

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB of MANATEE COUNTY

democraticwomenofmanateecounty.org
JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2009



NEWSLETTER

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2009 10:00 AM

MANATEE BEACH CAFÉ
HOLMES BEACH, ANNA MARIA ISLAND

BREAKFAST AT THE BEACH

(Summer Reunion, No Speaker, Just Members and Guests)

For information, phone Francine Slack at 778-3444

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2009 11AM

HYATT REGENCY SARASOTA
Luncheon \$30.00

WOMEN'S EQUITY DAY LUNCHEON

Speaker: ALEX SINK

Further information on page 3

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 11:30 AM

WESTMINSTER MANOR
1700 West 21st Avenue
Luncheon \$12.00

REBECCA STEELE, Esq.

Director, ACLU Western Florida

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

For a reservation, phone Phyllis Virzi at 796-7608 before September 4

Upcoming Meetings, Speakers and Events

July 14, 10am, DWC Meeting/BREAKFAST AT THE BEACH, Café at Manatee Public Beach, Anna Maria Island

August 22, 11am, DWC Table/WOMEN'S EQUITY LUNCHEON, Hyatt Regency Sarasota

September 8, 11:30am, DWC Meeting, Rebecca Steele, ACLU, Westminster Manor

September 24-27 DWC Annual Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Melbourne, FL (more info at democraticwomenofmanateecounty.org)

DEC Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the downtown Bradenton library at 6:30pm. All Democrats are welcome.

2009 DWC History Scrapbook:

Stephanie and Brenda ask for photos and articles concerning DWC and/or our members.

Help us document our involvement and achievements.

*hbbrenda@tampabay.rr.com
778-2227*

In addition to the phone and e-mail address above, you may prefer to mail to: 508 Bayview Drive, Holmes Beach, FL 34217

CLUB OFFICERS/LEADERS

Kathy Oarr, President

351-7467 dkoarr@verizon.net

Meg Newcomer, 1st VP (Programs)

739-9779 megnewcome@aol.com

Judy Balevre, 2nd VP (Membership)

727-8128 balevre2@verizon.net

Jeanne Yeagle, Recording Secretary

755-7426 yeagluce@ij.net

Shirley Snyder, Corresponding Secretary

798-9882 srs2918@yahoo.com

Jean Lewis, Treasurer

351-6568 jeanlewis55@verizon.net

Committees:

By-Laws: Sue Dickie, chair 761-4098

Fund Raising: Pat Benson, chair 758-4610

Hospitality/Calling: Phyllis Virzi 795-7608

Issues: TBD

Evangeline Hall, Chaplain 746-5324

Esther Happich, Parliamentarian 746-2246

Newsletter Editors

Myra Jones mjones672@tampabay.rr.com

Francine Slack fslack@tampabay.rr.com

Luncheon Reservations

Phyllis Virzi 795-7608

Publicity Chair

Jean Steiger jean@steigers.us

DWC Scrapbook

Brenda & Stephanie Katz 778-2227

hbbrenda@tampabay.rr.com



June 22, 2009

Message from our President

For those of you who want something useful to do during these long, hot summer days, consider taking part in the National Health Care Day of Service on Saturday, June 27th at the Sarasota/Bradenton International Convention Center (8005 15th St. E., near the airport). This event is from 10am—3pm. To find out more and how you can participate, go to www.barackobama.com/index.php. Also, Katie Walstrom, Voter Registration Chair of the DEC, needs help registering voters at this event. To assist, you can e-mail her at kwalstrom@gmail.com or call her at 704-7186.

Rep. Keith Fitzgerald gave us an interesting, and sometimes depressing, update on this year's legislative session in Tallahassee. Although much was done that we didn't like, according to him it could have been much worse without the Democrats pushing back. If we ever needed proof that re-districting is vital for Florida, this past legislative session was it. For information on donating to help get all the petitions that have been collected processed, go to FairDistrictsFlorida.org. Unfortunately, it costs \$10,000 per 100,000 petitions to file them with the state.

