



South Brevard Democratic Women's Club

July 2015

Change is here, in the midst of horrible tragedy, meaningful change has occurred.

The confederate flag has come down.

“As a nation, out of this terrible tragedy, God has visited grace upon us, for he has allowed us to see where we’ve been blind.”...President Obama

President Obama emphasized that even in the midst of our sadness, this tragedy has “allowed us to see where we’ve been blind.” His speech made clear how the Confederate flag has been a “reminder of systematic oppression and racial subjugation.” It reminded us how gun violence inflicts a “unique mayhem” on our nation. It spotlighted how past injustices continue to shape our present actions.

Obamacare has been upheld by the Supreme Court once again. Patients won over Politics. Many are viewing this ruling as the end of the opposition to the Affordable Care Act.

In a long-sought victory for the gay rights movement, the Supreme Court ruled by a 5-to-4 vote that the *Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage.*

“No longer may this liberty be denied. No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were.”

Since its beginning our country has always been trying to live up to its founding documents. In the last week we have come a little closer to the perfection and goals of our founding fathers

President's
Message

Politics 2015

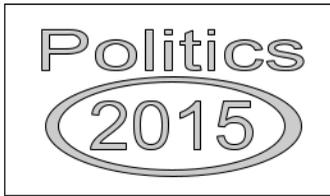
Legislative
Update

Super Mule

SBDWC
Boosters



There is no formal meeting scheduled for July 4th. Several members who are instrumental in making the float will be out of town this year for various reasons. There were not enough members interested in walking to justify the parade entry fees.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 15, 2015
CONTACT: ACLU of Florida Media Office, media@acluf.org, (786) 363-2737

MIAMI, FL – Today, former Florida governor Jeb Bush will formally announce his candidacy for president. Howard Simon, Executive Director of the ACLU of Florida, stated the following regarding the announcement:

“As Jeb Bush announces his candidacy for the presidency, history should not be rewritten about his record on civil rights and civil liberties during his two terms as Florida Governor.

“Some have put forth a narrative portraying Jeb Bush as having governed as a moderate, and it may be politically expedient for him to allow that image to thrive. But Floridians who lived through his governorship know that he governed more ideologically and more extremely than moderately – sometimes ignoring public opinion, sometimes ignoring constitutional principles, all in order to pursue a decidedly not moderate policy agenda.

“As a result, much of his eight year tenure as Governor was characterized by battles with moderate Republicans in the legislature and battles with the courts, whose job it is to enforce principles that protect the constitutional rights of people.”

Simon pointed to five actions by then-Governor Bush as examples of his style of leadership:

1. The “Scarlet Letter” Law: In allowing the infamous “Scarlet Letter” Law to go into effect, Jeb Bush ignored Florida’s state constitutional right of privacy and allowed the Legislature to require Florida women placing a child for adoption with a private adoption agency to publish a notice in local newspapers about their sexual history. The notice was to contain information about the mother’s age, race, hair and eye color, approximate height and weight, any person the mother reasonably believes may be the father and the date and city in which the act of conception might have occurred. The ACLU challenged the law, and argued the case in court. The courts struck down the law. Gov. Bush then signed a repeal of the statute. (Note: Presidential candidate Marco Rubio, then a member of the Florida Legislature, voted for the Bill.)

2. Attorneys for the fetus of a disabled rape victim (but not for the victim): In the JDS case, when a developmentally disabled woman who was a resident of a state-run group home in Orlando was raped and impregnated by a member of the staff of the facility, Gov. Bush sent attorneys from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) to court to request that the court appoint a guardian for the fetus. The tactic was designed to use the court process so that it would be too late to perform an abortion. The ACLU argued the case against the Motion filed by DCF attorneys, and the court rejected the Motion for the appointment of a guardian for the fetus.

