

SOLIVITA DEMOCRATIC CLUB *Beacon*

FLAG DAY
JUNE 14

JUNE 2022
SolivitaDemocrats.org

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Our Voter Rally on Saturday, May 21, drew a large crowd of Solivitans who heard more than 20 candidates and Democratic leaders address the needs of our county and state. Shown above is Karen Welzel sharing insights on Polk Caucuses and the newly formed Florida Democratic Public Education Caucus.



Pres. Brian Fillette

Voter Rally Recap!

We had a great turnout at our Voter Rally on Saturday, May 21. The Freedom Park Pavilions were filled for most of the warm but thankfully rain-free afternoon. We had more than 20 guest speakers – Democratic and Non-Partisan Candidates, Campaign Representatives, Democratic Party Leaders, and current Elected Officials.

And we were pleasantly surprised to have our Congressman Darren Soto join and remind us of just a few of the good things that President Biden and the Democratic majority in Congress have achieved this term. No thanks to the Party of NO!

There were so many who helped make this event successful. As you can imagine, months of planning and preparation took place prior to the day of the event.

A BIG thank you to our Club Vice President Ellis Moose who invited and managed communications with all the guest speakers, built the event checklist and schedule, created the advertisements, and on and on.

Thanks to Celeste Williams who coordinated facilities, furniture and equipment with Lifestyles. Thanks to our team who purchased, stored, cooked, and served food and beverages for Club members and guests alike. The team led by Diane Jorio included Dave Jorio, Audrey Paisley, Bob Bauman, Amy LaRue, Roy LaRue, Valerie Williams, Don Demers, Marcia Demers, and Rochelle Quinn.

Thanks to Joan Sprain, Bea Motley, and Debby Randall for staffing the Membership table to register new and renewing members, sell merchandise, and hand out Club logo window clings to members. Remember to pick-up your window cling if you haven't already and show your Democratic Pride!

At our next membership meeting on Wednesday, June 8 at 7:00pm in the Ballroom and on Zoom we'll welcome Catherine Price, Polk DEC Chair. Catherine will be speaking with us In-Person on strategic topics such as the importance of registering voters, and messaging for Non-Partisan voters. Please join us and give Catherine a warm Solivita welcome!

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



WED. JUNE 8TH
7:00PM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

IN THE BALLROOM
AND ON ZOOM

Doors Open at 6:30PM
Meeting at 7:00PM

Our featured speaker will be



Catherine Price

Chair, Polk County Democrats



Sunday, June 19

Scenes from our Voter Rally at Freedom Park on May 21st



SDC President Brian Fillette welcomed the large crowd of engaged voters.



Rep. Darren Soto and Polk Co. Committeeman Alan Harris were on hand to support our event.



Past SDC president Bea Motley greeted Adam Hattersley, candidate for FL CFO.



Candidate for FL Governor Cadance Daniel presented her credentials for the office.



Polk Co. Supervisor of Elections Lori Edwards delivered facts on registration and elections.



Candidate Ivan Graham shared his unique qualifications to be Florida's next governor.



Incumbent and Candidate for Polk Co. School Board, Sarah Fortney shared her insights.



Jim Lewis, candidate for FL Attorney General, was the lead-off speaker at our rally



Candidate for FL Attorney General, Aramis Ayala lit a fire in the crowd with her speech.



SDC member and newly elected Polk Co. State Committeeman Alan Harris listens intently.



Event Co-chair Celeste Williams (back, right) worked diligently to put on a successful rally.



Candidate and incumbent School Board member Lisa Miller requested our support.

More Scenes from our Voter Rally at Freedom Park on May 21st



Alexander "Lundy" Lundmark delivered a unique impression of the FL governorship.



Ryan Morales presented his qualifications to be our next Commissioner of Agriculture.



School Board candidate for reelection Kay Fields was represented by Pablo Sologaistoa.



Rep. Darren Soto relayed all of the benefits the Biden administration has already deliv-



Under the current Congressional District Map, Rep. Soto will continue to represent Solivita.



SDC members Dorothy Schwartz and Pam Muller were among the attentive audience.



Candidate for US Senate Josh Weil gave many strong reasons for his consideration.



Polk DEC leader and member of the FL Democratic Public Education Caucus Karen Welzel.



Candidate for FL Governor Robert Willis gave a fiery plea for his candidacy.



Ty Javellana, candidate for FL CFO, presented his financial experience for that important job.



Democrats enjoy a big tent. Even this "Blue Dog Democrat" was on hand at our rally!



