



South Brevard Democratic Women's Club

January 2012

President's
Message

First, I must say Happy New Year to all since this is our January 2012 issue. I look forward to this year knowing that the SBDWC has a lot of work ahead of us with a national election and a chance to make a major statement on the ERA here in Florida. The time is long past that women should have Constitutional Equality, and frankly with numbers alone we should be able to demand the issue from Tallahassee. I ask every member of our organization to personally contact your state legislatures in one or multiple ways—phone, email, written, or in person to inform them that you are for ERA. Our Representatives must be embarrassed to ever say they were never told that ERA was an important issue to their constituents.



Patricia Farley Crutcher
President

Looking Back

As your new President I want to express my gratitude for your trust and your support. I take this position very seriously and promise to do my best to conduct the office with dignity and honor. I hope to actually grow this organization during my tenure. I am sure that I will make some mistakes along the way, but I know we have many experienced members who I hope will give me your help and guidance. I have great respect for the people who have held this office before me, and intend to look to them periodically for advice.

Politics 2011

There has been nonstop Obama bashing, and even during this Holiday season it has been ongoing. It doesn't matter what he does, someone is there to criticize and complain. Case



in point—just a few weeks ago he was criticized for being extravagant, for having too many Christmas trees in the White House, too big a gingerbread house and vacationing in Hawaii while Americans struggle with the economy. This week he has been attacked by Sarah Palin and Fox news for a White House Christmas

Super Mule

Card that does not properly celebrate Christmas because it does not have a religious theme or Christmas tree on it. The card depicts a picture of Bo, the popular White House pet sleeping in front of one of the elegantly decorated fireplaces adorned with greenery, red ribbons and in the fore ground you see presents wrapped in green and red on a table under a huge poinsettia plant. The card wording was also criticized: "From our family to yours, may your holidays shine with the light of the season," read the inside of the card, featuring

SBDWC
Boosters

the presidential seal. A garlanded fireplace, a dog, presents, poinsettia, a red and green color theme—please, what else could it be? The scene is obviously celebrating Christmas. The smallness of the complaint could only be comparable to the level of intelligence of the complainers. Please take the time to go on line to the White House and view some of the holiday photographs and you will be favorably impressed.

I have long thought educating our local community and trying to counter groups like Palin and Fox news must be a priority for the SBDWC and the Democratic Party. I continue to have this belief and in this age I feel an on-line presence is very important. I hope to move our club forward in this area, also.

Tallahassee days, February 6 and 7, are quickly approaching. Please make plans to attend this event if possible. Please see the information in this issue. More will be discussed at our next meeting on January 7th at 11:30 at Me-maw's in Indian Harbour Beach. At this meeting we will be forming our annual agenda. Please think about activities that the club did you enjoyed and bring ideas for new activities.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Holiday Party and brought food. We welcome a new member from this event—Holly Hale, who lives in Melbourne and is a teacher for Brevard County Schools.

Looking Back on 2011 By Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz

As the year draws to a close and we look back at all that 2011 brought us, there is much to be thankful for this year, despite some of the challenges we've faced.

To start off with a significant accomplishment, a report released in December shows that an additional 2.5 million young people now have health insurance as a result of the Affordable Care Act. And in Florida, parents have been able to keep some 78,000 young adults on their insurance. Additionally, seniors are seeing more benefits this year as a result of the health care reform law that passed last year. In South Florida, we have more than 120,000 seniors on Medicare, who now have access to free annual preventive care services, including mammograms, colonoscopies, and annual wellness visits. The Affordable Care Act also caps out-of-pocket expenses, even for private insurance plans, and works to close the donut hole completely over the next nine years, saving seniors more than \$3,000 a year in drug costs.

We've been fighting to make sure that hard work pays off for middle class families and that everyone has a fair shot at the American dream. We've seen some progress, for example the jobless rate fell to 8.6 percent in November from 9 percent in October. Job creation was steady, adding 140,000 private sector jobs, making it the 21st straight month of private sector job growth, with 2.9 million jobs added during that period. These are good numbers, but there is still much more to be done.

One effort I supported in Washington to help turn our economy around and boost job creation was the American Jobs Act. Earlier this year, I met with three local independent small business owners from Hallandale, Miami and Hollywood to talk about a specific piece of legislation in the American Jobs Act that would help 98 percent of all small businesses in America by providing much-needed payroll tax relief and deductions for buying equipment and hiring veterans.

To help our Florida veterans who are looking for employment and to help small businesses find the workers they need, Rep. Ted Deutch and I hosted a Veterans Jobs Fair at the Fort Lauderdale Armory on Dec. 3 and we had a great turnout from businesses, veterans, and active duty guardsmen. The event happened shortly after the passage of new tax credits for employers who hire unemployed veterans. With so many of our troops returning home to a difficult economy after serving bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan, this event provided some of our servicemen and women with an opportunity to meet with local employers interested in hiring a hero.

