



South Brevard Democratic Women's Club

May 2012

President's
Message

ERA Update

Politics 2012

Super Mule

SBDWC
Boosters

The primary season is in effect over. The Republicans have their candidate and they know they don't have support from females because of the recent attacks on women, so their first move was to fabricate an issue—the Hillary Rosen gaffe about “working women”—Ann Romney's birthday present, as she called it-- which the Romney campaign used to make it look like they supported women. They manufactured an issue and are trying to change their image—“Mr. Etch a Sketch” has gone to work.



Patricia Farley Crutcher
President

There will be many more major attempts to attract attention away from the War on Women by the Romney campaign, but we can't let them. The War on Women March on April 28th in Orlando (see ad in newsletter) will be an opportunity to show the US that Florida is going Democratic over the way the Republicans in Tallahassee and Washington have treated women, teachers, the middle class and the rest of the 99%. We need to get as many women there as possible for the media. This is a chance to be visible and vocal about our outrage over the treatment of women. We will not stand still for the recent attacks on our contemporary culture, equality, and body sovereignty. I have been requested to have a table there for the DWC of Florida, and I will be offering items “for donation” to raise money for Region VI and the SBDWC. Items include political buttons, beverages and snacks and we will have handouts of information about the DWC and Obama accomplishments regarding women to contrast with the Republican attacks.

As leaders in your communities, people will come to you for answers to questions on issues and you need to know some facts to tell them. Here are some facts on Health Care because it has been such a major issue.

Most of you know that the Affordable Care act made it illegal for insurance companies to--

- Deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions
- Cancel someone's insurance coverage because they were sick
- Refuse to cover kids born with medical conditions
- Charge women more than men

The Affordable Care Act also makes insurance fairer by requiring health plans to include coverage without co-pay for preventive services women need, including cervical cancer screening, well woman visits, domestic violence screening and counseling, contraception, and breast-feeding support.

Contrast this with Mitt Romney who promises to do away with Obamacare if elected, to end Medicare as we know it, and he says very plainly he will get rid of Planned Parenthood and outlaw abortion.

We might also add that things like meals, housing and education level in the long run can

and will affect a person's health and well being....and Mitt Romney just told his high rolling donors in Palm Beach he is going to do away with HUD and the Department of Education. This is just Romney on his own—the Republican legislature have committed so many crimes against women—we won't even go there for now.

Now tell this to your neighbors—yell this from the rooftops--and get our people out to vote.

ERA – Moving Forward – by Milly Krause

What can we do as the SBDWC to move ERA toward Florida State Ratification?

PLANNED ASSAULT - I have a general plan of my own, which I will discuss at the end of this column. I would like to hear from our membership on how you think we can move forward to produce long-term results. First, it's important to note that not all of our members do agree that ERA should be passed. Definitely, those voices need to be heard.

Here's the question –

Why is an Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution necessary?

---The Equal Rights Amendment would provide a fundamental legal remedy against sex discrimination for both women and men. It would guarantee that the rights affirmed by the U.S. Constitution are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex.

---The ERA would clarify the legal status of sex discrimination for the courts, where decisions still deal inconsistently with such claims. For the first time, sex would be considered a suspect classification, as race currently is. Governmental actions that treat males or females differently as a class would be subject to strict judicial scrutiny and would have to meet the highest level of justification – a necessary relation to a compelling state interest – in order to be upheld as constitutional.

---To actual or potential offenders who would try to write, enforce, or adjudicate laws inequitably, the ERA would send a strong preemptive message – the Constitution has zero tolerance for sex discrimination under the law.

It's been said by a number of people that if ERA had been ratified, we would not be experiencing the current War on Women. You may or may not agree with this statement.

However, moving forward, I would like to have a few members visit our local legislators each week in the future on a rotational basis while our legislators AREN'T in session so we can show our legislators we mean business and value their help. Thus, the ERA bill, in the least, would make it out of committee. If a different group of 2 or 3 members visit our local legislators with a few focused points each week, both awareness and need will be created in a deeper way. Of course, when you are in Tallahassee, you can visit legislators locally too when they aren't in session.

Another idea that has been discussed amongst a few of us is to have each county take a week in Tallahassee with planned events and legislator visits. Make a daily presence known.

