



South Brevard Democratic Women's Club

October 2012

President's
Message



Patricia Farley-Crutcher
President

ERA Update

Politics 2012

Super Mule

SBDWC
Boosters

Yes—it was real! The President of the United States came to Melbourne to visit us.

Yes—it was hard to get tickets and it was hard on everyone standing in line waiting for hours.

Yes—the room was hot and packed standing room only, but several of our members managed to endure to the end so they could hear and see the President, and from all their comments they felt it was certainly worth it! We know of at least 4 members: Terry Sanders, Bonnie Ollinger, Laura Fausone and Denise Cisar who managed to be up on stage behind him. Several members managed to shake his hand or speak to him and we know Lou Simpson and Patty Farley were among those who managed to even get a hug.

You can relive the event at this site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Op20cQXRwww>

Your SBDWC is devoting space this month to comments and observations gathered about this event because we feel that we should have them for our historical archives. This is a once in a lifetime event.

Seeta Begui--I stood in line for over 4 hours to see the President of the United States, Barack Obama, and it was well worth it, I got the chance to shake his hand and say a few words to him as well. The president reminded us that will remain the greatest country in the world. He spoke about recruiting another 100,000 math and science teachers and said, "We can choose that future for America if we all work hard and play by the rules."

Hazel Buggs--I attended the rally for President Obama and I must say it was wonderful seeing our President confirming his loyalty as President and reiterating his platform for America. I thought it was an honor for him to visit our town. I gained even more respect for him because it truly showed his grassroots concern.

Denise Cisar--The main thing I took away with me from this that is sticking in my head is the fact that Obama said, "They want your vote but they have NO plan".

Kelly Crutcher--Wow! Yeah, it was so exciting to think that I saw the President of the United States! He is such a special person. He is our the leader of all of us and he cares about us too.

Laura Fausone -- It made my heart sing to hear our President want to acknowledge all Americans: equality for all, ability of women to make choices over their own bodies, healthcare for all. I was fortunate to be on the stage behind him, and it was great to be so close to history.

Madeline Farley—I thought it was wonderful. It was fabulous to have him here. I think people were surprised to see how really down to earth and caring he was. Being around him, you could really tell how much he does care about the average person. It was impressive.

Patty Farley—I got a hug from the President of the United States and I hugged him back and I’m not quite the same yet! I have worked for him so very hard and I have admired him since I read his book some years ago before the last election.

Jackie Higgins—Thank you so much for the ticket for Obama. It was exciting. After 5 hours in line I got Jack a ticket, too. Now I have seen 7 Presidents.

Robert Hopkins--As an average American, and despite political affiliation, the chance to see a sitting President in person is a unique opportunity considering that most people do not get such an opportunity. The President’s aura was one of intelligence and substance in a sincere sense, which one cannot experience from watching television.

Milly Krause--During the hours we waited for President Obama’s Speech at FIT, Americans got to know each other better as endless excitement, and strong spirits filled the air. President Obama raised these levels even higher by delivering the same strong message he has been delivering but with a special focus on Brevard. The cherry on the cake was when I shook one of his hands and Jackie Lombardo shook the other. Four More Years!!!! USA!!!!

Jodi James--The President showed us the importance of our efforts here in Brevard County by making the visit to FIT. I am saddened by the fact President Bush filled Space Coast Stadium and we only filled FIT. To change that, the work has just begun.

Julie Johnson--Most of the time, I feel like the entity for whom I work does not care if I can provide for my family with the salary that I draw. I believe that the powers that be at the top of the food chain in education are more concerned with test scores than developing students who are suited for successful careers. Hearing President Obama speak confirmed in me the belief that he cares about the struggling middle class, the working poor, and what our objectives should be for education. He will continue to work toward a brighter future FOR ALL.

John Lasseter--The other day I experienced a highpoint in my life’s experiences. I was able to see our President, Barack Obama here in our own town! How exciting! I had stood in line over two hours back when he was a candidate to have the tickets run out with only two people ahead of me. Ironically, it was Amy Tidd who came out to announce that all the tickets were gone.

This time the availability of tickets came through my association with the SBDWC. I was so excited that I could hardly sleep! You couldn’t have paid me to see GW Bush or his rich clone Mitt Romney (I would rather have root canal). This gentleman, by contrast, has always impressed me greatly with his intelligence, wit, personality and charm. He always seems to be the adult in the room. I would have given my left ear to have actually met this man but I vicariously got the thrill through Patty’s opportunity to meet him and “even get a hug”.

Terry Sanders--I don’t know about anyone else but the way he looks at people and talks so straight-forward - I felt like he was talking directly to me. He is truly a man of the people. Does not come across as any better than we are.

Hope Stewart—I SEE A PRESIDENT THAT HAS A PLAN THAT BETTER ADVANCES MY MIDDLE CLASS INTERESTS. I SEE A MAN THAT SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN MEDICARE FOR SENIORS AND RETIREES, AND I AM FIRED UP AND READY TO VOTE!!

ERA Questions & Talking Points – Milly Krause

For those who plan to visit their local legislators before the 2012 election, please let me know.

