

Brian Fillette, president — President@SolivitaDemocrats.org

Ellis Moose, editor — Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org

President's Letter

More ways to make a difference...

It's June and Summer is upon us. With warmer and lazier days ahead, now is a great time to participate in an important 2024 Florida ballot initiative intended to restore women's abortion rights, and you can do so easily from the comfort of your home. This ballot initiative titled "**Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion**" seeks to overturn the 6-week abortion ban recently passed by the Republican supermajority Florida legislature and Governor. Abortion rights ballot initiatives were successful in other states in the 2022 election cycle — even red states like Kansas, Kentucky, and Montana. When voters decide, freedom wins!



Pres. Brian Fillette

Amendment summary:

No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion.

To participate in this initiative download the petition from <https://floridiansprotectingfreedom.com/petition/> then print, fill out, sign and return via US mail to the address on the form.

Note: nearly 900,000 signed petitions are needed by end of 2023 to qualify for the Florida ballot in 2024.



In May we partnered with the Polk County Supervisor of Elections at the Solivita Farmer's Market to help drive Voter Registration and Vote by Mail applications. Thanks to our Club volunteers and Polk SOE Outreach Services! **Brian Fillette, continued on next page**

WEDNESDAY JUNE 14th MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In the BALLROOM
And on ZOOM

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

Featuring Speakers
ROBERT CONNORS
Author
Florida Historian,
Environmental Advocate

&

BOBBY VANCE
SDC member
Vice President,
and previous Historian
of the Solivita African
Heritage Cultural Club.



REPRESENTATIVES

Our elected representatives need your input

Let them know your positions on issues!

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 48 Office:
Phone: 850-717-5041
Email: sam.killebrew@myfloridahouse.gov

State Sen. Colleen Burton (R)

District 12 Office
100 South Kentucky Avenue
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Orlando, FL 32801

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SDC Beacon Newsletter

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Brian Fillette, continued from previous page

We're thankful for our dedicated Farmer's Market volunteers. They do a great job and our presence at the Farmer's Market is so important for community outreach! If you can spare a few hours on a Monday morning, please contact our Membership Chair Kate Kohout KateKohout@yahoo.com to offer your assistance. They'll be taking some time off in the peak heat Summer months ahead but need to start planning now for the Fall.

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

Visit our Website <https://solivitademocrats.org/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/solivitademocraticclub>

Nextdoor <https://nextdoor.com/g/qikq82ag>

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Meet Our June Speakers

ROBERT CONNORS

Author, "*The Florida Saga*" and others
Florida Historian, Environmental Advocate
Managing Editor/Publisher,
LakeWalesNews.Net



Robert Connors is an author, entrepreneur, and community activist who has served on a dozen civic and business boards. He has traveled extensively in Europe, a factor in his approach to issues of urban life, social issues, and human connections. He is the author of several books. His newest title "The Florida Saga" is historical fiction follows the history of The Sunshine State from prehistoric times through the beginning of the Space Age, with special emphasis on the changes to the landscape and environmental changes brought on by the greed of man and the desire to "develop" the state's landscape. Previous works, "*And Still They Came*" and "*For Salt And Sand*" relate the story of Florida's surprising cultural history.

He is a former Polk County (FL) Commissioner (1990 - 1994) and U.S. Congressional nominee. As an entrepreneur Robert has owned and operated a number of enterprises in fields as diverse as construction, food service, and Internet services. He lives in Lake Wales.

PLUS!

BOBBY VANCE will also speak on June 14 about **JUNETEENTH, (June 19) its history, significance, and celebrations.**

Bobby is an SDC member, current Vice President and previous Historian of the Solivita African Heritage Cultural Club.

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**Could Be You (2 Female, 2 Male),
Pct. 412**
Solivita Bella Viana, Venezia
and portions of Poinciana

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Oral Arguments were presented re: Solivita HOA vs. AVATAR

The three-judge panel heard arguments from both sides contesting the original judgment that awarded Solivita residents \$34 million as a settlement for illegally charging homeowners a profit on the mandatory club fee.

To watch the full video of the one-hour presentation of the Solivita Class Action Oral Argument 10:30 am Thursday May 18, 2023, click on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/@floridasixthdistrictcourto8200/streams>

One of the judges joked that they would get back with a final judgment "in about a year."

