Major events in May with the Solivita Democratic Club!

At our next membership meeting on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00pm in the Ballroom and on Zoom, we’ll welcome Lita Epstein to inform us about the latest happenings with the Southport Connector Expressway Project, and alternative route proposals being developed and promoted by concerned residents of Solivita.

Lita will be joined by SCAR committee representatives to help dive into the details of these important activities with potential great impact to our community.

To learn more about the Southport Connector Project and Southport Connector Alternative Routes you may refer to the following resources:

PD&E Study: Southport Connector Expressway | Central Florida Expressway Authority (cfxway.com)

Southport Connector Alternative Routes - SCAR (Nextdoor.com)

And... Mark your calendars for our BIG EVENT! Your SDC VOTER RALLY on Saturday, May 21 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Freedom Park Pavilions!

As seen in the May Reflections flyer insert and community events article, you’ll meet and hear from 17 Democratic and Non-Partisan 2022 election candidates and campaign representatives, Democratic Party leaders, and current elected officials. (See our flyer next page.)

You’ll also have the opportunity to register to vote and apply to vote by mail with representatives from Lori Edwards’ Polk County Supervisor of Elections office. And enjoy free food, beverages, and music. Please join us at this exciting and informative event!

Thanks for all that you do, and most of all, thank you for being who you are.

Brian Fillette, President, Solivita Democratic Club
president@solivitademocrats.org
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

Paid for by the Solivita Democratic Club and not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee.
**FYI**

**Solivita Dems Hold the Lead**

As of latest reported numbers

**Pct 411: 9/1/21 4/1/22 +/-**
- Dems: 2417
- Rep: 2305
- Other: 86
- Indep: 1670
- Total: 6,341

**Pct 420: 9/1/21 4/1/22 +/-**
- Dems: 445
- Rep: 325
- Other: 22
- Indep: 247
- Total: 1,039

**Polk Co.: 9/1/21 3/1/22 +/-**
- Dems: 157,146
- Rep: 170,846
- Indep: 129,018
- Total: 464,964

**Florida: 12/31/20 4/1/22 +/-**
- Dems: 5,315,954
- Rep: 5,218,739
- Indep: 3,799,799
- Total: 14,565,738

*Florida reports numbers quarterly.

**Concerned About Book Bans? Plan to Attend the May 10th Polk Co. School Board Meeting**

By Joan Sprain, SDC Secretary

On Tuesday May 10 at 5:00 p.m. at the Jim Miles Professional Development Center, 4270 Wallace Rd., Lakeland, FL 33812, Polk Co. School Superintendent Heid will share the review panel findings of the 16 books under review by parents, teachers, students and child development experts. The Board will then vote whether or not to ban the book(s). Contact Joan Sprain, see below, if you would like to attend the meeting.

This is the result of the group, County Citizens Defending Freedom USA, filing a complaint to the District identifying the following books that could violate two state laws on harmful material and obscenity. In their complaint they focus on age appropriateness of the books. In response, Superintendent Heid pulled the books from school libraries and launched a review.

The books in question include the story of one family’s trauma from physical and sexual abuse as slaves. Other novels tackle LGBTQ+ issues or suicide. The 16 books include:

- “Two Boys Kissing” by David Levithan
- “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini
- “Thirteen Reasons Why” by Jay Asher
- “The Vincent Boys” by Abbi Glens
- “It’s Perfectly Normal” by Robie Harris
- “Real Live Boyfriends” by E. Lockhart
- “George” by Alex Gino
- “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” by Jonathan Safran Foer
- “I am Jazz” by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings
- “Drama” by Raina Telgemeier
- “Nineteen Minutes” by Jodi Picoult
- “More Happy Than Not” by Adam Silvera
- “Beloved” by Toni Morrison
- “The Bluest Eyes” by Toni Morrison
- “Trips” by Ellen Hopkins
- “Almost Perfect” by Brian Katcher

It is possible to speak before the Board by signing up during the half hour before the meeting starts. Several Seniors for Safe Schools members (also SDC members) spoke at the March 8th meeting on this topic and Critical Race Theory.

Although we normally wear blue to events like this, the leader of the Polk Parents for Education group asked participants to wear red. Red represents support for education in Polk Co. For more information, contact Joan Sprain, Joan.Sprain@aol.com, 651-261-9166

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**POLK COUNTY DEMOCRATS**

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**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

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Generous SDC donors made this effort possible — THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Polk County Democratic Party, in collaboration with the SDC, will launch the “Victory Sign” digital billboard on US Highway 27 across from the Tax Collector’s Office in Davenport, starting from Monday, October 3, 2022 through the November election.

Several messages designed to appeal to both Democratic and NPA voters will be rotated throughout the billboard campaign. See a mock-up example of one of the messages shown here, courtesy of Ellis Moose.

Thanks to all who supported this project! We can’t wait to see it in action this Fall!!
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 and 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, May 11.

The Florida Democratic Party is excited to share that our annual Leadership Blue Weekend has been scheduled for Friday, July 15 to Sunday, July 17 at the JW Marriott on Water Street in Tampa!

To see the latest updates and information on this year’s Leadership Blue weekend, visit leadershipblue.com. We hope you will save the date and join us for a weekend in support of the FDP and Florida’s Democratic candidates!

Thanks to the suggestion by SDC Secretary Joan Sprain, the Board approved the production of these window cling decals to promote our club on golf carts, car and home windows. Be sure to pick up your FREE decal at our next meeting!
Almost a month ago, the newscasts were ablaze when Senator Mallory McMorrow, a young Democratic state senator from Michigan, gave an out-of-the-bleachers, home-run speech in the Michigan senate chambers, answering the smears and accusations delivered by a female GOP senator across the aisle.

