



BALLOT BOX

APRIL 2024

BWRC to celebrate 60 years as premier Republican club



It's time to party! Belleair Women's Republican Club will celebrate 60 years as a notable, outstanding, impactful, relevant, and rockin' Republican club at its luncheon meeting on Friday, April 5, at Belleair Country Club, 1 Country Club Lane, Belleaire. This will be a very special birthday party no one should miss!

The club's Ways and Means Committee headed by Corrine Steinhardt and its Hospitality Committee headed by Candace Gardner have planned a totally fabulous event at Belleair Country Club. Everything will be special—special decorations, special menu, special presentations—along with some extra special surprises to commemorate the extra special day.

At the birthday luncheon, BWRC will honor its past as well as its present. One component will be the announcement of the 2024

BWRC Outstanding Member Award recipient, which is always a special moment. The award has been presented every two years since 2016 to a club member who has devoted extraordinary time, talent and devotion to support the club and its mission. Plans are to have as many past award honorees as possible present at the luncheon so they, too, may be honored and on hand to welcome the newest member of the exclusive group.

Past BWRC presidents will also be among those recognized and thanked for their service and their many contributions to keeping the club not just viable but vibrant. Each of the 32 remarkable women who have led BWRC in past years left their mark on the organization and propelled it forward, generating the incredible achievement and impact the club has enjoyed.

Those attending the anniversary celebration are encouraged to wear black, gold or white, which are the colors chosen for the theme of the event. And the more sparkles, the better! Festive cocktail/formal attire and, perhaps, anniversary appropriate embellishments are the order of the day, so don't be afraid to get creative. (Tiaras, anyone?)

Reservations for the 60th birthday luncheon, which will commence at 11:30 am with a social time, are due by March 20. Given the extraordinary nature of the event, reserving early is advised as seating is limited. To make a reservation, mail a check for \$37 made payable to BWRC to the club at P.O. Box 1117, 850 E. Lime Street, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688. Note reservations are required and walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Don't delay and miss the unique opportunity to CELEBRATE THE 60TH!

APRIL MEETING INFORMATION

Friday, April 5

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

Luncheon Fee: \$37

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

**Event begins
at 12 pm**

**To RSVP:
A \$37 check made
payable to BWRC is
due by March 20**

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

(NOTE THIS IS A NEW ADDRESS)

**If paying at the luncheon,
please no \$100 bills.**

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

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

**Reservations required.
Please ,no walk-ins.**

APRIL MENU INFORMATION

Celebration Salad

**Romaine lettuce, candied walnuts,
dried cranberries, feta cheese
w/ balsamic vinaigrette dressing**

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Chicken Marsala & Salmon w/ Lemon Caper Sauce

++++

Broccoli

Asparagus

++++

Rolls & Butter

+++

Birthday Cake

+++

ALTERNATE VEGETARIAN PLATE

**Mushroom Tortellini Salad
w/ broccoli, arugula & fried tofu
& a Thai chili drizzle**

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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

With Belleair Women's Republican Club turning 60, I am struck by the fact that over the decades, the mission of the club has never changed. That mission is to inform and inspire women to actively participate in and support the Republican Party and its candidates. Obviously, the club was founded by some very wise ladies. The times were different, but their vision was clear and far reaching.

So what was it like the year BWRC was born? Well, 1964 was a very busy, interesting year. The musical "Hello Dolly" opened in New York City with rave reviews. The Beatles first album was released in America, and the Fab Four generated rampant Beatlemania when they came to this country and appeared on Ed Sullivan's show. There were both Winter Olympics and Summer Olympics in 1964, the first in Innsbruck, Austria, the second in Tokyo, Japan. The St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series, defeating the Yankees, and the very first Mustang rolled off the Ford assembly line. "Tom Jones" won the Best Picture Oscar and Sidney Poitier became the first African American to be named Best Actor. "Bewitched" was a hot new show on ABC. The World's Fair opened in New York City, and Liz Taylor and Richard Burton got married for the FIRST time.