3. State funding of religious schools and a fight to remove constitutional protections against government entanglement with religion: In 2006, the Florida Supreme Court struck down Gov. Bush’s signature education reform measure, the “Opportunity Scholarship Program” (OSP)/school voucher program. The program, the centerpiece of his 1998 campaign for Governor and enacted in his first year in office, used state funds were to pay tuition for public school students to attend church-run sectarian schools. The ACLU was part of a coalition of public education and civil liberties groups that filed suit challenging the program as a violation of two state constitutional provisions: the century-and-a-half prohibition on direct or indirect aid to religious institutions (“no aid” to religious institutions), and the requirement that the state fund a uniform system of public education. Gov. Bush ignored both constitutional provisions. Though the Florida Supreme Court used only the later provision to strike down the voucher program, thereby not needing to rule on a “no aid” violation, Gov. Bush nevertheless asked the Legislature to propose a constitutional amendment to strip the “no aid to religious institutions” provision from the state constitution. In a dramatic and narrow vote, the Republican-controlled Florida State Senate declined Gov. Bush’s request to place a repeal of state constitutional church-state separation on the ballot.

4. The Terri Schiavo tragedy: Gov. Bush's intrusion into the Terri Schiavo case shocked the nation. He attempted to use the machinery of state government and then, through a special law enacted by Congress and signed by President George Bush, the machinery of the federal government and federal courts to intrude into an intensely private family tragedy. ACLU attorneys were the legal team which, on behalf of husband Michael Schiavo, successfully challenged both the state law and the federal law that Gov. Bush used as the legal basis for his personal intervention. Gov. Bush's efforts to intervene in this matter included sending state police to seize Terri Schiavo and transport her to a facility where a feeding tube would be reinserted — in violation of six years of proceedings in the Pinellas County courts that had determined the Terri Schiavo did not wish to be sustained artificially and indefinitely in a vegetative state.

5. Defending a Civil War Era racist election system: Gov. Bush defended Florida's Civil War era system of lifetime felon disfranchisement under which the right to vote is taken away from more citizens in Florida than in any other state in the country. In a 2002 federal lawsuit, *Johnson v. Bush*, the Governor and his attorneys defended Florida's system of lifetime felon disfranchisement against charges of racial discrimination. The Governor ignored historical evidence that, with the extension of the franchise to the freed slaves following the Civil War, the system of lifetime felon disfranchisement was designed by the post-Confederacy 1868 Constitutional Convention to take the vote away from as many of the freed slaves as possible — largely because in some parts of the state freed slaves outnumbered whites.

Simon concluded:

“From publicly shaming Florida women for their private lives, to attempting to smash the protection against government entanglement with religion, to inviting himself — and the world — into a family tragedy, Governor Bush saw his office as a license to use the power of government to enact his will and his own personal morality on the private lives of Florida citizens.

“He was and remains insensitive to the obligation of government to sometimes ‘stay its hand’ out of respect for the great religious diversity of our country. His recent speech at Liberty University echoed themes seen during his two terms as Florida Governor when he showed little appreciation for the fact that government policies should not impose the views of one religious tradition on people of a different faith tradition.

“As he prepares to run for higher office, Jeb Bush may want to present himself to the nation's electorate as a moderate. Those of us who fought for civil rights and civil liberties during his tenure in Florida know better.”

Tallahassee, FL -- The Democratic Women's Club of Florida, Inc.'s President, Dr. Maureen McKenna, announced today the Club's support of the recent litigation filed on June 11, 2015 Leon County circuit court against the State of Florida and Governor Rick Scott regarding the Informed Patient Consent Law. “The Democratic Women's Club of Florida stands in support of this lawsuit filed by the ACLU of Florida.” The newly enacted law requires a 24-hour mandatory waiting period for abortion care.

The lawsuit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Reproductive Rights, seeks an emergency injunction to prevent the measure from going into effect on July 1st. Dr. McKenna continued, “The decision to terminate a pregnancy is always an emotional one for a woman, and contrary to the belief of most, not one that is made in haste. By subjecting a woman to an additional 24-hours of undue emotional stress is nothing more than inhumane and barbaric.”

