

SBDWC MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

2016 Issue 3

From The President:

February was a busy month for all as we waited anxiously for the results of the many primaries around the country and listened to Donald Trump make bullying the religion of the land. Primary season seems to have brought out the worst in our country. Attitudes and prejudices that people were too polite to show suddenly became OK and rudeness and violence were suddenly acceptable. I personally find it mind blowing and a bit terrifying. I am hoping that at some point we will find our good sense and all of this hatemongering will go away.

Meanwhile our Florida representatives insisted on doing their own thing without regard to the desires of the people they represent. They went ahead and defunded Planned Parenthood, and Passed the Best and the Brightest, At least all of your calls and messages derailed the Fracking Bill.

So Kudos for those things we did achieve and just keep on keeping on for those we still have to fight.



On a brighter note Our Champagne and Chocolate party was delicious if not well attended. Perhaps Easter weekend was not the best choice of date.



"We won with poorly educated. I love the poorly educated." –Donald Trump on his performance with poorly educated voters who helped him win the Nevada Caucus, Feb. 23, 2016

Have you paid your dues yet?

No problem! But soon we must report our official membership numbers and list. To encourage your fast action on dues payment we are having a contest.

At our April 2nd meeting we will have a drawing for a \$25

Publix Gift card. To be eligible for the drawing you must have paid your 2016 dues....So be sure your Dues are PAID ASAP.

HISPANIC BUSINESS EXPO

Several of our members who are Hillary Supporters manned a table at the Hispanic Business EXPO in Palm Bay on March 19th. They were joined by General John Douglass, who was Under Secretary of the Navy under Bill Clinton and who is

spreading the word on Hillary's support of veterans. It was a great opportunity to make Democratic political inroads in the local Hispanic community. Tele Mondo was present and covered the event.

NEXT MEETING / STATE MEETINGS

The Next meeting of the SBDWC will be April 2 at 11:30 at MeMaw's n Indian Harbour Beach. The Florida Democratic Party is having a meeting in Orlando April 1, 2, and 3rd. The DWCF will have a presentation on Saturday.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

With the conclusion of the Legislative Session and with the passage of the 2016-17 state budget, here are some remarks from Florida Education Association (FEA) President Joanne McCall:

“Legislators may be leaving Tallahassee today, but their work is far from finished. In terms of education, they left our students, our schools and our teachers woefully underfunded and under-resourced. They did nothing to fix the onerous and burdensome over-testing that continues to take classroom time away from teaching and learning. And once again, they worked in the shadows and in backrooms to shove the discriminatory and short-sighted Best and Brightest bonus scheme down our throats – without even a full vote of the Senate.

“Legislators need to do better for our public education system. They need a truly ‘historic’ budget that fulfills the needs of our state’s hurting public schools. They need to address the fact that Florida continues to be ranked among the lowest in the nation in per pupil funding. They need to answer to the thunderous chorus of parents, students and teachers asking for an end to over-testing. They need to focus on real ways to recruit and retain the best teachers in Florida, and give up on unproven, insulting schemes like Best and Brightest.

“We call on the governor to fulfill his promise of a truly ‘historic’ education budget. Tell the Legislature they’re not going to get away with this 1 percent increase. Tell them to come back and get it right, for our children and our teachers. Mr. Governor, veto this budget.” **LEGISLATIVE SESSION** “We are also including the AFL-CIO’s review of the Florida Legislative Session in regard to priority legislation from their prospective.

PASS | **FAIL**

FRS - Death Benefits for First Responders

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SB 7012 Ring - SUPPORT
 First responders killed in the line of duty who are in the Defined Contribution (investment) plan are not afforded the same level of survivor benefits as those in the Defined Benefit (pension) plan. This critical benefit should be afforded to all first responders in FRS. There was an attempt to hijack this good bill to use it as a vehicle to create a soft closing on the pension system. Thanks to a concerted effort by the labor community, including targeted activities in the field, we were able to force the passage of this bill without the negative provisions.

Federal Immigration Enforcement

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SB 872 Bean / HB 675 Metz - OPPOSE
 Legislation attempting to obstruct the power and authority of local governments to protect the civil rights of their communities by forcing local governments and officials to enforce federal immigration policies without the proper funding or training.

Increasing the Minimum Wage

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SB 6 Bullard / HB 109 Torres - SUPPORT
 Legislation that would raise Florida's minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour and increases the scope of individuals entitled to this wage protection.

Privatizing the Central FL Regional Transportation Authority

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HB 155 Cortes / SB 738 Brandes - OPPOSE
 Legislation that would change the composition of the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority Board to give the Governor more power and force the privatization of the management of the Lynx system.

Florida Competitive Workforce Act

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SB 120 Abruzzo / HB 45 Raschein - SUPPORT
 Legislation that would add vital language to Florida's civil rights law to ensure that workers and customers from the LGBT community are not discriminated against.