But 1964 was also a very serious time in America, and when I think about the club's founders I am in awe of the trailblazing they did. At that time women were considered to be more homemakers than movers and shakers. But the country was hurting—JFK had been assassinated just months before the start of 1964, and the War in Viet Nam was ongoing. The country was also beginning to change at an ever increasing rate, as witnessed by the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ending segregation in America—at least on paper. So BWRC's founders decided to take up the Republican cause and try to make a difference. We are both the beneficiaries and the stewards of that brave and daring act, and we owe it to those intrepid women, who became activists when women just didn't do such things, to carry on the torch. I am proud of them, and I am proud of today's members who continue to support the club's never changing mission in a manner that brings nothing but honor to the past, present and future and vital support to the Republican Party, its candidates and its causes.

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

Corresponding
Secretary
Kassy Brewer

Recording Secretary
Carol Abernathy

Historian
Deb Walker

Chaplain
Patricia Wagner

Parliamentarian
Renatta Cochran

In honor of BWRC's 60th birthday... A Look Back

BWRC was organized on April 6, 1964. With the help of attorney Michael Bilirakis (future 12-term U.S. Congressman and father of current U.S. Congressman Gus Bilirakis), it was chartered on April 17, 1964. It is the oldest women's Republican club in Florida.

While she never served as president of BWRC, Mary Grizzle, a resident of Belleair Shores and the first female Republican elected to the Florida Legislature, is credited with founding the club. While serving in the Florida House and then the Florida Senate, Mary was a vigorous and effective advocate for women and children during her 30 years in Tallahassee. After 29 years in office, she became the longest-serving member of the State Legislature and was recognized with a resolution naming her "Dean of the Legislature". Another honor came in 1991 when a new state facility erected in Largo was named the Mary Grizzle State Office Building.

BWRC's purpose has remained the same since its inception: 1—To promote an informed electorate; 2—To increase participation by women in the cause of good government; 3—To provide educational programs about government; 4—To foster loyalty to the Republican Party and promotion of its ideals; 5—To support Republican National Committee objectives and to work for the election of Republican Party nominees. Other things have also remained the same such as the publication of a monthly newsletter, known since its inception as "The Ballot Box". Fashion shows, a Christmas party luncheon with a collection for charity, calls for election worker volunteers, announcements of new members — past newsletters reveal many club activities have continued through the years.

There have, of course, been some changes. Two significant ones took place in 2008. Since the beginning, BWRC had always held its luncheon meetings at the Wine Cellar Restaurant on Gulf Boulevard in Redington Beach. (In 1993, the luncheon cost \$10.) By 2008, however, while BWRC was still vibrant, the restaurant was showing its age and the food, service and décor were sadly lacking. After 44 years of meeting in one place, it was time for a change, and under the leadership of then president Norma Stalions, the BWRC Board voted to make the move to Belleair Country Club, which has been the club's luncheon venue ever since.

Norma and her Board made another very significant move in 2008 when they proposed a bylaw change to allow for men who had been loyal supporters of the club to join BWRC as sustaining members who cannot vote or hold office but can participate as members in club activities and support its initiatives. Once enabled, the first BWRC sustaining member to pay dues and join was Neil Brickfield, a Safety Harbor City Commissioner who went on to be elected as a Pinellas County Commissioner.

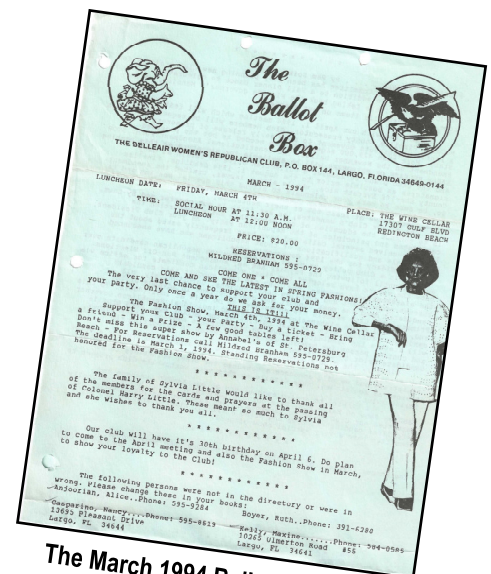
Perhaps the most telling change can be found in the listing of the club's past presidents. Up until 1995, each woman was listed as "Mrs. Husband's Name". Thankfully, Mrs. Mark W. Soike was the last of these with Mildred Branham, president 1995-1997, finally being recognized with her own first name. WE.....AND BWRC..... HAVE COME A LONG WAY! Mary Grizzle would be proud of us!