The following are some common questions asked about ERA: Talking points will follow the Q & A.

Q: Why does ERA need to be ratified rather than just passing laws like the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2012?

A: Legislation can be rolled back. Congress can repeal legislation with a simple majority vote. Critical provisions such as the right for women to vote and the end of slavery were put in the Constitution so that they could not be taken away easily. In addition, it is felt that to suggest legislating instead is to say that equal rights between men and women are not important enough to be protected and upheld in the Constitution. Other Constitutional amendments that currently exist include compensation for members of Congress (27th), prohibition and the repeal of prohibition (18th and 21st), and state immunity. Few would argue that these provisions are more important than equal rights for all.

Q: Doesn’t the 14th amendment provide enough protection against discrimination for women?

A: The 14th Amendment was ratified after the Civil War to address race discrimination. It has only been applied to sex discrimination since 1971, and the 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause has never been interpreted to grant equal rights on the basis of sex in the same way that the ERA would. Currently, when courts analyze sex-based classifications, they use intermediate scrutiny. The intermediate standard has been criticized by lower court judges, commentators, and Supreme Court justices as being too vague. A more precise and stricter federal judicial standard for deciding cases of sex discrimination is needed

Q: What are the different strategies for ratifying the ERA, and why is there more than one?

A: There are two strategies for trying to ratify the ERA. This bill initiates the “starting over” strategy of passing the ERA through Congress and then seeking ratification by ¾ of the states. Another bill has traditionally been introduced each year which pursues the so called “three state strategy.” The three state strategy is the one we are using in Florida. The three state strategy is based on the fact that the Madison amendment concerning congressional pay raises went to the states for ratification in 1789 and reached the ¾ goal in 1992. That this 203 year ratification period was accepted has led some to propose that Congress has the power to maintain the legal viability of the 35 existing ratifications of the ERA.

The following are some of the Talking Points I’ve located. I would like to add to and modify this list. If you have any Talking Points to add, Please email them to me so we can provide a useful list to help move ERA forward. Original Talking Points are most welcome as well.

TALKING POINTS –

-In principle, it is important to have a statement of equality in our constitution. The only right that our Constitution specifically affirms as equal for both men and women is the right to vote.

-The ERA will establish a standard of equality and non-discrimination for potential offenders. It will deter those who previously might have failed to apply or enforce existing laws.

-By clarifying the legal status of sex discrimination for the courts, decisions will no longer be dealt with inconsistently and would have to meet strict judicial scrutiny. Remember, without a constitutional amendment, any existing laws are subject to being ignored, weakened, or reversed. This is plain and simply about equality.

-It is unbelievable that in the 21st century, the United States Constitution is not interpreted to grant rights to men and women equally. Having an ERA would improve our credibility with other countries and allow us to be more of a player



Milly Krause
Vice President

in the international community.

-Many European countries are also subject to EU law or human rights conventions so that even if their own constitutions don't have an equality provision, they are bound by another instrument.

-It is unacceptable that our government supported an equality provision in Afghanistan and Iraq when they don't have one at home.

-A survey showed that 7 out of 10 Americans think that we ALREADY have an equality provision in our constitution and 9 out of 10 think that our Constitution SHOULD make clear that men and women are entitled to equal rights.

-The environment for passage is much better today than it was in 1972. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

-Women have made incredible gains in the past few decades, but we have not achieved full equality yet. Women today are still paid an average of 78 cents for every dollar men receive, and this pay gap has been consistent for nearly three decades.

In addition to adding to the above Talking Points, while it might seem obvious, what do you see as the benefits of the ratification of ERA?

Let's keep the discussion going.
As always, Moving Forward -----

Presidential and Vice Presidential Debate Schedule

All debates will take place from 9-10:30 p.m. EDT. More details are posted at www.debates.org, including, "Organizing a Debate" information.

First presidential debate (Domestic Policy): Jim Lehrer, executive editor, PBS News-Hour; Wednesday, October 3, University of Denver, Denver, CO.

Vice presidential debate: Martha Raddatz, senior foreign affairs correspondent, ABC News; Thursday, October 11, Centre College, Danville, KY.

Second presidential debate (Town Meeting): Candy Crowley, chief political correspondent, CNN, and anchor, CNN's State of the Union; Tuesday, October 16, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY.

Third presidential debate (Foreign Policy): Bob Schieffer, chief Washington correspondent, CBS News, and moderator, Face the Nation; Monday, October 22, Lynn University, Boca Raton, FL.

Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida, once considered one of the most endangered incumbents of the election, has opened up a substantial lead in the swing-state Senate race.

Mr. Nelson leads Rep. Connie Mack, his Republican challenger 51% to 37% among likely voters, according to a Wall Street Journal/NBC News/Marist poll released Thursday. A SurveyUSA poll conducted this week also showed Mr. Nelson leading by double digits, with a 19 percentage-point lead among women.

Both polls showed President Barack Obama running ahead of Mitt Romney by a much narrower margin in the Sunshine State.

