



South Brevard Democratic Women's Club

June 2012

President's
Message

Politics 2012

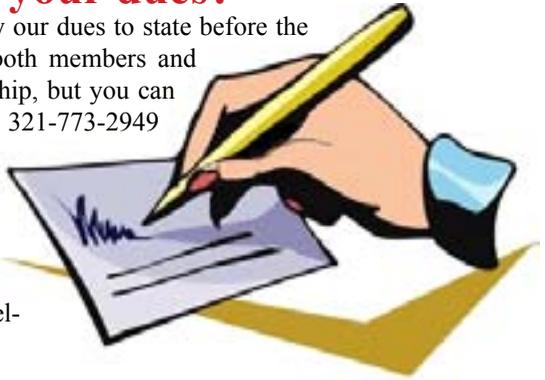
ERA Update

Super Mule

SBDWC
Boosters

Did you forget to pay your dues?

We must report our membership and pay our dues to state before the 15th of this month. We value you as both members and friends. You will never lose our friendship, but you can lose your membership. Please call us at 321-773-2949 if you have some problem concerning you dues. Your membership directly impacts our number of delegates to the State Convention! Please send your check for \$25 for dues for 2012 to Artney Turner, 811 E Juniper Street, Melbourne, FL. 32901.



Do you want to be a delegate to this year's DWC State Convention in Tallahassee August 2 - August 5th?

Our next meeting is June 9th at 11:30 at Memaw's in Indian Harbour Beach and we will vote on delegates. Call 321-773-2949 if you want to be a delegate to get your name added to the ballot. This meeting was moved from June 2nd to June 9th because a large number of our members were going out of town to both the Florida Democratic Party Delegate Convention in Tampa and the NOW convention. At the June 9th meeting we will be collecting names of individuals who want to go to the DEC Banquet to order our tables and discussing plans for our July 4th activities.

Another important activity on June 9th includes the DWC's of Palm Bay Annual Picnic at Fred Lee Park from 11:30-4:00. Palm Bay will have statewide and local candidates and entertainment along with lots of food for \$10. This is their annual fundraiser and we need to support them if we can. Perhaps a group of SBDWC members can go there after our meeting at Memaw's.

We will have our next Region VI meeting on Saturday June 30th, at Patti's Bistro, 11632 U.S. Hwy 1, Sebastian, 32958. Directions: Go south on 95 and exit at CR 512 to Sebastian. Go all the way to US 1 and turn right. Patti's is in a strip mall about 1/4 mile on the left. It will start at 11:30 and cost \$20. Meal will be Quiche Lorraine, salad, dessert and beverages. They can accommodate vegetarians, if necessary with prior notice. We need a head count several days before to send to Indian River.

When I was a child being a member of the local Chamber of Commerce meant that someone was respected and a contributing member of the community. For years when I operated a retail business, I was a member. But that was a long time ago. Years ago—when I was a member-- the Chamber was a trade association that advocated in a bipartisan manner for policies to benefit its members. Today’s Chamber of Commerce is not the organization it once was. The Chamber’s latest ad campaign targets our Democratic Senators Bill Nelson of Florida, Claire McCaskill of Missouri, and Sherrod Brown of Ohio. Alan Grayson is also on their list. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is now a powerful 100%-corporate funded business lobbying group that has become a part of the partisan Republican political machine since CEO and President Thomas J. Donohue took office in 1997. The group has used the Citizens United decision to pump tens of millions of undisclosed dollars into federal elections over the last two years.



Patricia Farley Crutcher
President

The following information from Sourcewatch explains why:

The Chamber’s 2010 budget was \$200 million, but as a trade organization, its donors can remain anonymous. The Chamber claims on its website that its mission is to “advance human progress through an economic, political and social system based on individual freedom, incentive, initiative, opportunity, and responsibility. It describes itself as “the world’s largest business federation representing more than 3 million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region.” Despite these claims, the New York Times reported in October 2010 that half of the Chamber’s \$140 million in contributions in 2008 came from just 45 big-money donors, many of whom enlisted the Chamber’s help to fight political and public opinion battles on their behalf (such as opposing financial or healthcare reforms, climate change, or other regulations). The Chamber is “dominated by oil companies, pharmaceutical giants, automakers and other polluting industries,” according to James Carter, executive director of the Green Chamber of Commerce.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

The U.S. Chamber played a major role in the Republican victories in the 2010 midterm Congressional elections, promising to spend \$75 million (and reporting only \$32 million), and helping to organize and coordinate spending by other “outside interest groups” like American Crossroads and American Action Network. In a blog post the night before the election, the Chamber stated it “had been a game-changing political force in these midterms. We’ve engaged in tight, competitive races; and we’ve altered them.”

