Brian Fillette, president — <u>President@SolivitaDemocrats.org</u>

Ellis Moose, editor — <u>Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org</u>



We're looking forward to our **Annual**

Membership Appreciation Dinner

at the Solivita Starlite Ballroom on Wednesday, December 13. Come celebrate with the largest Democratic Club in Polk County!



Pres. Brian Fillette

LAST CALL: Space is limited – please RSVP if you will attend – send email to Kate Kohout ksquared1987@yahoo.com by Wednesday, December 6 to reserve your place.

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

On the menu: Wraps (Italian, Turkey, Vegetarian), Chicken Wings, Salad, Chips and Cookies.

There is no cost to Club members for this dinner event and you will have the opportunity to start or renew your Annual Membership for 2024 at the discounted price of \$12. (Normally \$15).

At our meeting following dinner, we'll recognize the accomplishments of our Club to build community and promote Democratic ideals in 2023. We'll also preview some of our plans for the coming BLUE year — 2024!

Note: if you cannot attend the Membership Appreciation Dinner you can still start or renew your Annual Membership for 2024 at the discounted price of \$12. This discounted price offer is valid for the month of December 2023 only.

I'd also like to recognize the efforts of our volunteers who collected 80 signed petitions from registered voters at local colleges and libraries in support of the proposed 2024 ballot amendment to restore Abortion rights. Many thanks to George Sornberger, Dorothy Schwartz, Kate Kohout, Linda Haen, Sharon Vaughn, and Brian Fillette.

You still have time to mail a signed petition yourself. Please do so by the end of December 2023. Print from https://floridiansprotectingfreedom.com/ -or- come see us at the Farmer's Market on Monday mornings to get a copy.

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/qikq82agv/





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 Suite 260 Lakeland, FL 33801 Email: Collleen.Burton.web@ 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

SDC donated a gift basket to the Toys for Tots Raffle that was held on Saturday, December 2.

Valued at more than \$150, the theme was a picnic basket for four that contained a picnic set for four, a bottle of wine, an assortment of cheese & meats and







Shown above, left, is the very first issue of the *Beacon*, dated May 2011. To the right is a recent snapshot of our SDC Website.

Your editor and Webmaster, Ellis Moose, has been producing these two communications for more than a dozen years now. It is time to begin training his successor(s) to be able to fill in or take over when the time comes for him to step down.

If you would like to contribute articles, graphics, or other support to either our Webitse or newsletter, contact Ellis at Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org at your earliest opportunity so we can get you involved.



WEBSITES

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

2024 HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

In accordance with the Association's Bylaws and Florida Statute 720, the Association's Annual Meeting of the Membership has been scheduled as follows: 10:00 AM, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024 in the Solivita Starlite Ballroom, 384 Village Drive. Members will vote to fill two open Board of Director positions, each with a two-year term. In accordance with the procedure for director nomination, the candidates must give the Association written notice of their intent to run for the office, along with a completed candidate certification form signed by the candidate, no later than Thursday, November 16, 2023.

No candidate nominations may be accepted from the floor at an Annual Members Meeting. All candidates must meet the eligibility requirements as stated in Florida Statute 720 at the time of the deadline for submitting the notice of intent to be a candidate.

Members will also vote on the seven proposed amendments to our governing documents

Lita Epstein, one of our own SDC members, is running for the Solivita HOA Board

As a resident of Solivita since 2005, she has worked on many projects to further the development of the community including:

Save Our Solivita (2008/2009): helped to organize and participate in this working group to oppose the incorporation of the city of Poinciana and prevent Solivita from becoming a cash cow for the property taxes of the city.

Beginning in Sept. 2015, she worked diligently to prevent the amenities purchase for \$73 million, including serving on the CDD beginning in 2016 and becoming chair in 2018 to prevent the closing of the contract to purchase the amenities for \$73 million.

Organized the campaign in 2018 of five CDD members called the **Price is Too High** to help fight the purchase of the amenities for \$73 million. Won by more than 67% of the vote.

Organized and continue to coordinate the Southport Connector Alternative Routes (SCAR), to seek an alternative to the plan for building a Great Wall of Poinciana outside our gates.

