

President's Letter

SDC Board Election, Our Polk County Leaders, and Game Day returns!

Join us at our next monthly membership meeting on **Wednesday, March 13**. First up on the agenda, the Club Officer and Director elections. I'm pleased to announce the following candidates:

- ✓ **Diane Jorio** for Director, Hospitality Chair
- ✓ **Michael Zahn** for Secretary
- ✓ **Patty Whittle** for Director, Outreach Chair
- ✓ **Rick Ceresini** for Director, Membership Chair

Your annual Club membership dues must be current for your vote to be counted.

After the vote, we'll hear from our Polk County Democratic Party leaders: Chair Cesar Ramirez and Vice Chairs Barbara Harris and John Hill. Learn about their plans, along with activities and events you may participate in outside of Solivita, such as the Polk DEC Masquerade Ball happening on Saturday, March 23 starting at 6pm at the Hilton Garden Inn Lakeland, 3839 Don Emerson Dr, Lakeland, FL 33811.

For more information about this event see https://solivitademocrats.org/event/polk-county-dems-maskerade-ball/?instance_id=1706



Pres. Brian Fillette



And we'll be selling tickets once again prior to the meeting from 6:15pm-7pm for **Game Day at The Palms happening on **Sunday, April 14** starting at 12pm.** Tickets are \$20 for SDC members, \$25 for non-members. Additional ticket sales are planned at Mosaics on Monday, April 1 from 10am-12pm and at our next membership meeting in the Ballroom on Wednesday, April 10 from 6:15pm-7pm, subject to availability.

See you at our March meeting!

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/>

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 13th
POLK
DEC
POLK COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC
LEADERS
In the
Starlite Ballroom

Doors Open at 6:15PM
Meeting at 7:00PM

EDITORIAL

Nazis and Klansmen Work to Oppress Minorities

David Maish, SDC Member, with input from Marilyn Tayler.



It was shocking when the Klan and the Nazis marched together in Charlottesville in 2017. Commentators on that event noted the appalling precursor events a century earlier, when Klansmen marched on our nation's capital in the 1920s.



Historically, the Klan presented itself as a fraternal, nativist, patriotic organization. Its leaders emphasized support for vigorous enforcement of Prohibition laws. Over the years, most Klansmen were lower- to middle-class whites who feared the successive waves of newcomers to industrial cities: immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe — mostly Catholic or Jewish; Black and white migrants from the South; and later Communists.

The enslavement of Blacks from Africa, followed by centuries of racial repression principally in the Southern United States, provided a template for German Nazis seeking solutions for how to deal with “the Jewish question.” (One source notes that the eugenicists from Nazi Germany who visited the South in the 1930s actually found the US system of repression too harsh! This referred to the one-drop rule for “blackness” where the Nazis settled on a 1/8 rule to define Jews).

The book, *The Color of Law*, by Richard Rothstein, explores the myriad of post-slavery legal and tacit agreements that have kept Blacks from having equality in areas such as property, education, economic advancement, the right to vote, the right to keep and bear arms, and the ability to control their own lives. Under the Nazis, Germany took these kinds of measures even further by enacting successively stringent laws and decrees against Jews, eventually leading on to imprisonment, confiscation of property, confinement in ghettos, and ultimately concentration camps and gas chambers in an effort to eradicate Jews.

Henry Ford's hatred of Jews is what caused Hitler to admire him. A journalist interviewed Hitler a few years before he became the Führer and saw Henry Ford's picture hanging behind his desk. Ford, early on, believed that everything bad in our country was rooted in Jewish control of money, Hollywood, etc. After Ford read the English edition of a Nazi pamphlet, his enthusiasm knew no bounds. He purchased a small local newspaper and for four years filled it with his focused hatred. He continued to spew this vitriol, even after learning in

David Maish, continued on next page.

