



BALLOT BOX

MAY 2025

Congresswoman Anna Paulina Luna returns with news and update from Washington, D.C.



A lot has happened in the nation's capitol and across the country since Congresswoman Anna Paulina Luna last spoke at the Belleair Women's Republican Club September 2024 luncheon. Then, the November election was on the horizon with Luna on the ballot to secure her second term as the Congressional Dist.13 Representative in Congress, and Donald J. Trump was seeking to return to the White House.

In the six months since both won their races, there has been a whirlwind of challenges and change facing the new administration, and the Congresswoman is returning to BWRC on May 2 to share first-hand news and views from Washington, D.C.

In Congress, Rep. Luna now serves on the Committee of Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. She is also Chairwoman of the Task Force on the Declassification of Federal Secrets. During

her first term she sponsored 42 bills and co-sponsored 257 others.

To begin her second term, she has sponsored eight bills, including one to add the figure of President Trump to Mount Rushmore. Issues which she has addressed include justice for rape victims, holding child predators accountable, student-centered and parent-guided education, preserving Florida's natural resources, American energy independence, secure borders with no amnesty as a pathway to citizenship, appreciation and honor for veterans and government accountability and care.

Rep. Luna is the first Mexican-American woman elected to serve as Florida's Representative in the United States Congress. Raised by a single mother in a low-income neighborhood in Southern California, her rough upbringing taught her the importance of independence and hard work.

She also experienced firsthand the devastating consequences of radical big-government policies in cities like the one she grew up in.

Rep. Luna joined the military at a young age to leave behind the life of America's low-income, inner-city communities. She would go on to graduate from the University of West Florida with a bachelor's degree in biology.

Congresswoman Luna resides in St. Petersburg, with her husband Andy, whom she met while serving in the United States Air Force. They have one son, Henry.

The May 2 BWRC luncheon will take place at Belleair Country Club, 1 Country Club Lane, Belleair. Check-in begins at 11:30 am, with lunch starting at noon. The cost to attend is \$38 per person. Reservations and payment are due by Friday, April 18.

MAY MEETING INFORMATION

Friday, May 2

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 April 18.

Mail check to:
BWRC
P.O. Box 1117
850 E. Lime Street
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

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.

MAY MENU INFORMATION

Salad w/ Lettuce, Tomato, Almonds,
Cranberries, Feta Cheese
& Balsamic Vinaigrette

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Beef Stroganoff: Beef tenderloin tips
& shallots with sherry wine & a sour
crema demi glaze over fettucine

Green Beans

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Rolls & Butter

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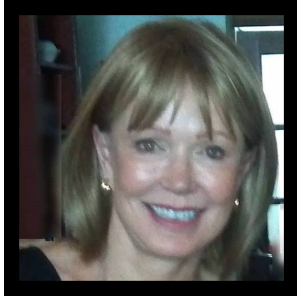
Brownie w/ Sliced Strawberries &
Whipped Cream

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ALTERNATE VEGETARIAN PLATE

Avocado Toast: Smashed avocado,
hard boiled eggs, olive oil, lemon, aru-
gula & cherry tomatoes

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

I recently read an article dated 12/20/22 by Victor Hanson called "Ten Steps to Save America". The author starts out by saying something is terribly wrong with America. He goes on to list the problems and the solutions. I am so impressed because our president has addressed each item listed.

