April 13th SDC membership meeting and upcoming events

Welcome Spring! My favorite season… of flowers, warmth, and renewal!

“Spring will come and so will happiness. Hold on. Life will get warmer.”
-Anita Krizzan

Up next, our April membership meeting. We’re delighted to feature the following guest speakers:

- Monica Readus, President Democratic Women’s Club of FL
- Adam Hattersley, Democratic candidate for Chief Financial Officer of FL

Important Club business will also be on the agenda as we’ll conduct a vote on proposed revisions to the SDC Bylaws to move the annual Club Board of Director elections from November to March. This change will allow your SDC Officers to prioritize and focus our Club activities to support Local, State, and National elections in November this year and in the future. Your attendance and participation are needed to establish a quorum (20% of membership) In-Person and/or on Zoom to conduct this vote.

Click to see the CURRENT SDC Bylaws  Click to see the PROPOSED SDC Bylaws

We will vote on the proposed changes shown at the end of the document. Your YES vote is appreciated!

Also, at the April membership meeting we will be selling final Raffle tickets and drawing a winner for a Hand-made Quilt donated by SDC member Pam Dalsimer.

Please join us for what should be an informative and engaging meeting!

Coming soon, the SDC will be hosting a Voter Rally on Saturday May 21st from 1:00pm – 4:00pm at the Freedom Park Pavilions. We have invited candidates and campaign representatives, as well as current elected officials, to join us at this exciting event. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further details about the Voter Rally in the months ahead!

Wishing you all happiness and warmth this Season.

Brian Fillette, President, Solivita Democratic Club
president@solivitademocrats.org
We are saddened to report that long-time SDC Member Janice Stapleton lost her battle with cancer on April 4

She was a staunch Democrat and our Solivita Democratic Club Member of the Year in 2019. She served as 420 Precinct Committeewoman in 2019-20.

We will notify club members of arrangements for her remembrance as they become available.

Members of SDC are invited to join with members of Seniors for Safe Schools and Communities for Voter Registration Training.

This will take place April 12 at 4 PM at RSF2 which is upstairs at the Solivita Riviera. A representative of the Polk County DEC will do the training via Zoom. This is especially important this year with the changes in registration made by the FL Legislature.

Polk Co.: 9/1/21
Dems 157,146
Rep 170,846
Indep 129,018
Total 464,964

Florida: 12/31/20
Dems 5,315,954
Rep 5,218,739
Indep 3,799,799
Total 14,565,738

* Florida reports numbers quarterly.

Websites of interest:

POLITICS:
www.FlaDems.com
www.Flsenate.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

Paid for by the Solivita Democratic Club

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Not approved by any candidate or candidate's committee
Give Your Club It’s Dues!
By Rochelle Quinn, Treasurer

It’s that time of the year again –

Your annual Club membership fee of $15 provides the majority of the financial resources that our Club needs for voter education, registration drives, civic engagement, and contributions to help elect Democrats in Local, State, and National elections. Club membership benefits include our Monthly “Beacon” newsletter packed with timely and relevant information, and access to our Monthly meetings in the Ballroom and Zoom with engaging informative speakers.

You can start or renew your membership in these ways:

Go to https://solivitademocrats.org/club-membership/ to print the membership form and mail with your check.

Or submit your payment via PayPal at the webpage above (click the Donate button).

Or visit us at the SDC table at the Farmer’s Market on Monday mornings from 9:00am – 11:30am

Or sign up at our next monthly membership meeting, April 13.