We CAN make an impact and we MUST make an impact. Submit your ideas to Milly. MOVING FORWARD



Milly Krause
Vice President



...mandatory transvaginal ultrasounds, 'personhood' laws, re-defining rape, cutting funding for women's healthcare, repealing EEOC Title VII, court unfounded federal investigation of Planned Parenthood, 'moral clause' giving hospitals "moral clause" to deny life-saving care to pregnant women, giving employers the right to fire you for using contraception...

ENOUGH!

SATURDAY, APRIL 28 / 12PM-3PM
SENATOR BETH JOHNSON PARK
59 S IVANHOE BOULEVARD ORLANDO, FL



Join women from all over Florida and the country as we march together on a national day of action to demand an end to the political attacks on women's rights!

We Can Do It!

[FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/WOWFL](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WOWFL)

TWITTER: @WOW_FL

Look for our facebook event:

"We are Women March- Orlando, FL"

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.

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

Scheduled Events



War on Women
March
April 28th
Orlando and
Tallahassee



Movie
Miss Representation
Melbourne High
Auditorium
May 3,2012
4:00 pm.



Next Meeting
Champagne and
Chocolate Social
May 5,2012
2:30
173 Coral Way East
Indialantic, Florida
\$20 Donation



BALLOT INITIATIVE 6 – EXCLUDING WOMEN FROM THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION

Florida GOP legislators slipped new little-noticed rules into this year’s elections bill that make it harder to challenge the language of a ballot measure, just as two controversial amendments made their way onto the 2012 ballot.

One that might be attacked would curb a woman’s state constitutional right to privacy but is written as a ban on state funding for abortion. Another amendment up for a vote in 2012 would repeal a ban on state funding for religious institutions.

As HJR 1179 made its way through the state Legislature this session, the bill was presented as a way to restrict public funding of abortion — which is already illegal and has been for three decades. But one of the underplayed consequences is that it would also roll back a constitutional privacy right in the Florida Constitution, which currently provides more protection for women than the U.S. Constitution does.

Article 1 § 23 of the Florida Constitution states that “Every natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental intrusion into the person’s private life...”. This promise has been used as the precedent for most of the pro-choice legal decisions in our state.

The Florida Supreme Court in their landmark decision, *In re T.W., A Minor*, 551 So.2d 1186 (Fla.1989), found that the right to abortion in Florida was guaranteed based on this explicit ‘right to privacy’ thus making Florida’s privacy rights broader in scope than that of the federal Constitution.

House Joint Resolution 1179, which has become Initiative 6 on the November Ballot, proposes “the creation of a Section 28 of Article I of the State Constitution to generally prohibit public funding of abortions and prohibit the State Constitution from being interpreted to create broader rights to an abortion than those contained in the United States Constitution.” While the bill summary includes this information, some might take issue with the amendment’s title: “Prohibition on Public Funding of Abortions; Construction of Abortion Rights.”

This is a direct assault on women and their basic rights as currently guaranteed here in Florida. It is incumbent upon us to educate every person we know what a travesty this attempt is on every female in this State. It is part of a continuing War on Women that right wing ideologues are waging in this Nation. Such a precedent creates a slippery road that we as a State should not want to travel.



Our Next Meeting

Last year the Champagne and Chocolate Social was so much fun we decided to do it again this year. This is the fundraiser that our club by-laws requires us to do to help pay for fees for the state convention. Please support the efforts of the club and attend this event. The costs of going to convention are getting higher each year. Any profit off the price of the \$20 tickets will be used to help our delegates.

Trust me, with this group you will not be disappointed!

We are also doing the Annual Blue Donkey Sale on this day. Did you receive any gift items that just are not really you? We need re-gift items and donations for this also. Drop them off at Madeline’s in time for us to get things arranged or made into baskets.

NOTE that the time is later than our usual meeting due to the champagne and the delegate caucuses.



Our April meeting at Memaw’s was very informative. Members Shannon Roberts and Kimberly Whiting reported to us on the status of their campaigns and gave members ideas on what we could do to help. PETITIONS to get on the ballot need to be signed. Call 321-773-2949 to pick up petitions for our candidates



Special Showing: Miss Representation,

Location: Melbourne High Auditorium, May 3rd, time 4:00 pm

No ticket purchase required, but refreshments will be sold by the Melbourne High Key Club

*** Strongly suggested that you park at the shopping center & walk over.....**

Like drawing back a curtain to let bright light stream in, Miss Representation (90 min; TV-14 DL) uncovers a glaring reality we live with every day but fail to see. Written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the film exposes how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. The film challenges the media's limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls, which make it difficult for women to achieve leadership positions and for the average woman to feel powerful herself.