1. Cut the debt: DOGE was organized before Trump took office. Elon Musk and his team have addressed budget issues and come up with ways to prevent unnecessary spending in the future.
2. Secure the border: Deportation efforts and problems with border security have almost been eliminated. Trump is making plans to finish building the wall where needed.
3. Tap natural resources: Drill, baby, drill! Trump's also supporting American coal, which is cleaner and better for our planet than other coal.
4. Oppose discrimination: Trump has taken steps to substitute merit for race when helping underprivileged and is putting tremendous pressure on supporters of antisemitism.
5. Disrupt and reform higher education: To address costs and preoccupation with promoting ideology, Trump is looking to abolish the Dept. of Education.
6. Revive the armed forces: Trump is directing the military to modernize and become "war-ready" without distractions related to DEI quotas and programs unrelated to combat readiness.
7. Fix Voting: Trump is insisting only US citizens can vote. The SAVE act is currently before Congress. The Dept. of Justice under Pam Bondi and the FBI under Patel and Bongino are giving no slack to any issue related to voter fraud.
8. Drain the swamp: Never has there been, in our lifetime, such a concerted effort to open books and declassify information by Executive Order, like what we've seen from Trump during the first days of his administration.
9. Upend the welfare state: The phrase "No one wants to work any more" is common. Job creation and eliminating fraud and abuse, rampant in our welfare systems will provide meaningful work and lead to more funds for those truly in need.
10. Restore Norms: Hanson explained his view that crime should be punished and family values should be incentivized. He urged we are in desperate need of civic education. Trump appears to be addressing all these issues with his "return to common sense" selection of Cabinet officials.

Donald Trump has addressed each of these issues in a remarkably short period of time. He has assembled a team of amazing individuals who agreed to leave productive careers to work or volunteer their expertise for our country. I am so proud to be alive to see this amazing transition.

Dianne Blum
BWRC President



BWRC OFFICERS

President
Dianne Blum

First Vice President
Sara Mollo

Second Vice President
Claudia Walker

Treasurers
Jessica Reed
Louise Davis

Hospitality
Candace Gardner

Ways & Means
Corinne Steinhardt

Communications
Claudia Thomas

Corresponding Secretaries
Kassy Brewer
Alyssa Palonis

Recording Secretary
Carol Abernathy

Historian
Deb Walker

Chaplain
Patricia Wagner

Past President
Deb Walker

Parliamentarian
Renatta Cochran

Officers for 2025-27 nominated

Election to take place at May meeting with installation in June



Those nominated as BWRC officers for the coming biennium were called to the front of the room and then introduced with brief biographies and their experiences and accomplishments. Shown are,, from left, Janet Cameron, Judy Zentmeyer, Charlotte Smith, Jo Nichols, Louise Davis, Corrine Steinhart, Patti Wagner, Carol Abernathy, Jessica Reed, Carol Hillier and Dianne Blum. Present, but not pictured, was Claudia Thomas. Nominated, but not present, was Marian Borzelleca.

Louise Davis, chair of the 2025 Belleair Women's Republican Club Nominating Committee, put forward a slate of candidates at the April Belleair Women's Republican Club meeting to serve as officers of the club for the next two years. Election will take place at the May BWRC meeting with additional nominations from the floor allowed provided permission of the nominee has been obtained. Those elected will then be sworn in at the June BWRC meeting.

The women on the slate presented by Chairwoman Davis are:

President—Corrine Steinhart
1st Vice President—Jessica Reed
2nd Vice President—
Carol Abernathy
Recording Secretary—
Jo Nichols

Corresponding Secretary—
Patti Wagner
Treasurer—Judy Zentmeyer
Assistant Treasurers—
Janet Cameron
Marian Borzelleca
Chaplain—Patti Wagner
Director of Communications—
Claudia Thomas
Director of Hospitality—Carol Hillier
Director of Ways and Means—
Charlotte Smith

Davis noted that current president Dianne Blum will complete the officer roster, automatically becoming Director—Past President when her current term ends.

The Nominating Committee Chair provided background information about each nominated candidate.

Collectively, the slated nominees have a wealth of professional and volunteer experience, which Davis noted will make for an exceptionally strong Executive Committee to lead the club from June 2025 until the end of May 2027.

"I have every confidence these women will serve with distinction and will continue to foster the goals and ideals of BWRC over the next two years," she said. "I know they will carry on the tradition of excellence BWRC has now enjoyed for 61 years as this area's premier Republican club."

