



South Brevard Democratic Women's Club

March 2012

President's
Message

WOW!

As your club president I have to say that Tallahassee Days were one on the most important events I have attended in regards to DWC events relating to Florida legislation. We may not have made much of a permanent impact on the Republican Florida Legislature, but they certainly know we were there. A major part of this activity was attending educational panel discussions and listening to lobbyists and Democratic legislators who informed us on the issues, bill numbers and exactly what was going on --right or wrong-- in the government. This culminated in a media event in the Capitol rotunda just outside the House and Senate doors where we gathered with signs and banners for a press conference demanding Fairness for all Floridians. We were joined by Representatives Scott Randolph, Lori Berman, Mark Pafford and Franklin Sands. State President Janet Goen spoke for the Democratic Women of Florida and demanded the Florida Legislature be fair to all Floridians. She demanded Fair districts—Fair elections—Fair health laws—Fair opportunities and Fair rights—the Equal Rights Amendment.



Patricia Farley Crutcher
President

Fair representation would not include the following bills, and we ask that you show your outrage to them by calling your Representatives, telling your friends and family, and take to the streets in demonstration if possible.

SB 290/HB 277 by Sen. Flores and Rep. Burgin-- This omnibus anti-choice bill would restrict Planned Parenthood's ability to provide life-saving cancer screenings, birth control, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment and other preventative and affordable health care to Floridians.

SB 1374/HB 1151 by Sen. Wise and Rep. Van Zant-- This bill would ban all abortions with no exceptions for rape, incest, or sexual assault survivors, and a very limited exception for the life of the pregnant woman.

SB 1702/HB 1327 by Sen. Siplin and Rep. Plakon-- On its face, this bill makes it illegal to terminate a pregnancy due to the potential sex or race of the fetus and it would require doctors to sign an affidavit stating that the termination is not motivated by sex or race selection. This is a tactic to use racism and sexism as an excuse to override the doctor-patient relationship and this is not in the best interest of Florida women.

HB 839 by Rep. Davis: HB 839-- This bill would ban abortions at 20 weeks with no exceptions for a pregnancy that is a result of rape or incest, or for a woman's mental health or fetal abnormalities, which can go undiscovered early in a pregnancy. This bill would take away the opportunity for women facing medically complex pregnancies to make private, personal medical decisions without government interference.

The DWC voiced their support of the following legislation:

Politics 2012

Super Mule

SBDWC
Boosters

SCR 180 and HCE8003 by Senator Rich and Representative Berman is The Equal Rights Amendment, which would ratify the proposed amendment to the US Constitution.

HB1335 by Rep Evan Jenne is the Fair Economy Act, which would require combined reporting for corporations by institution a rule to capture profits from sales made by multi-state corporations based in Florida. This legislation would require a more full disclosure of taxpayer giveaways and promised job creation with economic development subsidies.

SB1636 and HB1189 by Senator Rich and Representative Pafford would undo most of the voter suppression from last year's legislative session.

While we were in Tallahassee, Vice President Joe Biden came to town on a campaign tour. Most of our group managed to get tickets to see and hear him. Some of our group actually managed to meet him. Madeline Farley and Janie Holman were given special VIP treatment and had their photograph taken with him. Some of our other members, Amy Tidd, Seeta Begui and Laura Fausone, met with him after his speech and were photographed with him, too. When VP Biden stated "Bin Laden is dead and GM is alive" the crowd roared with delight. That will be a great campaign slogan!

We are very thankful that Historian Doris Weatherford came to our last meeting and spoke with us on the subject of women's history. She is literally a walking encyclopedia—she has written several, not just books, but encyclopedias on women's history—and is one of the most entertaining and educational speakers we could ever have.

We are going to continue with our own push for ERA with our next meeting, which is our Membership Luncheon. Our Theme is "Celebrating the DWC's Fight for Equality" and Milly Krause has managed to get Sandra Oestreich, who is a famous fighter for ERA to be our guest speaker. The Luncheon will be held at the Doubletree Suites March 3rd. To reserve your ticket and determine your food choice, please call Madeline Farley at 321-773-2949. Food choices are Beef, Chicken or Manicotti. Tickets are \$25 each.

