

SOLIVITA DEMOCRATIC CLUB *Beacon*

November 11th
VETERANS' DAY

NOVEMBER 2021
SolivitaDemocrats.org

Brian Fillette, president — President@SolivitaDemocrats.org

Ellis Moose, editor — Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org

WE SALUTE OUR VETERANS

THURS. NOV. 11

Our next **SDC membership meeting** on **Wednesday, November 10** will feature guest speakers **Lori Edwards** (Polk Co. Supervisor of Elections) with topics to include upcoming elections, voter registration, and vote by mail; and **Lita Epstein** (Poinciana CDD Chair & SDC Member) with topics to include the recent Solivita Club membership fee court ruling, the CFX proposals for Cypress Parkway road developments, and the anticipated HOA transition to resident control. We will also take a moment to honor our current and past military veterans.

Members attending the November 10 meeting will also have **opportunity to vote** for the following SDC Board positions, with 2-year terms to start in January 2022.

- Membership Chair - Kate Kohout** nominated to continue in office
- Secretary - Joan Sprain** nominated
- Campaign/Special Events Chair** - open
- Hospitality Chair** - open

Please contact the Nominating committee (**Bea Motley** motley.barr@verizon.net, **Marilyn Tayler** marilynrtaylor@gmail.com) or any SDC Board member to express your interest or with any questions regarding these positions.

New and renewing SDC members are invited to our **Annual Membership Appreciation event** on **Wednesday, December 8** in the Starlite Ballroom.

Doors open 5:30pm, Dinner served 6:00pm, Meeting begins 7:00pm

On the menu: Salad, Appetizers, Wraps (Turkey, Italian, Vegetarian), Dessert. Door prizes too!

There is no cost to Club members for this event and you will have opportunity to start or renew your membership for 2022 at the discounted rate of **\$12**.

Please **RSVP via email to Kate Kohout** katekohout@yahoo.com no later than **Wednesday, December 1st** to help us manage capacity for this event.

Our Fall event and fundraiser, **SDC Game Day and Wine & Dine gift basket raffle**, concluded on Saturday, October 23. Great fun and food were enjoyed by all in attendance. Thanks to **Deb Wright**, the Game Day event committee, donors, and participants for their hard work, generosity, and support of a successful event!

Your contributions support our Club's operations and activities aimed to help Democratic candidates working to improve the quality of life in our communities.



See Page 2 of this Newsletter for a more complete Game Day recap.

Thank you for all that you do. And HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Brian Fillette

President, Solivita Democratic Club, president@solivitademocrats.org

WED. 7:00PM
NOV. 10th

MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

IN THE BALLROOM
& VIA ZOOM.US

Drop In or
Login at 6:45

Our meeting will be held
In Person and thru Zoom.
The link is listed below.

FEATURING:

LORI EDWARDS
Polk Co. Supervisor of Elections

LITA EPSTEIN
Chair of Solivita CDD Board

PLUS: SDC Board Member Elections

**Come to the Starlite Ballroom
Or Join Our Zoom Meeting:**

Time: **Wed., Nov. 10th at 7:00 PM**

Enter the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81885665595?pwd=YzRwOXZCYiFuRFJFL2RqQUI1NWZFUz09>

Meeting ID: 818 8566 5595

Passcode: 662050

Dial in only: 646 558 8656

Please login prior to start time.

We will begin login at 6:45 pm.



FYI

Solvita Dems Hold the Lead As of latest reported numbers

Pct 411:	9/1/21	10/1/21	+/-
Dems	2417	2419	+2
Rep	2305	2320	+15
Other	86	87	+1
Indep	1670	1671	+1
Total	6,341	6,478	+137

Pct 420:	9/1/21	10/1/21	+/-
Dems	445	441	-4
Rep	325	328	+3
Other	22	23	+1
Indep	247	247	0
Total	1,039	1,039	0

Polk Co.:	9/1/21	10/1/21	+/-
Dems	157,146	157,340	+194
Rep	170,846	171,430	+584
Indep	129,018	130,005	+987
Total	464,964	466,809	+1,845

Florida:	12/31/20	9/1/21*	+/-
Dems	5,315,954	5,131,314	-68,362
Rep	5,218,739	5,107,763	-47,431
Indep	3,799,799	3,790,948	+30,526
Total:	14,565,738	14,279,017	-67,650

* Florida reports numbers quarterly.



