



# South Brevard Democratic Women's Club

April 2012

President's  
Message

ERA Update

Politics 2012

Super Mule

SBDWC  
Boosters

Thank goodness the legislative session is over. We can all exhale now.

Despite all the legislation aimed against women and at blocking the right to abortions in the state, none of these bills were passed in the 2012 session. There are those that consider this a win compared to last year. This year ten bills were introduced and none passed. Last year 18 were introduced and some passed including

**ABORTION — CHOOSE LIFE (Passed):** Proceeds from Choose Life license plates will go to Choose Life Inc. for assisting pregnant women, instead of counties. (SB 196/HB 501)

**ABORTION — HEALTH CARE EXCHANGES (Passed):** Health care plans created through the federal health care law cannot offer coverage for abortions. (SB 1414/HB 97)

**ABORTION — PARENTAL NOTIFICATION (Passed):** Requires minors seeking a judicial waiver for parental notification of an abortion to get the waiver in district court rather than a wider-reaching appeals court. (SB 1770/HB 1247)

**ABORTION — ULTRASOUND (Passed):** Women preparing to undergo an abortion must be offered the opportunity to have the results and images of an ultrasound explained to them. Woman can decline to see the image. (SB 1744/HB 1127)

I can breathe, but I don't feel like celebrating!

The attacks on women keep rolling forward. States all over this country are debating "personhood amendments, ultrasound bills, even contraception. We are spending our time, working hard long hours, defending what we have taken for granted for some time--sovereignty over our own bodies.

Women are realizing that the attacks are not isolated incidents from some backward nutcase, but a systematic attack at our contemporary culture and women's equality and an attempt to re-impose archaic sexual mores and literally roll back the clock. The outrage that resulted from the actions of the various legislatures, our Congress, Rush Limbaugh, and even the Roman Foundation has not resulted in any advancement for women's healthcare. We are only preventing loss of service.

We are proud that the first bill President Obama signed helps ensure equal pay for equal work. But this exemplifies our problem. Yes, the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act corrects a great injustice—the requirement that employees file a pay discrimination claim within an impossibly short window of time since the first discriminatory paycheck. This bill only corrected a harmful Supreme Court decision from a year before—and doesn't address the other factors that drive pay discrimination.

The agreement on healthcare to placate the religious right went backwards for some women. The Affordable Care Act will increase the number of women who, directly or indirectly, ac-



Patricia Farley Crutcher  
President

cess birth control with government support, but the federal government's family planning program, Title X, already existed. The discussion of "healthcare reform" became a means to reopen the debate over public funding of abortion. The compromise we ended up with will require women receiving government assistance to obtain insurance through the exchanges to sign up for a separate rider that covers abortion—paid for with their own money.

Dare we call this advancing to the rear? Many women are living in states with more restrictions on abortions now than ten years ago.

There are fewer women in Congress than ten years ago. What is clear is that we are not in control moving our cause forward. We are playing defense.

Our outrage and our energies have been used defending what we have, not demanding what we don't. We have been the targets of Republican and religious extremists. It is time to go on the offense. It is time to use the outrage for our benefit and become a strong political force—we are after all 54% of the voting electorate. It is time to get women out to vote; to elect women to office; and start now to demand our full equality.

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### ERA 2012 Legislative Session Update –

Senator Nan Rich (SCR180) and Representative Lori Berman (HCR8003) co-sponsored the Florida State 2012 ERA Legislative Bills. I emailed both Senator Rich and Representative Berman to ask them about the status of these bills telling them I was writing a news article for our club newspaper and wanted to provide first source information on their status – Both bills were introduced on 1/10/12 and no further action was indicated.

In the past, I've contacted both legislators and have found Representative Berman to be very responsive Senator Rich has not been responsive.

Here's what Representative Berman told me over a series of emails.

She said that unfortunately, we had the same roadblocks as we did last year. The Chair of the respective committee (in both the House and Senate) would not place the bill on an agenda of a subcommittee meeting. There was no opportunity for my colleagues to hear the bill. I am disappointed but will continue to try again next session. I hope this helps

In addition, I asked them what we can do to move ERA legislation forward. Representative Berman said that during session, we can lobby the Chairs of the respective committees. Now that session has ended, it may not be as effective, but the efforts should not stop. At this time, committee chairmanships could change next cycle, with a new Speaker Representative Berman ended with the following for all of us -Thank you again for all that you're doing in Brevard County.