The board has agreed to add our club as a signer of the Fertilizer Ordinance letter developed by our May speaker, Cris Costello of Sierra Club. This letter urges the county commission to follow the lead of other counties and municipalities that have taken the much needed step of protecting our waters from heavily-laden fertilizer runoff. If anybody would like to work with Vicki Waters in identifying other likely Manatee organizations and businesses to join us in signing the letter, please let her know—753-9741, vwaters@earthlink.net.

This has been a busy and, I think, a productive ten months for our club. Thanks to the hard work of so many, we hosted a statewide convention for the DWCF, Inc., helped elect a Democratic President, helped our community through our donations to Healthy Start and Our Daily Bread, celebrated our 50th Anniversary as a club, heard some interesting and informative speakers, provided \$1,500 in scholarship money to two deserving students and gave money to our Democratic candidates. Whew! I think you have all earned a rest this summer. If you are here, go to the Beach party on July 14th (details in this newsletter) and have a good time. I won't be here to join you, but look forward to seeing some of you at the Women's Equity Luncheon on August 22nd.

Kathy Oarr, President

Invitations will be mailed soon and the webpage will be ready to take reservations by next week!

You are most cordially invited to Celebrate Women's Right to Vote!

**In Celebration of the 89th Anniversary
of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment
to the United States Constitution
Granting Women the Right to Vote**

**Please join the Honorary Chair, Dr. Sarah Pappas, and the Host Committee,
the Sarasota and Manatee Commissions on the Status of Women,
and the Sarasota and Manatee Leagues of Women Voters for a**

**Luncheon, Saturday August 22nd, 2009
Registration and Exhibits, 11:00AM-12 Noon**

**Hyatt Regency Sarasota
1000 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL
Lunch Served at 12 Noon**

**Speaker: Alex Sink
Florida Chief Financial Officer
<http://www.fldfs.com/Treasurer/Bio/>**

Tickets: \$30.00

All Details will be on the website next week! <http://cswsarasota.googlepages.com/2009women'sequitydaycelebration>

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Gini Hyman, ginich@aol.com 941 961-7982

or Vicki Waters 941 753-9741 vwaters@earthlink.net

For Exhibit table reservations, contact Val Fisher, VAFcounseling@aol.com

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE--WILL WE GET THE PLAN WE WANT?

by Myra Jones

We have heard a lot of talk about a change in our health care. Much of the discussion has been fact-free nonsense; what emerges is that neither our legislators nor the vested interests of the health industry want us to have single payer, government-administered health care. They have many arguments, but their rhetoric boils down to money. Companies make too much money from things as they are, and legislators get too much from lobbyists. So unless we raise Cain about our wishes, we are almost certain to have a health care plan that is basically business as usual, which works for the profit takers and not for us. Below are some facts about our health care and a plea to keep the pressure on our leaders to give us the plan WE want, not the plan THEY want us to have.

FACT: we spend nearly twice as much on health care as any other country, yet U.S. health care is ranked 37th, below such countries as Morocco and Costa Rica. (a WHO report)

FACT: Single payer is the ONLY system that would save real money. We now spend nearly 30% on administrative costs; if the government administered our health care, overhead would only be about 3%, for a savings of nearly \$400 billion a year--enough to pay for insurance for all of those who don't have it. (PNHP, Physicians for a National Health Plan)

FACT: Single payer is the only system to get rid of built-in conflicts of interest in our current system where profit, not pa-

tient welfare, is primary. The more they deny care, the more money they make. Insurance companies pay big bucks to people who deny care. We also get expensive tests and drugs that we don't need and there is failure to consider low-profit items-- such as vitamins, and preventive and public health care. People who argue that we cannot afford single payer are either woefully ignorant or are liars. They don't consider the money saved by preventive care. Nowadays many poor people wait until they are very ill before going to a hospital emergency room-- an expensive way to treat illness. And naysayers ignore savings from preventing illness. Medical treatment is way cheaper than punishment for drug addicts, and medical treatment for returning combat veterans and others would not only save money for taxpayers, but also alleviate years of misery for those in need. If General Motors had not had to provide its employees health insurance, it might have been more competitive with foreign companies and might not be bankrupt now. Talk about savings!!