The Democratic Women's Club of Florida joins the ACLU of Florida, Florida NOW and many other organizations supporting women's private health decisions and control of their own reproductive choices. Dr. McKenna concluded, “The mandatory 24-hour waiting period may not only cause undue emotional stress but could also pose a financial burden to those women who may have to drive long distances to a facility for their procedure resulting in the need for an overnight stay in a hotel.”

Tallahassee, FL -- The Democratic Women's Club of Florida, Inc.'s President, Dr. Maureen McKenna, PhD, today spoke on behalf of its members, regarding the murders at Mother Emanuel AME Church.

“Along with their families and friends, we mourn the loss of each victim, Cynthia Hurd, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Tywanza Sanders, Ethel Lance, Susie Jackson, Pastor DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Pastor Myra Thompson, Pastor Daniel Simmons Sr., and the Reverend Honorable Clementa Pinckney.”

McKenna continued, “While it's impossible to fully understand how one can possess such violent hatred, we must re-commit ourselves to bringing about sensible gun control, better mental health care access, and the elimination of public symbols of racism and hatred.” She concluded, “Doing any less will only lead us to yet another heart-breaking tragedy, such as has been visited upon our sisters and brothers in South Carolina.”

Note: SBDWC Member Lou Simpson informed us she had members of her family killed in this horrible action.

2015A Florida Legislative Session Draws To A Close –

Milly Krause – SDBDW Leg. Liaison – DWCF Leg. Chair

As this newsletter is going to print, the Florida Budget is being negotiated. Continue to call your local legislative delegation as well as Governor Scott. Call the House and Governor out on their failure to expand Medicaid. The following letter, written by Cynthia Schwartz, DWCF LL, is being shared with all members to ask to be used as a Letter to the Editor, Emails to Legislators & the Governor and to be use in any way to raise awareness. Read on and modify as needed.



Milly Krause,
Vice President

Hypocrisy in the Sunshine

As we approach the end of yet another legislative session, it is important to note that majority members of the Florida House of Representatives and Gov. Rick Scott continue to benefit from a generously tax-subsidized health plan while they have opted-out coverage for 600,000 to 800,000 Floridians who need health insurance coverage, but can ill-afford it. To advocates for this legislation, however, it is a hugely successful outcome that amounts to deterioration, and even to death. It is consistent with the philosophy of “Starve the Beast.”

Financial disclosure statements indicate that of 163 Florida House and Senate members, 33% are millionaires and over 140 of them are enrolled in the taxpayer-financed state insurance plan. The majority of these legislators now pay about \$50.00 per month for individual health insurance and \$180.00 for family coverage. In 2012, however, their rates were much less: \$10.00 per month for individual coverage and \$30.00 for family coverage. Once run through a blind trust or other mechanism, it is very likely a wash.

On principle, only about 15 legislators currently decline tax-sponsored state health insurance coverage (A handful receive insurance through other plans). According to data from the Kaiser Family Foundation; this is only a fraction of the average \$1,347.00 monthly premium paid by most Florida families (<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article23252022.html#storylink=cpy>). Imagine that.

Why should taxpayers subsidize those legislators' health coverage while they steadfastly denounce health coverage for Floridians who can ill-afford it? The same politicians insist that allowing an equivalent benefit would be a “handout.” For themselves, however, the taxpayer-subsidized health coverage is a perk by right. Evidently, believing themselves to be special and, therefore, eligible to keep their hands in the pockets of average taxpayers. In the light of day, in the dark of night, it is disingenuous; it is shameful; it is arrogance in the Sunshine State.

Surely Florida deserves better than this.