Davis recognized and thanked the other members of the 2025 BWRC Nominating Committee, Patti Wager, Jessica Reed, Julia Marquardt and Jackie Weist.

Donations still needed for No Bake Bake Sale to benefit BWRC

BWRC Director of Ways and Means Corrine Steinhart has whipped up a tasty fundraiser to support the club's mission of advancing Republican objectives and policies. A No Bake Bake Sale is currently cooking up a delicious amount of funds by asking BWRC members to contribute what it would cost them to create cupcakes, cookies, pies or other baked treats.

At the April luncheon, a dollop over \$1,000 was collected, and the hope is that figure will rise with donations from those who were not able to attend the luncheon. To become a No Bake Bake Sale Master Chef, please send a check to BWRC at P.O. Box 1117, 850 East Lime Street, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688 or Zelle funds using the QR code on page 2. Gifts in any amount are sincerely appreciated.



Wearing No Bake Bake Sale aprons, members of the BWRC Executive Committee gathered to gratefully accept donations at the April BWRC luncheon. Shown behind BWRC Director of Ways and Means Corrine Steinhart, who is seated, are, from left, Chaplain Patti Wagner, Parliamentarian Renatta Cochran, Asst. Treasurer Louise Davis, Recording Secretary Carol Abernathy, 2nd VP Claudia Walker, President Dianne Blum, Treasurer Jessica Reed and Director of Communications Claudia Thomas.

**WELCOME TO
THE NEWEST
BRC MEMBERS**

**Tina Babnik
Edie Dalton**

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 Zelle.

Don't forget to honor America's fallen heroes

Memorial Day is not just about family barbecues and the start of summer. Originally known as Decoration Day, it is a federal holiday honoring and mourning U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the U. S. Armed Forces. It began after the Civil War to honor fallen Union Soldiers but eventually grew to honor all those who fought and dies in service to America. Congress standardized it in 1971 as Memorial Day with observance on the last Monday in May.

There are a number of local observances, a two of which are listed here. Others may be found

online or in area publications closer to this year's Memorial Day date of Monday, May 26.

Clearwater Honor Fest
Sunday, May 25, 11:30 am—2 pm
Florida's Veterans Memorial Plaza
450 S. Lake Drive, Clearwater
Register at www.floridaveterans.org/honor-fest

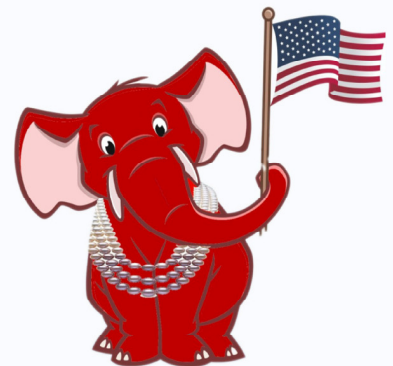
Memorial Day Ceremony
Monday, May 26, 9:30 am
Curlew Hills Memory Garden
1750 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor

PEARLS & REPUBLICAN GIRLS

**A fundraiser to benefit
Republican Candidates**

Saturday, June 7

SAVE THE DATE



PICTURES FROM THE APRIL BWRC LUNCHEON



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



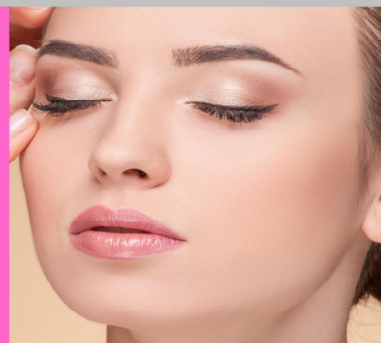
*New & Creative Styles For
This Generation*

We LOVE walk-ins!

*Hair
Color
Services*



*Make-up
Services*
Traditional &
Airbrushing



Contact Info

For your styling needs please contact us or visit
our salon conveniently located at:

781 Bayway Blvd, Clearwater, Florida

info@salonsouthbeach.com

(727) 444-4551

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