Our first Region VI meeting will take place March 31, 11:30, at the River Rocks Restaurant on US 1 in Rockledge, just north of the Pineda Causeway. Luncheon fee for this event is \$20. More information will be provided at the Membership Tea.

We are getting our movie nights started this week.

Our first movie, "Iron Jawed Angels", shows how suffragist, Alice Paul, struggled for women's right to vote. The movie shows how Alice Paul laid the groundwork for the Equal Rights Amendment. The plan is to watch the movie and discuss it. Please bring an appetizer or something to drink to help out our gracious hostess, Gigi Bender.

Iron Jawed Angels is scheduled as follows:

When: Thursday, February 23rd

Time: 7 p.m.

Where: 255 S. Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

Hostess: Gigi Bender, phone 321-799-3711



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

THE ROAD TO ERA RATIFICATION –

Sandy Oestreich, also known as Sandyo, will be our honored speaker at our March 3rd Membership Luncheon at the DoubleTree in Melbourne. Sandyo is the President & Founder of the Equal Rights Alliance, Inc. and ERA Education, Inc. She is a Professor Emerita at Adelphi University in New York as well as a former elected official.



Milly Krause
Vice President

Her ERA career began in the 1970's by marching in New York, Virginia and other states in her quest to bring the Equal Rights Amendment to the full 38 states required for the U.S. Constitutional ratification. Recently, Sandyo was honored with the "Failure is Impossible Award" by the Martin County League of Women's Voters with the Susan B. Anthony Award for her work with the National Equal Rights Amendment Alliance. Sandyo is held in high esteem for her work to ratify ERA.

We hope you will join us and learn about Sandyo's intense journey working to ratify the ERA as well as the roadblocks to passage and future plans. To learn more about ERA, please check www.2PassERA.org.

Sandyo says, "Women make up 52% of the population. There is absolutely NOTHING as important to the entire country than erasing sex discrimination via the ERA, for females, males, hardworking families AND the economy, than passing the Equal Rights Amendment. Pitch in with me to kick it off in Florida!"

Scheduled Events



**Next Meeting
March 3, 11:30**

DoubletreeSuites
Melbourne Beach



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



**Celebrating Florida's
Democratic Women's Clubs
Fight for Equality**

SBDWC Membership Luncheon
March 3, 2012 11:30 a.m.
Doubletree Suites, Melbourne Beach Oceanfront

Guest Speaker: Sandy Oestreich,
President and Founder of the Equal Rights Alliance, Inc

For information call 321-773-2949
Tickets \$25.00

Democrats argue new legislative maps violate Fair Districts

The Florida Democratic Party filed a 58-page brief Friday morning in the Florida Supreme Court, detailing the party's argument for why the court should reject the state House and Senate redistricting maps alleging they violate every one of the new standards established by the Fair District amendment number 5. The court has set oral arguments for Feb. 29 and it must complete its decision by March 9.

The Democrat's brief was written by an all-star cast of lawyers that includes Joseph Hatchett, a former federal court judge who presided over the court's redrawing of the congressional districting lines in 1992 and Jon Mills, former House speaker and dean emeritus of the University of Florida College of Law.

From the Brief: "The Legislature cannot credibly contest that the Senate and House Plans were drawn with the intent and result of favoring the Republican Party," the party argues. "Incontrovertible statistics demonstrate a significant partisan imbalance in both plans that simply cannot be justified on the basis of voter registration or election data, racial fairness, or any other legitimate rationale. Indeed, the Legislature even deviated from the fundamental principle of equal population to suit its partisan agenda. Not surprisingly, this politically gerrymandered plan is also drawn to protect many Republican incumbents."

The brief claims that the map "tortures and severs multiple communities," noting that the House plan creates districts that "twist and turn in every direction."



Déjà Vu 2002 in Florida

Rod Smith, Chairman, Florida Democratic Party, Huffington Post

Florida's Republican governor and GOP-led legislature are attempting to retain a stranglehold on state government and cement their control in Tallahassee for another decade. Déjà vu 2002.