Filed a Title VI complaint to slow the process for the Southport Connector and seek federal investigation of its planning.

Served on the Poinciana CDD for 7 years, including five as Chair.

Professional Training and Experience:

Served on HOA boards, including as President, in 4 states.

Served Community Planning boards or Committees in 4 states, including the Polk County's Planning Commission and Board of Adjustments.

Business owner and author with 50 books on the market primarily in the areas of business and personal finance.





By Joe Tobin, SDC Member and Beacon Contributor



Welcome December! It's a wonderful feeling to see the bright lights of Christmas or Hanukkah aglow in the various neighborhoods of Solivita. This year has not been an especially happy one as the fatality rate of deaths and wounds caused by guns continues uninterrupted and with political discord and hate growing daily among various groups in America.

On the international scene, the wars in Ukraine and Sudan have taken their toll in death and destruction, with no signs of ending in the immediate future. The savage at-

tack against the Israelis by Hamas, followed by the Israeli counter-offensive which has left too many Gazans scrounging for survival. In American cities, the protest movements on behalf of either Israel or Palestine are legitimate and constitutional, but not when they erupt into battles and violence – what are we getting into?

So, bring on the celebration of Christmas and Hanukkah and New Years Eve. Time for blinking lights and Santas and snowmen and women bringing some joy and happiness into our lives. And who doesn't like to receive gifts – bring them on. Oh, we can't forget the goodies to nibble on or gobble up. There's another month dedicated to exercising, dieting and paying credit-cards – January 2024.

The lights of Christmas and Hanukkah are wonderful symbols of warmth, welcoming and celebration. Boy do we need them for moments of peace and solitude. One of the memorable experiences I had was flying from Boston to Las Vegas and was so hypnotized by the glitter of big cities and the dimness of rural areas. The lights to me were a sign that the country 30,000 feet below was safe and sound as it slept the light.

The year 2024 will soon be upon us. Who knows what the future will bring. Or as Mr. Pollster reminds his audience that the 2024 election process will take many turns and twists and even surprises. For now, rest up and chill out with family and friends. May the lights of Christmas and Hanukkah shine brightly. Or as the old saying goes, it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness. America needs lots of burning candles and calming heads. Best wishes and hopes for saner and calmer days.



NOTE: Joe Tobin was the 2022 Solivita Democratic Club Member of the Year.

FLORIDA 'TICS

Dear Democrats,

As we approach the holiday season, I hope you have a restful break celebrating with family and friends. Our FDP Staff have been hard at work the whole year and I wanted to make sure they take the time during the holidays to spend with their families. Our staff will be off December 21st through January 2nd.

While our staff are working, we are going to put a heavy focus on gathering petitions and I urge each of our DECs, Clubs, and Caucuses to put a focus on this also. We are so close to gathering the amount needed to be put on the ballot next year. This will be critical for our GOTV efforts come 2024. Let's keep up the great work!



CALENDAR

DECEMBER is.

12/6	Meet Candidates for the Solivita HOA Board	- Ballroom God in
12/7	Hanukkah begins at sundown	Gloedelig jul
12/7	National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance	Peace On Earth HAPPY NEW YEAR
12/8	Immaculate Conception Day	From Weihoschten Frieden
12/12	Universal Health Coverage Day	Happy Hanukkah
12/13	U.S. National Guard Birthday	FELIZ NAVIDAD
12/14	National Energy Conservation Day	Vrolije kerst feest
12/21	Blue Christmas Service*	Ukuthula 16ke Polis
12/21	First Day of Winter (whatever that is!)	Merry Christmas
12/22	National Cookie Exchange Day	JOYEUX NOEL
12/24	Christmas Eve	FELIZ NATAL STAPPY Stellags
12/25	Christmas Day	My SEASON'S GREETINGS
12/26	Kwanzaa	Hyvää joulua & Buan Matale
12/27	International Day of Epidemic Preparednes	s
12/31	New Year's Eve	200

^{*} Blue Christmas Service is a Western Christian tradition that happens on or around the longest night of the year, usually December 21, the Winter Solstice. It is about comforting fellow Christians who are grieving and struggling to find joy and hope during the season.