As proven by Aramis Ayala's daughter, the future of the Democratic Party is looking good!



Solivita Dems Hold the Lead As of latest reported numbers

Pct 411:	9/1/21	5/1/22	+/-
Dems	2417	2513	+96
Rep	2305	2410	+105
Other	86	93	+7
Indep	1670	1640	-30
Total	6,341	6,656	+315

Pct 420:	9/1/21	5/1/22	+/-
Dems	445	445	0
Rep	325	337	+12
Other	22	23	+1
Indep	247	242	-5
Total	1,039	1,047	+8

Polk Co.:	9/1/21	5/1/22	+/-
Dems	157,146	154,483	-2,663
Rep	170,846	173,172	+2,326
Indep	129,018	129,844	+826
Total	464,964	465,889	+925

Florida:	12/31/20	4/30/22*	+/-
Dems	5,315,954	5,007,590	-308,364
Rep	5,218,739	5,142,002	-76,737
Indep	3,799,799	3,872,352	+72,553
Total:	14,565,738	14,278,164	-287,574

* 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

Solivitans Concerned About Book Bans Attended the Latest Polk County School Board Meeting

Four Solivitans went to the school board meeting on May 10th: Joan Sprain, Kate Kohout, Georgette Haydu and Dorothy Schwartz. Joan and Dorothy both spoke in the comments section, and their comments were applauded. They wore red, which is the color they ask those on our side to wear. There were many people in red, perhaps more than the "book banners."

Here are Dorothy's comments:

My name is Dorothy Schwartz and I live in Poinciana.

I am addressing the issue around Critical Race Theory. CRT defined is simply a movement of scholars who seek to examine the intersection of race, society and law in the US. The studies are on a graduate school level, and since racial bias in laws is studied, it is a conceptual study in law schools. To my knowledge, CRT has never ever been a part of the curriculum in Kindergarten through grade 12 in Polk County schools. Unfortunately CRT has been misconstrued as anything that teaches about social and racial justice. I would hope that all parents want their children to learn history as it actually happened. This would include age adjusted learning about the history of slavery, Reconstruction and Jim Crow, as well as Civil Rights activism.

I am 78. In the late 1960s, when I was in my 20s, I began to learn what I had unfortunately not learned before. I learned about the influence of racist ideology on our institutions and on my own thinking. I am white. Did this learning lower my self-esteem? No. Did this learning cause me to feel guilt? No. What it did was make me much more sensitive to the social/racial situation in our country, and to elements of my own behavior which needed examination. I have continued learning about institutional racism ever since that time, and rather than feeling bad about myself, I feel good that I can be open to these learnings, and as a result help in the work toward resolution of these issues. In fact, that is why it is important to me to speak here tonight.

Did you know that school board elections will be held on the same day as party primaries, on August 23? It is important to get your left-leaning, no party affiliated (NPA) contacts to cast ballots to support school board candidates who will truly serve in the best interest of our students and schools.

Why Polk County School Board Member Elections Are So Important This Year

While the school board election is nonpartisan, the Polk County Democratic Party is encouraging support for candidates challenging the CCDF candidates and we believe will work in the true interest of all Polk County students, their parents, and district staff.

The candidates are Sarah Fortney, Sara Jones, Kay Fields, and Del Quary, in their respective district races. You can vote for all these candidates regardless of where you live in Polk county.

The ultra-right group CCDF (County Citizens Defending Freedom) has taken root in Polk County to build a political base with a feigned interest in parental rights and protection of students. CCDF launched a coordinated effort to ban books in districts across the nation, including Polk County. The books mostly address racial and LGBTI+ issues for young people. CCDF members falsely allege the material is inappropriate for students.

The campaign was unsuccessful but has caused division in the community and angst among vulnerable students. Local CCDF members have threatened to continue to push their far-right agenda, including fielding candidates in each of the four Polk School Board seats up for election. Voters can vote for the candidates running in all districts.

STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

By Joe Tobin, SDC Member and Beacon Contributor

When it comes time to write a column, my brain batteries sometimes enters the code red stage. In desperation then ask myself two questions: "What really p---es me off?" and "Is anything good happening?" Fortunately my superego generally comes to my rescue, gives me a kick in the pants and sits me before my Word Perfect screen. In baseball terms, my dutiful super-id tells me, "Tobin, start walking to the plate! It's batting time."