Let's talk about this, as a club, and come up with our own plan.

Cheers to moving ERA towards state passage.

Milly



Milly Krause  
Vice President

I have a request from our SBDWC Treasurer Artney Turner who is also the person in charge of the food distribution for Greater Allen Chapel. Their shelves are totally empty and we are doing an emergency food collection for them. If you can contribute some canned food or donate a few dollars to this cause, drop your donations off at Madeline's House. Any items will be greatly appreciated. They feed a lot of people who are in desperate need. Call 773-2949 for information.

### Planned Activities

We have a **Region Meeting on March 31st** at the River Rocks Restaurant.

Location: 6485 South. US 1, Rockledge, Florida, 321.757.7200

This is north of Pineda Causeway, but south of Viera Blvd.

Please attend if possible. I would like for the clubs to meet each other and hopefully work together to plan some events for the upcoming election.

Lunch will be \$20.00 and you will be ordering m from a special lunch menu which includes a grilled chicken salad, fried shrimp basket, Fresh Mahi, or a French Dip sandwich.

Our **Next Regular meeting is April 14th** and will be held at Memaw's in Indian Harbour Beach at 11:30.

We will order and socialize until 12:00 and then the meeting will be called to order. The program consists of time for our two candidate members, Shannon Roberts and Kim Whiting, to address the club on ways we can help them with their election.

In April we are organizing a **Theater Trip to the Melbourne Civic Theater** for a matinee showing of

#### "The Drowsy Chaperone"

Music and Lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison

Book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar

Synopsis: A rare combination of unprecedented originality and blinding talent, THE DROWSY CHAPERONE boldly addresses a great unspoken desire in all of our hearts: to be entertained. If you've ever sat in a dark theatre and thought, "Dear Lord in heaven, please let it be good," this is the show for you! It all begins when a die-hard musical-theater fan plays his favorite cast album on his turntable, and the musical literally bursts to life in his living room, telling the rambunctious tale of a brazen Broadway starlet trying to find, and keep, her true love.

We are working on a matinee on the date of **April 22** and are hopeful of getting a block of tickets we can sell for \$25.00 as a fundraiser for the SBDWC. We will have more information at our next meeting.

Hope Stewart is the contact for this event. Please call her at 951-0699 so we can start getting a head count for tickets for this event.

There are **Unite Against the War on Women Marches** being planned in States all over the country for **April 28th**. Currently we know of plans for marches in Orlando and in Tallahassee. We will give members more information as we get closer in time to this event and we gain more information. Stay tuned. This is important!

### Scheduled Events



**Region VI Meeting** will March 31, 11:30, at the River Rocks Restaurants on US 1 in Rockledge



#### NEXT MEETING

April 14th, 11:30

Memaw's  
Indian Harbour Beach



Manatees Baseball  
April 5th, 6:35  
Space Coast Stadium



Theater Trip  
Melbourne Civic  
Theater  
April 22



War on Women  
March  
April 28th  
Orlando and  
Tallahassee



The Manatees Baseball 2012 Season opens on Thursday, April 5th at 6:35 p.m. at Space Coast Stadium in Viera. Admission for opening night is free for all. Let's get a group from SBDWC together to see the Manatees play Daytona. This will be our 3rd annual baseball outing. Our contact for this event is Milly Krause and her phone number is 321-684-4086

## Top 10 Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Attacks on Women's Rights

By Alison McQuade on 03/14/2012 @ 10:50 AM

The Right Wing decided it wanted to play Monday Morning Quarterback with my lady parts this year. It seems like an odd choice for a recreational activity, especially since there's no legislative or medical reason to suddenly introduce radically restrictive and dangerous legislation on women's health and bodies. Maybe someone should introduce them to Pinterest instead.

Here are our Top 10 Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Attacks on Women's Rights (just in the last 6 months!)

**The Blunt Amendment.** Reasonable religious exemptions weren't enough for Roy Blunt. This amendment would have allowed your employer – not your doctor - to decide what kind of health care you could get based on his or her own personal moral or religious convictions.

**The All-Male Birth Control Panel, or the Man Panel.** Congressman Darrell Issa convened a panel to discuss the coverage of birth control – but refused to include any women.

