

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Of Upper Pinellas

Important Numbers:

- **President**
Donna Dennis
727-447-7380
- **1st Vice President**
Mary Lou Ambrose
727-433-4045
- **2nd Vice President**
MaryAnn Stickels
727-724-0234
- **Corresponding Secretary**
Evelyn Jamilosa
727-4522-5596
- **Recording Secretary**
Diane Lebedeff
727-252-3266
- **Treasurer**
Kathy Murray
727-442-1672
- **Region V Rep.**
Janet Goen
727-937-8590
- **Legislative Liaison**
Carrie Wadlinger
704/240-0371
- **Financial Review Chair**
Shelby Freeman
727-581-4630
- **Parliamentarian**
Gerald Goen
727-937-8590
- **Sergeant-At-Arms**
Jasmina Forcan
727-692-3472
- **Media Chair/Historian**
Michelle Mazuros
727-204-0973

DWCUP Website
DWCUP.org

DWCF, Inc.
DWCF.org

FL Demo Party
Fladems.com

PCDEC
Pinellasdemocrats.com

NEXT MEETING
August 28, 2017
Clearwater Main Library
100 N. Osceola Ave.
Clearwater
11:30-1:30 pm



Our speaker this month is Sylvia Acevedo

Sylvia Acevedo serves as the Senior Director at Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services. She is responsible for the agency's Refugee & Employment Programs, which includes the only torture rehabilitation center in the state of Florida and the Non Custodial Parent Employment programs. The agency has a full complement of refugee programs, such as refugee resettlement and employment (matching grant), survivor of torture, refugee youth service, refugee micro enterprise, intensive case management, and in-house interpreter services. The department also serves as a placement site for AmeriCorps members through a partnership with CNCS for who work to help the volunteer capacity.

Ms. Acevedo has 25+ years of experience specifically with individuals who have been victimized, either on an interpersonal level or through systems and entities acting under the color of law. She has worked with victims of domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking victims, and refugees, survivors of torture, LGBTQI individuals and marginalized populations. Most recently she has been working on building capacity around working with LGBTI refugees/Asylees.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

by Donna Dennis

Greetings from Michigan, another state plagued by a dreadful Repub gov bent on dismantling hard won rights of the middle class. Public schools are under attack, wages are being held down, and Flint's water problems have not been remedied. Each state I've driven through lately has also demonstrated the implementation of pages out of ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council), in its years-long effort to undermine civil rights, environmental protection, workers' rights, women's rights and so much more.

Then at the federal level, we see the Senate efforts to demolish the ACA and threaten the loss of health care for millions of Americans. The vulture capitalists and smug Repub leaders are cheering themselves with the forward movement of the ugly, cruel Senate ACA replacement legislation or an outright repeal of the ACA. Many of us have been busily calling our senators telling them to vote NO, and it often feels like an exercise in futility.

Where's the optimism? Where's the hope, you may ask. What's happened to our country? For eight years we had the voice of reason in the White House and a scandal-free administration. We were proud to be Americans! Now it's "The scandal of the day" in Washington, with increasing evidence of Russian interference in our election—and yet an administration calling that FAKE NEWS! We feel anger and incredulity—and our hearts break for our nation.

There is hard work ahead. We will continue to work for local candidates where we can have demonstrable impact. We will continue to call, email, send cards and letters, lobby in person—whatever we can do to PERSIST, RESIST and INSIST on being heard!

On a wholly contrasting note, those of us who attended the DWCUP Fun Day on July 17th had a great time! Joanne Lentino, Pinellas School Board member, brought us up-to-date on the work done this year as well as the challenges ahead. Mary Freeman and Gordon Chernecky shared their stories of adventures in Cuba—and many of us hope to travel there soon. Gordon will return to our September meeting and start signing us up! And the sundae bar was so yummy! I'm pleased to announce that those attending raised \$225 for the "Nourish to Flourish" program of the Beth Dillinger Foundation. This donation will help feed the hungry kids of Pinellas County. Thanks to all!

