



South Brevard Democratic Women's Club

August 2015

President's
Message

Politics 2015

Legislative
Update

Super Mule

SBDWC
Boosters

Patricia Farley

Labor Report

In the last two months I have attended the Democratic Labor Caucus meeting at Leadership Blue and the National Education Association Convention.

The NEA is one of the largest unions in the USA. One out of every 100 voters in the USA is a member of NEA and they take stands on, not only educational issues, but almost every social issue that is current in the country.

Some of the issues and stands taken in the over 120 plus new business items were addressing issues on everything from high stakes testing, the confederate flag, and native American land use. The focus on testing resulted in numerous business items that concerned equity and access. NEA demanded an educational system that will best serve students. While today's policies overemphasize test scores, the NEA is calling for opportunities for educators to share in the decision-making on high quality curriculum and policy to provide support for teaching and learning. NEA called for stakeholders to have high expectations of all schools, educators, and students, but is emphatic that the level of investment must mirror increased expectations. NEA reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the needs of minority students through culturally responsive teaching and by working with local communities to help tackle the problems associated with poverty—problems like hunger, violence and homelessness, that often prevent low-income students from learning.

Last Week the Senate was working on a reauthorization bill for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as No Child Left behind (NCLB), the cornerstone education law in America. This decision will determine what teaching and learning looks like in America's schools over the next decade. For students and educators, the stakes couldn't be higher. The Senate passed the new measure, but more bills relating to this are in process.

Some current issues affecting labor:

Raising the Overtime Pay Threshold

One reason Americans' paychecks are not keeping pace with their productivity is that millions of lower-middle-class and even middle-class workers are working overtime but not getting paid for it. The rules that require employers to pay workers time-and-a-half if they work overtime are out of date. President Obama directed the Labor Department to modernize the rules, and on June 30, 2015, the department issued a proposed rule to raise the overtime threshold to a "standard salary level equal to the 40th percentile of earnings for full-time salaried workers," estimated at \$50,440 in 2016. The department will be reviewing comments on the proposed rule to determine what to include in a final rule next year.

The Obama administration estimates the new proposal will put up to \$1.3 billion "in the pockets of workers" and will create more jobs, as well as provide people with more disposable income. Other advocates of the proposal state it will greatly benefit at least 11 million workers.



Patricia Farley Crutcher
President

See factsheet

Right to work of “public employees” going to the Supreme Court

Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association--Though the Supreme Court saved the Affordable Care Act again, and protected same sex couples’ right to marry, the nine judges ended their term by opting to hear the case that public sector unions have been trying to make go away: Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association. The court could decide the case as soon as this winter that could make the whole public sector “right to work.” The court would determine whether public sector unions could continue to collect so-called “fair share” or “agency” fees. If CTA loses, public employees across the country could opt out of membership and pay nothing for the union protections they enjoy. Union budgets—and strength—would be further diminished. Public sector unions are playing defense. They need a plan to convince employees to join (or stay in) the union. But they’re operating in a difficult terrain, after years of cuts and concessions. “Unions all over the nation are pushing for membership drives, of which saving pensions is a central theme.

Postal workers, postcards

The American Postal Workers Union has launched a postcard campaign to mobilize support for postal workers during the final stretch of contract negotiations. APWU members are working to secure signatures on postcards that bear the message, “I Stand with Postal Workers,” which will be mailed to Postmaster General Megan Brennan. Save America’s Postal Service!

Here’s How You Can Help:

Here’s how you can help protect a vibrant, public Postal Service for generations to come:

Sign the postcard: ‘I Stand with Postal Workers.’

Ask businesses in your area to post a sign in their window showing support!

Call your member of the House of Representatives at (202) 224-3121 and ask him or her to support House Resolution 54, which calls for the restoration of standards that would bring back quick mail delivery, and House Resolution 12 to protect six-day delivery.

Call your senators at (202) 224-3121 and ask them to urge Postmaster General Megan Brennan to stop closing/consolidating mail processing centers.