From the original story:

"It's been a long battle," [SDC Member] Lita Epstein, who chairs the Poinciana Community Development District, told the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Each resident could receive up to \$10,000 following the Nov. 2 [2021] judgment issued by Polk County Judge Wayne Durden, according to Carter Anderson, an attorney for the plaintiffs.

Developer Avatar Properties proposed a bond measure in 2015 to sell a clubhouse, pools and tennis court to the resident-run development for \$73 million, the newspaper reported. However a valuation of the amenities by a certified appraiser found them only to be worth roughly a quarter of that.

As attorneys reviewed the proposal, they found what they believed to be improper fee collections by the developer.

The lawsuit said residents paid HOA fees, along with two separate fees to the Solivita Club, which maintained the amenities owned by the developer. The company was a subsidiary of AV Homes, which was purchased by home builder Taylor Morrison in 2018. Read the full story here: <https://www.news4jax.com/news/florida/2021/11/12/florida-judge-awards-nearly-35-million-in-improper-hoa-fees/>

CALENDAR

JUNE is...

6/12 Polk DEC Meeting

6/14 SDC Meeting

6/14 Flag Day

6/18 Father's Day

6/19 Juneteenth Freedom Day



VICE PRESIDENTS ARE IMPORTANT

By Joe Tobin, SDC Member and Beacon Contributor

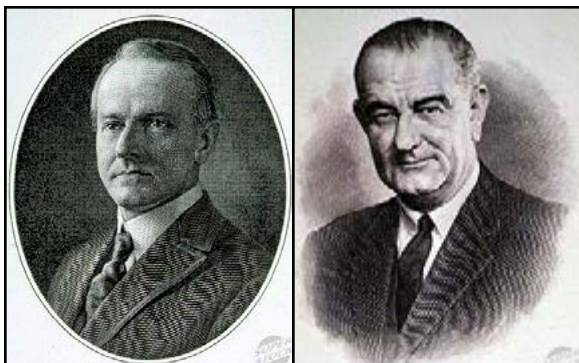
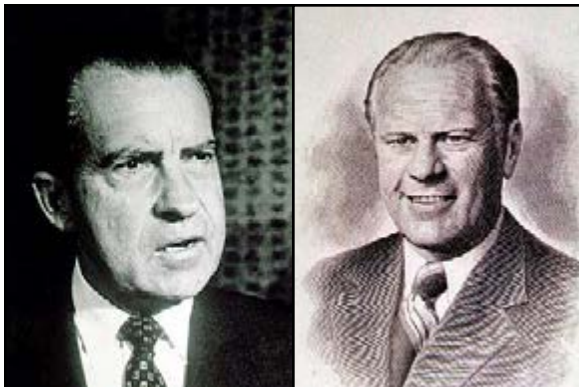


The date was **April 12, 1945**. I was eating my breakfast before heading off to school. The telephone rang, my mother answered, and the message was brief – President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) died, and the country had a new president – Harry S. Truman. When my mother asked me what I knew about him, I could only state he came from Missouri.

The shock of FDR's death to the nation was catastrophic. He was the guardian of the land and had guided the country through a depression and a world war. How could anybody take his place? Who is this Harry Truman anyway? What's going to happen to the country now that President Roosevelt is gone? In hindsight President Truman turned out to be a great president who implemented post World-War II policies for decades to come on both the national and international scene.

It seems that during the national election campaigns, the role of vice presidents is understandably secondary in importance to campaigners. Once the campaigns end and party presidential candidates are selected, the respective winners announce their vice-presidential choices – ultimately a “take it or leave it” choice for voters – and get on with the campaigns.

The role of nation's vice presidents must never be underestimated. In today's political milieu, the yesteryear description of the vice president's role as “not worth a bucket of spit” (John Nance Garner, a vice president under FDR), is *passé*. The many former vice presidents would probably have agreed with his statement. Today, no vice president would dare utter that statement.



To date, the constitutional transition of power has worked well, unlike so many countries in the world where strongmen and generals battle for power. Nine vice presidents became presidents when the men they served died in office of various causes: John Tyler, Millard Fillmore; Andrew Johnson; Chester Arthur; Theodore Roosevelt; Calvin Coolidge; Harry S. Truman; and Lyndon Johnson. Gerald Ford became Richard Nixon's vice president on December 6, 1974, under the terms of the 25th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and approval of both branches of Congress.

