



BALLOT BOX

FEBRUARY 2026

Agriculture Commissioner to speak at February BWRC luncheon



Continuing with statewide Republican candidates as its featured speakers, Belleair Women's Republican Club will showcase Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson at its February 6 luncheon. Born and raised in Florida, for over 40 years, Commissioner Simpson owned and managed a large-scale egg-laying operation that supplied families across the state. As Agricultural Commissioner, Simpson has worked to secure the future of Florida agriculture, prioritizing Florida-grown food, defending second amendment rights and, most importantly, defining agriculture as a national security issue for the state and nation.

The Commissioner of Agriculture oversees the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. With his background in agriculture, Commissioner Simpson clearly understands the challenges faced by Florida's farmers. His legislative service and history of community involvement also positions him to guide the department's other equally important functions, such as protecting the environment, ensuring the availability, affordability and safety of Florida's food supply and advocating for Florida consumers.

From 2021 to 2022, Commissioner Simpson served as a member of the Florida Senate and was elected Senate President for the 2020–2022 term. Serving as Senate President through a world-wide pandemic came with many unique challenges, but Commissioner Simpson fought to keep Florida open and free and to ensure that Florida

was a beacon of hope, opportunity and freedom for generations to come. Throughout his tenure in the Senate, Commissioner Simpson was a staunch advocate for Florida agriculture and the state's proud farmers and ranchers. Commissioner Simpson was instrumental in securing historic funding for the industry and crucial protections like the Right to Farm Act and the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act.

Commissioner Simpson lives in Pasco County with his wife Kathy. Their son Wilton J. and his wife Caroline are practically neighbors, as are Commissioner Simpson's daughter Lauren, her husband Kenten and their daughters, Addy and Emy.

The February luncheon will be a private event for BWRC members and their guests whose names must be submitted with the members' payment. Please do not share information about the luncheon on social media. The luncheon attendance will be capped, and no walk-ins will be accommodated so make reservations early.

The February 6 BWRC luncheon will be held at Belleair Country Club, 1 Country Club Lane, Belleair. Check-in begins at 11:30 am, with lunch served starting at noon. The cost to attend is \$40 per person. Reservations and payment are due to arrive no later than noon on Tuesday, January 27. Mail checks to BWRC, 1350 County Road 1 #57, Dunedin, FL 34697, or send payment using Zelle.

FEBRUARY MEETING INFORMATION

Friday, February 6

**Belleair Country Club
1 Country Club Lane
Belleair, FL 33756**

Luncheon Fee: \$40

**Registration & networking
begin at 11:30am.**

**Event begins
at 12 pm.**

To RSVP:

**A \$38 check made payable to
BWRC or electronic payment
is due by January 27.**

**Mail check to:
BWRC**

**1350 County Road 1 #57
Dunedin, FL 34697**

**Scan this code to pay with Zelle
or send via Zelle bank transfer to
bellemessages25@gmail.com.**



**Alternate meal must be
Requested with your RSVP.**

**No substitutions may be made
the day of the luncheon.**

**Reservations and
advance payment required.
Please, no walk-ins.**

FEBRUARY MENU INFORMATION

Belleair Salad: Lettuce, Almonds,
Cranberries & Feta Cheese
w/ Raspberry Vinaigrette

++++

Sliced London Broil
w/ Mushroom Sauce

Red Bliss Potatoes &
Broccoli/Cauliflower Mix

++++

Rolls & Butter

+++

Brownie w/ Strawberry
& Whipped Cream

+++

ALTERNATE VEGETARIAN PLATE

**Cauliflower Steaks w/ Goat Cheese,
Basil, Pesto & Red Pepper Coulis**

BWRC is privileged to host meetings and social events at Belleair Country Club. Members and guests must comply with BCC's dress and conduct code. Dresses, skirts, blouses, dress slacks and pantsuits are appropriate for women. Men must wear shirts with sleeves and remove caps in the dining room. Blue jeans are not permitted.