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: Colleen.Burton.web@flsenate.gov

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Orlando, FL 32801

The Lakeland Ledger

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

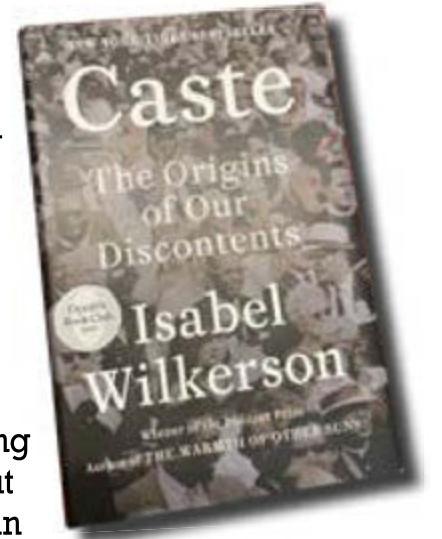
SDC Beacon Newsletter

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David Maish, continued from previous page

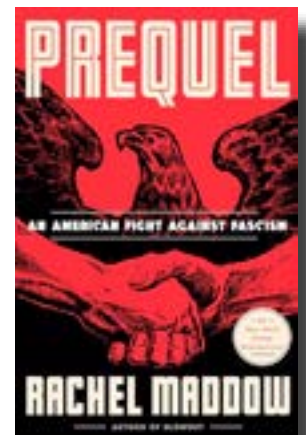
the third year that he was actually spreading completely false information. He continued to have car dealers put a copy of his pernicious lies in every new car sold! He published a book about the same subject, which was also disseminated internationally.

In her 2020 book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, journalist Isabel Wilkerson makes the case for parallels between the situation of Blacks in the US, the situation of Jews in Nazi Germany and the situation of Dalits (formerly called untouchables) in India. This fascinating theory was explored in the 2023 movie *Origin*, written and directed by Ava DuVernay.



Nazi Germany spent millions of dollars on propaganda inside the United States, trying to get Americans to take up their cause. An actual uprising was planned to have civil war break out in California. It was to start with German backed-American fascists groups carrying out executions of key American Jewish citizens. Armaments would be taken from armories. It was anticipated that this violence would be duplicated across the United States by others of like mind. This plot was exposed and averted by a few courageous persons who, in most cases, got no help from legal, military, government agencies, police or court officials.

As Rachel Maddow discusses in her 2023 book *Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism*, the Nazi presence in pre-World War II America has many parallels to today's political situation in the US. Many of our politicians and others are pro-Trump, anti-democracy, and not about to help others expose or defeat them. China, Russia, and other countries are currently spending heavily to sway our citizens against immigrants and to erode confidence in our government.



Republican leaders have been encouraging their constituents to purchase guns and ammunition to use against our government if they should need to in the future. Trump has said that if he isn't elected president again, Civil War will break out. Many of our politicians and citizens are pro-Trump, anti-democracy, and unwilling to help others expose or defeat them.

REGISTRATIONS

FL Voter Registrations down by 905,775!
Reg. Voters as of Feb. 1, 2024

Pct 411: 7/5/22	2/1/24	+/-
Dems 1535	1967	+432
Rep 1539	2028	+489
NPA 938	*1144	+206
Total 4,069	5,244	+1175

Note: Pct. 412 registration numbers have changed because Solivitanos who live in Bella Viana and Venezia were moved from Pct. 412 to vote in Solivita's Pct. 411 in future elections as they were prior to the 2020 redistricting.**

Pct 412: 7/5/22	2/1/24**	+/-
Dems 4,102	2,984	-1,118
Rep 1,297	997	-300
NPA 3200	*2,498	-702
Total 8,710	6,625	-2,085

Pct 425: 7/5/22	2/1/24	+/-
Dems 959	936	-23
Rep 868	923	+55
NPA 671	*633	-38
Total 2,536	2,537	+1

Polk: 7/21/22	2/1/24	+/-
Dems 149,497	133,207	-16,290
Rep 172,220	173,261	+1,041
NPA 126,391	*114,726	-11,665
Total 456,568	435,245	-21,323

Florida: 7/21/22	1/1/24	+/-
Dems 4,955,022	4,362,147	-590,875
Rep 5,217,343	5,141,848	-75,495
NPA 3,887,406	*3,528,807	-358,599
Total: 14,256,184	13,350,409	-905,775

Note: *NPAs do not include minor party registrations that are not shown here.



Election deniers keep claiming election fraud.

So I thought I would confess how we Democrats rig Vote-By-Mail ballots.

You caught us! By Ellis Moose, Beacon Editor

Here's how we do it: we find 10,000 vacant addresses. Then we register 20,000 fake residents and log those 20,000 fake signatures. Then we print 20,000 exact copies of the ballots, being careful to exactly match all of the local races and ballot initiatives for each individual location.