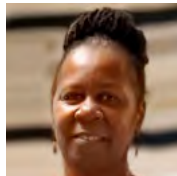
Websites of interest:

POLITICS:

- www.FlaDems.com
- www.FISenate.gov/topics/ppaca
- www.PolkDemocrats.org
- www.PolkElections.com
- www.Democrats.org
- www.ProgressFlorida.org
- www.DemocraticGovernors.org

MEDIA:

- www.BestOfTheLeft.com
- www.NPR.org
- www.Snopes.com
- www.FactCheck.org
- www.PolitiFact.com



SDC Game Day 2021 Recap

By Deb Wright, SDC Member

Thanks to our SDC members and friends who purchased admission and raffle tickets to support this event.

A special thank you to those who gave donations and their time to make this event possible: Amy LaRue, Bea Motley, Brian Fillette, Dorothy Schwartz, Ellis Moose, Geraldine Vaughn, Jerry Roebuck, Kate Kohout, Maryann Wilkey, Rochelle Quinn, Sharon Vaughn, Valerie Williams, and Victoria Taylor-Johnson.

Extra kudos to Valerie Williams for coordinating donations and assembling door prizes and gift baskets; Amy and Roy LaRue for purchasing and preparing lunch; Game Day committee members for their suggestions and feedback; and the SDC Board for their guidance and encouragement.

Please go out of your way to patronize and thank the following businesses for their generous donations:

Donor	Location
Chili's	Champion's Gate
LongHorn Steak House	Champion's Gate
Paulines Unisex Cuts & Styles	3831 Pleasant Hill Rd (Bellalago)
Pazza Luna Restaurant	2932 Pleasant Hill Rd
Queens Nails	363 Cypress Pkwy (Marketplace)
Royal Nails and Spa	2918 Pleasant Hill Rd
Solvita Fitness & Wellness	Solvita
Stonegate Golf Club	Solvita
Solvita Lifestyles	Solvita
Tabu Beauty Salon	375 Cypress Pkwy (Marketplace)



Wine & Dine gift basket (more than \$300 in restaurant gift certificates) winner "Wanda K" and SDC President Brian Fillette at SDC Game Day, October 23. See more photos on page 3.

Game Day Prize Winners:

Prize	Winner
Wine & Dine Gift Basket (more than \$300 in restaurant gift certificates)	Wanda K
Stonegate Golf round for 4	Joan Owens
\$25 Solvita Lifestyles gift certificate	Christine Bolden
Solvita Fitness & Wellness training session #1	Marlene Gloff-Straw
Solvita Fitness & Wellness training session #2	Donna Moose
\$15 Tabu Salon gift certificate	Maryann Wilkey
\$10 Queens Nails gift certificate	Loretta Shanahan
Free Haircut Paulines Unisex Cuts & Styles	Kathy W
Wine & Snack gift basket #1	Donna Mc
Wine & Snack gift basket #2	Patty Whittle
Avon gift basket	Joe W
Bath & Body Works gift basket	Steven Berger
Bottle of wine #1	Dorothy Schwartz
Bottle of wine #2	Pete Straw
Bottle of wine #3	Dolores Berger
Italian Dinner basket	Phyllis S
Blown glass vase & candy	Yvonne Loney

SOLIVITA DEMOCRATIC CLUB *Beacon*

Our 2021 Board Members:

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Debra Wright, Campaign/

Special Events Chair

Deb2Wright@gmail.com

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The Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of each month via ZOOM.

Precinct Captains:

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MariaDLenG145@yahoo.com

586-321-4711

Celeste Williams, Pct. 411

CelestynWilliams1@gmail.com

407-924-1766

Could B You (1 Female, 1 Male),

Pct. 411

Solivita west of Marigold Ave.

José Garcia, Pct. 420

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516-319-4118

Could Be You (2 Female, 1 Male),

Pct. 420

Solivita Bella Viana and

Venezia

Ellis Moose, At Large

Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org

863-852-7294



Our elected representatives need your input

Let them know your positions on issues!

Contact your elected officials and media at:

Sen. Rick Scott (R)
United States Senate
Phone: 202-224-5274

Sen. Marco Rubio (R)
United States Senate
Phone: 202-224-3041

Rep. Darren Soto (D)
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Phone: 202-225-9889

Gov. Ron DeSantis (R)
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State Rep. Sam Killebrew (R)
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State Rep. Fred Hawkins (R)
FL House District 42 Office
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State Sen. Kelli Stargel (R)
Phone: 850-487-5022
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633 N. Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

The Lakeland Ledger
Editorial Dept.
P.O. Box 408
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November is...

