



BALLOT BOX

JULY 2026

Governor candidate followed by judges panel set for July 3

At its July 3 meeting, to help prepare members for the upcoming Primary Election on August 18, Belleair Women's Republican Club will hear from a third candidate for governor, Paul Renner, as well as be informed of area judicial races and candidates via a judges forum. Mr. Renner will speak first, followed by the panel, which will be conducted by Sixth Judicial Court Public Defender Sara Mollo. The judge candidates speaking will be Nick Fiorentino and Zachariah Wade, who are running for County Judge—Group 10; Elizabeth Jack and Oxalis Garcia, who are running for Sixth Circuit Court Judge—Group 44; and Elizabeth Constantine and Stefen Diskey, who are running for Sixth Circuit Court Judge—Group 39. Information about the speakers can be found below. The July luncheon will take place at Belleair Country Club, 1 Country Club Lane, Belleair. Check-in begins at 11:30 am with lunch served at noon. The cost to attend is \$40 per person. Reservations and payment are due to arrive no later than noon on Tuesday, June 23. Mail checks to BWRC, 1350 County Road 1, #57, Dunedin, FL 34697, or send payment using Zelle. To honor America and recognize its 250th birthday, please wear red, white and/or blue to the July 3 luncheon.



Paul Renner was the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives during the 2022-2024 term. He is a U.S. Navy veteran, a former prosecutor and a business attorney. He began his legal career as an Assistant State Attorney, prosecuting serious felony offenses. Since 1998, Renner has represented individuals and businesses as their advocate in a broad range of

commercial settings.

He served as a naval officer, both on active duty and in the reserves. Earlier in his career, Renner served in Operation Desert Storm during combat operations onboard the USS McInerney (FFG-8) and later during combat operations in Afghanistan in 2011.

Renner was raised in Northeast Florida, where he attended public school. He earned his Juris Doctorate at the University of Florida, Levin College of Law, and his Bachelor of Arts in history at Davidson College in North Carolina. He was elected to the Florida House in 2015 and was term-limited in 2024.

Renner was a Scholar in Residence at the James Madison Institute, was a Senior Leadership Fellow at Florida International University's Adam Smith Center for the Spring 2025 term and served as a Senior Fellow of the Flagler College Institute for Classical Education. After being appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis, Renner served on the Board of Governors for Florida's State University System. He lives in Palm Coast, Florida, with his wife and two children.



Nick Fiorentino is managing partner at the law firm of Ciarcia, Gell & Fiorentino, P.A. now known as Fiorentino Firm, P.A. and has worked with this firm since 2025. He has an active practice representing individuals in need of legal services, including family law, personal injury, probate, wills and trusts, criminal law and other civil matters. He is an experienced trial attorney who zealously represents his client's interests in and out of court. Nick also serves as a FINRA Arbitrator, a Certified Florida Supreme Court Mediator in Family and Marital Law and as a qualified Parent Coordinator for the Sixth Circuit. He has been critical incident attorney for the Sun Coast Police Benevolent Association and the Florida Police Benevolent Association for the past 20 years.



Zachariah Wade earned a Political Science degree from Florida A&M University and a Juris Doctorate from Stetson University College of Law. While at Stetson, he was a member of the #1 Trial Team in the U.S. and after graduating was invited back to coach that same team. He was then hired by the College of Law as an adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy. Later, while at the Office of the State Attorney for Florida's Sixth

Judicial Circuit, Wade served the people of Pinellas County by representing the State in thousands of criminal cases. As a prosecutor, he was specially trained to handle high-impact cases involving domestic violence, DUI/BUI manslaughter, drug trafficking and homicides. After years of public service, he now represents clients in civil and criminal matters as a law firm owner.