In a society where media is the most persuasive force shaping cultural norms, the collective message that our young women and men overwhelmingly receive is that a woman's value and power lie in her youth, beauty, and sexuality, and not in her capacity as a leader. While women have made great strides in leadership over the past few decades, the United States is still 90th in the world for women in national legislatures, women hold only 3% of clout positions in mainstream media, and 65% of women and girls have disordered eating behaviors.

Stories from teenage girls and provocative interviews with politicians, journalists, entertainers, activists and academics, like Condoleezza Rice, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, Margaret Cho, Rosario Dawson and Gloria Steinem build momentum as Miss Representation accumulates startling facts and statistics that will leave the audience shaken and armed with a new perspective.

This documentary offers a powerful, uncompromising look at how the media trivializes and sexualizes women. It's informative and enlightening and will be a total eye-opener for girls and their mothers. And it could move both females and males -- to re-examine how they absorb the images presented to them. Expect some strong language and photos and clips presenting women in sexual (or sexualized) situations, all of which are used to help drive home the movie's message.



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. Suggested items: wine, chocolate, cheese, crackers, bath , gourmet foods, or really most anything..



Super Mule

“After dropping out of the GOP race, Rick Santorum emailed his supporters to ask for help paying off his campaign debt. So if you believe in his message of responsible spending and no handouts, just give him a handout to cover all his irresponsible spending.” –Jimmy Fallon

“It turns out that Newt Gingrich’s campaign wrote a \$500 check to participate in the Utah primary, but it bounced. Even M.C. Hammer was like, ‘Manage your money, bro.’” –Jimmy Fallon

“Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal announced that he is supporting Mitt Romney for president. Jindal said he couldn’t think of a better way to show his support than waiting until Romney was the only guy left.” –Jimmy Fallon

“Another strange story from Arizona. A bill signed by the governor would declare a woman to be pregnant two weeks before conception. So congratulations, ladies, you are all Arizona pregnant.” –Jimmy Kimmel

“I wonder if they realize in Arizona that they will not be able to report any female illegal immigrants because they are all pregnant with babies who will be citizens.” –Jimmy Kimmel

“Florida congressman Allen West made an interesting statement yesterday. He believes there are about 78 to 81 members of the Democratic Party who are members of the Communist Party. Really? I think it’s time for someone to lay off the Tom Clancy novels.” –Jimmy Kimmel

“West is a guy that some think should be Mitt Romney’s running mate. I would like that. We haven’t had a truly crazy vice president . . . well, until now.” –Jimmy Kimmel

“The average wedding now costs \$27,000. Well, no wonder Newt Gingrich is broke. He’s constantly shelling out all that money.” –Jay Leno

“Newt Gingrich’s campaign paid \$500 to get his name on the Utah primary ballot, and the check bounced. You know, if Newt is spending money he doesn’t have, maybe he really is qualified to be president.” –Jay Leno

“The teenage birth rate... is now the lowest it’s been in 70 years, and people are wondering why. Is it due to a resurgence of sexual abstinence? Is it due to teens acting more responsibly? Or is due to the fact that ‘Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3’ is so awesome that boys don’t care about girls anymore?” –Jay Leno

“George W. Bush said he wishes people would stop referring to his tax policy as the Bush tax cuts. He also wishes people would stop referring to his presidency as the eight-year oopsy.” –Conan O’Brien

“Rick Santorum has dropped out of the race. He wanted to ban gambling and outlaw pornography. And this is a guy who claims Romney is out of touch with America.” –David Letterman

“Now that Santorum is out of the race, that leaves Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul out there vying for the crackpot vote.” –David Letterman

“Gingrich is \$5 million in debt. And he’s the guy who was going to fix our economy.” –David Letterman

“Newt looks like the guy at your class reunion you don’t recognize.” –David Letterman



SBDWC Boosters

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



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Contact pfarley_101@hotmail.com

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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.