✧ **National Native American Heritage Month**, otherwise referred to as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, is recognized in November to honor Native communities in their cultures and traditions while raising awareness about the unique historical and present-day struggles of Indigenous people in the US. November was designated "National Native American Heritage Month," in 1990 by President George H.W. Bush.



✧ **November 1: National Family Literacy Day** is a day on which families are encouraged to get together to read together.

✧ **November 2: Election Day.** While there are no elections for SDC members can vote in, there are many elections throughout Polk County and across the nation.

✧ **November 4: Diwali**, the Hindu, Jain and Sikh five-day festival of lights celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and lightness over darkness.

✧ **November 4: National Men Make Dinner Day** isn't for the average man who makes dinner for his family on a regular or semi-regular basis. Instead, it's a holiday that's designed to encourage men who have never stepped foot in the kitchen to roll up their sleeves and cook for their family. *(How did THIS get in here? -Ed.)*

✧ **November 7: Daylight Saving Time Ends.** Most of the U.S. sets their clocks back one hour at 1:00 a.m. In Florida and Texas, set your clocks back one century!.

✧ **November 8: National Parents as Teachers Day, 2020 déjà vous.**



✧ **November 11: Veterans' Day**, On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, an armistice, or a truce, was formed between Germany and the Allied nations, and the first Armistice Day was celebrated on November 11, 1919 to honor those who served in World War I. After World War II, it became "Veterans Day" to honor all American veterans, wherever and whenever they served. There are approximately 19 million veterans in the US, representing just under 10 percent of the adult population.

✧ **November 15: America Recycles Day** is a nationally-recognized day that celebrates and promotes recycling in the U.S and falls on November 15th. On this day, people are encouraged to spread the word about the benefits of recycling and to practice recycling themselves.

✧ **November 17: National Educational Support Professionals Day.** Why not join the Polk County Democratic Public Education Caucus and help do good for our kids and teachers?

✧ **November 20: National Absurdity Day.** This day gives everyone a great opportunity to recall some of the mad, bonkers, quite frankly absurd stories from life, but also to retell the mad stories of others. History is rich in stories of the bizarre, so why not observe this fun day.

✧ **November 25: Thanksgiving Day.** You know what to do!

✧ **November 28-December 6: Hanukkah**, a Jewish holiday that is celebrated around the world for eight days and nights. Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees, or Israelites, over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus, approximately 2,200 years ago.

Here's What's Goin' On In Florida Politics...

There is a lot of concern about Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo's ability to give advice that isn't partisan.

Embattled new Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo's guidance on public health matters likely would carry little weight with Democratic Sen. Victor Torres and Reps. Anna V. Eskamani and Travaris McCurdy, who slammed his credibility Monday.

The trio of Orlando lawmakers may be a small subset, yet they may reflect a hardening rejection by Democrats of Gov. Ron DeSantis' recent pick for Florida's top public health officer. Ladapo's controversial views on COVID-19 protections preceded him, and now his mask-refusal encounter with Democratic Sen. Tina Polsky last week shocked many lawmakers, including Republicans.

At a news conference Monday about mask policies for school children in Orlando, a question about Ladapo's citation of research suggesting masks don't help drew laughter — and then stinging rebukes of the Surgeon General's and Governor's positions.

Torres, who would be in position to weigh in on Ladapo's confirmation should the Senate consider it next Legislative Session, Eskamani, and McCurdy suggested DeSantis brought Ladapo in from California to sell the Governor's aggressively minimalist COVID-19 policies, not to protect public health.

"Obviously the Surgeon General is under a lot of scrutiny right now," Eskamani said. "This is someone that came into Florida who already had a history of expressing vaccine hesitancy and standing next to some pretty unqualified individuals with rhetoric that was totally misleading since the beginning of the pandemic.

"I think there is a lot of concern of our Surgeon General's questionable track record on these issues and his ability to give advice that isn't partisan," she added. "And so we look toward other sources of information rather than him at this point."

The lawmakers' opinions seemed formed before Ladapo entered Polsky's office without a mask last week, then denied her request to put one on in her presence indoors. Polsky, recently diagnosed with breast cancer, asked him to leave. Senate President Wilton Simpson quickly responded by blasting Ladapo for "unprofessional actions."

