

FOCUS

Democratic Club of Sarasota

An Informed Member is Our Best Voter



Volume 18, Issue 8

August, 2012

AUGUST LUNCHEON PROGRAM

New College's Frank Alcock deciphers the Proposed Florida Constitutional Amendments

In addition to federal, state and local races, voters will face eleven proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution on the November ballot. These amendments range in topic from abortion to religion to property taxes, and appear to come straight from the Republican playbook. (See the article below for a summary of each.) According to an article by Mary Ellen Klas in the *Tampa Bay Times*, Democrats say the amendments are politically motivated and designed to attract conservatives to the polls in November, when President Obama faces reelection. Republicans say they are pursuing what they have been attempting for years and what voters elected them to do.

Fortunately for us, our August luncheon speaker, Frank Alcock, will make sure that we understand the amendments and will be able to place effective votes. And beyond helping us understand how to vote, we will be able to share our knowledge with others.

A familiar and respected name in local Democratic circles, Dr. Alcock is an Associate Professor of Political Science at New College of Florida where he teaches courses on

world politics, international law and environmental studies. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science, an M.A. in International Affairs and a B.A. in Economics. His research covers issues of sustainable development, trade and global environmental politics with a focus on energy, oceans and marine policy. His public policy interests extend far beyond that, however. Since 2006, he has also been the Director of a new Marine Policy Institute at Mote Marine Laboratory.

Frank Alcock lives in Sarasota with his wife Sharon and their twin daughters, Katelin and Abigail.

Join us on Saturday, August 11 to learn what you should know before you vote on the Amendments in November.

LUNCHEON DETAILS: See back page

NOTE: The luncheon is at the **Laurel Oak Country Club**. Drinks will be available for sale at a bar near the luncheon meeting room.

A Quick Rundown of the 11 Constitutional Amendments

Amendment 1: Health Care Services

Placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature shortly after the passage of the Affordable Care Act, the long and largely-unreadable ballot language indicates that this amendment would prohibit laws requiring individuals to purchase health insurance, and preserve individuals' right to directly pay health care providers for services. The proposed amendment would not affect any rules or laws in effect prior to March 1, 2010. (The Affordable Care Act became law on March 23.)

According to Legislative staff analysis, "the purpose of Subsection (b) is to ensure that we never move to a government-run, single-payer system."

Amendment 2: Veterans Disabled

due to Combat Injury; Homestead Property Tax Discount

Placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature, this proposal would expand the availability of the property discount on the homesteads of veterans who became disabled as the result of a combat injury to include those who were not Florida residents when they entered the military.

Amendment 3: State Government Revenue Limitation

Placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature, this amendment would change how Florida calculates the upper limit on the amount the state may collect in taxes, fees and other charges in a single year. (Some significant items continue to be excluded from this limit.) The new calcula-

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*Focus Newsletter is a publication of
the Democratic Club of Sarasota
In print since May 1995*

Newsletter Mission Statement

The mission of the newsletter of the Democratic Club of Sarasota (*FOCUS*) is to promote the growth of the Democratic Party in Sarasota County, to inform Club members about Club events and other local events of interest to Democrats, and to address local, state and national issues of interest to Party members.

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Contact President Mary Clupper if you wish to attend the meeting of the executive committee.

What do we include in the newsletter?

Democrats have a lot to say – and the Board encourages club members to say it with articles or letters to the editor for our newsletter!

Unfortunately, there is limited space. Dealing with this dilemma, the Board adopted the following list of policies and procedures:

Articles and letters to the editor from club members will be accepted on a space available basis using the following priorities:

1. Local information of immediate importance to club members
2. Articles or letters from members who have not written recently
3. Articles or letters relating to state issues.
4. Articles or letters relating to national issues.

Due to limited space, articles and letters should be written as concisely as possible (between 100 and 150 words) and once submitted, may be edited. Letters to the editor should contain statements of proposed action by the membership.