SEE SPEAKERS—CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

JULY MEETING INFORMATION

Friday, July 3

**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 June 23.**

**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.**

JULY MENU INFORMATION

**Salad: Lettuce, Almonds,
Strawberries, Blueberries
Dried Cranberries, Feta Cheese
w/ Vinaigrette Dressing**

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**All American Duo: Beef Brisket
& BBQ Chicken Breast**

**Mashed Sweet Potatoes
Green Beans**

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Rolls & Butter

+++

Happy 250th USA Birthday Cake

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ALTERNATE VEGETARIAN PLATE

**Roasted Butternut Squash Stuffed
with Parmesan Cream Cheese,
Spinach & Wild Mushrooms**

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,

Happy America's 250th Anniversary to all members of Belleair Women's Republican Club! The anniversary is a great day for our nation. 250 years ago our forefathers fought hand-to-hand, musket-to-musket against the greatest empire on earth, the British. Led by the country's great first president, George Washington, they won!

America's birthday is a day of celebration for all of us. It's also a day of gratitude for the blessings we enjoy as citizens of the greatest country the world has ever known. We enjoy freedoms many on the planet do not have and have unbounded opportunities to achieve our dreams. To honor all the good old USA provides for us, please wear red, white and blue to the July 3 BWRC meeting. We are planning a singer to lead us in our National Anthem, and we have ordered a special cake from the pastry chef at the Belleair Country Club's kitchen for us to enjoy together.

It is a very exciting time to be an American in this great, free republic of the United States, and there are many America 250 celebrations to enjoy. The Sound in Clearwater has weekend events scheduled over the holiday as do many other local communities. In the nation's capitol, President Trump has planned a number of special Freedom 250 events leading up to July 4 and culminating in a televised Salute to America with a record-setting fireworks display.

Enjoy this very special time with family and friends. Happy 4th of July! Stay safe, and God Bless America!

Corinne Steinhardt
BWRC President

PS: This year's mid-term elections will shape the final two years of President Trump's second term. The Primaries will be held August 18 with the General Election following on November 3. Review important election dates and find a variety of information on how you can help Republican candidates get elected and assure fair voting published throughout this newsletter.

BWRC OFFICERS

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Belleair Women's Republican Club's 25th president, Patricia "Petey" Miklas Henning, passed away April 26, 2026. A very dedicated Republican and community activist, Petey was a long-term educator, having taught reading in the Pinellas County School District for more than 35 years.



When Petey took office in 2005 as BWRC President, the club was in a downward spiral. Membership and attendance at luncheons were both declining. Through her patience, her persistence and her warm personality, she began winning former members back and enticing new members to join. She was warm, friendly and kind to everyone, the perfect mix to heal the club's troubled times. She was also extremely intelligent and savvy, knowing what needed to be done and convincing others to follow her lead.

In addition to serving BWRC in numerous positions, Petey served in many other leadership capacities. Her involvement includes The Fine Arts Society, The Florida Gulf Coast Arts Center in Belleair, The Clearwater Concert Association, The Clearwater Community Women's Club and The Belleair Civic Association. She was a Sustainer Emeritus member of The Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin and served as chapter president of Delta Kappa Gamma society. She thus had lots of contacts in the area and shared them with BWRC.

BWRC owes a debt of gratitude to this gracious and giving former president who paved the way for today's success. Rest in peace, dear friend.

IN MEMORIAM

Volunteers are needed to staff North Pinellas Election Office

The North Pinellas Republican Club and Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee are actively recruiting volunteers to help shape the future of our community by talking with voters and assisting Republican candidates during the critical 2026 election cycle. Volunteers can sign up to work shifts at the North County Republican Campaign Office, located in the Guju Law Office, 31564 US Hwy 19 N, Palm Harbor. Hours are Monday–Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, with evenings and weekends by appointment. To sign up for one or more shifts, visit the club's website: www.northpinellasrepublicanclub.com. For questions, contact NPRC President Mike Carroll at northpinellasrepublicanclub@gmail.com.



**The voter registration deadline
for the August 18 Primary
is Monday, July 20.**

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST BWRC MEMBERS

Ann Burchenal

Janet Chabot

Brittany Craig

Alexandra Dvolinsky

JoAnn French

Sandy Meyers

Brenda Murphy

Leslie Notaro

Lynn Schmick

Maribeth Schwartz

Tracey Sullivan

Nely Villavicencio

VISIT BWRC.US TO VIEW PODCAST #2 HONORING AMERICA'S 250th & BWRC's 62nd BIRTHDAYS

BWRC conducting educational, motivational member-guest event on Saturday, July 18

The upcoming 2026 General Election on November 2 is critically important. If Republicans are going to come out on top and retain control of the legislature, both nationally and in Florida, the party needs as many informed, active and involved Republican voters as possible.