"You go to the second floor of the Democratic Caucus in our office you'll see: 'Wear a Mask' — required to speak to any Senator up there," Torres said. "Second of all, the Surgeon General, to me, appeared to be a very, very pro-DeSantis thinking. No masks. No vaccines. This is the problem: You're not a rubber stamp for the Governor. You're not a rubber stamp for anyone but for protection of the community."

Someone in the crowd watching the press conference shouted in Ladapo's defense, noting he's a doctor, and he's from UCLA. McCurdy took that.

"You talk about doctors coming from UCLA? Yeah, we have a Governor who came from Harvard. Hey, he's not making the best decisions for our children," McCurdy said. "Where you went to school, it matters not. And now our Surgeon General is trying to play big bad wolf. He's doing the Governor's bidding. But he's doing it at the expense of our children."

Feds threaten action against state for punishing mask-mandating school districts

Alachua and Broward schools face additional sanctions from the state.

Another shot has gone off in the ongoing battle between federal and state education officials over rules regarding school districts that require mandatory student masks, with the Feds warning of a coming "enforcement action" against the state.

For mandatory mask policies against Gov. Ron DeSantis' wishes, the state Department of Education is planning to reduce state aid to school districts in Alachua and Broward counties in an amount equivalent to federal grants, plus school board members' monthly salaries.

The districts had been awarded federal money — \$421,000 for Broward and \$148,000 for Alachua — after adopting mask policies that defied DeSantis' order. The federal grants were given to make up for the state's original action reducing state aid in an amount equivalent to school board members' salaries.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR CAN MAKE!!!

By Joe Tobin, SDC Member and Beacon Contributor



How quickly the years pass. Looking back, some years are more memorable than others, Some bring new ideas, technologies and products that make life safer, healthier and enjoyable. Some beget cruel or iron-fisted governments that devastate human rights and needs of unfortunate populations. Others trigger natural disasters that so easily can kill or cripple both human and animal populations and destroy an environment permanently scarred.

For starters, the following are a few important years I deliberately chose (such important “inventions” of the steam engine, electricity and the computer have their own histories):

1846. The introduction of ether (replacing nitrous oxide or “laughing gas) eased the pain of countless patients for decades to come. As a certified pain-chicken, I thank Dr. William T. Morton for gliding operating room patients into sweet dreams.

1876. The election results of Rutherford B. Hayes (Rep) and Samuel L. Tilden (Dem) ended in a standstill. The final agreement reached between the two parties stated that Hayes to be the president and federal troops withdrawn from the southern states, thus setting the stage for the Jim Crow laws and culture that thrived for more than a hundred years.



1933. Two big political changes: the inauguration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt as president of the United States and the appointment of Adolf Hitler as chancellor of Germany (enough stated).

1992. Queen Elizabeth adroitly admitted on a radio broadcast that the royal family’s domestic problems caused her a *terribilis annus*. Thankfully, the world learned that queens have bad times but basically who cares today (moral: people can and do forgive and forget at times).

2002. Tom Brady starts his successful role as quarterback for the New England Patriots.

2021. January 6 invasion of the Capitol.

2021. The inauguration of President Biden was off to a good start until ... Will his first year be remembered like the Queen’s *terribilis annus*, or will it deserve a hearty *magnifico*? Only the president’s “batting average” will give the answer (and maybe some voters will forgive or forget).

2022-24

Politically, the next several years will be crucial for the Democratic Party and the nation at large in determining what direction voters will take, as the tea-leaves and current polls and trends seem to indicate: will voters opt for a one-party system or the current constitutional government?

I feel for President Biden as he confronts mind-bobbling problems. In tackling these problems, he needs the goodwill, input and cooperation of lots of diverse sectors of the country, especially Congress and business. If his power were Stalinesque, he could do wonders. Fortunately, this is America. As President Truman stated: “The buck stops here.” Russia, America or China – the reality is that in the political game of “King of the Mountain,” success and strength goes a long way with winning over the populace.

Over the next three years, the Democratic Party has its work cut out for itself. The need to reach out to as many voters as possible with simple, understandable and appealing messaging to all groups is top priority. And let’s hope some new blood comes aboard to represent the Party’s future. It is great to debate issues and to hear various concerns in the sausage making process, but at some point the discussion needs to end and strong, conclusive action is taken – otherwise nothing good will happen.