Some of your Republican friends may think the world respected the United States more when The Donald was president.
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)
US District 9 Office
804 Bryan Street
Kissimmee, FL 34741
Phone: 202-225-9889

Gov. Ron DeSantis (R)
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
Website: www.flgov.com/

State Rep. Sam Killebrew (R)
FL House District 41 Office:
Phone: 850-717-5041
Email: sam.killebrew@myfloridahouse.gov

State Rep. Fred Hawkins (R)
FL House District 42 Office
Phone: 850-717-5042

State Sen. Kelli Stargel (R)
Phone: 850-487-5022
Email: stargel.kelli@flsenate.gov

MEDIA:
The Orlando Sentinel
Editorial Dept.
633 N. Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

The Lakeland Ledger
Editorial Dept.
P.O. Box 408
Lakeland, FL 33802

SDC Beacon Newsletter
c/o Ellis Moose
217 Sorrento Road
Poinciana, FL 34759-4065
Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org

April is...Keep America Beautiful Month

April 8: National Empanada Day, Day of Silence
April 10: National Hug Your Dog Day, Siblings Day, Farm Animals Day
April 12: International Day of Human Space Flight, National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day, Library Workers Day
April 14: International Moment of Laughter Day, National Gardening Day, Look Up at the Sky Day
April 15: Good Friday, Passover begins at sundown
April 16: Husband Appreciation Day, National Librarian Day
April 17: Easter
April 18: Federal Income Tax Day
April 19: Wear Pajamas to Work Day, Garlic Day
April 20: National Look-Alike Day, Chinese Language Day
April 22: Earth Day, National Jelly Bean Day
April 23: World Book Day, National Picnic Day, Shakespeare Day
April 25: National DNA Day, Telephone Day, World Malaria Day
April 26: Audubon Day, National Pretzel Day
April 27: Babe Ruth Day, National Prime Rib Day, Tell a Story Day
April 28: Workers’ Memorial Day, Stop Food Waste day, National Superhero Day, Blueberry Pie Day
April 29: National Arbor Day, International Dance Day

Also during April we recognize these important weeks of awareness:

National Library Week (April 3-9)
National Wildlife Week (April 5-11)
Animal Care and Control Appreciation Week (April 10-16)
National Volunteer Week (April 17-23)
Every Kid Healthy Week (April 19-23)
National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 26-30)
Much has been speculated about the relationships between the United States and Russia, and between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin. The graphic below explores some of those relationships and the effect they may have on past and current events. Keep in mind that President Biden recently declared to the world that Putin should no longer remain in power, for the destruction he has caused may never be repaired.

**Why Russian/US Relationships Matter**

**Vladimir Putin**, Russia’s three-term president, has presided over Russia’s 17-year reversal to an authoritarian state.

Russia’s second largest state-owned bank, VTB, is under U.S. sanctions. VTB owns 3.8% of Deripaska’s holding company EN+ Group.

**Andrew Ingraham** is Vekselberg’s American cousin and chief executive of Columbus Nova, the U.S. investment arm of Renova Group.

Ingraham had no significant donor history prior to the 2016 elections. He contributed $250,000 to Trump’s Inaugural Committee in June, he donated $35,000 to the Trump Victory Fund, $29,500 to the Republican National Committee and $27,000 to the Donald J. Trump for President Campaign. FEC records list his employer as Russian US Management LLC.

**Columbus Nova**

The U.S-based investment arm of Vekselberg’s Russian conglomerate, Renova Group.

**Russian-American** chief executive of PAC, John Alexander Shustorovich contributed $100,000 to Trump’s Inaugural Committee. But his $250,000 gift to the Republican National Committee in support of the George W. Bush campaign in 2000 was rejected because of his ties to the Russian government.

John McCain


Lindsey Graham

Blavatnik contributed $800,000 to the Security & Strength PAC, associated with Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., via Access Industries.

Scott Walker

Blavatnik contributed $11 million to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker’s Lieutenant Governor PAC via Access Industries.

**Marco Rubio**

Blavatnik contributed a total of $1.5 million to PACs associated with Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida. He contributed $1.25 million to Rubio’s Conservative Leadership PAC in the name of Access Industries, and another $1 million in the name of Al-Alte Holdings during the 2011/2014 election season. And as of September 2017, he had contributed another $1 million this year through Al-Alte.

**Scott Walker**

Blavatnik contributed $11 million to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker’s Lieutenant Governor PAC via Access Industries.

