



BALLOT BOX

SEPTEMBER 2025

Trio of mayors to speak at BWRC luncheon



DAVE GATTIS



BRUCE RECTOR



LESLIE WATERS

National and state politics have most of the nation's attention, but local policies and spending typically have a greater impact on citizen's daily lives. Roads, street lights, water and sewer services, stormwater management, parks, police and fire departments, garbage collection and many other essential services all fall under local government purview. To get a closer look into the workings of local government and some of the issues they face, Belleair Women's Republican Club's will feature three notable mayors as speakers at its September 5 luncheon: Belleair Beach Mayor Dave Gattis, Clearwater Mayor Bruce Rector and Seminole Mayor Leslie Waters.

Mayor Gattis was first elected to the Belleair Beach City Council in 2019 and was then elected as mayor in 2022. He says his focus in public service is on collaboration and strengthening the region. In addition to serving as mayor, he is president of the Mayor's Council of Pinellas County and vice president of the Barrier Islands Government Council. He also serves on the Pinellas County Tourist Development Council and the Pinellas County EMS Advisory Board. In his pro-

fessional life Mayor Gattis is Vice President of Engineering for DITEK Surge Protection in Largo.

Mayor Rector was sworn in as the 36th mayor of Clearwater in April of 2024. He says he has a passion for community service and respect for diversity of experiences and opinions. He has served as chair of the non-profit Jolley Trolley Transportation of Clearwater, Inc.; vice-chair of the Clearwater Community Development Board; vice president of the Clearwater Beach Association; a board member of Ocean Allies; past vice-chair of the Clearwater Regional Chamber; past member of the Clearwater Charter Review and Affordable Housing Advisory committees; and chair of the Clearwater Parks and Recreation Board. In his professional life he serves as general counsel for The Sports Facilities Companies, which is based in Clearwater.

Leslie Waters has been mayor of Seminole for 13 years and reports she loves being mayor. Previously she spent eight years as a member of the Florida Legislature during the Governor Jeb Bush era. Prior to leaving office due to term limits, she served in the top legislative

position as Speaker Pro-Tempore. Over the years she has been on the board of directors of a number of area civic and community organizations, including the Pinellas County Urban League, the March of Dimes, the United Way and Brookwood, a Young Women's Residence. Presently, she volunteers at the Seminole Interfaith Food Pantry. In her professional life, she had a 29-year career with Allstate Insurance Company and currently manages her own consulting firm, Leslie Waters Government Relations, which assists Republican candidates running for local, state or national positions by facilitating campaign workshops. Mayor Waters also teaches campaign skills internationally.

The September 5 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 \$38 per person with reservations and payment due no later than Thursday, August 21. Mail checks to BWRC at 1350 County Road 1 #57, Dunedin, FL 34697 or send payment using a bank transfer through Zelle.

SEPTEMBER MEETING INFORMATION

Friday, September 5

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

Luncheon Fee: \$38

**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 August 21.**

**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.**

SEPTEMBER MENU INFORMATION

Gazpacho Soup

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Bistro Salad w/ Grilled Chicken, Spin-
ach, Field Greens, Tomato Wedge, Cu-
cumber, Hearts of Palm, Red Onions,
Beets & Feta Cheese w/ Balsamic Vin-
aigrette and Honey Mustard Dress-
ings on the Table

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Rolls & Butter

+++

Yogurt Parfait w/ Berries

+++

ALTERNATE VEGETARIAN PLATE

Bistro Salad w/o Chicken

**ALTERNATE GLUTEN FREE/VEGAN
Roasted Butternut Squash w/ Spinach,
Rice and Chickpeas**

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,

It is my honor to lead you as president of the club for a two-year term in BWRC's 62nd and 63rd years of existence. The 2025-27 BWRC Executive Committee have secured some exciting speakers for the next several months, and we hope you all will enjoy them and learn from them.

We all have worked together so hard to elect Republican President Donald J. Trump, and now we must educate and encourage our fellow citizens of Pinellas County and beyond to elect in November of 2026 another great conservative official to lead our great state of Florida as governor. We, as always, have our work cut out for ourselves. As you know, many of us are continually working behind the scenes at the local school board and county commissioner meetings and at mayor forums. Many of us work in precincts on election day, inside and outside. Get involved and join in the effort!

BWRC exists to back the conservative right. It has been my pleasure to have worked with so many of you in the last decade. I have made so many special friendships for life, and I look forward to an exciting year ahead with all of you. We will be celebrating our country's 250th Anniversary next July together! That will be a very special celebration for our club.