Find more fun December holidays at: https://nationaltoday.com/december-holidays/

SDC BOARD

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

Ellis Moose, Vice President/ Beacon Editor/Webmaster Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org 515-778-0379

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

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

Kate Kohout, Membership Chair KSquared1987@yahoo.com 863-496-0481

Valerie Williams, Ways and Means Chair vpowell65@aol.com 631-455-4036

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

Diane Jorio, Hospitality Chair DDJorio@live.com 443-262-1053

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

Precinct Captains: Leonard Guminski, Pct. 425 MariaDLenG145@yahoo.com 586-321-4711

Celeste Williams, Pct. 411 CelestyneWilliams1@gmail.com 407-924-1766

Alan Harris, Pct. 411
AMHarris1212@yahoo.com
407-718-2525
Solivita west of Marigold Ave.

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

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

Most Floridians believe climate change is happening, survey finds

Kathryn Varn, Axios/Tampa Bay





Illustration: Aïda Amer/Axios

ENVIRONMENT

Nearly all Floridians believe climate change is happening, per a new survey from Florida Atlantic University.

What's happening: The poll of 1,400 Floridians found that 90% of respondents believe climate change is underway.

The intrigue: That's more than the rest of the country, according to a recent Yale poll that found the American consensus to be about 74%.

"Floridians might be more likely to believe climate change is happening due to their experiences with hurricanes and other extreme weather," Colin Polsky, the founding director of FAU's School of Environmental, Coastal and Ocean Sustainability, said in a news release.

The survey also found that Floridians want to see government action to address the impacts of our changing climate, with 69% of respondents supporting state action and 70% in favor of federal action.

Yes, but: There was far less agreement about the cause.

About 57% of respondents said human activity causes climate change, while a third said it's caused by natural changes in the environment.

The overwhelming scientific consensus is that human activity causes climate change.





To My Neighbor:

You have been distracted by the irresponsible antics of Biden's predecessor and may have missed all that Biden and Democrats have accomplished to better the lives of Americans.

"BIDEN has delivered the largest economic recovery plan since ROOSEVELT, the largest infrastructure plan since EISENHOWER, the most judges confirmed since KENNEDY, the second largest health care bill since JOHNSON, and the largest climate change bill in history."

My Good Friend and Neighbor responded:

Let's not forget Biden's brilliant exit from Afghanistan. Who can ever forget the forethought that went into shutting down the US XL pipeline while opening the Russian Nord Stream 2 line. Good idea lifting the sanctions on Iranian oil sales and just to be on the safe side why not send over an additional \$6B Border security, his best accomplishment. Subsidizing wind, solar and EV cars, who can deny how well that's paid off. The Inflation Reduction Bill was excellent, of course it would be somewhat better if it actually dealt with inflation. Just because the stock market is down 20% since he took over and credit card debt is at an all-time high, you can't blame that on Bidenomics. He always was tough on crime, well actually, he was tough on crime as a senator, not so much now. And the topper, increases the flow of money into the US from China every time he cashes a check from Hunter.

My Response to My Neighbor:

- The terms and timing of the Afghanistan withdrawal were set by Trump. (Imagine the logistical nightmare of trying to ship all our used military equipment out of Afghanistan while under fire. It was intended to remain there for use by the Afghans to continue their fight against Al Qaeda. But the Afghans surrendered.
- The XL pipeline had nothing to do with "our oil" or "our energy independence. It was dirty Canadian oil destined to be refined in the US and sold on the international market by the CANADIANS.
- 3. The Biden administration has restored a sanctions waiver to Iran, a senior State Department official said, as indirect talks between Washington and Tehran on returning to the 2015 nuclear agreement entered the final stretch, after Trump had withdrawn from the agreement.
 - The waiver, which was rescinded by the Trump administration in May 2020, had allowed Russian, Chinese and European companies to carry out non-proliferation work at Iranian nuclear sites.
- 4. Biden agreed to release the sequestered IRANIAN FUNDS, ONLY IF Iran used them exclusively for humanitarian purposes. The funds were transferred from South Korea to Qatar, but NONE OF IT HAS BEEN RE-LEASED to Iran yet.
- 5. U.S. border "security" has remained essentially the same since G. W. Bush was president. (I know a Border Patrol Agent from the Bush Administration.)
- Inflation, which was about 9.5% early last year, is now around 3.4% — after the IRA has had time to take effect.
- 7. Stock market returns since 2021:
 This is a return on investment of 21.46%, or 8.09% per year. A lump-sum investment would have beaten inflation during this period for an inflation-adjusted return of about 6.93% cumulatively, or 2.72% per year.





