



Important Numbers:

- **President**
Donna Dennis
727-447-7380
 - **1st Vice President**
Mary Freeman
727-415-6629
 - **2nd Vice President**
MaryAnn Stickels
727-724-0234
 - **Corresponding Secretary**
Diane Lebedeff
727-252-3266
 - **Recording Secretary**
Open
 - **Treasurer**
Shelby Freeman
727-742-5661
 - **Regional Representative**
Sherry Kinder
704-240-0370
 - **Legislative Liaison**
Carrie Wadlinger
704/240-0371
 - **Parliamentarian**
OPEN
 - **Sergeant-At-Arms**
Jasmina Forcan
727-692-3472
 - **Media Chair/Historian**
OPEN
 - **Financial Review Chair**
Roberta Farr
336-549-2737
- DWCUP Website
DWCUP.org

DWCF, Inc.
DWCF.org

FL Demo Party
Fladems.com

PCDEC
Pinellasdemocrats.com

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING February 26, 2018
 Clearwater Main Library
 100 N. Osceola Ave.
 Clearwater
 11:30-1:30 pm



Black History Month Honoree
Lisa Wheeler-Bowman
St. Petersburg Council Chair

Lisa Wheeler-Bowman was elected to the St. Petersburg City Council District 7 November 3, 2015. Lisa was elected Chairwoman at the Council's December 18 meeting and will lead the first in history five-woman majority. As Chairwoman, a one-year position, she will lead the Council's meetings and serve as principal liaison with Mayor Rick Kriseman's office.

In October 2017, her story of how she found justice over her son's death was featured on "Tameron Hall's: Deadline-Crime" with Tameron Hall.

President's Message

by Donna Dennis

Several of us have just returned from the annual DWCF Tally Days. That's when Democratic Women's Club members from all over the state meet in Tallahassee for 3 days to gain information about current legislation, support our Democratic state legislators, lobby our own legislators and hold a press conference in the state capitol.

Wow! The energy was electric! All day Monday we heard speakers presenting the latest info on key issues: Supporting public education, banning fracking, protecting women's health and reproductive rights, raising those in poverty to a better living, restoring voting rights (Yes on Amendment 4), implementing sensible gun safety legislation, protecting our environment, providing health care for all Floridians, and more. It's true that with the Republican super majority in Tallahassee, the war on women is happening. The Republicans want guns everywhere—church, schools, etc. Another Repub goal is to disempower the Florida teachers' union. Reproductive rights face challenges on numerous fronts, from banning second trimester abortion to giving credibility to crisis pregnancy centers that attempt to stop women from having abortions. It's hard to earn a living in Florida as 67% of the jobs pay under \$20/hr and most are under \$15/hr. The tax structure is regressive with too many special interest exemptions, like no tax on boat purchases. Not exactly a necessity for most of us! Currently, 44% of Floridians cannot afford their basic needs! According to NOW lobbyist Barbara Devane, this is "the session from hell."

We will also be keeping you apprised on the amendments that will be on the November ballot. There may be as many as 15 to consider!

One good piece of news is that the fracking ban passed in the House. Several of our members, including Jessie Forcan, attended that session.

It's all so overwhelming, and I often feel inadequate to take on the challenge of working on so many fronts at once. But if we each do something positive each day, we can make 2018 not only the year of the woman candidate, but create a [Blue tsunami](#) in Florida.

At the local level, our Club has a critical need for a Recording Secretary. This person takes notes at the membership and board meetings. PLEASE call or email me if you would consider taking this position. Lunch is on me!

Bring in those unused **hotel toiletries** you have collected and we will deliver them to the women at the Haven of 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: Shelby Freeman

960 Starkey Rd. #1404 Largo, FL 33771

TBT Winner of the week 1/14/18

Women in Florida Politics.

Female lawmakers, lobbyists and legislative aides made a powerful statement on the first day of the 2018 legislative session, sporting black to express solidarity with the national #MeToo movement. Here's hoping the recent spate of stories about predatory workplace behavior will spark meaningful change.

January Speaker featured on Time Cover



Anna Eskamani, our January Speaker is featured on the January 29th edition of Time. Second from the right, bottom row.

DWCUP Words of Inspiration January / February 2018

As we think about our goals, as we do every January, these words are particularly suited to the coming year and our goals as a society:

"We must come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience."

That call to action came from Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday we just celebrated.

February follows with Presidents' Day and with it comes thoughts of the last President-Who-Might-Have-Been ... Hillary Clinton. These Hillary quotations ringingly call on us to move forward:

"Every moment wasted looking back, keeps us from moving forward...In this world and the world of tomorrow, we must go forward together or not at all." –ending her 2008 campaign for president
"Do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as you can." –on Twitter in 2016

During the coming month, let us all work to create a society at peace with its conscience and further that goal together.



Anna Eskamani with Donna Dennis



FREE CAMPAIGN TRAINING

Find out how to run a campaign. Whether you're interested in helping on a campaign or running for office yourself, this is a fantastic opportunity. Come to the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2470 Nursery Rd., Clearwater on Saturday, March 3, 2018 from 8:30 to 3:30. Bring your own lunch; beverages and snacks will be provided. The speaker will be Kevin Winchell, noted trainer of Democrats around the state. He uses the Wellstone Method of grassroots organization. This training is hosted by the Bernie Fensterwald for Congress campaign. Again, it is free and reservations are not required. The campaign will gladly accept donations.

Trump created a firestorm; we are creating a movement!

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF DEMOCRATIC MEETINGS

Greater Tarpon Springs Democratic Club

Tuesday, Feb. 15th @ 7 pm. See

www.tarponspringsdemocrats.com for details.

Largo Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club

Monday, Feb. 19th @ 7:15 pm.

Acropol Restaurant, 1170 Starkey Rd., Largo

North Pinellas Democratic Club

Tuesday, Feb. 20th @ 6 pm

1134 Douglas Ave., Dunedin

Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee

Thursday, Feb. 22nd @ 7 pm

Marriott on Roosevelt, St Petersburg

Legislative Report, February 2018

By Carrie Wadlinger

“BELIEVE”

It’s hard to believe that it has been a year since we started our Action Items both in the newsletter and at our monthly meetings. Last year we believed that we could hold the Republicans accountable for their lack of caring for all Americans. Well, we did at many turns...including showing up at Townhall Meetings. Believe it or not, almost all Republican elected officials no longer hold townhall meetings. We believed, and we succeeded.

We believed in the #metoo movement and every day, another one of the harassers falls. We must believe in what we are doing to be successful.

I attended “Tally Days” just a few days ago and I am excited and believe we can still do great things. It starts with me and together we will make it happen. Tally Days offered speakers that energized and informed us of goals to meet for success in this very important mid-term election cycle. I will share a lot of these points at our monthly meeting and beyond. They included topics of Gun/lobbying techniques, Healthcare, Environment, failure of Drug/Opioid war, Finance and women, Unions and the ERA and Education. As you can see there is a lot to share.

For now, I believe we must work together to win in 2018. With that said I am asking you to let me know what you believe was successful and maybe not so much of our monthly meeting action time. I know things change without realizing it. What would you like to see or do at our meetings? And finally, do you believe we need more time to accomplish this?

All responses will be kept confidential.

Email: Carriew1945@gmail.com

Phone: 704-240-0371

Text: 704-240-0371

"TALLY DAYS"



President Donna Dennis with Gubernatorial Candidate Gwen Graham.



Jessie Forcan, President Dennis and Cora Koska at the Statehouse.



Next Meeting
March 26, 2018
11:30-1:30 pm
100 N. Osceola
Clearwater Library