Just like in 2002, the GOP is ignoring the will of the people. Voters in 2010 overwhelmingly approved the Fair Districts amendments with 63 percent of the vote in a clear demand for a different process -- one free from incumbent protection and partisan advantage.

Let's remember how we got here.

In 2002, Florida's legislature, with Republicans at the helm, undertook a blatantly partisan redistricting process bent solely on increasing their power -- and increase their power they did. Today, Floridians are living with this partisan legacy of districts that make little sense except as means to disenfranchise voters.

Florida has long been a centrist electorate -- a key swing state for both Republicans and Democrats in national elections. In fact, over the years we've sent one Republican and one Democrat to the U.S. Senate. Yet, time and again, Republicans continue to dominate state government -- even though the state boasts more registered Democrats than Republicans. So why is it when we continue to elect both Republicans and Democrats in statewide elections the Florida legislature is dominated by a one-party rule? Simply put, gerrymandering. The very reason the people of Florida demanded a new, fairer process.

While the people have spoken, the GOP refuse to relent without a fight -- appropriating over \$30 million in taxpayer dollars to thwart the people's will.

Yesterday, Republicans introduced a bill to give legislators, former legislators and their staff protection from lawsuits. This is nothing more than a thinly-veiled attempt to shield legislators from questions by the court. It's shameful, it's wrong, and we won't remain silent.

Concerned voters, in conjunction with the Florida Democratic Party, have filed a lawsuit in state court to challenge the constitutionality of the congressional map, which violates the Fair District Amendments and seeks to suppress

the voice of Florida's citizens. And today, we will challenge the state legislative maps in the state Supreme Court.

Make no mistake: the stakes are high and the far-reaching consequences will leave an impact on both the state and national landscape for years to come.

It's time to give the vote back to the people of Florida. It's time to let the people choose their politicians instead of the other way around. It's time to stop the games and implement the will of the people.

Our vote is one of the most powerful voices we have and we will fight tooth-and-nail to ensure this very unwilling GOP legislature abides by the constitution, as demanded by Floridians.

Please don't forget about our Bakeless Bake Sale:

A Bakeless Bake Sale

**Another Regular Fundraiser – NO WAY!
Come check out our Bakeless Bake Sale today.
No mixing, pouring, measuring or baking required
A heartfelt donation is all that's desired.
We will save you the calories and the guilt honey
Your SBDWC is trying to raise some money!
For what you would pay to make it or bake it,
Just send a few bucks, or a check, and we'll take it!
The money we raise will provide newsletter ink for our crew,
And you will receive our GREAT BIG THANK YOU~!**

Currently we would like to thank the following for your donations:

Janie Holman "Death by Chocolate" Cake	John Lasseter—two key lime pies
Madeline Farley—a Sheet Cake	Patty Farley—A Sheet Cake
Kelly Crutcher—a dozen cupcakes	Vivian Stover—A dozen cupcakes
Hope Stewart—dozen Oatmeal cookies	Carol Riley—a dozen brownies
Artney Turner—a dozen brownies	

Donations currently total \$113.00

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. The next basket is going to be an ERA themed basket, which may be difficult to do. Champagne and chocolate go well with anything.

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.

Joanne Sterner mailed out **new handbooks** to all the Region Chairs and club presidents. The fee for the insets with binder mailed is \$10.00. For just the inserts to go into a binder, the fee is \$4.00. If you would like to have a copy of the updated DWC state handbook mail your check with a note as to what you want to Joanne Sterner, 2215 Cypress Island Drive #603, Pompano Beach, Florida, 33069.



Above: Doris Weatherford, Patty Farley, Milly Krause and GiGi Bender Right: Jodi James, Justus James, and Patty Farley. Note Justus served as a Page in the House while we were there for Tally Days! We were all so proud of him!