FACTSHEET: Raising the Overtime Pay Threshold Will Help More Workers Get the Pay They Deserve

June 30, 2015

Hardworking, middle-class Americans have seen their wages stagnate in recent years, while for the most part, the benefits of the economic recovery have gone to the wealthy few. This weakening of the middle class is associated with the weakening of labor standards that protect workers, including overtime standards. The Obama administration is updating the pay threshold for overtime protection to bring it up to date with 2015 realities, a key step which will help ensure that we have an economy that works for everyone. On June 30, 2015, the Department of Labor issued a proposed rule that would raise the overtime threshold to \$50,440 in 2016.

Key facts

The overtime threshold is a critical tool to make sure that workers with modest salaries are being paid what they earn. Salaried workers who earn below the threshold must be paid “time-and-a-half” for each hour worked beyond 40 hours per week (hourly workers in most occupations already enjoy these protections). A higher threshold will mean that more people are compensated fairly for all of the hours they actually work—primarily, people who work long hours for little pay.

In 1975, 62 percent of salaried workers were guaranteed overtime pay, but today, only about 8 percent are guaranteed it. The current overtime threshold of \$23,660 per year is below the federal poverty line for a family of four.

Had it kept pace with its 1975 level, the overtime threshold would be more than \$52,000 today adjusted for inflation, about equal to the U.S. median household income. Increasing the threshold for overtime pay to \$50,440 will give middle-class workers and families a big boost, with at least 11 million more lower-paid white-collar workers automatically enjoying overtime protection by virtue of their salary alone.

According to the Department of Labor's estimate, the raise would affect nearly 5 million workers, putting more money in their pockets. The workers who would benefit the most include women, African Americans, Latinos, workers under age 35, and workers with lower levels of education. CEOs are benefiting from increased worker productivity, but workers are not. Since before 1980, worker productivity has steadily increased, but inflation-adjusted wages for most workers have barely increased. even as CEO pay has shot to new heights.

Raising the overtime threshold can help make sure that middle-class workers are being compensated fairly and that their employers honor their work. Opposition to raising the overtime threshold is based on the same trickle-down theory that conservatives and corporations have used to oppose raising the minimum wage. While corporate lobbyists argue that increasing wages and worker protections would cost jobs and reduce investment, corporate profits are soaring. In fact, corporations are spending 91 percent of their earnings on stock buybacks and dividends—a move that boosts CEO pay—instead of investing in employees or products. Rather than ensuring that everyone benefits from a strong economy, too much of the wealth continues to flow to the top, increasing inequality and making American families less economically secure.

Americans strongly support increasing the overtime threshold. According to Public Policy Polling, 79 percent of Americans support raising the threshold above \$23,000 per year, while 65 percent support raising it to \$75,000. What's more, 64 percent of Americans are more likely to support a candidate who supports substantially increasing the overtime threshold.

Twelve prominent labor economists affiliated with leading academic and policy institutions have called on the U.S. secretary of labor to raise the overtime threshold to a level that ensures that eligible workers receive fair compensation for the overtime they work.

This fact sheet was prepared by the Economic Policy Institute and the Center for American Progress.



Important information regarding DWCF convention attendance

At the June meeting Convention Delegates were chosen, but you may attend as a guest.

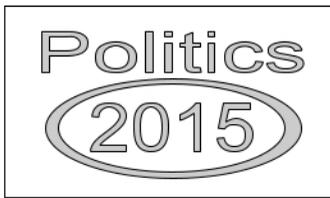
There is no registration on site. Everyone must be pre-registered to attend and registration must go through a club president. Therefore if you wish to attend as a guest please let me know asap.

Our Non-delegates and guests must pay for their registration. The fee is \$45

A guest who just wants to do a meal-, such as the banquet or the casino cruise with the group, but not attend any meetings or breakout sessions----would not need to register.

A guest can arrive for a meal, but they would not be free to roam through the convention site without registration.

However I have been told that registered convention members will be given priority at the luncheons or dinners if we sell out tickets for those events.



Republicans in Congress are launching an investigation into Planned Parenthood following the release of a highly edited, completely misleading undercover “sting” video by a right-wing anti-choice group.