The Chamber claimed it offered support to all pro-business candidates, regardless of party affiliation. However, according to a report from the union-backed Chamber Watch, the Chamber “worked almost exclusively to elect Republicans in the powerful Senate, giving one lone endorsement to a Democrat, West Virginia’s Joe Manchin, on whom it made no expenditures. On the House side, the Chamber created an appearance of bipartisanship by spending on behalf of eleven Democrats. But the Chamber’s support for Democratic members was razor-thin, and sometimes, the Chamber withheld support altogether, even where Democratic members worked hard to earn the Chamber’s approval.”

Furthermore, while 93% of reported expenditures went to support Republicans, the 6% spent to support Democrats were spent on generic, non-candidate-specific ads, rather than more effective ads attacking opponents. The ads tended not to identify candidate-specific positive qualities, instead relying on a template with the same title for several different candidates, only changing the candidate’s name, picture and office number. The ads were also run later than ads supporting their Republican counterparts.

American Crossroads and the Chamber are closely tied, and closely coordinated their efforts in the 2010 midterm elections.

In 2008, Chamber President Tom Donahue told the Los Angeles Times that he wanted to get very involved with elections. According to the U.S. Chamber Watch report:

“The U.S. Chamber first began to coordinate massive Republican resources when its general counsel, Steven Law, met with Ed Gillespie, Republican political strategist and former Counselor to President George W. Bush.

According to the Associated Press, Law met with Gillespie in October of 2009, “calculating how to exploit the voter anger they had seen erupt at Democratic town hall meetings that summer.”

It was at this meeting that they conceived of American Crossroads an organization, which according to its website, is dedicated to “renewing America’s commitment to individual liberty, limited government, free enterprise and a strong national defense.” Law left the U.S. Chamber to serve as the group’s CEO.

According to Think Progress:

“At every turn, from the operatives running the two organizations to their targeted races to their media firms, American Crossroads and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are bound to one another...the two groups have exhibited uncanny coordination in their election targeting. In a number of Senate races, the Chamber and American Crossroads coordinated their advertisements – one group put up ads in a race as the other group pulled its own down – in order to ensure attack ads were always running against the Democratic candidate.”

The U.S. Chamber’s partisan, corporate-funded and often untrue campaign attacks have compelled many local Chambers of Commerce to disassociate from the U.S. Chamber. Despite the U.S. Chamber’s attempts to portray itself as a community of small businesses and local Chambers of Commerce, the interests the U.S. Chamber served in the 2010 elections were those of its large corporate donors. More than 40 local chambers issued statements during the campaign distancing their group from the U.S. Chamber, including chambers in the states of Iowa and New Hampshire. Some chambers are considering what Politico calls the “extraordinary” step of ending their affiliation with the U.S. Chamber and quitting in protest.

Five ways Romney is fighting against unions and America's middle class

1. Supports a federal right to work law, saying "right to work is the right way to go, and I'd like to see it at the national level."
[Source: Detroit Free Press]
2. Wants to eliminate the National Labor Relations Board: "We got to shut off the funding to [the NLRB]. We ought to shut it down."
[Source: Howard Carr Show]
3. Called for repealing a fair wage law that requires contractors to pay employees on public works projects the prevailing local wage.
[Source: Los Angeles Times]
4. Backed Ohio's anti-union bill Senate Bill 5—a law that would have reduced collective bargaining rights for the state's teachers, firefighters, and police officers. Romney said he would "fully support" the bill "110%."
[Source: NBC News]
5. Labeled union leaders as "union bosses who have no interest in a constructive relationship with management."
[Source: NBC News]

Scheduled Events



NEXT MEETING
June 9th, 11:30
Memaw's
Indian Harbor Beach



Region VI Meeting
June 30th, 11:30
Patti's Bistro
11632 U.S. Hwy 1,
Sebastian, 32958.

\$20.00



Palm Bay DWC Annual Picnic
Fred Lee Park
June 9th
11:00-4:00
\$10.00



DWC of FL State Convention
August 2-5
Tallahassee



More in the War on Women.....