Bring in those unused hotel toiletries you have collected and we will deliver them to the women at the Haven by RCS

DWCUP dues are \$20.00 for the year.
PLATINUM – 3yrs. - \$50
SILVER – 6yrs - \$100
Gold – Forever Member - \$200
Checks, preferably, payable to: "DWCUP"
Send to Kathy Murray, 1011 Woodside Ave.
Clearwater, Florida 33756.



CONGRATULATIONS TONI AND GILDA!

Orlando, Fla. — Members of the National Organization for Women voted Saturday to elect Toni Van Pelt president of the organization. Gilda Yazzie was elected vice president.

Van Pelt and Yazzie were elected by NOW members at the annual Forward Feminism Conference, which drew nearly 500 activists from around the country. Van Pelt, of Seminole, Fla., is the current president of the Institute for Science and Human Values, and brings decades of experience volunteering for women's rights nationally and in Florida NOW leadership. Yazzie, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation in Durango, Colo., has served on NOW's national board since the early 2000s. Both will relocate to Washington, D.C. to lead the organization.

Thanks to all your donations to the Ice Cream Bar at our Fun Day, Our Club donated \$225 to the Beth Dillinger Foundation's Nourish to Flourish program. That will help a lot of local kids!



Jon Bauman, as Bowzer, volunteers regularly for Democrats. He delivers a speech incorporating a musical keyboard on saving Medicare and Social Security that's both political and entertaining.

Bowzer endorsed President Barack Obama during his last campaign, and he campaigned for Hillary Clinton at the Iowa Caucus'. Bowzer is at the Iowa Caucus in this photo.

Other Democratic *candidates* he's volunteered for include Mark Critz in 2010, Kathy Hochal in 2011, David Weprin in 2011, and Elizabeth Colbert Busch in 2013. He's currently volunteering with former Attorney General, Eric Holder, in his redistricting efforts.

Jon will join us Thursday night at our Convention opening reception.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT **by Carrie Wadlinger**

When I first began thinking about which of the disasters to write about, Health Care was at the top of the list. It was great news to see the latest version of the Senate Bill fail. But you and I both know it won't end anytime soon. It is just as important now as it ever was to call and write Senator Rubio and remind him we want MEDICARE for ALL! Remind him that always voting along party lines may make his job easier, but it will not guarantee his re-election when the time comes. Senator Rubio's information is as follows: Call 407-254-2573 or 866-630-7160, OR Write to him at 201 South Orange Ave. Suite 350, Orlando, FL 32801.

Next on the list was Trump declaring that Transgender individuals will no longer be able to serve in the military "in any capacity." According to many news sources the move would undo a policy set by President Obama that allowed thousands of transgender troops to serve openly. But without a formal modification to the military regulations—a tweet does not make a policy change. At least for now it doesn't. Please watch for any changes that might occur so you can voice your opinion against this bad policy change. There are thousands of transgender troops who willing serve their country like any other enlisted member of the United States Armed Service.

We must continue to speak out for Public Education.
We must continue to speak out for Environmental issues.
We must continue to speak out for Medicare for all.
We must continue to speak out for Equal Rights for all.
We must continue to speak out for Gun Safety.

We must speak OUT and speak UP whenever we can. To our neighbors, to our friends and family and to strangers at the store when we hear wrong statements made, if we don't than we can't expect others too.

Have a great August and the dog days of summer, but remember do your part.

Sat 26th Aug, 2017 will be...