Past presidents have had close calls with death: Andrew Jackson, an attempted assassination; Theodore Roosevelt, hit by a vehicle while campaigning; Woodrow Wilson, a stroke (his wife ran the executive branch); FDR, missing a bullet that killed the mayor of Miami sitting beside him; Dwight Eisenhower, a serious heart attack; and Ronald Reagan, hit by bullets.

Joe Tobin, continued on next page.

Joe Tobin, continued from previous page.

VICE PRESIDENTS ARE IMPORTANT

Why This Topic in June 2023?

As the election year of 2024 approaches, the issue of President Biden's age and health continues to lurk in the decision-making process of many voters for the upcoming elections. Left unspoken are the worried thoughts some voters have, with or without merit, of Kamala Harris replacing President Biden before his term is up.

In the upcoming presidential election, this concern should worry party leaders since it appears that Kamala Harris has not been given much "public presence" in the current administration -- unlike the roles Al Gore, Joe Biden and Dick Cheney played in former administrations. The title of the book, "Johnny, We Hardly Knew You" (written by two friends of President Kennedy) may best describe her role.

If President Biden plans to keep Kamala Harris on his ticket, it might be wise to give her a more public support to display and publicize her diplomatic, administrative and communication skills in short, "show her off." If President Biden has other plans, then any current support is irrelevant.

Today, governing a nation is very demanding. It is a sign of positive presidential leadership to utilize a vice president in the best way possible as a sign to the public that his/her vice president is qualified to lead the country if the president is no longer fit or alive to continue the office. In fact, leaving the presidency in good hands is a great legacy any deceased president can bequeath to this nation should the occasion arise.



Our May meeting featured Carlos Guillermo Smith, candidate for FL Senate in 2024 and current board member of Prevent Gun Violence Florida.



At the end of the evening SDC President Brian Fillette presented Mr. Smith with a \$250 donation to Prevent Gun Violence Florida.



CIVIL RIGHTS

From the FloridaSqueeze.com

MOMS FOR “LIBERTY?”

May 19, 2023 · by Maria Cristina Morales · in Moms For Liberty

Iwrote in my last piece about how Russian neocolonialism/cybercolonialism, and information peddling is affecting us and most of our allies in the world. Today I’m going to talk about domestic propaganda.

The term propaganda has its roots in the Catholic church, from a commission of cardinals (Collection: Catholic Church. Congregatio de Propaganda Fide Records | Hesburgh Libraries) charged with overseeing the propagation of the church in non-Catholic countries circa 1622-1908. We can clearly see how and why the word propaganda has always been linked to governments interfering in each other’s affairs, the Catholic Church is after all considers itself a government.

The way we use the word today usually means an exchange of information; it could be something as innocuous as a political slogan a politician uses to get you to vote for them. By its nature propaganda is meant to be persuasive, I’m not here to talk about sloganeering. That’s for another day.

I’m here to talk about the type of domestic propaganda that destroys and divides communities by grabbing on to the most controversial subjects of the moment. Moms for Liberty is a such a group, it is an Astro-turfed propaganda group and nothing more (because of their 501(c) (4) status they’re not required to provide their donor lists), first activating racist white people by saying CRT was being taught K-12, it wasn’t and never had been. The controversy that was created surrounding it was propaganda 101.

Now they’ve grabbed onto our LGBTQ communities saying that children are being encouraged to be gay, trans, and something to the effect that being exposed to gay or trans people at an early age will make them gay or trans. They use the most heinous language possible, grooming, genital mutilation. You see these astroturf groups jump on to the most divisive issues of the day to create allies. Who doesn’t want to protect children? Meanwhile the groups funding them are lobbying successfully for legislation that takes money from the very organizations they are attacking and targeting, our public schools. Which have been on their list since 1954; when Brown v Board was decided. It’s a tale as old as time really dating back to the Catholic Church’s Cogregatio de Propaganda. *Florida Politics, continued on next page.*



Florida Politics, continued from previous page.

FLORIDA 'TICS

When a European Country invaded or colonized a region whether it be the Americas, the Middle East, Africa, or Asia, it wasn't with the purpose of freeing the populations they found. It was for the purpose of converting them for the church, and conquering, and or enslaving them, by force if necessary. That's not freedom; Mom's For Liberty and their benefactors do not want all of us to be free. No different from the Congregatio de Propaganda they are the Pied Pipers of oppression and forced religious standards based on some cherry-picked version of the Bible that doesn't exist.