Now everyone remember that just recently the Republicans are saying that Democrats are making up this War on /women...well

Following the actions of Texas, Jan Brewer, Gov. of Arizona, signed the ironically named Whole Woman's Health Priority Funding Act, which bans Planned Parenthood from receiving taxpayer funds for women's health services not related to abortion into law.

In Minnesota, the State House and Senate have been arguing over whether a women undergoing medicine abortion has to be in the presence of a doctor for every dose. Opponents repeated their objections to the bill, which they say is more about abortion politics than women's health. Rep. Phyllis Kahn, DFL-Minneapolis, questioned why a doctor needs to be on hand when a woman takes a pill that won't take effect for hours or days. Currently, women take the first dose in the presence of their doctors, but can then take the second dose in the privacy of their own home. Luckily for Minnesota, they have Governor Mark Dayton in charge, who has spent a lot of time vetoing some of these controversial bills, such as one that would limit access to drugs such as the morning-after pill. The legislation, sponsored by GOP state Rep. Joyce Peppin, would have required doctors to be physically present for the prescribing, as well as taking, of emergency contraceptive pills.

In the US House of Representatives Brevard's own Sandy Adams was the author of the Republican version of the Violence Against Women Act, which can actually promote violence against undocumented, Native American or LGBT women. This passed the House of Representatives, but came with a statement from the White House that it would be vetoed if it arrived in that form! The Republican bill would eliminate that confidentiality and require women to go to the closest immigration office. It would allow the officer, not specifically trained in domestic violence response, to reach out to and inform the abusive partner that the alleged victim is applying for immigration status. House Republicans say that some women have taken advantage of the confidentiality by fraudulently claiming abuse to acquire residency status. Victims who are not committing fraud, however, will now be exposed to retaliatory violence.

Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ) made his move, with Darrell Issa, to make sure women are kept in their place — and out of the debate about their own healthcare. Franks is pushing a “fetal pain” ban on abortion after 20 weeks in Washington DC, but has barred the district's one and only representative, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, from testifying during the debate.

ERA – SBDWC Can Influence Legislation

How can we work to productively move ERA legislation forward this session towards ratification? Money, power and lobbyists are common methods to move legislation forward.

Lobbying is the act of attempting to influence decisions made by officials, and, in our case, legislators and the general public. What effective tools might we use, as a club, to work towards this goal? What methods might we use to effectively Lobby?

According to a recent email from Dr. Maureen McKenna, Legislative Chair for the Democratic Women of Florida (DWF), the following was shared:

Kevin Cate, a public relations and campaign adviser, said his survey of legislative staff shows that personal contact matters most.

Going to see legislators in person with a personal message about how a bill affects their home districts is still the best way of influencing what happens in Florida's Capitol, according to an insider survey of House and Senate staff members.



Milly Krause
Vice President

This staff survey by Kevin Cate, a governmental public relations and campaign adviser, shows that cranking out form letters or bombarding lawmakers with identical emails are probably the worst ways of getting their attention. And “new media” -- especially Facebook -- are increasingly influential for those who know how to use it

Cate said, “Never under-estimate the power of a person with a compelling story to tell,” Cate told an interviewer. “Despite what people believe about bundling campaign money and the shady reputation of Tallahassee, there is nothing more important than an advocate with information to rise to a level of importance for lawmakers.”

Cate asked 52 House and Senate aides what influences their bosses the most. He said “in person visits” were cited by more than 99 percent of the staffers, followed by personal letters (97.7 percent) and individual emails (93.2 percent). Phone calls and visits by a designated member of an interest group also outscored visits by lobbyists -- who were still in the 95th percent range.

News media endorsements also were rated highly by legislative staff, but “comments on social media sites” were cited by about two-thirds of the veteran aides.

“Facebook is the most effective way for lawmakers to gauge public opinion online,” said Cate.

Consider Cate's survey results (response sample, your experiences). Do you agree? What ideas do you think would be productive? Let's consider organizing a committee to plan our ERA Strategies to Move Forward in the next months.

We had several members have articles published in the Florida Today recently and we thank them for their efforts and admire them for doing it: Please support our letting writing effort. We must get the Democratic view out to the public. Vicki Impoco, Laura Fausone, and Denise Cisar had great articles! Way to go.