**Steve Mnuchin**

Trump’s campaign finance chairman, owned Hollywood finance company, RallyPac, here with Len Blavatnik until he sold his stake to become Secretary of the Treasury.

**Dmitry Rybolovlev**

Russia’s new “hermit king,” owns 33 percent stake in the Bank of Cyprus. He purchased Trump’s mega mansion in Palm Beach for $95 million.

**Yuri Milner**

Invested $500 million of his personal funds into a real estate development project in Cadiz, Spain, which Jared Kushner co-owns with his brother. Kushner failed to disclose his association with Cadiz when he plotted the Trump White House.

**Paul Manafort**

Offered to give Oleg Deripaska private briefings on the 2016 campaign. Just two weeks before Trump accepted the Republican nomination for president while Manafort was serving as Trump’s campaign manager.

**Hitch McConnell**

Blavatnik contributed a total of $3.5 million to a PAC associated with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Another $1.5 million in the name of Access Industries and another $1 million in the name of Al-Alte Holdings during the 2011/2014 election season. And as of September 2017, he had contributed another $1 million this year through Al-Alte.

**UralSib**

Russia’s largest aluminum company, in the world, based in Russia.

Three billionaires, with ties to the Russian government, control 69 percent of UralSib.

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Solivita Democratic Club is Proud to Present

VOTER RALLY

Featuring

Rep. Darren Soto,
Member of the U.S.
House of Representa-
tives, Florida’s District 9

Candidate
Adam Hattersley,
For Florida
Chief Financial Officer

Incumbent
Sarah Fortney,
Polk County District 3
School Board Member
For Re-election

Polk Supervisor
of Elections,
Lori Edwards,
Supervisor of Elections,

PLUS! Invited Statewide & Polk County School Board Candidates,
& Representatives of Polk County Democratic Caucuses
Speakers subject to change.

Register to vote — Apply to vote by mail.

Meet Your Candidates for Florida’s Future!

Saturday, May 21st
Solivita Freedom Park Pavilions
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

For More Information, email:
Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org & visit our Website: SolivitaDemocrats.org

All Solivita residents are invited to attend!
Paid for by the Solivita Democratic Club and not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee.
New Florida Districts Announced (but are not official yet)

Shown above is the proposed NEW Florida House District 48 that will contain all of Solivita. No longer will Precinct 411 and 420 have different representatives in the Florida House.

Here is the proposed NEW Florida Senate District 12 that will contain all of Solivita. We will have a new state senator as Kelli Stargel is term-limited.

The 2022 redistricting process. Fair? I think not | Opinion

By Cecile M. Scoon

While the passed congressional maps’ constitutionality has yet to be determined, it is the League of Women Voters’ belief that the legislature and governor could have done more to draw lines that provided additional opportunities for Black and Hispanic voters to elect representatives of their choice to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Despite the legislature’s efforts, the governor has vowed to veto the legislatively approved work product. This leaves districts, candidates, Supervisors of Elections, and voters in limbo with no clear path towards a viable compromise or overall solution.

This move to unduly influence a fair redistricting process, matched with the recent passage of laws that make voting more difficult, contributes to what amounts to a chipping away of the democracy we all cherish and need.
**Our 2022 Board Members:**

**Brian Fillette, President**  
President@SolivitaDemocrats.org  
704-641-2978

**Ellis Moose, Vice President/Beacon Editor/Webmaster**  
Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org  
863-852-7294