I suspect Democrats who heard that speech strongly applauded her as she displayed both her convictions and oratorical skills to the nation. She is also a reminder to Florida Democrats that it is never too late to start the ball rolling and go on the offensive against the cultural-value issues and creeping growth towards a fascist state that Governor DeSantis appears to be heading. It’s time for the cannons to roar and shake the state out of its paralysis. The elections of 2022 are going to be ever so important and required Democrats to stand up and present strong messaging that sounds the alarms.

I also believe that Democrats can learn much from President Zalensky. To most Americans, he had little name recognition before the Russian invasion. But they do now! He is a master of telecommunication, exhibiting a positive and inspiring touch while leaving no doubt what he wants. His message is simple — we need arms and need them fast — while remaining cool under the most hellish conditions. He doesn’t “hem and haw” or wear out six pairs of pants coming to a decision. The people of Ukraine also communicate through their persistence, loyalty and focus.

Century after century, military conquests have taken place. The existence of warfare and totalitarian governments have led to the destruction of cities and the loss of limbs and lives for countless men, women and children on all sides of wars. But wars just don’t start. But they do have seeds and germinate over a period of time. Propaganda and force start to spread among the populace, spread by small groups of men and women. Then, somebody steps in as a “leader of the people” and then sets off a movement that leads to a “descent into hell.” The planet has its share of bad people!

While I can only speak for myself, I feel strongly that certain segments of the American population are up to “no-good” for the future of this country and are doing a pretty good job of preparing for their future political leadership by capturing the three branches of state governments as well as local offices across the nation. These organized groups definitely are masters of propaganda and lies, and President Trump has never been lost for words since he came down the staircase in 2015. He certainly had presence on the airwaves.

Sometimes I get in trouble when I say Democrats should pay more attention to the messaging on the other side of the aisle. Often I tune into the morning C-SPAN’s “topic-of-the-day” so I can get a feel of what people are thinking and saying across America. While we cannot always figure out some of the reasoning by some callers-in, we can at least pick up clues to communicate better and what buttons turn people on and off. Most voters want strong, truthful and smart leaders and, after that, opinions are up for grabs. Personality also ranks as a plus.

Since I cannot predict what is going to happen tomorrow morning or next weekend, I cannot predict the outcome of 2022 — anything can happen between now and then. But I can predict with some certainty that Democrats need to look to the future pretty quickly and start building up candidates and strong messaging that the people of Florida need to address real problems, such as high rents, clogged roads, violence and strong schools, and start heading off any further crazy laws from Tallahassee. Again, we need a presence in Florida. Currently only one of the seven top state executives is a Democrat. We will meet many of the Democratic hopefuls at our May 21st Voter Rally. Don’t miss it!

I just finished an excellent history of the Republican Party and ordered a new book on Democratic Party history. Both parties have had their days on top of the hill and in other periods they have been down in the valleys. Times change and so do political parties. If they don’t change, they die or become obsolete (remember the Whigs?). If times are tough now for Democrats, it may not be so in the future. All any of us can do is develop the talents we have and give some time to worthy causes. Who knows how many Senator McMorrors and President Zalenskys will be representing the voters in Florida’s governmental bodies, standing tall, strong and out-spoken. These leaders are our future hope!
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

May is...Keep America Beautiful Month

Wednesday, May 4
Kent State Shootings Remembrance, Yom Ha’atzmaut

Thursday, May 5
Cinco de Mayo, African World Heritage Day

Friday, May 6
National Nurses Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Saturday, May 7
Kentucky Derby

Sunday, May 8
Mother’s Day, Victory in Europe Day, World Red Cross Day

Monday, May 9
National Women’s Checkup Day

Tuesday, May 10
World Lupus Day, National Clean Your Room Day

Wednesday, May 11
National Eat What You Want Day

Thursday, May 12
National Fibromyalgia Awareness Day

Sunday, May 15
Peace Officers Memorial Day, International Day of Families

Monday, May 16
National Day of Living Together in Peace, National Love a Tree Day, Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day

Wednesday, May 18
National HIV Vaccine Awareness Day

Thursday, May 19
National Barber Mental Health Awareness Day

Friday, May 20
National Rescue Dog Day, National Endangered Species Day

Saturday, May 21
SOLIVITA DEMOCRATIC CLUB VOTER RALLY!
National Armed Forces Day,
Preakness Stakes
World Day for Cultural Diversity,
National American Red Cross Founder’s Day,
World Whisky Day

Sunday, May 22
International Day for Biological Diversity, National Maritime Day, National Buy A Musical Instrument Day

Wednesday, May 25
National Wine Day, National Missing Children’s Day
Emergency Medical Services for Children Day, National Senior Health and Fitness Day

Thursday, May 26
National Sorry Day (Republicans hate this day!)

Friday, May 27
National Sunscreen Day, National Heat Awareness Day

Saturday, May 28
World Blood Cancer Day

Sunday, May 29
Learn About Composting Day, International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, Indianapolis 500

Monday, May 30
Memorial Day, World Multiple Sclerosis Day, Loomis Day

Tuesday, May 31
National Smile Day, National Save Your Hearing Day, Necrotizing Fasciitis Awareness Day,
and finally —
National Speak in Complete Sentences Day!
Where you get your information makes a difference

The Media Bias Chart®
Version 9.0 January 2022 Edition – Combined Web, Podcast, and TV

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adfontesmedia.com

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