FROM THE BWRC PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Belleair Women’s Republican Club,

We are off to a great start for 2026. All of us have enjoyed the first two luncheon speakers of the year, and we are working very hard behind the scenes to bring all the state, local and federal Floridian Republican candidates up for election in 2026 to speak in the future.

This is a special month as we celebrate our United States Presidents on February 16th. Presidents Day, a federal holiday which now honors all US Presidents was first established in 1879 to honor the country’s first president, Geroge Washington. For many years it was celebrated on his birth date, February 22, but the Uniform Holidays Act moved the celebration date to the third Monday in February to provide for a three-day weekend for workers and their families and to reduce mid-week work and school disruptions. Although the federal government still calls the holiday “Washington’s Birthday”, President’s Day came to also honor Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday is February 12. Then, over time, the day gradually expanded to honor all U.S. presidents, giving us a special day to honor a special man. How proud we are of Donald J. Trump, a great President who is doing a fantastic job making America great again. In honor of Presidents Day, Valentine’s Day and the color of the GOP, let’s all wear red to the February BWRC luncheon.

At the January BWRC luncheon, I announced the dates President Adam Ross, chair of the Pinellas GOP, selected for pole watching classes. Pole Watchers represent their political party at polling locations to assure a fair election. The pole watching class dates are listed in this newsletter. Put them on your calendars, and I will see you all there. God bless America! Get the word out to all your friends and families, sharing the information you are learning about at BWRC lunches. Every vote will count in November for the mid terms and our next Governor. We have a tremendous job to do to keep the great free state of Florida red. And we can do it, working together.

Corinne Steinhardt
BWRC President



BWRC OFFICERS

President
Corinne Steinhardt

First Vice President
Jessica Reed

Second Vice President
Carol Abernathy

Asst. Treasurers
Judy Zentmeyer
Janet Cameron

Corresponding Sec’y
Denise Nye

Recording Secretary
Jo Nichols

Chaplain
Patricia Wagner

Director Communications
Claudia Thomas

Director Hospitality
Carol Hillier

Director Ways & Means
Charlotte Smith

Director Past President
Dianne Blum

Parliamentarian
Louise Davis

Pinellas County Housing Finance Authority has vacancies

Republicans are encouraged to submit applications by February 18

Applications are being accepted for two appointments to the Pinellas County Housing Finance Authority. The appointments will begin on April 1, 2026, and end on March 31, 2030.

The mission of the Housing Finance Authority (HFA) is to provide safe, decent, affordable housing for low to moderate income households. The HFA assists first-time home buyers and also works with local governments, non-profits and other public and private partners to provide funding for affordable multi-family rental housing.

This working board seeks members who can dedicate the time to attend monthly meetings consistently. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m.

HFA board members also serve on the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, which meets three to five times per year. The Committee is tasked with evaluation of established County policies and procedures, ordinances, land development regulations and comprehensive plan to provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners to facilitate

affordable housing. For a full description of the powers and responsibilities of the Authority, visit [www.Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County - Pinellas County](http://www.HousingFinanceAuthorityofPinellasCounty-PinellasCounty).

Applications are due by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. The application link and more information about all the available Boards can be found at www.pinellas.gov/Boards-Councils-and-Committees. Make sure to scroll down to find the application link in the section called "Vacancies - Open Applications."



BWRC LUNCHEONS

- Q—Is it okay if I wear my designer jeans or a jeans jacket to a BWRC luncheon?**
A—No, it is not okay! While your designer jeans are no doubt fabulous, Belleair Country Club does not allow denim clothing items in its main dining room.
- Q—Can I get a refund for my luncheon payment if I find I cannot attend?**
A—Yes and No! If you notify Co-Treasurer Jude Zentmeyer of the need to cancel prior to the time a luncheon attendance count is called in to Belleair Country Club, you can likely receive a refund or transfer the payment of a future luncheon. If the count has already been called in, no refund can be made since the club will have to pay for the reservation whether you attend or not.