As we end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we are redoubling our efforts at home by rebuilding the American economy and restoring the American dream for our children. We must ensure that our returning veterans can get jobs, housing, and the health care they deserve after honorably serving our country and making America safer and stronger.

In 2012 I'll continue to work hard on behalf of the people of South Florida, both in Florida and in Washington. I'll continue to stand up for our school children, whether it's fighting against cuts to their education or making sure that law enforcement has the resources they need to protect them from online predators. I'll continue to champion the interests of small businesses and meet with owners and employees regularly at events like my yearly small business workshops and roundtables so I can hear directly from them about their concerns, challenges, and successes.

I am proud to be an advocate for South Florida, and my office is always open to you. You can reach us in Pembroke Pines at 954-437-3936, in Aventura at 305-936-5724 and in Washington, DC at 202-225-7931. I'm also available online at <http://wassermanschultz.house.gov>, on Facebook, and Comcast-on-demand customers can stay up to date with my work for you on channel 890.



Celebrating at the Holiday Party!

The Holiday Party and Induction was held at Madeline Farley's home in Indialantic. A big thank you goes to all who attended and brought food for the salad bar.

Left: Madeline Farley, Cathy Stanton, and Kim Whiting looked very patriotic standing together in red, white and blue!

Gathering Together

*Hope Stewart,
Ena Millington,
Patty Farley,
Madeline Farley,
Jacki Lombardo,
Maggie Gula,
Pietress Hammond,
Eileen Manning,
Eulalie copeland, and
Gerri Kapushy*



Report highlights decline in ranks of state workforce

Travis Pillow, *the floridacurrent.com*, 12/13/2011

Florida's state workforce shrank by about 3.5 percent in the fiscal year that ended June 30, according to the State Personnel System Annual Workforce Report for 2010-11, released by the Department of Management Services.

Among the highlights of the report:

The state workforce shrank. The number of employees in the State Personnel System fell by 3,683 to 101,348, while the number of positions inched downward to 108,761.

There were no raises for the second year in a row. The average salary for state employees declined slightly, by about \$642, and remains below 2006-07 levels. During the same period, private sector wages have risen by 4.5 percent. Florida's state workforce remains both the smallest and cheapest in the nation on a per capita basis, edging out Arizona in both categories and costing the average resident \$38, or just above half the national average of \$75.

There was a shakeup in the ranks of senior management, which saw election-year turnover of 15.6 percent, the highest level since 2006-07. Turnover for the state workforce as a whole matched the previous year's low of 6.8 percent, though the number of workers leaving state government increased by 5 percent.

A slightly larger portion of the state workforce is represented by labor organizations, but the overall number of positions represented by bargaining units is lower than it was two years earlier. During the previous fiscal year, 83.4 percent, or 90,739 State Personnel System positions were covered by a collective bargaining unit, an increase of 0.5 percent of the total from the year before. Of the 83,988 employees represented by unions, 16.9 percent paid dues.

Can Tally stick to business?

Sun Sentinel, December 13, 2011

It was refreshing to hear that the Florida Legislature might shelve social issues during the upcoming 60-day session, which this year begins in January.

But just call us skeptical. We've seen it way too often, where the Legislature just can't help itself from delving into social issues that divide, take up valuable time — and usually go nowhere. Jobs need to be the key focus of the legislative session that starts Jan. 10. Indeed, House Speaker Dean Cannon said that will be the case.

"I think that the top three issues," Cannon said, "will be job creation, a responsible budget that doesn't raise taxes, and reapportionment."

Amazing. Sounds like responsible, adult thinking.

But way too often, once the Legislature assembles and should be taking care of the serious business that faces the state, lawmakers find themselves delving into issues like abortion, and teaching evolution in schools, and prayer in schools, and other such topics.

And sometimes they want to talk about the dire need to bring back dwarf-tossing, or wanting to end lethal injections for executions and go instead to firing squads or even the return of Old Sparky. Even sex with animals gets a hearing.

And if all else fails, they will talk about the need for another vanity license plate, or picking the official state yogurt.

It all makes for a few jokes and keeps columnists busy, but it does a great disservice to the citizens of Florida.

The social and side issues are time consuming and divisive, for sure. And they can take the attention away from the critical issues of a state which has been one of the hardest-hit by the recession, and still facing high foreclosures and



double-digit unemployment.

There are a plethora of economic issues. There are educational and environmental issues. There are quality of life and safety issues. There are redistricting issues. There is the resort casino issue. Add all that to the desperate need to create more jobs, and Florida's 160 lawmakers have more than enough on their platter to keep their 60 days in Tallahassee full during the upcoming session. Spare time should be non-existent.