Make no mistake -- anti-choice Republicans aren’t interested in the truth. They’re exploiting this totally bogus attack to try to do something they’ve wanted to do for a long time: completely defund Planned Parenthood.

The video in question, released by the radical anti-choice Center for Medical

Progress, purports to show a Planned Parenthood physician admitting that the group illegally profits off the sale of fetal tissue after abortions. It is an outright lie ... an outrageous distortion of a wholly legal and ethical practice of donating tissue for research.

Eric Ferrero, vice president of communications at Planned Parenthood, sets the record straight:

“Women and families who make the decision to donate fetal tissue for lifesaving scientific research should be honored, not attacked and demeaned. Our medical practices and guidelines in this area are clear, and we do this important work just like other high-quality health care providers -- with full, appropriate consent from patients, under the highest ethical and legal standards, and with no financial benefit for the patient or Planned Parenthood.”

Republicans will resort to any lie they can get away with in their relentless war on women.

Planned Parenthood is a life-saving organization -- one of the largest providers of health care to low-income women, and the nation’s number one provider of sex education.

But this is not the first time Republicans have gone after Planned Parenthood in this exact same way. House Republicans previously launched a similar investigation in 2011, after the anti-choice group Live Action released a heavily edited video that they said showed Planned Parenthood employees aiding sex traffickers.

It’s actually becoming a very popular piece of the Right’s playbook: obtain secret video of an organization they don’t like, edit it to twist the words of the people filmed to create a completely false perception of what actually happened, and then have Republicans in Congress use the power of the federal government to go after that organization.

The same thing happened to ACORN -- a community organization that did tremendous good in increasing civic engagement in economically disadvantage communities. Now, ACORN’s just a memory, after a smear campaign, by right-wing activists and congressional Republicans, that was based on lies and involved similar “sting” videos.

Florida has the wrong leaders running our state with the wrong priorities, leaders who routinely ignore the needs of everyday Floridians. While there are a number of legislators who fight to protect and expand the middle class in Florida, there are a select few who voted the right way 100% of the time on the critical bills that impacted everyday Floridians this past legislative session.

We’re recognizing 12 members of the Florida Legislature as “Champions of Florida’s Middle Class” for their unwavering support on behalf of Florida’s working families. During the 2015 legislative session, these 12 lawmakers voted 100% to protect and expand the middle class.

Rep. Lori Berman (D-Boynton Beach)

Rep. John Cortes (D-Kissimmee)

Rep. Janet Cruz (D-Tampa)

Rep. Reggie Fullwood (D-Jacksonville)

Rep. Joseph Geller (D-Dania Beach)

Rep. Evan Jenne (D-Hollywood)

Rep. Mark S. Pafford (D-West Palm Beach)

Rep. José Javier Rodríguez (D-Miami)

Rep. Irving "Irv" Slosberg (D-Delray Beach)

Rep. Cynthia A. Stafford (D-Opa Locka)

Rep. Richard Stark (D-Weston)

Rep. Clovis Watson, Jr. (D-Gainesville)

Florida's Middle Class Champions promoted a range of issues such as working to close Florida's health care coverage gap, enacting online voter registration, providing alternatives to incarceration for our youth, and more – while opposing attacks on our public schools, political interference in women's health, a budget that ignored the votes and needs of Floridians, and other ill-conceived bills.

These legislators are being recognized because they unequivocally stood up for Florida's working families despite pressure from Gov. Scott and legislative leaders whose extreme ideological agenda is driven by corporate campaign cash from the big polluters, Wall Street bankers, monopoly utilities, and others.

As we continue the fight to protect and expand Florida's middle class, we should take time to thank these legislators who are courageously standing and fighting with us.



