

FOCUS

Democratic Club of Sarasota

An Informed Member is Our Best Voter



Volume 18, Issue 12

December, 2012

DECEMBER LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Holiday Luncheon—Performance by the Gulf Coast Community Choir with Remarks from Sarasota Mayor Suzanne Atwell

As we enter the holiday season, Sarasota Democrats are in a *joyous* mood. What better month to turn our luncheon into a celebratory holiday party? Please join us on Saturday, December 8th to extol the recent Democratic victories and enjoy remarks from Sarasota Mayor Suzanne Atwell, followed by a holiday musical program from the Gulf Coast Community Choir.

Since moving to Sarasota in 1994, Suzanne Atwell has been an active member of our community, serving on many boards and councils while always standing up as a committed Democrat. In 2009 she was elected to the Sarasota City Commission and is now serving her second year appointment as mayor. We look forward to a greeting from Mayor Atwell as our Democratic representative in Sarasota.

Following the mayor, the Gulf Coast Community Choir, whose motto is “Spreading Joy Through Music”, will

perform a holiday musical program. The choir is a multicultural adult group made up of volunteer singers from the Manasota area. All have experience singing with other choral groups, some have formal musical training, and a few have sung professionally. Founded in 2000 by Dr. S. Carroll Buchanan, the choir continues his musical legacy. As a former Democratic Club of Sarasota board member and the namesake of the Club’s annual community service award, we are pleased to continue to honor Dr. Buchanan’s memory by welcoming the choir.

LUNCHEON DETAILS: See back page

NOTE: The luncheon is at the **Laurel Oak Country Club**.

Drinks will be available at a bar adjacent to the luncheon meeting room.

Last Month: WEDU’s Rob Lorei—Musings on the Obama Victory

Driving from Tampa to speak about the election results at our November luncheon, Rob Lorei – host of WEDU TV’s “Florida This Week” and News and Public Affairs Director of WMNF community radio – looked around at all that government had created, from the interstate highway to the Skyway Bridge, to the clean water and air safeguarded by EPA regulations, and mused on the shortsightedness of our current Congress that seems to want to make no investment in our infrastructure and even do away with our responsibility for the planet.

Rob spoke about how wrong the pundits and Romney supporters got it. Karl Rove wasted \$176 million. Bill

Kristol, Ari Fleischer, and Joe Scarborough all believed we might have a President Romney. Rob proposed that one of the major reasons for the Republican presidential loss is that, unlike Democrats, they are ignoring the changing demographics of our country. He believes that not correcting this could lead to the death of the GOP. Democrats, on the other hand, acknowledge the growth in young, minority power with the concomitant decline in the older, white population. After the November 6th election, it appears that the Reagan era may truly be dead. Obama is returning us to FDR’s emphasis on public investment and is

standing up to wealthy interests.

How were the polls so wrong in not predicting the strength of Obama’s victory? Rob believes that they underestimated the effectiveness of the Obama campaign’s outreach,

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From Your Membership Co-Chairs

Dear Democratic Club Members and Friends,

YOU made a difference! Democratic Club of Sarasota members worked hard for our candidates, for Obama for America and the Sarasota County Democratic Party. You not only donated your time by canvassing and phone banking, but you also contributed financially to President Obama, our club, the Sarasota County Democratic Party, to many "hot" races around the state and country, and you supported our local candidates.

Your membership dues and donations made an enormous difference. We worked closely with the SCDP to determine how our efforts and funds could be most effective. The DCS spearheaded the Vote By Mail campaign, participated in numerous outreach events, sponsored several events for progressive like-minded organizations, and in the last week of the campaign, provided food to hundreds of volunteers at the SCDP headquarters. To wrap things up, we co-sponsored the victory party at Marina Jack's that drew over 1000 attendees.

A recent letter to the editor of the *Sarasota Herald Tribune* from a fellow Democrat, entitled "End GOP Obstructionism" stated - *"The GOP of today is not the Grand Old Party anymore. You want proof? Look again at the "Victory" party crowds for each candidate. At President Obama's there were people of every race; at Mitt Romney's it was lily white."* We are so proud that, thanks to you, the

Democratic Club of Sarasota and the Longboat Key Democratic Club, were able to sponsor the victory party for all of the our volunteers and supporters in Sarasota.

We are already planning some great events in 2013. Enjoy the holidays and rest up while you can. Next year, our club will once again be active. We have to "Pink Slip" Rick Scott!

Your Membership Co-Chairs,

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

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• New Club Members and Friends (in October)
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- Rozalind Brack, Maria Browne, Irene Carnahan,
 - Dana Chase, Brenda & Murray Duffin, Phyllis
 - Dworkin, Kelly Fried, Maria Friedli, Julie Friedman,
 - Harold & Judy Haines, Mary Henry, Jeanne Koren,
 - Charles & Lorraine Livingston, Debra Maradiaga,
 - John Osteen, Nancy Peterson, Hope Place, Ann &
 - Michael Senkow, Margery Silver, Geraldine
 - Stanwood, Dotty Terry, Brenda Tipton, Michael
 - Weatherby, April Winfree.
-

Continued from page 1

both to hold on to 2008 supporters and to build support among rising demographic groups: women, African Americans, Latinos, and professionals, all of whom tend to vote Democratic. He stated statistics provided by Ashley Walker, with Obama for America, that the campaign had more than 100 offices statewide, 800 paid staffers, and worked from a model of establishing personal relationships with the voter. Rob acknowledged that there are good people in the Republican Party who love their country and are patriots, but they haven't been living in the real world. Republicans demonstrated this by almost exclusively sending out white men as Romney surrogates with little attention to the new demographics.

