



BALLOT BOX

FEBRUARY 2025

Pinellas County Board Chair to speak at March BWRC luncheon



The Pinellas Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is the elected body that oversees Pinellas County Government. The State constitution gives BCC the power to adopt ordinances (local laws), approve the County budget, set property tax millages and establish requirements for the departments under its control. The Board governs all unincorporated areas of the county directly. The BCC approves support funding for court services and approves the budgets of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Sheriff and the Supervisor of Elections.

Leading the BCC as chair in 2025 will be Commissioner Brian Scott, who was elected to the BCC in 2022. He will be taking time from his many duties to be the featured speaker at the March 7 Belleair Women's Republican Club luncheon, bringing the latest news on issues the County is facing and the steps being taken to address them.

A long-time County resident, Brian Scott is a graduate of Seminole

High School. He attended St. Petersburg College and also attended USF's Bayboro campus. He is owner and President of Escot Bus Lines and past President of TRAX Insurance, LTD.

The BCC Chair has served in various leadership roles within the passenger ground transportation industry due to his expertise, including President of the Florida Motorcoach Association and Chair of the United Motorcoach Association and the International Motorcoach Group. In his public service, he has served in several leadership positions for Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Forward Pinellas, Affordable Housing, Historic Preservation, Tampa Bay Water, Value Adjustment Board and Business Technology Services.

Scott is a fiscally conservative leader focused on complete transparency in government, in keeping Pinellas County affordable and in preserving the county's unique charm. In his spare time the commissioner is an avid runner and triathlete and enjoys

spending time with his wife Sandy and dog Bentley.

He serves on the following County Boards and Committees for 2025:

- County Attorney Oversight Committee
- Election Canvassing Board
- Forward Pinellas
- Healthy & Human Services Leadership Board
- Historic Preservation Board
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
- Tourist Development Council

The March 7 BWRC luncheon will take place 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. (Please note the price increase.) Reservations and payment for the luncheon are due by Thursday, February 20. Mail checks to BWRC at P.O. Box 1117, 850 E. Lime Street, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688.

MARCH MEETING INFORMATION

Friday, March 7

**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 February 20.**

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

Scan this code to pay with Zelle:



**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.**

MARCH MENU INFORMATION

**Irish Pub Salad w/ Lettuce, Beets,
Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Celery,
Feta Cheese & Pistachios**

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**Sliced Corned Beef & Cabbage
w/ Honey Glazed Carrots
& Sliced Baby Red Potatoes**

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Irish Soda Bread & Butter

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Grasshopper Pie

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ALTERNATE VEGETARIAN PLATE

**Grilled Vegetables w/ Acorn Squash
Stuffed w/ Couscous, Cubed Fried Tofu
& a Chili Drizzle**

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

Belleair Women's Republican Club's Nominating Committee is working so hard to come up with a remarkable slate of officers for the club's 2025-2026 Executive Committee. Louise Davis is the chair of the Nominating Committee, and Jessica Reed and Patti Wagner are the other current Board members who have been working with Louise on the slating process. They are joined by BWRC members Jackie Weist and Julia Marquart who are also doing great work on the Nom Com.

All of these smart, savvy and dedicated women are to be thanked for their diligent, careful and caring effort. They are leaving no stone unturned to solicit recommendations and to locate and recruit wonderful candidates to be nominated to be the next BWRC Executive Committee officers. I have total confidence this Nominating Committee will fairly and thoroughly canvas and deep dive into potential candidates' skills, commitment, demeanors and available time to serve to put together the best officer team to lead BWRC in the coming program year. I know they will put forward a slate of nominees to the membership at the BWRC April luncheon meeting that has been carefully forged to have a variety of skills, experience and insights.

Now, won't you help them in this mission? I encourage all BWRC members to recommend candidates for any or all of the Board offices or to self-nominate as BWRC Board service is both rewarding and fun. I have been on the Board for about 15 years, and over that time I have made some wonderful friends while working together to make BWRC the best Republican club possible. I am very proud of the people who have stepped up to serve on the Board in the past, and I will be equally proud of those selected for the 2025-2026 Board.

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

BWRC thanks and honors Belleair Police Department with a lunch



To recognize all they do to keep area residents safe and to thank them for providing a police escort for Congresswoman Anna Paulina Luna when she spoke at BWRC last September, members of the BWRC Executive Committee carried in a lunch for members of the Belleair Police Department on January 14. Officers shared stories of working round the clock during hurricanes Helene and Milton, not being able to go home and only catching a few hours of sleep at the department's headquarters. The BWRC officers who were on hand to set up the lunch included Dianne Blum, Claudia Walker, Candace Gardner, Corinne Steinhart, Louise Davis, Carol Abernathy and Claudia Thomas.



BWRC IS COOKING UP A FUN FUNDRAISER!
Watch for information about the No Bake
Bake Sale coming in April.



Advertising opportunity now available to BWRC members

Any Belleair Women's Republican Club member who has a business or service they would like to advertise to other club members may do so starting with the April issue of the club's Ballot Box newsletter. For a fee of \$200 per month, one full-page ad will be inserted as the last page of the monthly newsletter, which is distributed to hundreds of club members and also posted on the club's website with the potential to reach countless others. Fees collected will go to support BWRC's operations and activities. Only one ad will be published each month on a first-come, first-served basis.

Copy-ready, full-color ads should be 10 inches by 8.5 inches and may be submitted via email to jessicareed6462@me.com as either pdf or jpeg files. Ad copy and payment must be received no later than end-of-day of the BWRC luncheon the month before the ad is to appear. Payment may be by check or Zelle. (See mailing address and QR code on page 2.)

BWRC reserves the right to reject any submitted ad not in keeping with the club's standards. Also, each ad will carry the disclaimer publishing the ad does not imply endorsement by BWRC. For more information, contact Treasurer Jessica Reed, jessicareed6462@me.com, or 571-236-1023.

Nominating Committee seeks 2025-27 officer candidates

Election of BWRC officers for the coming biennium will take place in May. Prior to the election, a Nominating Committee consisting of five members, a chairman plus two members from the current Executive Committee and two members from the general membership, will be hard at work collecting and reviewing information and suggestions gathered from fellow BWRC officers and members. The Nominating Committee will then put forward a slate of single nominees for each of the club's officers for the 2025-2027 term.

Nominating Committee members who were appointed by President Diane Blum and approved by the current Executive Committee are Louise Davis, who will serve as chairman, Patti Wagner, Jessica Reed, Julia Marquardt and Jackie Weist. Offices to be filled in the May election are President, First Vice President (programs), Second Vice President (membership), Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Chaplain, Director of Communications, Director of Hospitality and Director of Ways and Means. BWRC members who would like propose individuals to fill these roles, or who like to themselves be considered for a position, are asked to submit their suggestions in writing to BWRC Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 1117, 850 East Lime Street, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688. Suggestions must be received by March 15.

**LAST CHANCE TO
PAY 2025 BWRC
MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**\$25.00 dues must be paid by
March 31 to remain active.**

**Please make your check
payable to BWRC**

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

**WELCOME TO THE
NEWEST BWRC
MEMBERS**

**Magie
Maurino-Longobardi**

Alexis Colman Perez

**NOTE: The price
for luncheons
has been raised
to \$38.**



**ITEMS NEEDED: Make room in your jewelry box by
donating unwanted items to the BWRC Jewelry Sale.**

PICTURES FROM THE FEBRUARY BWRC LUNCHEON



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