For decades baseball lovers sitting in the stand breathe in a sense of excitement when their favorite players step up to the plate and smack one out of the park, especially when there are three players ready to slide home. In a certain sense, the game of baseball (or any other sport) reflects the game of life. If nobody steps up to the plate, nothing happens. If team members do not work together for the greater good, nothing happens. If fans do not support their teams, then the teams can so quickly sink into oblivion.

For a viable and thriving society, healthy leadership is a number-one necessity because too many people like to sit comfortably in the stands, munching on the stadium goodies and watching the games played. Putting cynicism aside, it is amazing how many men and women spring into action when misfortune strikes individuals or communities – bringing out the best of people.

On May 21st, the Solivita Democratic Club hosted a number of candidates running for county, state and federal offices and turned out to be a great opportunity for members to meet and assess the proposals of candidates and especially to see them as human beings. Once the day was over and all the candidates and members had left the parking area, the names and faces of the candidates may have already been forgotten. Let's hope not!

Flash back to the year 2004 when I was president of the club. Since it was an national election year, I met a number of candidates and learned first-hand what it takes to run for office. There were three candidates I especially remember to this day: a well-known and experienced woman running for country commissioner; a young man running for Congress; and a retired engineer running for state representative.

From these campaigners I picked up what it takes to run a campaign — paying bills for supplies and gas, learning policy positions, taking the bumps and bruises, and above all, getting name recognition and selling themselves to the public as if they were products to be picked off the shelves of Publix, Wal-Mart or Amazon. All three candidates were good people and cared about the community.

I know from my emails that half the candidates in the United States need money and raising it is a tough task. One idea that crossed my mind while I was listening to the candidates last month was: why not adopt at least one candidate and contribute to that candidate? Not to brag, but since I thought my idea was a good one, I decided I needed to step up to the plate and make a contribution to that candidate and also follow his campaign trail over the next few months.

Let's hope we can actively support our candidates as they compete over the summer and fall months. Now they are in the batting order. We as fans need to step up to the plate and work for their success — **NOW**.

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

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The Lakeland Ledger
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JUNE is... LGBT Pride Month

LGBT Pride Month: commemorates the Stonewall Riots and seeks to recognize the impact LGBT people have had around the world

Caribbean American Heritage Month: recognizes the significance of Caribbean culture and history in the U.S.

JUNE 2 – Indian Citizenship Act of 1924: granted the right of citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S. However, the right to vote was not granted until 1957

JUNE 6 – D-Day. WWII, Normandy 1944.

JUNE 11 – March for Our Lives from 11 AM to 2 PM at Lake Eola in Orlando

JUNE 12 – Loving Day Freedom Day: anniversary of a historic court decision for interracial marriage

JUNE 12 – Puerto Rican Day Parade: largest demonstration of cultural pride in the United States. It promotes prominent, historical figures and seeks to raise awareness of critical issues in the community

JUNE 14 - Flag Day



JUNE 19 – Juneteenth Freedom Day: marks the anniversary of when African Americans first learned of the Emancipation Proclamation. It was more than two years after it was initially issued

JUNE 19 – Fathers’ Day.

JUNE 21 - First Day of Summer

JUNE 27 – Birthday of Helen Keller: while known as being both blind and deaf, Keller was one of the 20th century’s leading humanitarians and co-founder of the ACLU



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

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What's Goin' on in Florida and US Politics...



By Dorothy Schwartz, SDC Member and Publicity Chair

As you know, we have witnessed two horrific acts of gun violence. One targeted our peers in age who are Black. The other one targeted peers of our grandchildren. If you're like me, seeing and hearing about these rampages lead to sleepless nights and feelings of helplessness. The people who say hands off their guns like to say a good guy with a gun is the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun. Well, the good guy with a gun in Buffalo is dead. The good guys with guns in Uvalde were immobilized, for who knows what reason.

There are rallies across the country on June 11 planned by **March for our Lives**. The largest will be in DC. There is a march **in Orlando Saturday, June 11, from 11 AM to 2 PM at Lake Eola.**

I am going, and so far 11 others are planning to join me. Please let me know of your interest.

If you are up north, I'd love to hear about plans in your location. You can post on SWANS page on Facebook.

IF GUNS WERE AS REGULATED AS CARS

	
Title and Tag at Each Point of Sale	Title and Tag at Each Point of Sale
Driver Training	Gun Training
Written Test	Written Test
Practical Test	Practical Test
Health Requirements	Health Requirements
Liability Insurance on Each Vehicle	Liability Insurance on Each Gun
Renewals and Inspections at Intervals	Renewals and Inspections at Intervals

Occupy* Posters : awsposters.tumblr.com

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.

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!