

# FOCUS



## Democratic Club of Sarasota

*An Informed Member is Our Best Voter*

Volume 19, Issue 1

January, 2013

### JANUARY LUNCHEON PROGRAM

#### **Barbara Ford-Coates—“The REAL ID Act, Drivers Licenses & How it Affects You”**

Four years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, President George W. Bush signed the REAL ID law. While the well-intended law was designed to weed out fraud in driver licensing, the new requirements are so strict that many long established citizens find themselves caught up in overwhelming bureaucratic complexity.

Join us on Saturday, January 12th, as we welcome Sarasota County Tax Collector Barbara Ford-Coates to educate us on the reality Floridians face as the REAL ID law is fully implemented. She will provide us with details on why the law was passed and who it impacts, as well as how, when, and where Floridians must comply. With local governments facing the many challenges of implementation, she will share what her office is doing to make compliance as painless as possible.

A native of Virginia, Barbara Ford-Coates has lived in Sarasota County since 1972. She joined the Tax Collector’s office in 1975. She was first elected to the top position in 1984 and re-elected in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008,

and 2012 without opposition. She is the longest serving Sarasota County elected official and the recipient of the 2008 Outstanding County Tax Collector in the United States award. She is a Democrat who is active with the League of Women Voters, on the board of the Community Foundation, and is a Girl Scout Troop leader.

#### **LUNCHEON DETAILS: See back page**

**NOTE:** Beginning with the January luncheon, there will be a price increase. The DCS Board has striven to hold the price of the luncheon for several years, but now that our cost per person has exceeded our member rate, we find it necessary to raise the price for members from \$23 to \$24 each and for non-members from \$25 to \$26 each. We appreciate your understanding and support. Please keep in mind that the luncheons are not a source of fundraising for the organization.

The luncheon is at the **Laurel Oak Country Club**. Drinks are available at a bar adjacent to the meeting area.

### **Last Month: Mayor Suzanne Atwell & the Gulf Coast Community Choir**

Mayor Suzanne Atwell addressed the Democratic Club at our December holiday luncheon. She opened with, “President Barack Obama was re-elected President of the United States and all is right with the world”.

Elected to the Sarasota city commission in 2009 and twice selected by her peers to act as Mayor, she spoke of her love of her job and her optimism about the new generation of city staff, including City Manager, Tom Barwin, and the first woman Chief of Police in over a 100 years, Bernadette Kapino from Ocean City, MD.

Touching on the homelessness issue,

she stated that we need to work on solutions that are applicable now and shared that the new interim police chief, Captain Paul Sutton, along with the city manager, has convened a homelessness task force to look at a more centralized solution to curb the flight of the homeless from one neighborhood to another.

Other topics included the importance of collaborating with our sister municipalities and counties to develop sustainable and renewable energy resources and the twenty year agreement that the city recently entered with Braden River Utilities to provide two million gallons of reclaimed water to Lakewood Ranch

for irrigation.

Mayor Atwell acknowledged that tensions often exist between those advocating for neighborhood preservation and the business

*(Continued on page 3)*

### **INSIDE**

Membership .....	2
January Calendar.....	2
President’s Column.....	3
Luncheon Details .....	Back Cover

## From Your Membership Co-Chairs

Dear Democratic Club Members and Friends,

For the second month in a row, we were thrilled to welcome students from Riverside High School's Young Democrats organization to our luncheon. Thanks to your donations, we have been able to include high school and college students in many of our events over the past year. In order to continue this effort into 2013, we invite you to contribute to the Student Fund by mailing your checks made payable to the DCS to:

Democratic Club of Sarasota  
PO Box 51076  
Sarasota, FL 34232

Your support of this special fund is greatly appreciated!

As we move forward in 2013, your membership dues will enable us to continue to participate in community outreach events that raise Democratic awareness and increase our ever growing membership. As always, we ask you to keep us informed of events we should consider exhibiting at or sponsoring.