I am always available for your comments and concerns. Please contact me if you are in need of questions answered. Let us look forward to a very successful future with our very talented and experienced board of conservative women.

Corinne Steinhardt

BWRC President



BWRC OFFICERS

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Corinne Steinhardt

First Vice President

Jessica Reed

Second Vice President

Carol Abernathy

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Marian Borzelleca

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Denise Nye

Recording Secretary

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Patricia Wagner

Director Communications

Claudia Thomas

Director Hospitality

Carol Hillier

BWRC launches first podcast

Thanks to the talents of Jim McNeely, a retired veteran and friend of BWRC 2nd Vice President Carol Abernathy, Belleair Women's Republican Club has begun a podcast entitled "BWRC Ballot Box Report Podcast". The purpose of the BWRC podcast is to promote the club, recruit members and encourage listeners to get involved. It shares basic information about the club and the many opportunities it offers for political education, involvement in Republican causes and social interaction with like-minded individuals. The aim is to produce a BWRC podcast quarterly, each with a focus on a different aspect of the club.

A podcast is a series of spoken-word audio episodes that can be streamed or downloaded from the internet. It is like a radio show but is on-demand and usually deals with a specific niche or personal outlook or experience. It can be listened to on a computer, phone or smart speaker whenever a listener chooses to visit the online site.

To view the first BWRC podcast, copy the following link and paste it into a browser: <https://vimeo.com/1103848674/05a9b04781?ts=415834&share=copy>



New officers installed at June luncheon

BWRC officers for the 2025-27 biennium were installed at the club's June luncheon by State Committeewoman Pam McAloon. Officers each took an oath promising to fulfill their duties faithfully. Shown following the installation ceremony are, front row from left, President Corinne Steinhardt, Director-Ways & Means Charlotte Smith, 2nd Vice President Carol Abernathy and Treasurer Marian Borzelleca and back row from left, 1st Vice President Jessica Reed, Director—Hospitality Carol Hillier, Chaplain Patty Wagner, Director Past President Dianne Blum and Assistant Treasurer Judy Zentmeyer. Present, but not pictured, was Director—Communications Claudia Thomas. Not present for the installation were Assistant Treasurer Janet Cameron, Corresponding Secretary Denise Nye and Secretary Jo Nichols.



BWRC members attend Florida Freedom Forum



In August, several members of BWRC attended the Florida Freedom Forum organized by the Florida GOP. The Orlando event featured many distinguished speakers, including Governor Ron DeSantis and Florida gubernatorial candidate Byron Donalds, who has been endorsed by President Donald Trump. Shown at the conference are, from left Gil and Carol Abernathy, Jeff and Jessica Reed and Byron Donalds and his wife Erika Donalds.

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST BWRC MEMBERS

Penelope Chiles
Ann Murphy
Nancy Ramey
Christine Turpin
Sandra Zarrella

ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS

ALL THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED BWRC
OVER THE PAST YEAR AND WHO HAVE
NOT PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED A NEW
MEMBER ORIENTATION MEETING

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 16
FOR THE NEXT NEW MEMBER EVENT



**PINELLAS
GOP
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF
PINELLAS COUNTY**

*2025
Lincoln Day Dinner*

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PINELLAS COUNTY



**FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST
CONGRESSMAN BYRON DONALDS**

with an introduction by special guest
CONGRESSWOMAN ANNA PAULINA LUNA



NOVEMBER 9, 2025
VIP RECEPTION 5:00 PM
DINNER 6:00 PM

SHERATON SAND KEY RESORT
1160 GULF BLVD
CLEARWATER BEACH, FL 33767

**TICKETS: \$250
PURCHASE AT**
PINELLASREPUBLICAN.ORG

Candidate Fundraisers

September 5—FL Rep.
Linda Chaney Deep
Sea Fishing Fundraiser,
170 John's Pass Board-
walk, Madeira Beach
Space limited—RSVP
to 850-320—4949

September 25—FL Rep.
Benny Jacques Campaign
Kick Off w/ U.S. Rep
Anna Paulina Luna—
3:30—7:30 pm—Mugs
Sports Bar & Grill,
13563 Icot Blvd.,
Clearwater

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.

**BWRC IS IN NEED OF A HISTORIAN AND A PARLIAMENTARIAN TO
SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. IF INTERESTED IN EITHER
POSITION, PLEASE CONTACT PRESIDENT CORINNE STEINHARDT,
727-946-3960 OR CFOGART1@TAMPABAY.RR.COM**

PICTURES FROM THE JUNE BWRC LUNCHEON



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



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