**Rochelle Quinn, Treasurer**  
RQuinn777@gmail.com  
863-496-5313

**Joan Sprain, Secretary**  
Joan.Sprain@AOL.com  
651-261-9166

**Celeste Williams, Campaign/Special Events Chair**  
CelestynreWilliams1@gmail.com  
407-924-1766

**Kate Kohout, Membership Chair**  
KateKohout@yahoo.com  
863-496-0481

**Kay Oubre, Ways and Means Chair**  
Oubre95@gmail.com  
863-496-5350

**Dorothy Schwartz, Publicity Chair**  
SchwartzAPN@aol.com  
732-207-3358

**José Garcia, Pct. 420**  
TopCop2070@gmail.com  
516-319-4118

**MariaDLenG145@yahoo.com**  
Leonard Guminski, Pct. 411  
Precinct Captains:  
704-641-2978

**Venezia Solivita Bella Viana and Maria D’Len G145**

**AMHarris12@att.net**  
Alan Harris, Pct. 411

**TopCop2070@gmail.com**  
407-718-2525

**TopCop2070@gmail.com**  
Solivita west of Marigold Ave.

**José Garcia, Pct. 420**  
TopCop2070@gmail.com  
516-319-4118

**Could Be You (2 Female, 1 Male), Pct. 420**

**Ellis Moose, At Large**  
Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org  
863-852-7294

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**...More of What’s Goin’ on in Florida Politics**

Every Floridian, no matter our background, where we come from, or who we love, deserves the freedom to know that with hard work, we can provide a good life for our family. But this session, Governor Ron DeSantis and his Republican allies in the legislature tried to divide us by putting their own political ambitions and corporate donors ahead of what’s best for the people they were elected to serve.

While Republicans want to make our personal medical decisions for us, police who we love and what we learn, and attack people striving for a better future, we are focused on the real issues facing the people of our state like lowering the cost of housing and health care, increasing wages, fighting for equal rights for everyone, and ensuring we all have the freedom to live our own American Dream.

**Anti-Solar Freedom**

What happened: Florida Republicans passed HB 741, legislation that was drafted by Florida Power and Light that will severely limit the expansion of rooftop solar in the state. This bill will also threaten thousands of good-paying jobs and destroy small businesses, while limiting Florida’s ability to transition to a clean energy future.

- **Anti-Freedom:** Governor Ron DeSantis and Republicans like to say Florida is the freest state in the nation, but they are working hand-in-hand with one of their largest corporate donors to kill the rooftop solar industry. Nothing could be more anti-freedom than taking away Floridians’ ability to choose to install solar panels and lower their utility bills.

- **Anti-Small Business:** If Republicans and the utility industry get their way, they will not only take away your freedom to choose the energy solution you want, but they will crush the rooftop solar installation industry. This anti-small business attack on rooftop solar will kill thousands of jobs and destroy the livelihoods of hardworking Floridians.

- **Anti-Environment:** Rooftop solar creates clean, renewable energy that can power our homes and help to protect our environment for generations to come. But Republicans and the utility industry want to keep our state dependent on dirty fossil fuels that intensify our climate crisis and harm Floridians’ quality of life. We should have the freedom to move to a clean energy future without the interference of politicians and corporate donors.

**Anti-Voter Freedom Act**

What happened: Florida Republicans passed SB 524, legislation which creates a first-in-the-nation Election Police Force, changes the name of drop boxes to “secure ballot intake stations,” increases the penalties for third party voter registration fines from $1,000 to $50,000, and creates a feasibility study for new Vote By Mail ballot ID requirements for the 2024 election. It also makes a number of other technical changes.

- **Standard:** Following the 2020 election, Governor Ron DeSantis touted Florida’s smooth election process and Republican legislators called our state the “gold standard” nationwide. While we can all agree on the importance of election security, the anti-voter Freedom Act is a solution in search of a problem and a waste of taxpayers’ money. Floridians deserve free and fair elections, not deliberate barriers to the ballot box.

- **Unnecessary:** The anti-voter Freedom Act is an unnecessary and costly attack on our freedom to vote. At a time when Floridians are facing skyrocketing housing costs, lack of access to health care, and stagnant wages, our tax dollars should be spent on things that actually improve the lives of our fellow citizens. The last thing we need is another law that makes voting more difficult and does nothing to address the real issues our state is facing.

- **Ambition:** The anti-voter Freedom Act does nothing to improve the lives of Floridians and is only about playing to the far right presidential primary voters in Iowa and New Hampshire that Governor DeSantis actually cares about. Floridians deserve free and fair elections, not more campaign stunts.