Your Membership Co-Chairs,

JoAnne DeVries: [joanne@sarasotadems.com](mailto:joanne@sarasotadems.com) or 320-8825  
Georgia Blotzer: [georgia@sarasotadems.com](mailto:georgia@sarasotadems.com)



Gulf Coast Community Choir—Photo by Dick Stammer

### New Club Members and Friends in November

Barbara Bartolome, Robert Brosnan, Robert Brotherlin, Mira Frederick, Pamela Hahlbeck, Albertus Jenkins, Jacqueline Jones, Barbara & Morton Kallman, Pearl Kushner, Marcia Lloyd, Christine Lusk, Margaret Newcomer, Clio Parrigin, Robert Porter, Jeanne Pyne, Linda & Gilbert Salomon, Nancy Sewall, Ayse Somersan, Gordon Ward.

## 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](mailto:willardcook@mac.com).

### DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SARASOTA EVENTS

#### 12 Jan (Sat): Democratic Club of Sarasota Luncheon – Monthly Meeting

Sarasota County Tax Collector, Barbara Ford-Coates will speak on the REAL ID Act. Start time 11:30am at Laurel Oak Country Club (2700 Gary Player Blvd, Sarasota). Reservations are required and can be made by voice mail at 379-9233 or email:

[reserve@sarasotadems.com](mailto:reserve@sarasotadems.com). The cost is \$24 for members and \$26 for non-members and walk-ins. Reservations must be made by the Wednesday prior to the luncheon. Info-URL: <http://sarasotadems.com#>

### CLUB-SPONSORED OUTREACH EVENTS

#### 09 Jan (Wed): Crystal Ball at Selby Library

The Crystal Ball at Selby Library is a benefit for the Friends of the Selby Library. 7pm - 10pm. Cost is \$20. Stop by the Democratic Club of Sarasota booth!

#### 21 Jan (Mon): Inaugural Champagne Toast Celebration

The Inaugural Celebration will be held from 11am—1

pm at 1350 Main Street, 6th Floor, Sarasota, FL. Watch the second Inauguration of President Obama with fellow Democrats on multiple TVs. Sandwiches, light bites, beer, wine, and other beverages will be provided, including a champagne toast! The cost is \$25 per person. Reservations required. Info: 941-404-4678, [rsvp@sarasotadems.com](mailto:rsvp@sarasotadems.com), <http://www.sarasotadems.com>.

#### 23 Jan (Wed): West Coast Women Annual Expo

The West Coast Women Annual Expo is held in the foyer at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center from 5pm—7pm. Free. Stop by the Democratic Club of Sarasota booth!

### OTHER EVENTS

#### 09 Jan (Wed): Sarasota County Democratic Party Monthly Meeting

7pm. Waldemere Fire Station, 2070 Waldemere St., Sarasota.

(Continued on page 3)

## President's Column

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to 2013. Like me, I'm sure many of you are still feeling the relief that the 2012 presidential election is behind us with a victory for President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Senator Nelson.

The new year certainly won't be as hectic politically as 2012 was, but during a slower year the Club's efforts are as critical as ever. It will be a year of continuing to create Democratic awareness in Sarasota County through outreach events, growing our membership number, donating to worthy causes, and filling our coffers with funds for future projects.

Sarasota city elections are coming up in March. While those of us who live in the county don't vote in that election, we will all be watching the candidates and outcomes with great interest. We will host a Wine, Cheese & Politics event in February to hear from our Democratic candidates. Then later in the year, the Florida gubernatorial race will kick off. It will be exciting to see what Democrats enter the race. Anyone taking bets on Charlie Crist? And most importantly, our work will begin to oust current governor, Rick Scott.

Every four years after the presidential election, the Sarasota County Democratic Party elects a new Democratic

### Monthly Calendar

*(Continued from page 2)*

#### **21 Jan (Mon): Longboat Key Democratic Club - Inaugural Day Brunch**

The brunch will held from 10:30am to 2:00pm in the Harbourside Dining Room of the Longboat Key Club and Resort. Lunch and champagne toast will be served. 9' x 12' TV screen. The cost is \$26.00 per person and advance registration is required. For information, please call Jane Albaum 941-362-0520. RSVP to LBK Democratic Club (PO Box 8025, Longboat Key, FL 34228) with a check for \$26 for each attendee. Please include the names of the attendees, your email address, and your telephone number.