An early BWRC logo



Mary R. Grizzle



The March 1994 Ballot Box. The luncheon program was a fashion show. Plans for the next luncheon on April 6 were a celebration of the club's 30th birthday.

JOIN US FOR A
CAMPAIGN KICKOFF FUNDRAISER
TO RE-ELECT

SARA MOLLO

— FOR —

PUBLIC DEFENDER



THURSDAY

APRIL
4th

4:00-6:30PM

BASCOM'S
CHOP HOUSE

3665 ULMERTON ROAD
CLEARWATER, FL 33762

HOST COMMITTEE

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative Kim Berfield • Honorable Jay Beyrouti • Honorable Jeff Brandes • Honorable Neil Brickfield • Senator Danny Burgess • Honorable Ken Burke & Cecilia Burke • Representative Linda Chaney • Fire Comm. Mary Ellen Crowder • Senator Nick DiCeglie • Commissioner Dave Eggers • Honorable Housh Ghovae • Sheriff Bob Gualtieri • Senator Ed Hooper & Lee Hooper • Representative Berry Jacques • Commissioner Chris Latvala • Honorable Tommy Minkoff & Elise Minkoff • Honorable Ed Montanari • Honorable Diane Nelson & Ken Nelson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheriff Chris Nocco • Senator Darryl Rouson • Honorable Charles Thomas • Honorable Mike Twitty • Mayor Leslie Waters • Brian Aungst, Jr., Esq. • Mark & Diane Blum • Bjorn Brunvard, Esq. • Carol Bumiller • Deb Buschman • Coleen Chaney • Joshua T. Chilson, Esq. • Frank & Anne Corona • Gerald & Shane Davis, Esq. • Denis deVlaming, Esq. • Rob Eckard, Esq. • Ann Ferrentino • Barb Haselden • Kevin Hayslett, Esq. • Catherine Henry, Esq. • Jay Hebert, Esq. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Holton, Esq. • Todd Jennings, Esq. • Pam McAloon • Frank McDermott, Esq. • Sean McQuaid, Esq. • RJ Meyers • Mike Mikurak • Division Fire Chief Jim Millican • Lee Pearlman, Esq. • Bruce Rector, Esq. • Mari Riba • Mary Rogero • Adam Ross, Esq. • Alan Suskey • Bryan Tunnell • Marcus Eddy & Lori Valentine • Wilna Varley • Deb Walker • Joe & Jo Anne White |
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The maximum contribution allowed under Florida law is \$1,000 per individual or business. Contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Paid for by Sara Mollo, Republican, for Public Defender.



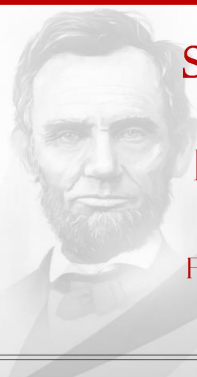
Please email
VoteSaraMollo@gmail.com
to RSVP



Sock it to me!



BWRC WILL OFFER THESE SPECIAL SOCKS FOR \$3 EACH AT THE JEWELRY SALE TABLE AT UPCOMING LUNCHEONS. BE SURE TO GET YOURS! THEY MAKE GREAT GIFTS!



SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL LINCOLN DAY DINNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024



For 2024 Lincoln Day Dinner information and tickets, contact Pinellas GOP at 727-539-6009.

TIME TO PAY 2024 BWRC MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$25.00 annual dues for 2024

Please make your check payable to BWRC

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

CONGRATULATIONS!



MICHAEL WHATLEY
RNC CHAIR



LARA TRUMP
CO-CHAIR

PICTURES FROM THE FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

A wearin' o' the green!