ELECTION DAY — NOVEMBER 5, 2024

All energy is dedicated to electing Democrats in the coming year. Do your part! There will be many opportunities to affect the outcome over the next 12 months. Don't be sorry if the results don't go our way. Get involved — **NOW!**

2024 Elections — One Year Out

Sunday, November 5th marked one year out from the 2024 elections.

TOPLINE: One year from now, Florida voters will head to the polls to reject Republican extremism and restore rights across the state.

The 2024 elections are the first step in our ten-year plan to Take Back Florida.

We have the chance to restore reproductive rights, push Rick Scott into retirement, and take back key seats to chip away at the supermajority in the Florida Legislature.

Over the next year, Florida Democrats will join the Biden-Harris campaign in one of the most important organizing efforts since the Obama Campaign — working to elect Democrats in critical elections from school boards to the U.S. Senate.

Special Session of the Florida Legislature

- Senate President Kathleen Passidomo and Speaker of the Florida House Paul Renner have announced a special legislative session from November 6-9 covering the following topics:
- Hurricane Idalia relief and resiliency funding
- Fixes to the Family Empowerment Scholarship program
- Support for Israel and condemnation of Hamas and related entities
- Sanctions on Iran
- Financial support for Florida entities at high risk of violence and hate crimes

TOPLINE: Ron is using this Special Session to prop up his failing presidential campaign.

If Ron actually wanted to address issues affecting Floridians, this special session would be addressing the property insurance crisis and rising housing costs—instead, he's using the legislature to grandstand about foreign policy.

Ron isn't even in Florida for the special session he called — he's spending Monday and Tuesday campaigning in Iowa.

The federal government has imposed serious sanctions on Iran for nearly fifty years — adding state-level sanctions is just another political stunt meant to make Ron look tough.

Ron says he supports Israel, but he still won't condemn the neo-Nazis that vocally support his campaign — despite repeated calls to do so.

Florida Politics, continued from previous page.

NYT/Sienna Poll

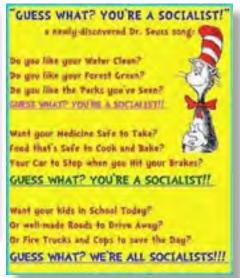
Recently the New York Times released a poll showing President Biden trailing Donald Trump in five swing states.

The following talking points are provided by the Democratic National Committee:

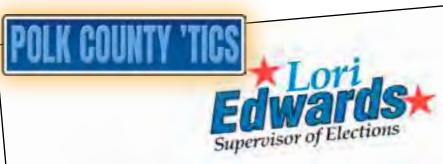
TOPLINE: More than a year out from the election, polls are not predictive.

- Most people are not tuned into the election now and won't be for several months,
- Around this time in 2011, the New York Times openly mused whether Barack Obama was "toast," and polls from this time showed him down in battleground states by large margins,
- Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama all faced unfavorable poll numbers during their first terms before ultimately being reelected 18 months later,
- And let's not forget the polling ahead of the 2022 midterms predicted a "red tsunami" that never materialized.
- No president running for reelection in modern history has had a stronger record of accomplishment to run on or a more popular set of policies than Joe Biden:
- Nearly 90% support a \$35 monthly insulin cap,
- 83% support Medicare negotiations for lower prescription drug prices,
- 73% support the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,
- 69% support the CHIPS Act,
- In battlegrounds: 76% support for the first major gun safety legislation passed in nearly 30 years,
- By a 2:1 margin, voters overwhelmingly support codifying Roe v. Wade.
- There's no doubt this will be a very close election.
- Team Biden-Harris is ignoring the noise and building the strong campaign it needs to win just like in 2020.