They want their version of history taught; some straight WASP version of our country that has never existed for many. They say they don't want their little children to feel bad when they learn that white people have been oppressors for most of recent history. Yet, the people who've been oppressed must live with the scars and trauma of the oppression that have been passed down from generation to generation. How is this creating a just and equal society?

They want us to forget, yet here they are oppressing LGBTQ people into hiding, here they are allowing, encouraging children to be ripped from the arms of parents who are just trying to do the best for their children. It seems to me that some of our white Christian brothers and sisters will always be for oppression.

The target of their oppression just keeps changing, lest you believe they won't come for you, all I have to say is wait. You see the modern targets keep shifting, from CRT, to porn, to LGBTQ, the ubiquitous reproductive rights, all in the name of "saving" the children. The rapid shifting of targets is also a propaganda tactic, to exhaust their own citizens whom they see as the enemy, no matter how much they talk about love.

We've been on the defense this cycle, because of gerrymandering, eroded voting rights, and just plain poor voter turnout. It's time to get on offense, I'll leave you with the words of the great John Lewis.

"When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself."

Now my friends it's our turn to take up the mantle, if you're not ready, you need to get ready.

The previous editorial is from the watchdog Website, TheFloridaSqueeze.com. The content is for your information only and does not necessarily represent the opinions of the Solivita Democratic Club or its Board of Directors.





Dear Democrats,

I'm sure you've seen the news — Democrats will lead Florida's largest city thanks to all of your hard work in

Bluuuuuvaal County!

Our recent victories in Duval are massive wins, and I can't thank each of you enough for rolling up your sleeves and supporting Duval Dems during this election.

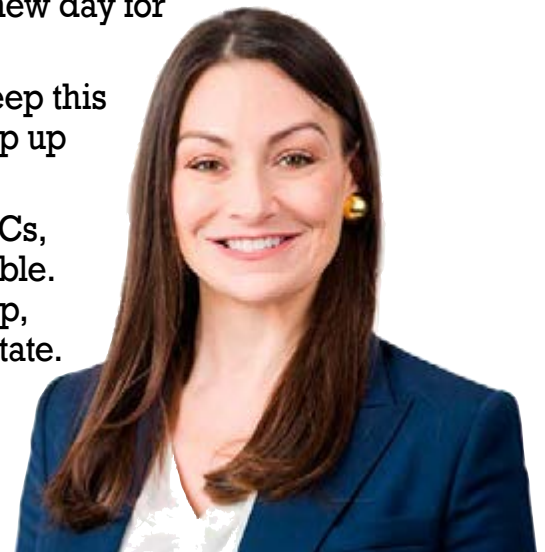
Congratulations to DEC Chair Daniel Henry, and to Donna Deegan, the first woman elected Mayor of Jacksonville, Joyce Morgan, the first Black woman elected to Duval County Property Appraiser, Jimmy Peluso in City Council Dist. 7, Reggie Gaffney Jr. in City Council Dist. 8, Tyrona Clark-Murray in City Council Dist. 9, and Rahman Johnson in City Council District 14.

These victories are the result of amazing Democratic candidates AND the hard work and dedication of their teams and volunteers who canvassed, phone-banked, and ensured that no voter was left behind. It's a new day for Jacksonville and a new day for Florida Democrats.

Today, we are working to raise \$24,000 in 24 hours to keep this momentum going into 2024. Share this link and help us keep up the fight!

But most importantly — THANK YOU! The support of DEC's, Clubs, and Caucuses from around the state made this possible. We're excited to welcome newly elected Dems to leadership, and to continue working to elect Democrats throughout our state.

Forward,
Nikki Fried
Chair, FDP





A chartered club of the Polk County Florida Democratic Executive Committee

Membership Form
Annual Membership dues are \$15/person

Please make checks payable to: **Solivita Democratic Club**

Mail to:
SDC Treasurer
586 Villa Park Rd.
Poinciana, FL 34759

Date: _____ New Member Renewing Member
First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____

Full Time Solivita Resident? (Check one) Yes No
I am registered as: Democrat NPA (No Party Affiliation) Other Party Republican
 I am NOT registered to vote in Polk County, Florida



Membership Includes
Monthly Beacon Newsletter — Informative Meetings — Fun Events

Meetings are held at 7 pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month,
in the Solivita Starlite Ballroom and online via Zoom.

Visit Solivitademocrats.org for additional information.

Revised 03/18/22