Then we vote all 20,000 fake mail-in ballots for Joe Biden and all down ballot races for the Republican candidate while being careful to match each fake signature with each fake resident of each vacant address.

Then we spend the time to mail all of them from the proper ZIP code as not to create suspicion. Pretty clever of us, huh? AND, we only do this in the dozen states Trump lost, of course. That's why Trump never objected to a state he won.

Are You a Polk County Democrat? We have an event for you!



Get more information and tickets at: PolkDemocrats.org



MASQUERADE BALL
SATURDAY, MARCH 23 • LAKELAND, FL



The Florida Democratic Party is excited to announce Leadership Blue 2024 will take place from Friday, May 3rd to Sunday, May 5th at Disney's Contemporary Resort in Orlando, FL!

Leadership Blue 2024

Disney's Contemporary Resort, Orlando, FL | May 3-5

Leadership Blue Gala

Individual tickets and table pricing are available now for the Saturday evening gala. To honor our partnership with our DECs, Clubs, and Caucuses we have provided a discounted rate available only to your organizations. Act quickly as this pricing is limited!

See leadershipblue.com to get your tickets and email finance@floridadems.org with any questions.

We have secured a special rate for Leadership Blue guests at both Disney's Contemporary Resort and Disney's Port Orleans Resort - Riverside. Be sure to book your room before the April 3 deadline, as we expect to sell out. You can book directly on leadershipblue.com.

To see the latest updates and information on this year's Leadership Blue weekend, visit leadershipblue.com. We look forward to you joining us at this great event in May! Thank you, and as always – one team, one dream!

Nikki Fried
Chair, FDP



**MARCH is...
National Women's History Month**

- 3/8** International Women's Day
- 3/10** Ramadan Begins at Sundown
- 3/10** Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 3/15** Ides of March
- 3/17** St. Patrick's Day
- 3/19** First Day of Spring
- 3/21** National Renewable Energy Day
- 3/22** World Water Day
- 3/23** Atheists' Day
- 3/23** Polk Dems' Masquerade Ball
- 3/24** Palm Sunday
- 3/29** Good Friday
- 3/31** Easter



Find more fun March holidays at: <https://nationaltoday.com/march-holidays/>

The Book Banning Frenzy

By Todd Smyth, SDC Member



When it comes to book banning in schools, Florida is ground zero. Our state leads the nation by far when it comes to book bans in public school libraries. Florida is responsible for approximately 1400 books being banned according to PEN America, a free speech group. This total represents 40% of the book bans now happening across the nation.

Book Title	Requested From (All Districts)	Review by All School Districts	Actual at Middle and High School Districts	Review at the High School Districts	Recommended	School Level	Superintendent Recommendation
The Hate Speech	0	1	10	0	Grades 7-12 High School	High School	Review at middle and high school levels
Waste	0	0	10	1	Grades 4-6 High School	High School	Review at middle and high school levels
George	0	10	0	1	Grades 7-12 High School	High School	Review at all levels
The Worst Best	0	0	1	1	Grades 7-12 High School	High School	Review at high school level
Rebecca	0	0	1	1	Grades 7-12 High School	High School	Review at high school level
Wonder	0	0	2	1	Grades 7-12 High School	High School	Review at high school level
Wonder Words	0	0	1	1	Grades 7-12 High School	High School	Review at high school level
Especially Craft and Vocabulary Case	0	0	1	1	Grades 7-12 High School	High School	Review at high school level
Thomas Moore, My	0	0	1	1	Grades 7-12 High School	High School	Review at high school level
Red Line Bookends	0	0	1	1	Grades 7-12 High School	High School	Review at high school level

The degree of each book banning effort is different in every school system. This is due to how vague and poorly written laws like HB 1069 are. In Polk County the current list is less than 20 books. Escambia County the book bans have reached new levels of absurdness with 1600 books being proposed for bans including

Webster's Dictionary, The Guinness Book of World Records, and the Science Encyclopedia by National Geographic. Evidently the stewards of the Escambia School District see dictionaries as a source of sexual explicitness or a pathway to gender identity issues. Besides the dictionaries most Stephen King, John Grisham, George RR Martin, James Patterson, Stephanie Meyer, Marissa Meyer, Katherine McGee, Melissa De La Cruz, William Faulkner, James Dashner, Michael Crichton, Judy Bloom, Maya Angelou, and Dean Koontz books are banned along with *Catch 22, Slaughterhouse 5, The Handmaids Tale, King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, Lord of the Flies* and for some strange reason *The Last American Hero: The life and Times of John Glenn*. The list of books in the proposed ban contains many award winning and classic novels.