Rob ended his talk with thoughts on the 2014 Florida gubernatorial race. He is concerned that even though Obama won Florida again, when it comes to a state election, Democrats will not be able to match the financing and campaigning strength of the Obama machine, in order to insure victory. Governor Scott is already well financed, and while there is opposition to him within his party, there is no indication anyone can raise the money necessary to challenge him. He threw out names of potential Democratic gubernatorial candidates that elicited applause from the audience. They included Alex Sink, Pam Iorio, Buddy Dyer, Rod Smith and Dan Gelber. The last name he casually mentioned got the biggest response – Charlie Crist. In

reference to the state legislature, Rob noted that there are Republicans who would consider raising taxes to increase investment in the state, but their party is very well disciplined and even now, with their smaller majority, will still control state policy. Democrats need to take a stand to point out that tax increases do create jobs, such as firefighters, teachers, police, and construction. Rob urged us to realize that changing the Florida legislature should be Florida Democrats next priority.

—Paula John & Mary Clupper



Riverview High Young Democrats—Photo by Dick Stammer

President's Column

Dear Members and Friends,

The 2012 presidential election is over and WE WON!!!!!! I'm going to enjoy saying that for a long time. At last month's luncheon, just 4 days after the election, over 120 Democrat's came together to celebrate our victory. Barack Obama and Joe Biden have their second term, we retained Bill Nelson as our Senator, and we no longer have a Republican super majority in the Florida Legislature.

Our focus for over a year has been on making it to November 6th. Your club board took a few days to revel in the fact that we made it, but we are already hard at work planning the upcoming year. Please plan to join us at the Inaugural Champagne Toast Celebration on Monday, January 21st, at 1350 Main Street, downtown Sarasota. (see calendar listing). Reservations to this event will be limited due to the capacity of the venue, so make your reservations now. Multiple TV's will be available to watch President Obama's swearing in.

I'd also like to mention our special guests that attended last month's luncheon from the newly formed Riverview High School's Young Democrats. Nine students attended with their sponsor, Pearlie Green. You will be seeing them at more of our events and we will invite them to participate with us in special projects and community outreach.

Our membership goal was to reach 700 members by November 6th and we did it! I'm happy to share that we currently have 702 members. In 2013, with your help, we will get that number up to 1000!

We look forward to seeing you December 8th for our holiday celebration with the Gulf Coast Community Choir.

Democratically yours,

Mary Clupper

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This information is presented as a guide only. 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

8 Dec (Sat): Democratic Club of Sarasota Luncheon

Holiday Luncheon Celebration with the Gulf Coast Community Choir performing, with opening remarks by Mayor Suzanne Atwell. Start time 11:30 a.m. 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 Dec 5): 379-9233 or reserve@sarasotadems.com

21 Jan (Mon): Inaugural Champagne Toast Celebration

Join us on the 6th Floor at 1350 Main Street, downtown Sarasota to watch the 2nd inauguration of President Barack Obama. Sandwiches, light bites, beer, wine, and other beverages will be provided, including a champagne toast! Doors open at 11 a.m. Reservations required due to the limited capacity of the venue. Cost: \$25 per person. No walk-in's. Reservations: 404-4678 or rsvp@sarasotadems.com.

OTHER EVENTS

11 Dec (Tue): Longboat Key Democratic Club - Monthly Luncheon

The Longboat Key Democratic Club will take place on Tuesday, December 11th, at noon, at the Longboat Key Club and Resort, Harbourside Golf Course, Harbourside

Dining room. The guest speaker will be Dr. Susan MacManus, Professor of Political Science at USF. Dr. MacManus will share her thoughts and perspectives on the results of the 2012 Election and directions for the future. The cost of the luncheon is \$25 pp., to be received no later than Thurs., Dec. 6th. Please mail reservations to LBK Democratic Club, Luncheon Reservation, PO Box 8025, Longboat Key, FL 34228. Please contact Jane Albaum at 362-0590 for additional questions.

12 Dec (Wed): Sarasota County Democratic Party (SCDP) - Monthly Meeting

This month's meeting is at the Waldemere Fire Station, 2070 Waldemere St. Sarasota. Come at 6:30pm to socialize prior to the meeting at 7:00-8:30 pm. All Democrats are welcome. Info: 330-9400, info@sarasotadems.org, or www.sarasotadems.org.

19 Dec (Wed): SCDP - Annual Holiday Party

Enjoy a festive evening with progressive friends from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at SCDP Democratic Headquarters, Coral Cove Mall, 7358 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. For those who are able, please help us fill our SCDP stockings. Suggested donation of \$15 per person or \$20 per couple will be used to build our war chest to defeat Rick Scott. Info: 330-9400, headquarters@sarasotadems.org.



www.SarasotaDems.com
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SUSTAINING

- Suzanne Atwell
- Alice & Murray Blueglass
- Mary Dailey & John Clay
- JoAnne DeVries
- Rachel Hackney
- Brian Hunter
- Marcella & Art Levin
- Mary Mc Enery
- Aileen & Bernard Schuman
- Joe Ziomek

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◆◆◆

- Grilled corvina w/lemon caper sauce, rosemary roasted potatoes, and vegetable medley

- Pasta primavera w/parma rosa sauce

Dessert: Red Velvet Cake

Menu choice NOT guaranteed past noon

DEADLINE:

Wednesday evening, December 5

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
Gulf Coast Community Choir Performance
and remarks from Mayor Suzanne Atwell

Saturday, December 8, 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 Oak 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 Blvd. through the stop sign to the Country Club on left.