Submission Deadline:

Third Saturday of the month for the next issue

Email submissions to Feedback@SarasotaDems.com

Federal Government Contact Information

White House Comment Line 202-456-1111
White House Switchboard 202-456-1414
(WEB) <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/> FAX: 202-456-2461

Bill Nelson (D) Toll free in Florida: 1-888-671-4091
United States Senator 202-224-5274
716 Hart Senate Office Bldg. FAX: 202-228-2183
Washington, DC 20510 (WEB) <http://billnelson.senate.gov>

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Washington, DC 20510 (WEB) <http://rubio.senate.gov>

Vern Buchanan (R) 202-225-5015
United States Representative LOCAL: 941-951-6643
1516 Longworth House Office Bldg. (WEB) <http://buchanan.house.gov>
Washington, DC 20515 DC FAX: 202-226-0828

Congress Switchboard 800-962-3524

U.S. Capitol Switchboard — 24 hours a day
(800) 648-3516 or (800) 839-5276 or (877) 762-8762

State Government Contact Information

Governor Rick Scott (R)
Office of the Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001 (WEB) www.flgov.com

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3653 Cortez Road West, Suite 90 850-487-5078
Bradenton, FL 34210 bennett.michael.web@flsenate.gov

Senate District 23

Nancy Detert, State Senator (R) 941-480-3547
417 Commercial Court, Suite D 850-487-5081
Venice, FL 34292 detert.nancy.web@flsenate.gov

House District 55

Darryl Ervin Rouson, State Rep. (D) 941-708-8570
302 Manatee Ave E, Suite 304 850-488-0925
Bradenton, FL 34208-1901 (WEB) www.myfloridahouse.gov

House District 67

Greg Steube, State Rep. (R)
5830 Lakewood Ranch Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34240 850-488-6340
(WEB) www.myfloridahouse.gov

House District 69

Ray Pilon, State Rep. (R) 941-955-8077
1660 Ringling Blvd, Ste 310-311 850-488-7754
Sarasota, FL 34236 (WEB) www.myfloridahouse.gov

House District 70

Doug Holder, State Rep. (R) 941-918-4028
8486 South Tamiami Trail 850-488-1171
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Ken Roberson, State Rep. (R) 941-613-0914
17825 Murdock Circle 850-488-0060
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President's Column

Dear Members and Friends,

We are more than halfway through another Florida summer, bringing the November election ever closer. The Republican fundraising machine is operating at full force, and the impact of *Citizens United* is as bad as we feared. President Obama is on the campaign trail putting up impressive fundraising numbers, as well.

While we can't ignore that American elections are often decided by how much money is spent (let's not forget Rick Scott in 2010), we must not dismiss the importance of the basics. It may very well come down to the party that works the hardest at the grass roots level. And that's where people like us — committed Democrats — come into the picture.

Florida Democratic Party Chair Rod Smith tells us the numbers show that a 5–7% Democratic voter increase in each precinct will give President Obama a win in Florida. And, as we continue to hear from our Party leadership, Florida is a crucial must-win for him. We can't allow Mitt Romney to take Florida. No Republican has been elected president without carrying Florida since Calvin Coolidge. So let's stop him here in the Sunshine state!

Several board members and local candidates recently traveled to Hollywood, FL, to attend the Florida Democratic Party's annual Jefferson-Jackson Fundraising Dinner. It was incredible to sit in a banquet room with just under 1,000 Florida Democrats. We heard from our Florida Senators and House Representatives, our Congressional Representatives including Democratic National Committee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and, of course, Senator Bill Nelson.

The message from the party leadership continues to be VOTE BY MAIL. Yes, I'm capitalizing that on purpose for emphasis, because that's how important it is to winning the November election. The new catch phrase is "we win in the mailboxes." Please sign up to vote this way and encourage your progressive friends, neighbors, and family members to do the same.

We continue to remind you that the Club has invested over \$20,000 of your contributions to the Vote by Mail effort. The numbers show that it is making a difference. Right now there are more Sarasota County Democrats signed up to receive their ballots by mail than Republicans. But there is still more work to be done.