**Susan G. Komen Foundation defunds Planned Parenthood.** Komen opted to cut off funding to the largest provider of reproductive health services in the US because of their new VP's objection to a mere 3% of their activities.

**Rush Limbaugh Calls Sandra Fluke a Prostitute and a Slut.** After Sandra Fluke stood up for women everywhere, Rush Limbaugh took to the airwaves and called her a prostitute and a slut for speaking out in favor of birth control coverage. He also said she should have to put videos of her having sex online to compensate the taxpayers who “are going to pay for your contraceptives.” Classy.

**Forced Trans-Vaginal Ultrasounds.** Republican legislators in Virginia invited the commonwealth into the exam room when they proposed a bill that would require women seeking abortions to undergo an invasive, medically-unnecessary vaginal probe before their procedure.

**Texas defunds Planned Parenthood.** Under Governor Rick Perry, the state of Texas banned funding to Planned Parenthood because it provides abortion services. In the end, though, this fight has only served to hurt low-income women looking for breast cancer screenings, birth control and pap smears.

**Women in the Military Should “Expect” to be Raped.** Responding to a 64% increase in the reports of rape and violent sexual assaults in the military, Fox News pundit Liz Trotta responds, “What did they expect?” She goes on to say that there is a bureaucracy of people to support these women who are being “raped too much.”

**Foster Friess Suggests Women Put Aspirin Between Their Knees.** Rick Santorum supporter, Foster Friess, reminisced about back in his day when ladies put aspirin between their knees for birth control. Back in his day, people also died of polio.

**Santorum wants to deny birth control coverage because he thinks it's available and affordable.** Despite the fact that most forms of birth control still require a prescription and 1 in 3 women have reported struggling to afford birth control. Santorum feels there is no barrier to access, so it shouldn't be covered by insurance.

**Mitt Romney doesn't understand a woman's reproductive system.** Romney has publicly supported “personhood amendments,” which would ban abortion by declaring life begins at conception. When asked about how this affects birth control, Romney seemed to be completely unaware that hormonal forms of birth control stop implantation, not conception and would be banned under any personhood amendment.



According to Move On .Org we should be shocked to know that the GOP is attacking women in the following ways:

- Republicans not only want to reduce women's access to abortion care, they're actually trying to redefine rape. After a major backlash, they promised to stop. But they haven't yet.
- A state legislator in Georgia wants to change the legal term for victims of rape, stalking, and domestic violence to “accuser.” But victims of other less gendered crimes, like burglary, would remain “victims.”
- In South Dakota, Republicans proposed a bill that could make it legal to murder a doctor who provides abortion care. Republicans want to cut nearly a billion dollars of food and other aid to low-income pregnant women, mothers, babies, and kids.
- In Congress, Republicans have a bill that would let hospitals allow a woman to die rather than perform an abortion necessary to save her life.
- Maryland Republicans ended all county money for a low-income kids' preschool program. Why? No need, they said. Women should really be home with the kids, not out working.
- And at the federal level, Republicans want to cut that same program, Head Start, by \$1 billion. That means over 200,000 kids could lose their spots in preschool.
- Two-thirds of the elderly poor are women, and Republicans are taking aim at them too. A spending bill would cut funding for employment services, meals, and housing for senior citizens.
- Congress just voted for a Republican amendment to cut all federal funding from Planned Parenthood health centers, one of the most trusted providers of basic health care and family planning in our country.
- And if that wasn't enough, Republicans are pushing to eliminate all funds for the only federal family planning program. But Republican Dan Burton has a bill to provide contraception for wild horses.

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Three million people a year rely on Planned Parenthood as their only affordable option for preventive health care—including cervical cancer screenings, clinical breast exams, birth control, and other critical care that could save their lives.

That's why Mitt Romney's pledge to “get rid of” Planned Parenthood is so much more than just a desperate candidate pandering to the extreme right wing of the Republican Party. Romney's rhetoric as a leader of the Republican Party puts women's health on the line. As Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards put it in a call with Illinois members of Congress denouncing Romney's latest plan for women's health, it is “dangerous, a monumental step backward, and threatens to undermine women's health care in this country.”

Romney's justification that we can't afford Planned Parenthood is “astoundingly misleading and inaccurate,” Richards said, even for a candidate who has “never been one to let the facts get in the way.” Planned Parenthood's Title X funding, which is about \$75 million, represents just 0.002 percent of the federal budget. Keep in mind that Romney is proposing a \$5 trillion tax plan that would give massive tax breaks to millionaires, billionaires, and corporations who don't need them.