To aid in generating an army of supporters, Belleair Women's Republican Club will hold "With Women We Win Pinellas", on Saturday, July 18, at Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair.

Members, including Sustaining Members, are invited and encouraged to attend the free event and to bring another registered Republican who is not a club member along with them.

Those who attend will enjoy coffee and pastries while learning ways in which they can influence others and assist in insuring Republican victories. A series of speakers, including the Honorable Leslie Waters, Mayor of Seminole; Mark Blum, a Pinellas County voter registra-

tion expert; and renowned television commentator Matt Towery will deliver presentations designed to educate and motivate those in attendance in the hopes they will do the same for others in their communities.

Registration is required by emailing dpblum@mindspring.com. Seating is limited, so reserve early. Note, while the event is casual, the Country Club dress code will be in effect, so please no denim, shorts or leggings.

Thank you to the men and women in blue



In May, BWRC officers carried in lunch to the Belleair Police Department to thank them for the security provided while the club has had a series of special speakers. Shown above with the police employees are, from left, Jude Zentmeyer, Corinne Steinhardt and Louise Davis. Shown below, from left are, Denise Nye, Janet Cameron, Corinne Steinhardt, Jude Zentmeyer and Dianne Blum



Sign Up for Poll Watcher Training

Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee (PCREC) is conducting training classes for any Republican interested in serving as a poll watcher for the August 18 Primary and/or the General Election early voting and election days. Poll watchers monitor how an election is administered from the inside. They observe election workers setting up equipment, handing out ballots, checking in voters and counting votes after the polls close. Their job is to note whether procedures are being followed correctly and report anything that looks wrong to the election officials running the polling place.

The PCREC poll watcher training classes will be held at the Pinellas GOP office located at 9800 4th Street N., Suite 200, St. Petersburg. Materials will be provided as part of the training. Available dates are Saturday, July 25; Saturday, September 5; and Saturday, October 3. To sign up for one of these classes (Only one class is required to qualify as a poll watcher.), send a confirmation email to administrator@pinellas-republicans.com.

With Women We Win Pinellas

Learn to Become a Change-maker

Member-Guest Event for Registered Republicans
Hosted by Belleair Women's Republican Club

Conversation ● Strategy ● Coffee and Pastries

Keynote Speaker



MATT TOWERY is a political analyst, pollster, television commentator, attorney and former Georgia state legislator. He has appeared on news networks and on *The O'Reilly Factor* and *Hardball with Chris Matthews* and with hosts Sean Hannity and Bill Maher. In 2011 he served as a weekly guest commentator for CNN, and he has been a political analyst for the FOX affiliate in Atlanta. In 2014, Towery predicted Donald Trump could become a serious contender for the U.S. presidency, and his polling company was one of the few to predict a Trump win over Hillary Clinton in 2016. Currently he is a regular contributor to Fox News' Laura Ingraham show, *The Ingraham Angle*.

Featured Speakers



LESLIE WATERS has been involved in Republican politics for 25 years. She served eight years in the Florida Legislature, terming out in the position of Speaker Pro-Tempore. She then established her own consulting firm specializing in enhancing democracy worldwide and locally facilitating campaign workshops for first-time candidates. Her international consulting has taken her to, among other places, North Africa, Sudan and Bosnia-Herzegovina. She has served on the City of Seminole Council for 17 years and as mayor of Seminole for 13 years.



MARK BLUM became a volunteer for Pinellas GOP and was asked to assist the Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee in developing a plan to boost local voter registration in 2021. He has been gathering data about Florida and Pinellas voting dynamics for the past five years and has worked to support many local conservative candidates. He's been a frequent speaker at local Republican clubs, at meetings of Pinellas club presidents and at PCREC.