Private screening event for the highly anticipated film, "Melania"



Royalty Free Shutterstock Image

JANUARY 30 - 5:00 P.M.



Dress to impress in your most Melania-inspired outfit. RSVP via email to BelleairRepPC@gmail.com and secure your spot! Minimum contribution of \$40 per person. Scan the QR code to submit your contribution. Event will be at the AMC located at 3128 Tampa, Road. Oldsmar, Florida 34677. Arrive by 4:45 pm for our group photo!

Contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Paid political advertisement paid for by the Belleair Republican PC, P. O. Box 20252, St. Petersburg, FL 33742.

BWRC membership dues for 2026 were due by January 1

Pay \$30 by cash, check or Zelle

The fiscal year of Belleair Women's Republican Club runs January 1 through December 31, and, per BWRC Bylaws, 2026 dues are to be paid on or before January 1. Members can either send a check for \$30 or process a \$30 payment through Zelle. (Please send separate checks and Zelle payments for dues and luncheons.) The club's ability to provide quality events, speakers and programs to its members depends on the financial support provided by member dues, and with the 2026 elections in sight, the club needs all of its members to stay active and connected.

Failure to pay dues on time can lead to a member being dropped from the club's membership roster and contact lists. This means communication from the club will cease and opportunities to participate in certain club activities will no longer be possible.

PCREC TRAINING SCHEDULE

IN 2026, LEADING UP TO THE ELECTIONS, THE PINELLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE OFFERING POLE WATCHER TRAINING. PLEASE REVIEW AND RETAIN THESE DATES AND PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THE CLASSES. INFORMATION ON TIME, PLACE AND HOW TO REGISTER WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

SATURDAY, JULY 25

POLE WATCHING IS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT WAYS REPUBLICANS CAN HELP ASSURE A FAIR AND SUCCESSFUL ELECTION.



Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 BWRC Outstanding Member Award. Please see the award criteria sheet and nomination form on pages 8 and 9 of this newsletter and make a nomination.

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST BWRC MEMBERS

Elizabeth Constantine

Cynthia Deermount

***Michael Howard**

Cynthia LaMacchia

***Jim McNeely**

Mary Riebel

Joan Willoughby

Jackee Smith

*** Sustaining Members**

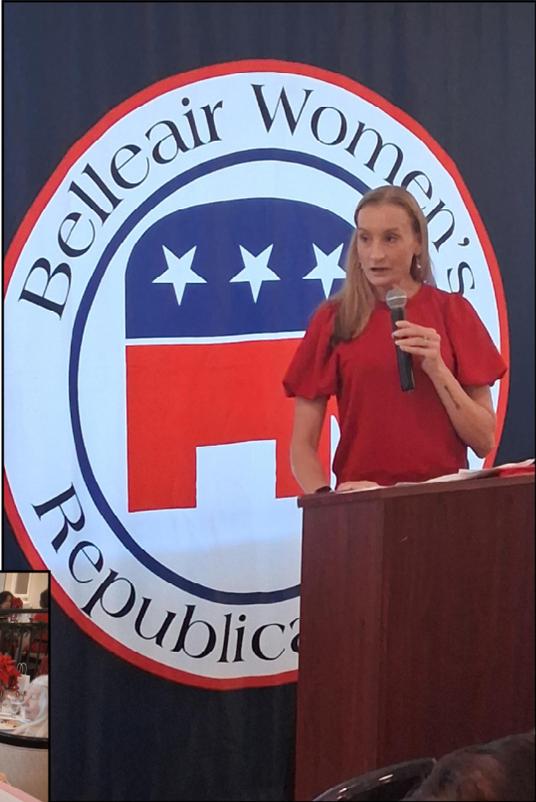
Newsletter Ads

\$200 per month for a full-page ad in the BWRC Ballot Box newsletter.

Submit copy ready, full-color ads via email to jessicareed6462@me.com as pdf or jpeg files by the first Friday of the month.

Payment by mailed check or by Zelle.