Stay tuned the rest of this summer and into the fall as the Club continues to bring you relevant educational and social events.

Planning has begun for our annual fundraiser. We will set sail for a luncheon on the Marina Jack II cruise boat again this year to honor a local Democrat. The date will be Saturday, October 6th.

And just one month later we'll be on the land side at Marina Jack for our Election Night Victory Party. What better way to spend that evening than with fellow Sarasota County Democrats, celebrating four more years in office for our president!

Democratically yours,

Mary

AUGUST WINE, CHEESE & POLITICS

***Sarasota News Leader's* Robert Hackney: "Can Florida Survive Rick Scott?"**

There's good news for Democrats in Sarasota County. Not only do we have a radio station owned by Democrats (WSRQ 107.9 FM, 1450 AM), we are now welcoming a progressive online publication that will publish its first full, self-contained edition on September 7, 2012.

Founded by Rachel Brown Hackney, former *Pelican Press* editor, *The Sarasota News Leader*, calls itself "the progressive voice of Southwest Florida." Due to the *Observer Group's* cuts at the *Pelican Press* and the *Herald-Tribune's* buyout of *Creative Loafing*, the journalists involved in this new effort feel that progressive views were no longer represented in local Sarasota media. Its seasoned staff of award-winning journalists will provide in-depth reporting on local governments and the major issues affecting Sarasota County, including extensive coverage of the Arts & Entertainment scene, and a comprehensive calendar of community events.

On Wednesday, August 22nd at our Wine, Cheese & Politics gathering, we will hear from Robert Hackney of *The Sarasota News Leader* asking the question, "Can Florida Survive Rick Scott?"

Two years ago, Rick Scott literally used his personal wealth to purchase Florida's top elected office, spending more than \$60 million of his own money to win election as governor. Since then, he has distinguished himself as one of the least popular governors in modern U.S. history (let alone Florida history). Hackney will provide an analysis of Scott's impact on the state of Florida, as well as tell us more about the mission of the new online publication.

The program begins at 6:30 pm at 1350 Main Street, 6th Floor, in downtown Sarasota. Beer, wine, soft drinks and light bites are provided. Cost for Club members is \$15, for non-members \$20. payable at the door by check or cash.

Reservations are required due to capacity limitations. RSVP to rsvp@sarasotadems.com or leave a message at 404-4678.

From Your Membership Co-Chairs

Dear Democratic Club Members and Friends,

The members of the Democratic Club of Sarasota are the foundation of our organization. Maintaining our current membership and bringing in new members helps us continue to grow. This growth provides the funding and volunteers we need to continue to participate in Outreach events in the community, increase Vote By Mail registrations, and support our candidates.

A very special thank you to Marcia Lang, a longtime Club member and Volunteer Extraordinaire who makes phone calls on a monthly basis to members whose memberships are about to expire or those that have already expired. With her special phone talents Marcia has activated many former Club members back into the Club. Thanks, Marcia. We truly appreciate your efforts!!

As always we are looking for community Outreach events where the Club should have a presence. These events also provide our Democratic candidates an opportunity to meet voters in our community. Please continue to share any

event ideas you may have!!

Our Democratic Club will be participating in two special events where we are assembling tables of Democratic Club members.

- First is the annual Women's Equity Day luncheon on Saturday, August 25 at the Polo Grill/Fete Ballroom, 10670 Boardwalk in Lakewood Ranch. The cost of lunch is \$30. In addition to luncheon table(s), the Democratic Club of Sarasota will have an exhibit table. We suggest you come early (11:00 am) to meet our Democratic candidates and check out the other exhibits.
- We are also putting together a Democratic Club table at Second Chance—Last Opportunity's annual Share The Light luncheon. Longtime Club members Carol Poteat-Buchanan and Adam Tebrugge are the 2012 honorees at this event on Thursday, September 27 at Michael's On East in Sarasota. The cost is \$50.