#### **21 Jan (Mon): North Port Democratic Club - Inauguration Luncheon**

The luncheon will be held from 11:00am-1pm at St. Nathaniel's 'Beck Hall', 4200 South Biscayne Blvd, North Port, FL. Enjoy a delicious lunch, a champagne toast and view the entire Inauguration Ceremony on a large screen projection TV. The cost is \$20 per person (advanced ticket purchase). Info: 941-429-1736 or 941-426-0115, [contact@northportdems.org](mailto:contact@northportdems.org), [www.northportdems.org](http://www.northportdems.org).

Executive Committee, consisting of the officers, state committeeman, state committeewoman, precinct committeemen and committeewomen, and at large members. This election took place on December 12th and many of you were a part of it. I would like to recognize Henry Bright, DCS Club member and former Venice Area Democratic Club President for his service as Sarasota County's State Committeeman. He decided not to run again this year and has been replaced by former Florida State House Representative and Congressional Candidate Keith Fitzgerald. Congratulations to Keith for stepping up to fill this important role of liaison between our county and the Florida Democratic Party. Also congratulations to Club VP, JoAnne DeVries, for being elected State Committeewoman. With Keith and JoAnne working together with Chair Rita Ferrandino, Sarasota County will certainly continue to play a visible role at the state level. And there are still more congratulations to come. Club board member, Ed Henne, was elected Vice Chair of the county party. I don't think I've ever met a more dedicated Democrat than Ed and he will do us all proud. It's an asset to the DCS to have our board made up of people who are involved at all levels of state and county Democratic politics. It insures that we are able to collaborate and be effective with our efforts.

With the election behind us, we can now support our Democratic leaders in Washington by encouraging them to govern effectively. We will continue to stand up for and speak out on the issues that reflect our Democratic ideals and values. Before we know it, we'll be caught up in 2016!

Wishing you a very happy and prosperous new year!

Democratically yours,

Mary

### Last Month: The Mayor & The Choir

*(Continued from page 1)*

community. She sees this as a healthy way to keep an open dialogue that will ultimately lead the city to emerge as a winner and to insure it will continue to be a community that people are proud to be a part of.

The luncheon ended with a musical presentation from the Gulf Coast Community Choir, founded by Democrat and former DCS board member, Carroll Buchanan. Carroll's wife, Carol, who was instrumental in coordinating the details of the choir's appearance introduced the group who then performed several holiday numbers including "Let There be Peace on Earth", "Silent Night", and "I'll Be Home for Christmas". The crowd was impressed with Democratic Club member Jerry Mosley's solo of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

—Dick Stammer & Mary Clupper



www.SarasotaDems.com  
 PO BOX 51076  
 SARASOTA, FL 34232-0329

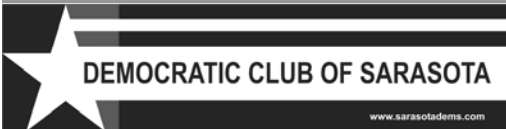
(941) 379-9233

Presort Standard  
 US Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit 802  
 Manasota, FL

**SUSTAINING**

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

**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 Saltimbocca w/Rosemary Roasted Potatoes & Chef's Vegetables
- Teriyaki Salmon Salad

Dessert: Tiramisu  
 Menu choice NOT guaranteed past noon

**DEADLINE:**  
 Wednesday evening, January 9

**LATE FEE:**  
 Late cancellations and no-shows will be billed.  
 Late reservations, if accepted, will be charged \$26.  
 Walk-ins will be charged \$26, if accommodated.

This Month's Luncheon Meeting  
**Barbara Ford-Coates on the REAL ID Law**

**Saturday, January 12, 2013**  
 11:30 Social Hour — 12:00 Lunch and Program  
 (check-in opens at 11:00)

Members: \$24  
 Non-Members \$26

(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.