There's also the budget — the one constitutionally required task lawmakers have during the session. This year, like previous years, budget cuts and balancing will require their undivided attention.

While some abortion restriction bills have been already been filed, it is debateable whether they will even make it out of committee, as legislators apparently are determined to concentrate on the big economic issues facing so many Floridians.

Lawmakers say they will be all business, and for sure that's the right way to go. But we'll believe it when we see it.

Report: Florida among 10 worst states for child homelessness

By Ashley Lopez, *floridaindependent.com*, 12.13.2011

According to a report released today by The National Center on Family Homelessness, Florida has one of the worst rates of child homelessness in the country.

In a ranking of one (best) to 50 (worst), Florida ranks 42nd in the nation. About 84,000 children in Florida were homeless in 2010, a report (.pdf) from the group says.

The study, "America's Youngest Outcasts 2010" (.pdf), also found that "more than 1.6 million children or one in 45 are homeless annually in America [which] represents an increase of 38 percent during the years impacted by the economic recession (2007 to 2010)." The report is based on 2006-2010 "data and research on the extent of child homelessness, child well-being, risk for homelessness, and state policy and planning efforts."

According to the report:

Data from the original report showed that more than one in 50 children were homeless annually in America. That dropped to one in 63 in the recovery from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina and has increased since.

"The Recession has been a man-made disaster for vulnerable children," said Ellen L. Bassuk, MD, President and Founder of The National Center on Family Homelessness and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. "There are more homeless children today than after the natural disasters of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which caused historic levels of homelessness in 2006. The Recession's economic devastation has left one in 45 children homeless in a year—an increase of 38% from 2007 to 2010."

The report finds that children experiencing homelessness in America suffer from hunger and poor physical and emotional health as well as limited academic proficiency in reading and math. The constant barrage of stressful and traumatic experiences has profound effects on their development and ability to learn."

Last month, Florida's child homelessness epidemic received national attention. 60 Minutes shed light on the issue and took a hard look at a county in Florida that reported 1,100 homeless students in its K-12 schools.

Responding to the broadcast, state legislators announced a bipartisan effort to combat Florida's homelessness crisis. State Rep. Betty Reed, D-Tampa, and Sen. Ronda Storms, R-Valrico, announced that they "filed legislation for the 2012 Florida legislative session that seeks to raise awareness and funding to help combat homelessness."

Scheduled Events



Next Meeting

January 7th

11:30

McMaw's Barbecue

Eau Gallie Blvd

Indian Harbour

Beach





DEMOCRATIC WOMEN’S CLUB OF FLORIDA, INC. TALLAHASSEE LEGISLATIVE DAYS

WHEN? Monday, February 6 and Tuesday, February 7, 2012

WHERE? Accommodations provided at \$89.00 per night at Holiday Inn Capitol East, 1355 Appalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Fl., 32301. Phone: 850-877-3171. Hot breakfast included in price. Free parking. Space for three buses available at hotel parking lot. Many surrounding restaurants. Hotel attached to Applebees.

TRANSIT FROM/TO HOTEL AND CAPITOL: Low taxi fare, public bus transportation, shuttle from nearby Governor’s Mall. Short drive to Capitol parking if drive on your own.

SCHEDULE:

MONDAY- DWCF quarterly meeting may be held from 8-9:30 am, followed by a snack break. If quarterly mtg. is not held, speakers will begin at 8:00 pm. If quarterly meeting is held, speakers will begin at 10:00 which will include lobbyists and legislators. **Registration, snacks and lunch will be catered at \$25 per attendee, which must be paid to the club treasurer at or by the January Meeting** so that we can email a list of attendees with a check for fees to the DWC. Supper on your own. 2012 campaign kick-off dessert reception with legislators and FDP dignitaries present in evening.

Each person attending is expected to donate \$5-10 to purchase one large gift drawing item to be purchased as the club’s donation for this project. Each club in the state has been requested to do this.

TUESDAY-

MORNING: Optional historical tours in am at Capitol Museum and Old Capitol Museum have been scheduled. Visit your legislators and view legislative sessions. DWCF capitol media event in late morning.

AFTERNOON: DWCF capitol media event, ending with plan of action session facilitated by Loranne Ausley back at hotel. Gift drawings will announced.