Women's Equality Day



Date Founded:

1971 by *Bella Abzug*

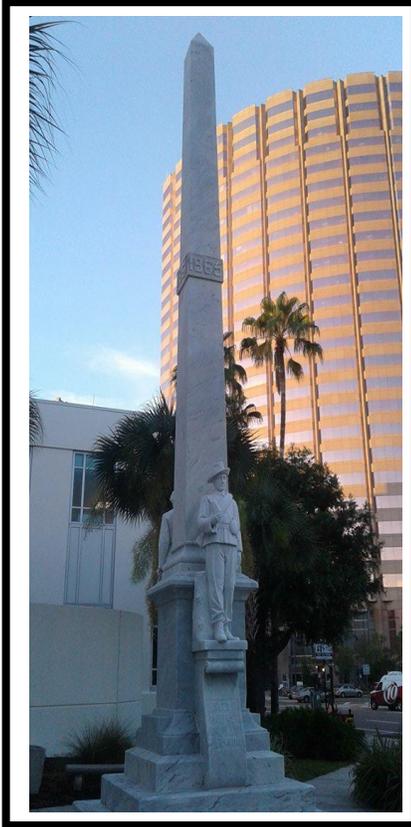
Women's Equality Day commemorates 26th August 1920 when votes to women officially became part of the US constitution. This day marks a turning point in the history of the struggle for equal treatment of women and women's rights.

In 1920, the day stood for the result of 72 years of campaigning by a huge civil rights movement for women. Prior to movements like these, even respected thinkers such as Rousseau and Kant believed that woman's inferior status in society was completely logical and reasonable; women were 'beautiful' and 'not fit for serious employment'.

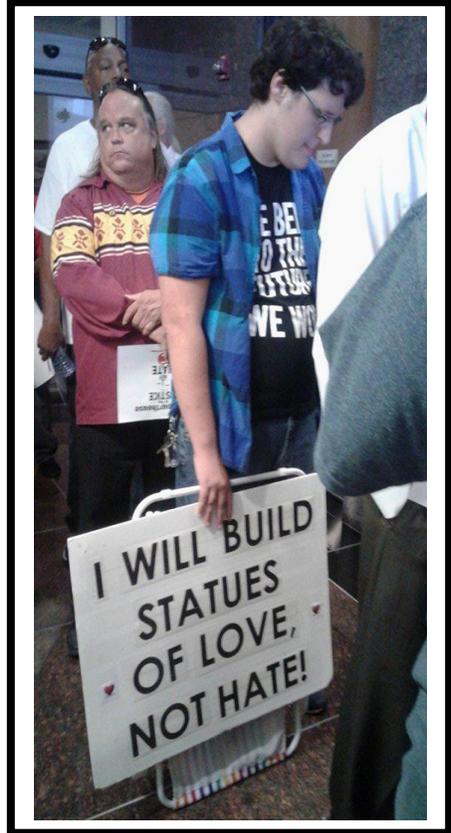
Over the last century, great women have proved these views wrong as the world has witnessed just what women are capable of achieving, from the likes of Rosa Parks and Eleanor Roosevelt fighting for civil rights and equality to great scientists such as Marie Curie, Rosalind Franklin and Jane Goodall. The last century has shown more than ever what both women and men are capable of achieving, given the opportunity.

Today, women's equality has grown to mean much more than just sharing the right to the vote. Organisations such as Equality Now and Womankind Worldwide continue to work to provide women across the globe with equal opportunities to education and employment, pushing against suppression and violence towards women and against the discrimination and stereotyping which still occur in every society.

So on **Women's Equality Day**, let the men do the dishes and the women do the DIY, think about supporting women's empowerment projects in developing countries, stop thinking about men and women as separate beings with separate roles and start thinking about treating people as equals.



TAMPA — For 106 years, *Memoria in Aeterna*, a monument to Confederate soldiers, has stood in downtown Tampa as a reminder of the city's Southern roots and, for many, a history of slavery and oppression. But on Wednesday, July 19, after 3 1/2 hours of impassioned pleas from the public and contentious debate from the dais, Hillsborough County commissioners voted 4-2 to remove the statue from its home outside the old county courthouse.



Next Meeting
September 25, 2017
11:30-1:30 pm
100 N. Osceola
Clearwater Library