Rep. Lori Berman
D-Delray Beach



Rep. John Cortes
D-Kissimmee



Rep. Janet Cruz
D-Tampa



Rep. Reggie Fullwood
D-Jacksonville



Rep. Joseph Geller
D-Dania Beach



Rep. Evan Jenne
D-Dania Beach



Rep. Mark Pafford
D-West Palm Beach



Rep. José Javier Rodríguez
D-Miami



Rep. Irving "Irv" Slosberg
D-Delray Beach



Rep. Cynthia Stafford
D-Opa Locka



Rep. Richard Stark
D-Weston



Rep. Clovis Watson, Jr.
D-Gainesville

Scheduled Events

Next Meeting

August 1st

11:30

Memaw's

Indian Harbour

Beach



Time to Rally -

Milly Krause – DWCF Leg. Chair & SBDWC Leg. Liaison



Milly Krause,
Vice President

As DWCF's Legislative Chair and SBDWC's Legislative Liaison, my role is to focus on Florida Legislation. However, recent Supreme Court rulings, such as marriage equality, redistricting maps and the Affordable Care Act rulings, show us how far-reaching our work becomes. The issue of Reproductive Rights has brought our focus to Texas many times. However, please know that I work to focus on Florida State Legislation. As of this writing, Florida HB 633, 24 Hour Abortion Delay, Informed Patient Consent, is still under injunction and hasn't become a law. If you would like to see a complete list of the bills passed and signed or vetoed by Governor Scott, go to the Governor's website at <http://www.flgov.com/> and click 2015 Bill Actions.

As your DWCF Legislative Chair, I send out emails to both educate and inform members of current issues and happenings. At times, these emails can be overwhelming but the information is often vital. Please read and continue to share these emails with your other clubs and our alliances. Act on them ASAP when action is requested. If you haven't been receiving emails, please let me know. Email me at millyERA@gmail.com so I can add you to the list.

SAVE THE DATES - DWCF Tally Days 2016 will be held at the Four Points Sheraton Downtown Tallahassee Hotel beginning the evening of Sunday, February 21, 2016 through Tuesday, February 23, 2016. Our Co-Coordinators, Daniel Sohn and Cynthia Schwartz, are enthusiastically working on exciting events to create an even better Tally Days experience. Plan to attend.

Florida's Legislative Session will be held earlier in 2016 than the past so begin preparing earlier for this session, which starts on January 12, 2016 and ends on March 11, 2016. Visit your legislators locally over the summer and in the fall. Discuss your issues at our club meetings. As your SBDWC Club Legislative Liaison, these issues will in turn be submitted to me for DWCF Legislative Liaisons to vote on to create a focused list of 2016 Florida Legislative Session Issues to lobby during Tally Days and throughout the session.

Meanwhile, contact your legislators often and make your voices heard. The following are links to your legislators' websites:

Senate - <http://flsenate.gov/>
House - <http://myfloridahouse.gov/default.aspx>

Women's Equality Day – Each year on August 26th, we commemorate women's vote officially becoming part of the U.S. constitution. This day marks a turning point in the history of the struggle for equal treatment of women and women's rights. I would like our SBDWC to hold a LOCAL RALLY on August 26th to show the continued need for equality and activism as well as to support Katrina's Dream to deliver the ERA Ratification Petition to the U.S. Congress to create awareness that inequality still exists in the U.S. It is now 92 years since Alice Paul introduced the original ERA to the U.S. Congress

On October 23rd, the movie, Suffragette, premieres in the U.S. This historical drama chronicles the fight for women's suffrage in 1910's England, led by activist, Emmeline Pankhurst. This could be an opportunity to invite the public to a movie party and stimulate interest in today's movement by encouraging new membership and developing passionate activists. Let's talk this up at our upcoming meetings on how we might take advantage of the publicity of this film.

After 92 years, it's time to JUMP out of the box to create effective ways to RATIFY ERA.