Super Mule

“Mitt Romney revealed a 59-point job plan at a big auto dealership. That shows you how smart Romney is. He knows that a politician only looks honest when he’s standing next to a car salesman.” —Jay Leno

“Mitt Romney now says the gloves are coming off. And then Ron Paul said, ‘And my teeth are coming out.’” —David Letterman

“The Library of Congress is home to some of the most important documents in history including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and now it will so include tweets from Gretchen44, who likes strawberry balsamic vinegar on her salad.” —Craig Ferguson

“Newt Gingrich explained why he fooled around on his first two wives by saying he loved this country so much that it led him to cheating. He was so passionate about it he had to take his pants off.” —Jay Leno

“Newt Gingrich has a new campaign slogan: ‘Now hiring!’ Sixteen of Gingrich’s top staff quit last week, and today, two of his top fundraisers quit. He’s not even president and he’s already raising the unemployment rate.” —Jay Leno

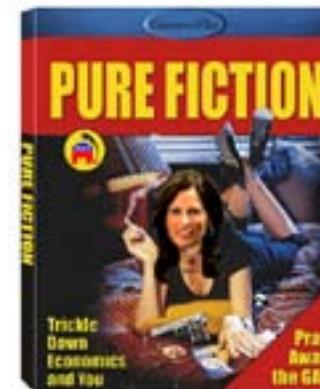
“Newt Gingrich did not make it on the Most Fascinating People list. He made it on another list of 2011 though: Most Fascinating Newts.” —David Letterman

“I like Newt Gingrich. You know who he looks like? He looks like your Dad’s old Army buddy, doesn’t he?” —David Letterman

“Donald Trump is hosting a debate in Iowa, but so far Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum are the only presidential candidates to RSVP. Rick Santorum actually requested a plus one — you know, so he could bring all of his supporters.” —Jimmy Fallon

“Rick Perry was once a Democrat. Just once, in college. He was experimenting.” —Jimmy Kimmel

“He’s not George Bush on steroids. Rick Perry is what happens if Lex Luther distilled down George Bush essence in a laboratory and crossed it with gun powder and semen from the finest thoroughbred in Lubbock, and then strapped that concoction onto a nuclear missile and shot it into the f*cking sun! And then, waited, waited, waited, until one day, on the anniversary of the Alamo, a solar flare, yada yada yada, Rick Perry!” —Jon Stewart



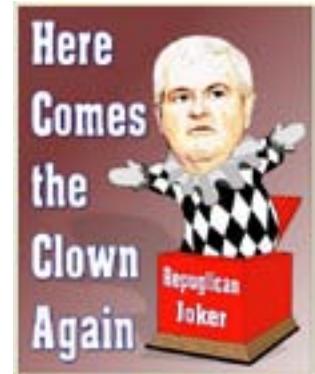
“New reports say that President Obama’s re-election team is going to try to portray Mitt Romney as ‘weird.’ They’re also going to try to portray Michele Bachmann as ‘Michele Bachmann.’” —Conan O’Brien

“An audio recording from five years ago has been released of Michele Bachmann predicting the end of the world. Her exact words were, ‘I’m going to run for president in 2012.’” —Conan O’Brien

“Michele Bachmann suffers from crippling migraine headaches. That’s what happens when you don’t get a little pornography every now and then.” —David Letterman

“Lenscrafters is upset with Tea Partier Michele Bachmann because she called Planned Parenthood ‘the Lenscrafters of abortion.’ Lenscrafters released a statement today calling her ‘the Costco of crazy.’” —Conan O’Brien

“Michele Bachmann is kind of like Sarah Palin but without the charisma — or marksmanship. You know, maybe we should stop telling kids that anyone can grow up to be president of the United States.” —Jimmy Kimmel





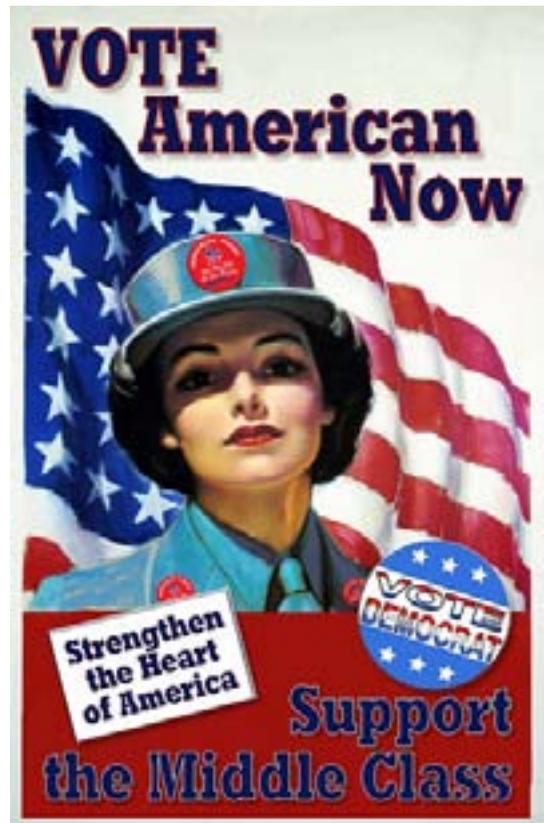
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Our sincere Thoughts and Prayers are extended to all the US troops stationed in Afghanistan, around the world and also to their families everywhere.

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.



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