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Do you use FaceBook or does a member of your family? Please have them find and like our South Brevard Democratic Women's Club Page and the Region VI Democratic Women's Club Page.



Last month's Membership Luncheon which was held at the Doubletree Suites was well attended. President and founder of the Equal Rights alliance Sandy Oestreich supplied those in attendance with numerous handouts and a great deal of information on the ERA in Florida. Karen Houston, who is with the AFL-CIO addressed the as-

sembly. The day was a great opportunity to enjoy a wonderful lunch in a new venue and meet some exciting new individuals with the wonderful speakers and many candidates who came to the event.

Last February during Tallahassee days, several of our members managed to get their photo taken with our Vice President Joe Biden. Here is a photo of Madeline Farley and Janie Holman with our gracious VP who told them how honored he was to meet such women who had worked so hard for the Democratic Party.



Things to Know.....

Your **Dues** for this year were due in January. Have you paid your dues yet to Treasurer Artney Turner.? Please do so before we have to report our membership for the year. Our number of convention delegates and therefore votes is determined by our paid membership.

We still have our **Bakeless Bake Sale** going. Please make a donation if you can to this cause before we end this fundraiser.

**Amy Tidd** has a weekly radio show every Saturday morning at 10:00 on WMEL 1300 on your AM dial.



We will be making gift baskets for drawings at our meetings. If you have any items you would like to donate to the baskets, you can bring them to the meetings or drop them off at Madeline Farley's home at 173 Coral Way in Indialantic. Suggested items: wine, chocolate, cheese, crackers, bath , gourmet foods, or really most anything..



Super Mule

Rick Santorum has been on a roll lately. CNN came up with a clever word for this — Santorum-entum. Are they serious? It sounds like something you put under your nose or the name of a drug.” –Jimmy Kimmel

“Bothered by irregularity? Constipation? Santorum-entum — the twice-a-day medication, not covered by Obamacare. Consult Jesus before taking any medication.” –Jimmy Kimmel

“Rick Santorum won Alabama and Mississippi, and Mitt Romney won Hawaii and American Samoa. Here's a little mnemonic device to help you remember. Places you can get to in a Winnebago, go to Santorum. Places that require a jet or a yacht, go to Romney. Romney, of course, always does well with islands, that's where his money lives.” –Jon Stewart

“Newt Gingrich has promised to cut the price of gas to \$2.50 a gallon. It's not catching on with voters. How bad a candidate are you that people are willing to pay higher gas prices just to keep you out of office?” –Jay Leno

How about those Republican presidential candidates. Newt Gingrich is behind in delegates. But he's leading in chins.” –David Letterman

“So Newt Gingrich is looking for a vice presidential running mate. Being Newt's VP is like being a Kardashian husband. It's going to be over quickly.” –David Letterman

Happy birthday to Mitt Romney, he's 65 years old. At his party, he didn't blow out the candles. He gave a speech and the candles just flickered and died.” –Jay Leno

“Romney's birthday is not a big deal here. But in the Cayman Islands, it's a national holiday.” –Jay Leno

“How about that Rush Limbaugh? It was nice for me to see somebody else apologizing for something for a change.” –David Letterman

“Don't kid yourself, Rush is in a lot of trouble. He's down to two national sponsors. You know what they are? One is Crisco, and the other is Hostess Twinkies.” –David Letterman

“If you are a multimillionaire entertainer supporting the candidacy of a wealthy financier from Massachusetts, you might no longer be a redneck.” –Stephen Colbert on Jeff Foxworthy campaigning with Mitt Romney

“Mitt Romney won a key victory in the Ohio Super Tuesday primary narrowly beating Rick Santorum by just 1 percent. Specifically, the 1 percent.” –Seth Meyers



**THINK AGAIN!**



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- Bessie Barnes
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Our sincere Thoughts and Prayers are extended to all the US troops stationed in Afghanistan, around the world and also to their families everywhere.

We pray for the safe return of the troops, a speedy end to the war and the wisdom of our leaders to guide us in this conflict.



**WE WILL NOT BE SILENT!**

We will NOT allow you to dismantle those rights that we have fought so long & hard to attain!

Your attack on women's rights



**Will lead to your DEMISE**

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