Pat Lanvins of the Indian River DWC is also promoting this in their club and has been successful in getting several articles published rebutting Bill Posey's editorials. She sent me these pointers to share with our members:

There are several keys to getting published:

1. It is mandatory that you adhere to the word count requirement of each publication.
2. The issue addressed must be one that was a topic in a relatively recent edition of the newspaper.
3. The letters must be polite rebuttals based on facts to refute Republican talking points.
4. The letters must be on issues of relevance to the local community.
5. I always highly recommend that a web site or book be referenced so people can look up the facts.
6. Another key is to not restrict yourself to only the newspapers that you read. For example, I have submitted letters to Florida Today even though I am not a subscriber. In the case of Brevard, I would recommend getting the facts in any publications from surrounding counties to the north and west. Also, don't forget the free publications or the ones that go to a select portion of the population, e.g., Spanish language newspapers.



Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us at our recent events. The Table at the War on Women in Orlando was very positive and we had a large number of members travel to Orlando to show their support for this cause! If you missed the Champagne and Chocolate Social –well you just missed out.



Above : Photos from the Orlando March Against the War on Women.
Below: Champagne, Chocolate and Having Fun with fellow Democrats.



Super Mule

Barack Obama supports same-sex marriage. Mitt Romney doesn't even support same-sex car pools." –David Letterman

"Ron Paul has announced he's no longer campaigning. He's dropped out of the race. Can you tell the difference?" –David Letterman

"Ron Paul announced to supporters that he was discontinuing his campaign by email. There were two emails he sent out. The first one was blank and then he had to send out the other one." –David Letterman

"Here in New York City, they have a law now that if you're a police officer and you see somebody who looks suspicious, you can stop them and frisk them. And I thought, 'Well, now wait a minute, in New York City, everybody looks suspicious!'" –David Letterman

"Today Herman Cain endorsed Mitt Romney. This is possibly very important because as goes Herman Cain, so go the other two black Republicans in America." –Jimmy Kimmel

"Ron Paul made an announcement on Monday, saying he's dropping out of the race for president. This was his third race for president. He ran in 2008 against John McCain and against Lincoln in 1860." –Jimmy Kimmel

The average college graduate now leaves school \$27,000 in debt. But the good news is that now it means they are more than qualified to work as financial advisers at JPMorgan." –Jay Leno

"The new issue of Newsweek has President Obama on the cover with the caption 'The First Gay President.' ... Can you believe that? They're still publishing Newsweek? Really?" –Jay Leno

"Ron Paul is out of the race, ladies and gentlemen. It's not surprising that Ron Paul quit. Who could keep going at that white-hot pace?" –David Letterman

"JPMorgan lost \$2 billion in bad trades. They made bad investments — for example, those gay wedding chapels in North Carolina. What were they thinking?" –David Letterman

"Mitt Romney once lost \$2 billion. Then he found it in another pair of pants." –David Letterman

"Now they are starting to dig up stuff on Mitt Romney. One time he was arrested for disorderly conduct and being a public nuisance. It was when he was a kid. He had one of his hairs out of place." –David Letterman

"President Obama and Mitt Romney both gave commencement speeches over the last few days. Obama was like, 'You can be whatever you want to be,' while Romney was like, 'I can be whatever you want me to be.'" –Jimmy Fallon

"During his commencement speech at Liberty University, Mitt Romney revealed that his campaign staff loves Chick-fil-A. The other thing he revealed? – that he doesn't know what to say in a commencement speech." –Jimmy Fallon

"President Obama said he was evolving and then he came out for gay marriage. Conservatives, of course, are furious – not about the gay thing, about evolution." –Bill Maher



SBDWC Boosters

- Janie Holman
- Geraldine Kapushy
- Cathy Stanton
- Madeline Farley
- Alan Jotkoff
- Pat Jotkoff
- Laura Fausone
- Joe Pishgar
- Eileen Manning
- Bea Gillespie
- Maggie Gula
- Leonia Francis
- Artney Turner
- Jackolyn Lombardo
- Vicki Impoco
- Jane Feldman
- www.hodadpix.com
- Bessie Barnes
- Terry Sanders
- Milly Krause

DID YOU KNOW?

Social Security taxes are paid only on the first \$110,000 of income; zero is deducted for every dollar thereafter. If this cap were increased or removed, Social Security could be solvent in perpetuity.



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.

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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.