Revision of Florida's Building Codes

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HB 535 Eagle / SB 704 Hutson - OPPOSE/SUPPORT
 A massive re-write of Florida's building codes, this legislation would eliminate licensing requirements for workers conducting maintenance on certain types of apartment buildings and complexes. Compromise amendments added language that made some aspects of this legislation more palatable.

From
 Vickie and
 our NOW
 contingent

Brevard NOW
 Our April
 12th Brevard
 NOW meeting is
 CANCELLED.
 All are
 encouraged to
 attend Brevard
 County School
 Board Meeting
 instead.

#AddTheWords
 Brevard County
 School Board
 Meeting
 April 12th 5:30
 PM
 2700 Judge Fran
 Jamieson Way,
 Melbourne, FL
 32940
 Plan to arrive no
 later than 5:00
 PM if you want to
 sign up to speak.
 Public comments

are limited to 3 minutes.
 Wear your pink NOW shirts.

Brevard NOW will stand in solidarity with our friends in the LGBT community to urge the School Board to move forward with adding sexual orientation and gender identity to their non-discrimination policies for students and employees. Come out and show the School Board once again that the ugliness they heard at the February School meeting is not the majority opinion in Brevard County! Your presence and support makes a difference!

Background:
 2/23 Brevard school board kills LGBT proposal
<http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/education/2016/02/23/lgbt-brevard-school-meeting-draws-crowds/80814556/?hootPostID=31f7f52fbbea2eb7bd4bccc8e987e1f9>

3/15 LGBT advocates address school board during meeting

<http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/education/2016/03/15/lgbt-advocates-address-school-board-during-meeting/81823704/>

There is also a workshop scheduled on 4/26 time TBA but it likely will be during the day. The public cannot speak but are welcome to attend. More details soon.

Florida NOW State Conference 2016

"Women Running the World"

Crowne Plaza Oceanfront Hotel

Melbourne, Florida 32903

May 20 - 22, 2016

Keynote speaker:

Pat Schroeder - Congresswoman Schroeder represented Colorado in the United States House of Representatives for 24 years. Schroeder was the first woman elected to Congress from Colorado.

Join your host chapter, Brevard NOW, for a weekend of timely and empowering workshops.

The 2016 Conference theme is "Women Running the World" referencing women political candidates and the good women do to make our world a better place.

Highlights of the Conference include an Opening Plenary, Luncheon with Keynote speaker: Former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, Market Place, Silent Auction and empowering breakout workshops.

Online Registration: <http://www.flnow.org/conference/index2016.html> Corporate sponsorships are still available



SUPER MULE

"Donald Trump won yesterday's Republican primaries in Florida, Illinois, and North Carolina. Trump did especially well with white males, Caucasian men, and non-women of no color." –Seth Meyers

"While announcing last night that he is dropping out, Marco Rubio told supporters, 'We should have seen this coming.' If it makes you feel any better, Marco, we did." –Seth Meyers

"Marco Rubio pulled out of the race after losing the Florida primary to Trump by almost 20 points. But he still has a great story. I mean nothing symbolizes America more than the son of poor immigrants growing up to run for president and being crushed by a billionaire." –Jimmy Fallon

"According to a new report, Dr. Ben Carson was not planning to endorse any of the remaining candidates, but changed his mind after being offered a position in Trump's White House. He would run the Department of No Energy." –Seth Meyers

"Marco Rubio was interrupted by a heckler at a Florida campaign rally who accused Rubio of stealing his girlfriend. When in reality, Rubio tried to steal his girlfriend but finished fourth." –Seth Meyers

"Bernie Sanders admitted that he ran as a Democrat rather than an Independent to get more media coverage. And it worked, but if you really want to get some media coverage, try running as a fascist." –Seth Meyers

"Hillary Clinton is going to appear in this week's episode of the Comedy Central show 'Broad City.' Meanwhile, Bernie Sanders will actually be appraised on 'Antiques Roadshow.'" –Jimmy Fallon

"A new poll found that the majority of millennials would vote for Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump. Then millennials found out you can't vote by texting and said, 'Never mind!'" –Jimmy Fallon

"A Donald Trump rally was delayed for nearly two hours yesterday due to fog. At one point the fog was so thick, Trump supporters couldn't even see who they were punching." –Jimmy Fallon

At a rally over the weekend, Donald Trump was surrounded by Secret Service agents after a man tried to rush the stage. The Secret Service said the man was dangerous and disturbed, but they had to protect him anyway." –Jimmy Fallon

"Donald Trump won every Republican state primary last night except for Ohio, which went to John Kasich. Trump didn't seem to mind, since, as he put it, 'The word Ohio is full of zeros.' (It's 50 percent zeros!)" –Jimmy Fallon

"Trump won four of the five primaries last night. Assuming she wins Missouri, Hillary Clinton went five for five in the primaries. Disappointing night for Bernie Sanders, which was a surprise; he was polling well among everyone's most annoying Facebook friends." –Jimmy Kimmel "Proving once and for all, the best way to keep everyone safe and sound is to build a wall around Donald Trump." –Jimmy Fallon