Super Mule

Some bad news for Donald Trump. The controversial remarks he's made since he began his presidential campaign have cost his brand as much as \$80 million. You can tell things are rough for Trump because today he had to wipe his mouth with a napkin instead of a 20." –Jimmy Fallon

"With more and more states legalizing marijuana, companies are lining up to create the first marijuana breathalyzer. Officials say the toughest part is getting stoners to stop trying to inhale off the breathalyzer." –Jimmy Fallon

"Presidential candidate Donald Trump had a meeting with Ted Cruz. He said he does not know why he agreed to fly to New York to meet Ted Cruz and then he promised to bring that kind of leadership to the Oval Office." –Conan O'Brien

"After severing ties with Donald Trump, NBC is reportedly in talks with comedian George Lopez to take over 'Celebrity Apprentice.' So Trump's greatest nightmare came true. A Hispanic guy took his job." –Seth Meyers

"Now that some economic sanctions are being lifted, Iranian citizens are apparently clamoring for Western products like iPhones. We should have just sent them iPhones in the first place. Then they'd never get any work done on a nuclear weapon." –Seth Meyers

"President Obama said yesterday that education is the key to reducing the prison population. Though apparently power tools also work." –Seth Meyers

"It was announced today that Iran has reached a deal with the U.S. to limit its nuclear program and send most of its uranium to Russia. Then Americans said, 'That's great! Wait, WHAT?'" –Jimmy Fallon

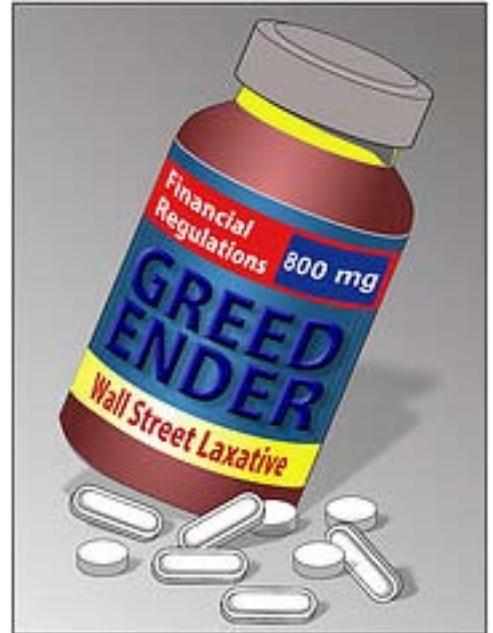
"The president of Iran prematurely announced the nuclear deal on Twitter yesterday before it was official. Which isn't that big a deal until you realize the guy who almost had nukes is known for accidentally hitting 'Send.'" –Jimmy Fallon

"Today Donald Trump's official Twitter account accidentally tweeted a photo of him that also had images of Nazis in it. The Nazis are furious." –Conan O'Brien

"Mexico is offering a \$3.8 million reward for information leading to the capture of the escaped billionaire drug lord, El Chapo. Mexico said they'll get the money by borrowing it from El Chapo." –Conan O'Brien

"According to a new poll, 55 percent of Americans do not trust that Iran will abide by the terms of the nuclear deal. It's the same 55 percent who are running for the Republican nomination." –Seth Meyers

"According to a new nationwide poll, Donald Trump now leads all other Republican presidential candidates. But come on, if we elect him you know he'll just leave us for a younger country." –Seth Meyers



SBDWC Boosters

Madeline Farley

Patty Farley

Bea Gillespie

Mary Hopkins

Vicki Impoco

Jodi James

Pat Jotkoff

Alex Jotkoff

Milly Krause

John Lasseter

Jackie Lombardo

Eileen Manning

Loretta Mills

Bonnie Ollinger

Terry Sanders

Isaac Sorkowitz

Molly Tasker

Artney Turner

Shannon Roberts



President Patty Farley with Florida AFL-CIO President Mike Williams at the Leadership Blue Labor Caucus



Our sincere Thoughts and Prayers are extended to all the US troops stationed in Afghanistan, Iraq, 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.



Become an SBDWC Booster

Your ad will appear in the newsletter as well as in the archive at <http://sbdwcnewsletter.com> where thousands can view it. A link included in your ad will be “clickable” so as to send greater traffic to your site.

Help us find Boosters to cover the costs of printing our newsletter. Cost for a one line listing is \$20 for 6 months or \$35 for a year. Cost for a two line listing is \$30 for 6 months or \$45 for a year, additional lines extra.

Contact pfarley_101@hotmail.com

You can find archived PDF copies of these our newsletters at www.sbdwcnewsletter.com/