As you know, HB 633, 24 Hour Abortion Delay, Patient Informed Consent Bill, was signed by Governor Scott as our aligning groups continued to ask him to veto it. A lawsuit, filed Thursday, June 11th, in Leon County Circuit Court by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Reproductive Rights, seeks an emergency injunction to prevent the measure (HB 633 - Informed Patient Consent) from going into effect on July 1.

SAVE THE DATE – An ERA Rally is tentatively planned on Equality Day on August 26, 2015. More news to come.

Democratic Women - Voices for Equality

DWCF Convention 2015

Cocoa Beach September 17-20



We are getting ready for convention so you may receive a call or email asking for your help on small projects during the month.

We will need people to agree to work shifts on the vendor table and registration desk.

If you make a minimum \$25 donation to purchase food items for the Hospitality room, your name will be listed as a sponsor on a page add in the journal and a nice sign in the room.

Important –If you want to attend, you must be pre-registered through the Club. There is no registration on site. Delegates and alternates were chosen at the last meeting, but we can register guests. This is your chance to go to a state convention. You do not have to reserve a room or buy the meals, but you must be registered as a convention attendee to attend the breakout sessions and any meetings.

All Information –Due dates, Meals, room reservations, and casino cruise is on line at <http://www.dwcf.org/convention/>

For just \$10 you can have your name listed as a Patron in the convention journal...but I must have your name and \$10 asap.

DWCF Pin order Pins are here. Please arrange to pay for your pin asap.

If you are having problems with anything call us at 321-773-2949 or email pfarley_101@hotmail.com.

Some members were told rooms were already sold out and we added more...Just let me know.

Scheduled Events

July Meeting cancelled. Watch for info about convention committee meetings in the near future.

Our President Patty was asked to organize the campaign Kick off for Hillary Clinton. The event was very successful, with our members proving again that if you want it done right ---you ask us!



Florida is only one of three states that strip all individuals with felony convictions of their civil rights, including their fundamental right to vote.

Your vote is your voice!

Florida's Disenfranchised Population

Close to 6 million people nationally cannot vote due to a prior felony conviction. This infringement of a person's right to vote is most pronounced in the State of Florida. More than 1.5 million Floridians are permanently denied the right to vote because of a past conviction. This makes Florida an outlier in the national landscape. Only two other states in the country (Iowa & Kentucky) have a lifetime ban on voting after a person is convicted of a felony.

Due to current policies in Florida, disenfranchised Floridians must wait for a 5 to 7 year period before they can even apply to have their rights restored! Once they have applied, there is a 6 year application processing time, which makes for a total waiting period of 11 to 13 years. Even then, based on the current data, an individual has less than 1% chance of having his or her rights restored.

The Voting Restoration Amendment

The South Brevard DWC supports restoring civil and voting rights to 1.5 million disenfranchised Florida citizens, the largest disenfranchised population in the nation. We are currently working with Floridians for a Fair Democracy — a non-partisan coalition of prominent faith, law enforcement, and voting rights leaders, among others — to try to change current voting restoration policies by putting the Voting Restoration Amendment on the 2016 ballot.

This amendment updates Florida's criminal justice system to match the standards in other states, so that after a person convicted of a felony completes all terms of their sentence — including parole or probation — they earn their voting rights back. It would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the governor and Cabinet vote to restore their rights on a case-by-case basis.

In this newsletter we are going to print an ACLU press release listing law suits the ACLU waged for civil rights and liberties against Governor Jeb Bush, just in case anyone forgot these things. The ACLU did not include any mention of Katherine Harris. Jeb Bush will forever be responsible for inflicting Katherine Harris upon the citizens of Florida. He is responsible for the voting purges that took place which removed 8,000 registered voters who had been convicted only of misdemeanors, thousands of others who had the same names as felons, and a few whose computer records said they had committed crimes in the future. This led to Harris being nicknamed the Purge Princess. She was the co-chair of George W. Bush's campaign in Florida and oversaw the state's vote tally as secretary of state. She was criticized for her opposition to recounts in predominantly democratic counties and for her insistence in following legal deadlines for ballot certifications eventually declaring the Bush as the winner by only 537 votes over his Democratic rival, Vice President Al Gore.