Please contact JoAnne at jdv.devries8@gmail.com if you are interested in joining our table and supporting these two very worthy causes. For Membership information or questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Your Membership Co-Chairs,

JoAnne DeVries: joanne@sarasotadems.com or 320-8825
Georgia Blotzer: georgia@sarasotadems.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- I am registered as a Democrat in Florida.
- I am a Democrat but am registered in a state other than Florida, and I would like to become a Friend of the Democratic Club of Sarasota.

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ for a term of (circle) 1 yr \$20; 3 yrs \$52; 5 yrs \$80; 10 yrs \$150 or Sustaining Member @ \$200 or more per year

_____ Date _____ Signed _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Referred by _____

- Please contact me about volunteering.

Send to: Democratic Club of Sarasota
Membership Committee
PO Box 51076
Sarasota, FL 34232-0329

New & Reinstated Club Members and Friends (in June)

Zan Benham, Lee Devies, Robert Ferrell, Bert Fivelson, Marce Fuller, Lovette Harper, Florence Heitler, George Heitler, Lyla Mitchell, Hector Muniz, Karen Olsen, Sue Sherman, Verna Tomasson, Tom Walker

Right: Teresa Carafelli RN is running for reelection to the Hospital Board. Daisy is serving as her poster-dog.

Below: *Herald-Tribune* reporter and discussion moderator Robert Eckhart with Mary Clupper



A Full House Met the Candidates on July 24

Our local Democratic candidates came together for Wine, Cheese & Politics on July 24 and drew our largest attendance to date. With Robert Eckhart of the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* moderating the formal program, everyone came away with a better sense of where each candidate stands which they can now communicate to friends and neighbors. The following is a brief snippet of what was said.

Keith Fitzgerald: We're not going to change this country by voting for the same people we've been voting for over the last 30 years. ... They say that I'm a college professor and not a car dealer. I am not running away from that fact. I have spent my life studying the institutions of this government. You want someone like me to get this country back on the right track.

Adam Tebrugge: I am running against Jim Boyd, who is Governor Rick Scott's right hand man and has voted with Governor Scott 100% of the time. He is an insurance man who votes with the insurance industry. ... I am an idealist. I will not be bought and sold. I want a level playing field, and elections decided on who is the best man, not who can raise the most money.

Fitzgerald: We should all respect dedicated ideals, but when you run for Congress, that is not an option. I spend all day asking people for money. ... I have outraised Buchanan two quarters in a row. His problems show he's had to run TV to stop the bleeding. Our TV? Soon. The DCCC has given us \$2 million for TV time and \$400,000 for "other." Buchanan will be desperate by mid-summer. When Rove and Koch attack, I'm likely to win.

People say our biggest problem is the economy. But our number one problem is that the political process is broken — broken because of money and politics. When I am in Congress, I will further proposals to do what Harvard Professor Lessig proposes: give every American a \$100 voucher to counteract special interest groups. That would put government back in the hands of the people.

John Torrace: Citizens United was the worst of the Supreme Court cases and should remind us that while the President nominates the members of the Supreme Court, the Senate confirms them.

On Sarasota Memorial Hospital's \$19 million budget gap, Theresa Carafelli responded: We made 51 trips to beg for no cuts this year. Our managers watch cash flow. We are one of the top 5 hospitals in the country. We try to give the best care most efficiently. It's a challenge, a constant battle. ... Asked about Governor Scott's decision to decline Medicaid funds for Florida, Carafelli said, "He's gonna be giving our money to other states."

On FCAT, Liz Alpert responded: There's too much emphasis on it. Teachers spend too much time teaching to the test. We need to minimize its importance while maintaining accountability. **Adam Tebrugge** responded: FL legislature should not be micro-managing local school

Ron Vander Schaaf: A Living Legacy

Ron Vander Schaaf starts things.