Saturday, July 18 ● 10 am to Noon ● Check in 9:30 am

Belleair Country Club ● One Country Club Lane ● Belleair

RSVP dpblum@mindspring.com or 772-442-8196 no later than July 13

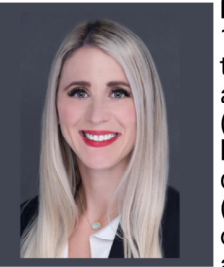
Women are natural networkers. Let's use it for good.



Circuit Judge **Elizabeth Jack** has been serving as a family law judge since January 2021. In that time, she has earned high praise from legal professionals, receiving the St. Petersburg Bar Association's 2026 Judicial Appreciation Award. Judge Jack's prior service to the community includes: 10 years as an Assistant State Attorney in Pinellas County and two years in Hillsborough County, prosecuting a wide variety of crimes and receiving Pinellas County's 2019 Prosecutor of the Year Award; working at USF St. Petersburg to deliver services to families with young children in the dependency system and working as a federal law clerk in the US District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Judge Jack is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, interning at the US Attorney's and District Attorney's Offices in Chicago, and the Office of Legal Counsel to the White House, in Washington, DC, and Boston College.



Oxalis B. Garcia is an attorney licensed in Florida, Maryland and Puerto Rico, with 20 years of experience in the legal field. She is dedicated to fairness, integrity and equal justice under the law. Throughout her legal career, she has earned a reputation for professionalism, sound judgment and treating every person with dignity and respect. As an attorney with Oxalis & Berry Law Firm, P.A., she has approached every matter with discipline, preparation and a commitment to impartiality and the rule of law. She has experience in family law, guardianships, contracts, immigration, criminal law and international Hague matters. As a judge, Ms. Garcia will ensure to set aside any unconscious bias, be respectful, patient and guided by strong ethical principles while serving communities with honor and rendering rulings based on the law, the rules and the admitted evidence.



Elizabeth Constantine has been practicing law for nearly 13 years and has handled hundreds of cases. She has tried approximately 80 trials and has convicted 10 people at trial for murder. Liz began her career in misdemeanor (county) court where she was promoted to the role of lead trial attorney to supervise other attorneys in her division. In 2018, Liz was promoted again to a felony (circuit court) division and handled a wide variety of cases, including, but not limited to, domestic violence and physical and sexual abuse against children. In addition, Liz spent many years serving on the State Attorney's Office Vehicular Homicide Unit. In 2020, she was promoted to a specialized prosecution unit called the Gang Unit, where she serves today.



Stefen Diskey has handled cases at every level — from misdemeanors to serious felony offenses, including murder prosecutions and crimes involving the abuse of children and the elderly over the course of his career. From his first day as an Assistant State Attorney, he has focused on one thing: serving with integrity, fairness and respect. He has participated in more than 70 jury trials and currently serves as a Lead Trial Attorney, supervising a team of prosecutors and helping oversee more than 1,000 active cases. Born and raised in Pasco County, Stefen grew up in a family dedicated to public service. Watching his father serve the community as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and Circuit Court Judge instilled in him a strong sense of duty, humility, and respect for the law.



MOBILITY ISSUES

- **Q—I am a bit unsteady on my feet and have a hard time walking down the ramp in the Belleair Country Club dining room. It can sometimes be hard to find a seat on the upper level. What can I do?**

A—There's a spot for you at the table to the far left on the upper level near the bar entrance. This table is reserved for those with walkers or canes or anyone who struggles to negotiate the ramp.

- **Q—The stairs at Belleair Country Club can be a challenge for me to manage. Is there an elevator, and, if so, where is it located?**

A—Oh, yes, there is an elevator! If you wish to go up, after walking through the front door of the Country Club, turn left immediately. You will find a the elevator in a small alcove to the left. If you want to go down, when leaving the dining room walk straight past the check-in tables to find the elevator on the far wall of the upper level. And, for either up or down, you can always ask someone to direct you.

PICTURES FROM THE MAY BWRC LUNCHEON



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