Patricia Farley Crutcher
President



Jeb Bush is responsible for paving the way for George Bush to become president. Harris was his means of doing so. She won a seat in the House of Representatives in 2002, serving two terms that was filled with scandals involving illegal campaign contributions, dinners, and gifts from defense contractors. Harris was defeated in her bid for US Senate by Bill Nelson.

Katherine Harris was brought to you by Jeb Bush!



Super Mule

Donald Trump announced that he's running for president. During his speech he told the crowd that if elected he would be 'the greatest jobs president that God ever created.' Then God said, 'Hey, don't drag me into this publicity stunt.'" –Jimmy Fallon

"Donald Trump told ABC news that if he had Oprah as a running mate, they could easily win. Although you know who'd definitely win? Oprah WITHOUT Donald Trump." –Jimmy Fallon

"In his presidential announcement speech yesterday, Donald Trump pledged to become 'the greatest jobs president that God ever created.' This is from the man who coined the catch phrase 'You're fired.'" –Conan O'Brien

"Political analysts are saying that as a candidate, Donald Trump is 'a totally unqualified nuisance.' In other words, he is a legitimate contender for the Republican nomination." –Conan O'Brien

Presidential hopeful Donald Trump said yesterday that he has better hair than Senator Marco Rubio – a claim that was recently disproven by wind." –Seth Meyers

"Jeb Bush is here tonight, fresh off his announcement that he's running for president. We were also going to have Donald Trump as well, but last time we checked he was still giving his speech." –Jimmy Fallon

"Trump is running for president and he's wasting no time getting down to business. In fact, just after his announcement he demanded to see Jeb Bush's birth certificate." –Jimmy Fallon

"Rachel Dolezal stepped down from her position as president of an NAACP chapter after it was revealed that she was a white woman pretending to be black. Now her brother says he knew about it but she asked him not to blow her cover. Unfortunately, her cover had already been blown by God when he made her a blond-haired, blue-eyed white lady." –Jimmy Fallon

"Donald Trump announced today he is running for president of the United States. Traditionally that means six more weeks of comedy." –Conan O'Brien

"Due to Donald Trump entering the presidential race, season 15 of 'Celebrity Apprentice' will not air. But don't worry. With Trump running for president, you'll still get to see an irrelevant B-list celebrity not get a job." –Conan O'Brien

"Did you see Donald Trump's big announcement today? Trump is very confident. He could be the only presidential candidate to ever pick himself as a running mate." –Jimmy Kimmel

"A lot of people aren't taking Trump seriously. But the fact of the matter is, when Donald Trump makes an announcement, people listen — because he's shouting. You have no choice but to listen." –Jimmy Kimmel

"Trump said, 'The American dream is dead.' All right, well, it's not exactly 'Hope and change,' but it's a slogan." –Jimmy Kimmel

"Donald Trump announced today that he is running for president. And based on the amount of bronzer he uses, he's also running for president of the Spokane NAACP." –Seth Meyers

"Former Spokane NAACP president Rachel Dolezal said today that she doesn't think of herself as a con artist. Of course, she also doesn't think of herself as a white lady, but she is." –Seth Meyers

"Rachel Dolezal, the NAACP president in Spokane, was exposed for pretending to be black after her parents showed her Montana birth certificate and said that she is white. Though everyone else said, 'Yeah, yeah, we got it at Montana birth certificate.'" –Jimmy Fallon

"Today Jeb Bush announced he's running for president on Snapchat. By using Snapchat, Bush's message will disappear after 10 seconds just like the excitement over his campaign." –Conan O'Brien

"A new poll found that almost 70 percent of voters say that whoever our next president is, they must have political experience. You know, because it would be rude to say 'anyone but Donald Trump.'" –Jimmy Fallon



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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.



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