After serving for 9 years as a Methodist minister, during which time he started a new, racially-integrated church in New Jersey, he left the ministry for anti-poverty work. Training community organizers in Brooklyn, Newark and New Brunswick, Ron started the first Office of Equal Employment Opportunity in New Jersey. When that funding dried up, he took on the problem of long-term unemployment, working under CETA, training men and women for public service jobs. And he started a playhouse in New Jersey that still flourishes. He retired from Student Life work at Rutgers University in 1997.

Retiring here in 2008, he's spent every year since on his condo board, now as President. A member of the First Congregational Church, he has been active in Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE), a group that tackles two issues per year, first studying them and then presenting an action program to local officials. SURE has spearheaded a variety of efforts: a jail program for drug counseling, supported by the Salvation Army; improvement of day care availability, through effort of the YMCA and the school board; and better access to mental health counseling and services, by setting up a 211 phone line providing necessary information.

As a precinct captain, Ron attends all SCDP monthly meetings and canvasses his entire precinct. He cautions we all must work hard and save money to assure we re-elect President Obama and send Keith Fitzgerald to Congress.

But he manages to golf twice a week and work out at the gym three times weekly — staying in shape means being able to start things.

—Paula G. John



Liz Alpert, candidate for Florida House of Representatives, District 72, with Joan Donnelly

districts at great expense to school districts and in classrooms.

On immigration, Keith Fitzgerald responded: We need comprehensive reform to deal with labor needs, sanctions, border security. You can't fix the problem by building a 20-ft. wall. When we tried to crack down on employers who wanted cheap, exploitable labor, members of Congress stepped in. You'd have to put leverage on those who benefit from the status quo. It's not a hard thing to do; it just needs some courage.

—Connie Goldstein

Overview of Proposed Amendments to the Florida Constitution on the November ballot

(Continued from page 1)

tion would be based on inflation and population changes instead of personal income growth. Excess revenues will continue to be placed in a budget stabilization fund. This proposed amendment would use excess revenues to reduce the amount school districts must contribute toward public education when the budget stabilization fund is fully funded. Otherwise the excess is returned to taxpayers.

According to the Legislative staff analysis, as total personal income in Florida has gone up, so has the revenue limitation, reducing its effectiveness in constraining state revenues. If the new formula had been in effect since 1994, state revenues would have exceeded the limitation in 2004-5 and 2005-6.

Amendment 4: Property Tax Limitations; Property Value Decline; Reduction for Non-homestead Assessment Increases; Delay of Scheduled Repeal

Placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature, this proposal would limit the increase in assessed value on non-homesteaded property to 5% in a year (currently 10%) and would not permit the assessed value to increase if the actual value declines. When increases to the assessed value have been limited by state law so that the assessed value is far below the actual value of the property, current law permits increases in the assessed value as long as it doesn't exceed actual value. The proposed amendment would prohibit "recapture" in years in which the actual value declined. Persons who have not claimed a homestead exemption for at least three years (considered "first-time homesteaders") would be given an increased homestead exemption for a period not to exceed five years.

According to the Legislative staff analysis, "the proposed amendment will have a significant negative impact on non-school tax bases and possibly revenues."

Amendment 5: State Courts

Placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature, this proposal would give the Florida Senate the right to approve the Governor's judicial appointments. It would enable the Legislature to repeal by a simple majority rules set by the Supreme Court for state court procedure and prohibit the Court from reinstating the rules without resolving the Legislature's objections. (Currently, a two-thirds vote is required and the Court is free to reinstate the rule.) The proposed amendment would also open the confidential Judicial Qualifications Commission's investigative files for Florida House review upon the Speaker's request. (Currently the House may have access to a file only "for use in consideration of impeachment.")

Amendment 6: Prohibition on Public Funding of Abortions; Construction of Abortion Rights

Placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature, this proposal would prohibit the spending of public funds for any abortion or for health benefits coverage that includes the coverage of abortion, except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. (In fiscal year 2009-2010, Florida Medicaid paid for 4 abortions under that criteria.) More importantly, the proposed amendment would remove privacy protections in the Florida Constitution which the Florida Supreme Court cited in overruling legislation reducing women's access to abortions in Florida.