The gap comes as the television ad wars are heating up in the race, with Mr. Nelson sitting on a campaign war chest of \$8.8 million in the bank as of July 25, according to federal records. Mr. Mack by contrast had just \$1.4 million. In one spot that seems targeted at women voters, Mr. Nelson's campaign brings up Mr. Mack's previous work for the wings restaurant Hooters and involvement in a barroom fight.

Mr. Mack has released a short Web video accusing Mr. Nelson of voting for Medicare cuts. In a TV ad, released last month, the congressman looks at the camera and says, "Our founders believe in the power of freedom, and so do I."



YES
WE
CAN
DO IT
AGAIN

SBDWC
MEMBERS
WERE ALL
OVER THE
PLACE--
ON STAGE,
IN LINES,
STANDS,
AND IN THE
CROWD



PRESIDENT
OBAMA
IN
MELBOURNE
FLORIDA
SEPT 9, 2012





Super Mule

It's Fall. Unless you're Mitt Romney, and then it's freefall." –David Letterman

"Mitt Romney says that about half the country is freeloaders. And freeloaders – that includes wealthy politicians who only pay 13 percent in tax." –David Letterman

"I like Mitt. Listen to this. He has alienated the young people, alienated the old people, alienated women, alienated minorities, alienated gays. I'm telling you, this takes talent." –David Letterman

"Romney said he doesn't watch 'Keeping up with the Kardashians' because if Romney wants to see rich people say dumb things on camera he can watch that fundraiser video." –Jimmy Fallon

"What are they talking about? Romney has given some very specific figures. For instance, he is willing to piss off exactly 47% of the voters." –Stephen Colbert

"Yes, President Romney will not take God off our coins. And that is so important because right now, just like God, the value of our currency really has to be taken on faith." –Stephen Colbert

"Mitt Romney said the 47 percent of people who don't pay taxes are going to vote for Obama. You know what that means? He's going to vote for Obama." –Jay Leno

"If you take the 47 percent that Mitt Romney says pay no taxes and add that to the people who Obama says cling to their guns and religion, that's the whole country right there." –Jay Leno

"All of these political strategists are trying to explain why Mitt Romney can't seem to get his message out. I'm no strategist but it's hard to talk with both a silver spoon and a foot in your mouth." –Jay Leno

"Mitt Romney said if he had Mexican parents, he'd have a better shot of winning...But unfortunately Romney was tragically held back by being born of rich white people." –Conan O'Brien

"It is high time that the GOP stop trying to appeal to smart people – and letting Rick Santorum in front of a microphone is a great place to start." –Stephen Colbert, on Santorum's remarks that "smart people will never be on our side"

"Mitt Romney is in Los Angeles today for a fundraiser. So that's one more handsome guy in L.A. auditioning for a role he probably won't get." –Conan O'Brien

"Mitt Romney is trailing in the polls. After being accused of being too vague, Romney's campaign team says they will start being more specific. When asked when, they said, 'Soon-ish.'" –Conan O'Brien

"Mitt Romney was here meeting with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He's looking for a housekeeper for his place in La Jolla." –Jimmy Kimmel

"Mitt Romney was on 'Live With Kelly and Michael.' At one point Mitt was asked what he wears to bed. He said as little as possible. It's the same philosophy that Mitt has in regard to paying taxes." –Jimmy Kimmel

Future Events:

We will have our **Next Region VI Meeting** on Saturday the 29th at Jimmie's Restaurant At Turtle Creek, 1279 Admiralty Blvd, in Rockledge, at 11:30. Meal is \$15.00. Bring a check or cash for Region Treasurer Beverly Jones. Meal choices are: Friend Chicken Breast Platter, Grilled Chicken Breast Platter, Jumbo Fish Sandwich Platter, Chef Salad. Call Madeline Farley at 321-773-2949 with your menu choices immediately.

Our **next meeting is our famed Ice Cream Social**—which is a great way to kick back, relax and enjoy each other's company while we plan and discuss election strategy in an informal atmosphere.

The Ice Cream Social will again be at Madeline Farley's Home at 173 Coral Way in Indialantic. The date and time are Saturday October 6th at 2:00pm. All we ask of you is to bring a favorite ice cream topping to share. Your SBDWC will furnish the ice cream.

We will have a sign waving sign-up sheet at that meeting.



We have **Democratic Slate Cards** and want you to share them and convince individuals of the need to vote down the ballot. Try to get individuals to vote by mail because the ballot is so long –four legal size pages-- that voter fatigue and lines will be an issue on Election Day. If people give up and not vote—the Republican legislature will be successful on the Ballot Amendments. It is important that we get individuals to vote "Just Say No" to the Florida Ballot Amendments.

Please buy some campaign buttons for your friends or sell them some. We have several hundred left and we want them out there with the President's name visible on supporters. We are only charging \$2 each for them.



Scheduled Events



Region VI Meeting
Jimmie's Restaurant
Rockledge
11:30



Next Meeting
October 6th
Ice Cream Social
Home of
Madeline Farley
173 Coral Way East
Indialantic Fl
321-773-2949



Sign Waving
Sign up
for
Different
Locations



Oct 21st
Progressive Fest
Eau Gallie
Civic Center





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



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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.