FACT: Health bills are implicated in 60% of American personal bankruptcies--and most of those people DO have insurance! Bankruptcy because of illness is unheard of in other developed countries.

FACT: A recent (June 2009) NY Times/CBS poll shows that 85% of Americans want "major health care reform," and 65% back a government-administered plan.

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"I'm asking you to believe. Not just in my ability to bring about real change in Washington I'm asking you to believe in yours."

President Barack Obama

Democratic Women's Club of Manatee

www.democraticwomenofmanateecounty.org
6200 Flotilla Dr, #282
Holmes Beach, FL 34217

TO CONTACT OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS:

President

Barack Obama (D) 202/456-1414 (switchboard)
www.whitehouse.gov 202/456-1111 (comments)

US Senators

Mel Martinez (R) 202/224-3041

martinez.senate.gov

Bill Nelson (D) 202/224-5274

billnelson.senate.gov

US Representatives

Kathy Castor (D-Distr. 11) 202/225-3376, 813/871-2817

castor.house.gov

Vern Buchanan (R-Distr. 13) 202/225-5015, 747-9081

buchanan.house.gov

Governor

Charlie Crist (R) 850/488-2272

Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com

Our Florida Senators

Arthenia Joyner (D-Distr. 18) 850/487-5059,

813/233-4277 **joyner.athenia.web@flsenate.gov**

Mike Bennett (R-Distr. 21) 850/487-5078, 727-6349

bennett.mike.web@flsenate.gov

Nancy Detert (R-Distr. 23) 850/487-5081

detert.nancy.web@flsenate.gov

Our Florida Representatives

Darryl Rouson (D-Distr. 55) 850/488-0925, 727/552-1370

darryl.rouson@myfloridahouse.gov

Ron Reagan (R-Distr. 67) 850/488-6341, 727-6447

ron.reagan@myfloridahouse.com

Bill Galvano (R-Distr. 68) 850/488-4086, 708-4968

bill.galvano@myfloridahouse.com

Keith Fitzgerald (D-Distr. 69) 850/488-7754, 955-8077

keith.fitzgerald@myfloridahouse.com

National Health Care continued from page 3:

FACT: Republicans used the same old nay-saying arguments about Social Security and Medicare, and both measures were passed without a single Republican vote. If we did it before we can do it again. If they use the term "socialized medicine," laugh in their faces. We already have socialized medicine (Medicare) and like it a lot, thank you very much!

FACT: Many doctors and other medical personnel are in favor of single payer. Think of the money and time saved on dealing with insurance claims! Think of being able to make decisions because of medical necessity and not be dictated to by a bureaucrat that knows nothing about medicine--only about profit and loss. The AMA opposes national health care, but this organization only represents 29% of all doctors, and it is subsidized by the drug industry. The PNHP, Physicians for a National Health Plan, has 16,000 members.

South Africa is the only other developed country without national health care. If all those countries can afford it, we certainly can. Personally I would rather spend some of our tax dollars on our own needs than use it for military adventures abroad.

Left to their own devices, our elected officials will certainly not give us a single payer plan. For example, Senator Baucus, the Democratic chair of the Finance Committee, has been intransigent about keeping single payer off the table, though recently under pressure, he has made a token acknowledgment. Understandable, since he has received more than a million dollars in campaign contributions from the medical industry. The medical lobbyists have plenty of money--OUR money paid in inflated medical bills, which they are using against us.

So, Democratic women, and our friends and family, need to tell our representatives in no uncertain terms what we want. Please write and nag them! This is our best chance in years to get a health care system that works, but it will pass us by again if we don't get involved.