Most of these book bans have been implemented due to just a few individuals requesting the ban from the local school boards, or in the case of Moms for Liberty, one group causing most of the problems. In Clay County Florida, one person initiated requests to ban over 100 books. In Escambia County one person requested dozens of books to be reviewed for banning. What is being seen around the country is just a few individuals with an agenda requesting the book bans. These people requesting the book bans do not even need to read the book itself. All they need to do is fill out a form. The school boards are unfortunately handcuffed by House Bill 1069 and are forced to entertain these book ban requests.

The main danger now is that book bans are now spreading to public libraries. Conservative groups are attacking public libraries, threatening defunding or even closure if books are not removed. Marco Rubio joined noted Christian activist Kirk Cameron recently in attacking the American Library Association. Book ban requests at public libraries have now reached record levels. Conservatives see it as a political culture war issue and groups such as Moms for Liberty are the tip of the spear when it comes to book bans. People who feel book banning is abhorrent and anti-American need to be aware that if not stopped at the school level, our public libraries will be the next area to be attacked.

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



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Could Be You! Pct. 425

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407-924-1766

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407-718-2525
Solivita west of Marigold Ave.

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

Solivita Democratic Club has an outreach presence at the Solivita Farmers' Market each week



Photo of our Farmer's Market table taken on 2/26/2024. Left to right: Doug Peterson, Celeste Williams, Joe Bodziony, William Camacho, and Ron Motley. **Contact Brenda Davis** bjddld525@gmail.com to take a shift!

GAME DAY AT THE PALMS!

Solivita Democratic Club is Excited to Present

SUNDAY, APRIL 14



Noon until 3PM
\$20 per member
\$25 non-members

Contact
Val Williams
VPowell65@aol.com

LET THE
GAMES
BEGIN!



More Info at www.SolivitaDemocrats.org
Plus Lunch, Snacks, and Beverages



ALL SUPER HEROES WELCOME!



POLK DEMOCRATIC PARTY

MASQUERADE BALL

Saturday, March 23
Lakeland, Florida



BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

TOPLINE:

The success of the Florida Democratic Party depends on the success of our county parties on the ground.

When Chair Nikki Fried took the gavel in February 2023, she pledged that Florida Democrats would never let November 2022 happen again.

For the past year, Florida Democrats have been focused on rebuilding the party and building a robust, year-round organizing apparatus and creating the infrastructure we need to take back Florida.

- **The cost of inaction is too high** and there is too much at stake to ignore the challenges before us in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties.
- **Democratic candidates and elected officials depend on their DEC**s to register voters, mobilize volunteers, and engage donors to support their efforts.
- **When our local parties are not working effectively**, candidates and campaigns are impacted the most.
- **The vast majority of our county parties are fully functional** and engaged in the work required to take back Florida.
- **The path to victory** — whether it's to the White House, U.S. Senate, or City Hall — all of it runs through Florida.

TOPLINE:

Florida Republicans went to Tallahassee to do absolutely nothing.

Florida Republicans remain obsessed with their made-up culture wars.

- **Instead of using this legislative session to address the property insurance crisis**, Ron and his Republican supermajority tried to roll back child labor laws, repeal Parkland-era gun reforms, protect confederate monuments, and add unnecessary barriers to unemployment insurance.
- **Florida Democrats are focused on making lives better for Floridians**, advancing bills to make drinking water cleaner and more abundant, enhance career pathways for students, expand access to life-saving HIV prevention medication, and provide property tax relief for disabled veterans.

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



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.

POLK COUNTY 'TICS


Lori Edwards
Supervisor of Elections

**YOUR
VOTE
MATTERS**

November 12, 2023

Dear Solivita Dems,

I'm writing today to ask for your support as I seek re-election as Polk County Supervisor of 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!

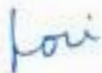
As you know, this is a challenging position that demands the extraordinary knowledge and fairness to perform under extreme pressure and scrutiny. My passion for our democratic process drives me to offer Polk's voters elections that they can have confidence in.

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 online, please visit LoriEdwardsCampaign.com

Lori@LoriEdwardsCampaign.com
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