PICTURES FROM THE DECEMBER BWRC LUNCHEON



(To see more pictures from BWRC events, visit bwrc.us > Photo Gallery)



Art & Soul Hair Salon & Spa

Welcomes The Republican Women

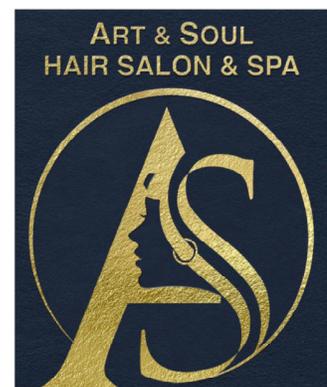
You are such an important part of our community and our country. We want to thank you for all you do.

- **First-Time Visit:** Receive **25% OFF** Any Service valid through March 31, 2026
- **Always & Forever:** Receive **10% OFF** Any Service on all subsequent visits

Note: Discounts are not valid with any other specials or promotions.

Full-Service Hair Salon
Massage Therapy
Customized Facials
Expert Waxing
Permanent Makeup

Call to book: 727-477-4955
Located at: 465 Patricia Ave
Dunedin, FL 34698
@artandsoulhairsalon



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

PUBLICATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT BY BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB OUTSTANDING MEMBER SERVICE AWARD

In 2015, the Bylaws of The Belleair Women's Republican Club were revised by a vote of the membership to provide for a BWRC Outstanding Member Service Award.

The BWRC Outstanding Member Service Award has been awarded every two years beginning in 2016.

A Special Committee oversees the nomination and selection process. The Committee is formed and operates by the directives in Article VII Special Committees, Section 3. of the Belleair Women's Republican Club Bylaws, which reads:

SECTION 3. The BWRC Outstanding Member Service Award Committee shall consist of three (3) members; two (2) from the Executive Committee and (1) member from the General Membership, all of whom shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Committee by the January Executive Committee meeting in even-numbered years.

The BWRC Outstanding Member Service Award Committee shall operate according to the following policies and procedures:

- a. There shall be only one award given every other year in even numbered years.
- b. Nominations should be solicited starting in January from all Club Members (including Sustaining Members) and should be due by March 15.
- c. In order to be eligible for the award, a woman must have been a member at least three (3) years.
- d. Nominees should be evaluated by the number of volunteer hours given in support of the Club, the number of Club positions held, the number of new members referred, the number of nominations received and any other Club-related service deemed pertinent by the Award Committee. Only in the event of a tie should activities outside the Club be considered.
- e. The presiding Club President is not eligible for the award nor are previous award recipients*.
- f. The Award Committee shall notify the President of a chosen recipient by March 31 in even numbered years.
- g. The award should be presented at the April or May General Meeting of the Club and should take the form of an engraved item selected specifically for the recipient at a cost not to exceed \$200.

**Previous BWRC Outstanding Member Service Award recipients are Debby Whisenand, Norma Stalions, Claudia Thomas. Lee Hooper, Dianne Blum and Deb Walker.*

BELLEAIR WOMENS REPUBLICAN CLUB
OUTSTANDING MEMBER SERVICE AWARD

NOMINATION FORM

(All Belleair Women’s Republican Club members are entitled and encouraged to submit nominations.)

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15

I nominate the following member of Belleair Women’s Republican Club to receive the 2026 BWRC Outstanding Member Award:

I believe this individual is worthy of the honor of being the recipient of the 2026 BWRC Outstanding Member Award because:

(Please refer to the selection criteria. Use an additional blank sheet of paper if desired.)

Mail this nomination form to: Belleair Women’s Republican Club
Attn: Outstanding Member Award Committee
1350 County Road 1 #57
Dunedin, FL 34697

Or submit it in person or by email to any of the following members of the 2026 Outstanding Member Award Selection Committee:

(Nominations must be in writing and cannot be taken over the phone.)

Jo Nichols	ren426938@aol.com	727-366-2862
Denise Vought	deevo2@verizon.net	
Patti Wagner	patti@x-tech.com	727-504-0755