwest Florida Caucus claims to be the most dynamic activist conservative club in Sarasota County. Find a niche to join and volunteer as elections are getting into action.

Wishing you a Patriotic Valentine's Day with love, happiness and, of course, chocolate.

Allyx Young

the most baskets.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Seems like only yesterday, we watched a man, few in our club knew, standing outside our old meeting hall peddling a bio page with his picture on it.

Everybody approaching the door was greeted with a warm smile, a handshake, the flyer in his hand, and a gentle, “Hi, my name is Michael Stephenson. “I’m running for president of the club. I’d appreciate your vote.” Often a short discussion ensued describing why he wanted to be president of the club.

He was outside the hall, because the current president didn’t want him competing with his hand-picked candidate and thought relegating Mike outside the door would deter him. Such was not the case. It emboldened him.

At the time, our club was deeply divided, led by a globalist, uni-party-supporting president whose leadership style was akin to Atilla the Hun. His divisive style was tearing the club apart, with many members ready to break apart. Mike begged them not to leave the club and give him a chance.

Election day found him winning the presidency, to the relief of many members. The transition of old to new president was short, consisting of passing a magic book of Robert’s Rules and a mallet for a gavel that the outgoing president claimed was misplaced.

The magic in the Robert’s Rules book was that no matter what the book said, when translated by the outgoing president, it supported exactly what he was espousing as fact. Upon examination, the book turned out to be just a normal book, just a bit beat up from misuse, but further supporting the outgoing president’s failed legacy.

The over-sized gavel, more like a 12-pound sledgehammer was not misplaced, but in fact, had been secretly confiscated and hidden by a savvy member intent on saving all the tables in the area from being pummeled to sawdust. Sworn to secrecy, this writer vowed not to reveal the mallet’s secret location ensuring its secret for an eternity.

Actually, Mike was immediately challenged by far more serious matters upon being elected president. The outgoing president failed to reserve a meeting hall for 2022, and in fact, the election day meeting hall wasn't reserved. Our club needed more space, and the committee in charge found and reserved our current meeting place at the Venice Community Center – a phenomenal improvement, larger, cleaner, and for less money.

Nothing had been organized for the upcoming election cycle either. Mike had to continually work to prepare for three different elections. There was little time to improve the club until after November 2022, when he started in earnest spearheading an organizational approach that would prepare our club better for the upcoming 2024 election cycle.

His 2022 elected officers had weathered through the previous president and were exhausted. So, Mike embraced three new officers to help him through the 2023 preparation phase. Immediately in 2023, he faced a challenge of whether the club would receive a charter from the parent organization. The charter was subsequently renewed for the club, but the attitude surrounding its renewal sent tremors throughout the Executive Board of what might be forthcoming. Mike developed options under the radar (just in case) and proactively vetted these options with others in the club.

It should be noted that Mike cured the club's divisiveness almost immediately in 2022, turning the club into the activist club it had long been advertised as. This rankled the globalist faction controlling the higher infrastructure, prodding them to seek other like-minded state entities to corral our club and put draconian controls over virtually all our activities.

In late November 2023, it was rumored our club was targeted by the upper echelon using authoritative measures to subdue our renegade club once and for all. This obligated Mike to act with the Executive Board's unanimous approval – turning our charter back, leaving the confines of a long-established organizational structure, and doing what many thought was impossible, start a brand new, totally independent club.

Under his leadership and direction, Mike Stephenson gave our current club, America First Southwest Florida Caucus, its needed breath of life and brought it into existence. Without Mike's sacrifice of time while also fighting serious health issues, our old club would have been hijacked by the RPOF regime, requiring the club to bow to the whims of the parent club with a continual threat of losing our overrated charter and the club's treasury.

Mike, the America First Southwest Florida Caucus would like to thank you for your service to this club and the previous club. You devoted heart and soul to everything concerning both clubs and we, the club members, would like to pass on our sincere appreciation for all you did and hope that you will continue to stand with us, offering us future advice concerning upcoming challenges.

MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS DUE

If you know a Republican, NPA, 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 www.americafirstswflc.org

Graham Ledger Start the morning with **The Ledger Report, "Cracker 82.5" - Live & Local 8 am-9 am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** (maybe Thursday/ Friday soon). Graham analyzes Florida news (politics) and national news (politics), with the help of Largo resident, "Special" Ed, who gives his unique, conservative opinion of the news. Read More

Write a 250 word or less letter to *The Venice Gondolier* editor. Ronald.dupont@yoursun.com Sign your name, include an address and phone number, but it won't be used. For USPS mail, *The Venice Gondolier*, 200 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34285 PLEASE send compliments, complaints, considerations. Jump in and voice your opinion.

America First SWFLC website: www.americafirstswflc.org **Visit the website to see our pictures and newsletters.**

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Thanks to **COASTAL MOLD & WATER REMOVAL** who has sponsored lunch.es James and Kathy Hoel are a state licensed mold remediator. This is Florida, and we have mold. Call 941-303-5602 www.coastalmoldfl.com Lic # MRSR1364

January's lunch was sponsored by

COASTAL MOLD & WATER REMOVAL.

A sponsor.
Patronize:

Car Doc for your car needs.
941-786–1595 or
cardocstacy@gmail.com
website:
www.cardocontheisland.com

Support www.Togetherwecan.life with food for their community pantry. Visit the website if you have a need or can donate.

Shop Big Bam eBikes. 412 E. Venice Ave., Venice 34285 941-240-1717. **Big Bam eBikes** is sponsoring the Venice Community Ctr. meeting room in January. Website: https://bigbambikes.com/

DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

We appreciate and welcome volunteers' **stamps** donations for our mission to reach new registered Republicans. We have a total of 149,382 total Republicans. Our very successful outreach program has welcomed over 1,000 new members.

America First Southwest Florida Caucus

WE ARE AN INDEPENDENT GROUP
OF CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC PATRIOTS

WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT THE GRASSROOTS FOR YOU THE VOTERS

America First Southwest Florida 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 office. We need 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 at The 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.

Our Website: www.americafirstswflc.org Visit us!

Annual membership dues: $25 individual, $40 couple, and $15 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. Dues are currently the same. Be advised, we may have to slightly increase the price of membership dues soon due to increased prices in our monthly meeting hall and other operational expenses. So now is the time to pay for 2024 while prices are at their lowest. Send checks to our P.O. Box 352, Venice, FL 34285-0352.

To PAY by credit card
click **HERE:**

To Donate to the club:
click **HERE**

Click HERE to become a member of the AFSWFLC!
We make it happen! We are America First SWFLC!

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