Amendment 8: Religious Freedom

The Court ruled that the ballot language of Amendment 7 violated the law because it was ambiguous and misleading. Attorney General Pam Bondi rewrote the ballot language and placed the proposal back on the ballot as Amendment 8.

This amendment would reverse precedent, removing the Constitutional prohibition against using public funds to aid religious and sectarian institutions, and expressly forbid denying public funding on the basis of religious identity or belief.

This proposal has drawn organized opposition from the ACLU and other civil liberties, religious and education organizations. According to Rep. Scott Randolph, the GOP's objective with this amendment is "to allow the unlimited use of taxpayers' money to send children to private schools instead of building a quality public school system."

Amendment 9: Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouse of Military Veteran or First Responder

Placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature, this proposal would enable passage of subsequent legislation to provide property tax relief to surviving spouses of U.S. military on active duty, firefighters, law enforcement officers, corrections officers, EMTs and paramedics who died in the line of duty. The amount of tax relief could be as much as the full ad valorem tax.

Amendment 10: Tangible Personal Property Tax Exemption

Tangible personal property is everything other than real estate that is used in a business or rental property, e.g., computers, furniture, machinery. Currently, ad valorem tax is levied on tangible personal property in excess of \$25,000. This proposal would increase the exemption to \$50,000. The amendment would authorize local government to pass a similar exemption.

Amendment 11: Additional Homestead Exemption; Low-income Seniors who Maintain Long-term Residency on Property; Equal to Assessed Value

Placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature, this proposal would enable passage of subsequent legislation to exempt homesteaded property from ad valorem tax for Florida residents 65 and older with incomes below \$27,030, who have owned and occupied a home valued at less than \$250,000 for 25 years or more. Local ordinances would have to be passed for this exemption to take effect. Ordinances would need to provide for cost of living adjustments to the income qualification.

Amendment 12: Appointment of Student Body President to Board of Governors of the State University System

Currently, the president of the Florida Students Association (FSA) is a member of the Board of Governors. FSA is comprised of the student body presidents of 10 of the 11 schools in the State University System. Florida State University, which does not pay dues to FSA, is not represented. This proposal, placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature, would require the Board of Governors to organize a new Council of Student Body Presidents which would include all the student body presidents. The chairman of this new group would replace the FSA president on the Board of Governors.

—Debbie Trice

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This information is presented as a guide only. While we do the best we can to present dates and times with accuracy, event times and venues do change. Please check with the event sponsor to confirm the details surrounding the event. Note: all telephone numbers are 941 Area Code, unless otherwise noted.

To request that your event be listed, email Tom Cook at willardcook@mac.com.

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SARASOTA EVENTS

11 Aug (Sat): Democratic Club of Sarasota Luncheon
New College Associate Professor of Political Science Frank Alcock will be the featured speaker. Dr. Alcock will explain the Constitutional Amendments we'll face on the November ballot. The August luncheon meeting begins at 11:30 am at Laurel Oak Country Club, 2700 Gary Player Blvd in Sarasota. Cost: \$23 for members; \$25 for non-members and walk-ins. Reservations due by Aug 8: 379-9233 or reserve@sarasotadems.com

22 Aug (Wed): Wine, Cheese & Politics
Join us for an evening of political discussion with Robert Hackney of the new progressive, online publication, *The Sarasota News Leader*, speaking on the topic, "Can Florida Survive Rick Scott?" Hackney will also tell us about *The Sarasota News Leader*. The doors open at 6:00 pm for the 6:30 program. Location: 1350 Main Street, 6th floor lounge, in Downtown Sarasota. Cost: \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. Parking is available on the street and in the nearby Palm Avenue garage. Reservations required to rspv@sarasotadems.com or 404-4678