November 12, 2023

I'm writing today to ask for your support as I seek re-election as Polk County Supervisor of Dear Solivita Dems, Elections. This is a contested race. A well-financed candidate is campaigning to defeat me.

We are working hard on a grassroots effort to raise awareness of all that is at stake in this race!

As you know, this is a challenging position that demands the extraordinary knowledge and fairness to perform under extreme pressure and scrutiny. My passion for our democratic process drives me to offer Polk's voters elections that they can have confidence in.

I'm proud of the accomplishments of our office. Our amazing team of election workers has conducted over 200 successful elections since I was first elected, and our outreach and voter education efforts have resulted in thousands of new registered voters.

I have worked hard to earn the profession's highest designation as a Certified Elections Administrator from The Election Center with Auburn University's Master's in Public Administration faculty. My 23 years of conducting fair elections here in Polk County has offered me the experience to ensure continued success.

We need to get our message out to the voters. I need your help. Please consider contributing to my campaign today.

Sincerely,

Lori Edwards

P.S. If you prefer to contribute anline, please visit LoriEdwardsCampaign.com

Lori@LoriEdwardsCampaign.com P.O. Box 2203 Authorndole, FL 33823. Raid by Lori Edwards, NIVA, Supervisor of Ligenistic

Below are some scenes from our November Membership Meeting.

















See more of your friends on the following pages.



DE LESTE





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Is your photo here?

If you would like to have a high-resolution file of your photo emailed to you, please request the photo by number. Please allow a week or so for us to fulfill your request. Send request to: Beacon@Solivitademocrats.org

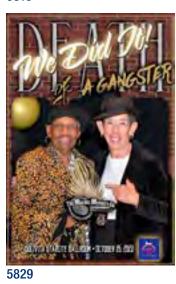


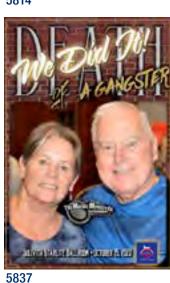




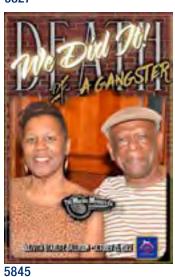


















DEMOCRATIC CLUB Beacon



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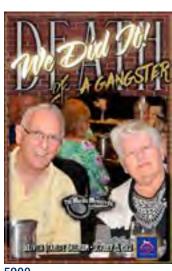
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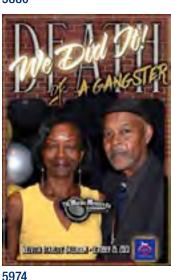
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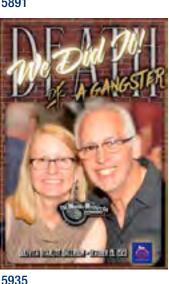


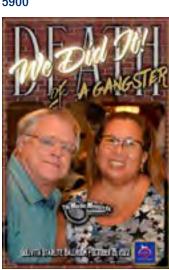












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A Message from the Democratic Public Education Caucus

The Florida Policy Institute is organizing opposition to HB49, a bill LWVFL also opposes. HB49 exploits Florida's child workers, extending the number of hours and times 16-17-yearolds can work on school nights and does not protect them from working under dangerous conditions. HB49 would allow unlimited hours, without breaks, overnight, and for more than six days in a row. Further, if this state law went into effect, it would override any municipal laws designed to protect child workers. We also know there is a high correlation between working excessive hours in adolescence and poor grades and dropping out of high school.

Please notify your representatives and then share this with your members, family, friends. To let your representatives know of your opposition, please click on the link and send a letter. https://actionnetwork.org/letters/37aa577b5le33022d8d3ef0c6ad2b677?source=email&

You can also see FPI's Fact Sheet on child labor and HB49 at:

 $\underline{global.website\text{-}files.com/5cd5801dfdf7e5927800fb7f/6536b219d38f2544ba028e9e\ HB\text{-}49\ FINAL.pdf}$

Print out this Membership Application for your friends and bring them to our next meeting!





A chartered club of the Polk County Florida Democratic Executive Committee

Membership Application 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

Monthly Beacon Newsletter — Informative Meetings — Fun Events

Membership Includes

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.