Top Left: Historian Doris Weatherford at our Feb meeting. on Women's History

Top Right: Part of the SBDWC group who attended Tally Days at the Capitol, Amy Tidd, Laura Fausone, Seeta Begui, Terry Sanders, Kelly Crutcher; Front Cathy Jordon, Jodi James, Patty Farley



Super Mule

Congratulations to Mitt Romney. He got an honorary Grammy for best spoken word for being able to speak out of both sides of his mouth at the same time.” –Jay Leno

“President Obama has compromised with the Catholic Church on this whole birth-control issue. The White House’s new position? Just have sex and pray for the best.” –Jay Leno

“Rick Santorum said women might not be suited for military action because their emotions aren’t suited for combat. Which can mean only one thing: He’s never seen an episode of ‘The View.’” –Jimmy Fallon

Poor Mitt Romney, he’s got the money, he’s got the organization, he’s got the name recognition. He has one weakness: an inability to get votes.” –Bill Maher

“The other weakness is an ability to find a candidate he can beat. If there was just some way he could run against Mitt Romney.” –Bill Maher

Contraception is back in the news, Planned Parenthood -- issues that have been real losers for Republicans in the past, especially with women. Makes Republicans lose their votes, makes them seem out of touch, but they say, ‘We’ll worry about that when women get the vote.’” –Bill Maher

“Rick Santorum is against birth control, he’s against ordaining women as priests, he thinks two women kissing is immoral. See, this is the difference between me and Rick Santorum; neither one of us got a lot of dates in high school, but I just didn’t spend the rest of my life taking it out on women.” –Bill Maher

“Romney, Gingrich, Santorum spent their week lecturing America about the morality of birth control. You know, you guys don’t need birth control, you are birth control.” –Bill Maher

One time Lady Gaga showed up (at the Grammys) wearing a dress made of meat. One time she showed up in a giant egg. One time she showed up strapped to the top of Mitt Romney’s car.” –David Letterman

“Rick Santorum is being criticized for saying women might not be suited for military combat because of their emotions. Yeah, Mitt Romney was like, ‘That comment is unacceptable — also, what are emotions?’” –Jimmy Fallon

“Donald Trump is criticizing the Scottish government for trying to build a wind farm near his golf resort. That makes sense — I mean, if you look at Trump’s hair, wind is clearly his worst enemy.” –Jimmy Fallon

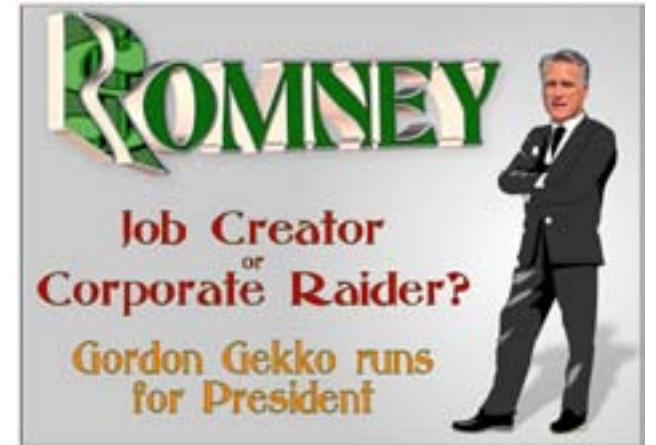
“President Obama said a woman shouldn’t have to decide between birth control and buying food. How many guys would make this deal? You buy the birth control and we’ll spring for dinner. That seems fair.” –Jay Leno

“Mitt Romney said today that he learned something. There are things that money can’t buy — like Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri.” –Jay Leno

“Romney’s campaign is in such bad shape, today he moved the part in his hair even further to the right.” –Jay Leno

“But he is not quitting. Romney says he will keep fighting. And you can take that all the way to the Swiss bank.” –Jay Leno

“After the big win Tuesday night, they asked Rick Santorum if he thought his campaign was evolving, but, you know, he doesn’t believe in evolution.” –Jay Leno





SBDWC Boosters

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

Government Reform hearing on religious liberty and the birth control rule



**So where are the women experts?
Both the cost & ramifications of
birth control effect women more!
GOP = Enemy of Women**

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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



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.



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

Notice: Your \$25 annual dues of are now due and should be mailed to Artney Turner at 811E. Juniper Lane, Melbourne, Florida, 32901.