CLUB-SPONSORED OUTREACH EVENTS

4 Aug (Sat): Obama Birthday Party
Join us in celebrating the President's birthday at 5:30–7:30 pm at Monterey Grill, 3800 S. Tamiami Trail in Paradise Plaza in Sarasota. RSVP requested to rspv@sarasotadems.com or 328-8072

25 Aug (Sat): Women's Equity Day Luncheon
The Club is assembling tables at the annual luncheon sponsored by the Sarasota & Manatee Commissions on the Status of Women and Leagues of Women Voters at 11:00 am at the Polo Grill in Lakewood Ranch. Paid luncheon reservations of \$30 are due by Aug. 10, but act quickly before the event sells out. Info: jdv.devries8@gmail.com or 320-8825

27 Sept (Thur): Share The Light Luncheon
The Club is assembling tables at the annual luncheon sponsored by Second Chance–Last Opportunity at Michael's On East. Cost is \$50.
Table info: jdv.devries8@gmail.com or 320-8825
Event: www.secondchancelastopportunity.org/16th-annual-luncheon/

OTHER EVENTS

8 Aug (Wed): Sarasota County Democratic Party (SCDP)
This month's meeting is at Naar Hall, Venice United Church of Christ, 620 Shamrock Blvd in Venice. Come at 6:00 pm for wine, cheese & dessert prior to the meeting at 7:00–8:30 pm. All Democrats are welcome. Info: 330-9400, info@sarasotadems.org, or www.sarasotadems.org

11 Aug (Sat): Movie "Koch Brothers Exposed"
Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections (SAFE) is sponsoring a free screening of the 2012 Robert Greenwald documentary at the Venice Library. This groundbreaking documentary that shows how two of the world's richest men, Charles and David Koch, are polluting the environment and bankrolling a vast network of organizations dedicated to serving the interests of large corporations. The screening is 1:00–2:00 pm at 300 S. Nokomis Ave in Venice. Info: 330-9400 or headquarters@sarasotadems.org

18 Aug (Sat): Venice Area Democratic Club
Suzanne Dickey, Professor Emeritus at Loyola University, will speak about the Affordable Health Care Act at the regular monthly meeting, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm at Naar Hall, United Church of Christ, 620 Shamrock Blvd in Venice. Info: 492-5965, venicedemocrats@yahoo.com, or www.venicedemocrats.org.



John Torracco introduces himself to Pat Klugherz and Alice Birnbaum. Our candidate for the office of State Attorney, Torracco said prosecution should be nonpartisan and bring integrity and professionalism.

Photo Credits: All photos this month by Connie Goldstein



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MEMBERS



RESERVATIONS:

Call: 379-9233

Email: reserve@sarasotadems.com

Email reservations (only) will receive confirmation.
If no reply, please re-send.

MENU CHOICES:

*** No Substitutions ***

- Chicken Marsala w/basmati rice & vegetables
- Salmon Teriyaki Salad
- Vegetable Lasagna & chef's choice of vegetables

Dessert: Tiramisu

Menu choice NOT guaranteed past noon

DEADLINE:

Wednesday evening, August 8

LATE FEE:

Late cancellations and no-shows will be billed.

Late reservations, if accepted, will be charged \$25.

Walk-ins will be charged \$25, if accommodated.

This Month's Luncheon Meeting

New College Prof. Frank Alcock
Florida Constitutional Amendments on November Ballot

Saturday, August 11, 2012

11:30 Social Hour — 12:00 Lunch and Program
(check-in opens at 11:00)

Members: \$23

Non-Members \$25

(Please make out check in advance to DCS and
show last names of everyone included in the check)

Laurel Oak Country Club
2700 Gary Player Blvd., Sarasota
Phone: 378-3608

Travel Directions:

The entrance to Laurel Oaks is on Bee Ridge Road about 2 miles east of I-75 (across from Bent Tree). At the traffic light, turn left onto Gary Player Blvd. and stop at the guard gate. Then continue on Gary Player to the Country Club.