

FOCUS



Democratic Club of Sarasota

An Informed Member is Our Best Voter

Volume 19, Issue 2

February, 2013

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Rich Roberts—IUPA— “Gun Control—Rational Solutions Amidst Irrational Arguments”

Rich Roberts, a Democrat and member of the Club, has enjoyed a long career in law enforcement, public safety policy, and security consulting. He is currently the Director of Special Operations and Public Information Officer for the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO (IUPA) who are headquartered in Sarasota.

In the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in Newtown, IUPA issued a policy paper cautioning the people making suggestions and recommendations in reaction to the Newtown school shootings, to avoid a counterproductive emphasis on gun control in favor of more effective measures.

The union, which represents rank and file police officers across the country, warned that what they referred to as the “growing and rancorous debate over gun control” will distract from more immediate and practical actions. The report states clearly, “We need to be wary of ‘simple’ solutions to such events and the ‘bumper sticker’ rhetoric so pervasive on both sides.”

Please join us on February 9th, to hear Mr. Roberts expand on the ideas presented by IUPA and his reactions to the recommendations of Vice President Biden’s task force. Mr. Roberts view on this topic as a veteran of law enforcement may challenge our perspective and will certainly lead to a great question/answer session.

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: Barbara Ford-Coates on the Real Story on Real ID

Sarasota County Tax Collector, Barbara Ford-Coates spoke at the January luncheon about the Real ID law. Before explaining the details of Real ID, Barbara provided an overview of the Sarasota County Tax Collectors office. She shared that the mission of the office that she has run since 1984 is to provide an exceptional staff and exceptional service. Proof that they are accomplishing this goal shows in the fact that the office boasts the lowest cost per taxpayer in Southwest Florida.

Most attendees at the luncheon had little knowledge of what the Real ID law is. Barbara explained that it was

passed by Congress in 2005 because of the 9/11 terrorists having easily obtained driver’s licenses. Its purpose is to establish uniform regulations for state driver’s license and ID card issuance. It is implemented by the Department of Homeland Security.

In addition to basic identification information such as name, address, gender, and a photo; compliant driver’s licenses must also incorporate machine readable technology (bar coding) and features that prevent tampering. A Real ID driver’s license will be required to enter any federal facility, nuclear power plants, and to board

commercial airplanes. The federal regulations became effective in May 2008. Florida passed the Real ID law in January 2010. By December 2014, you will need a Real ID card if you

(Continued on page 3)

INSIDE

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

From Your Membership Co-Chairs

Dear Democratic Club Members and Friends,

Many thanks to our members who consistently renew their membership every year! Your dues and donations make it possible for us to continue raising Democratic awareness in Sarasota County. In January we participated in Selby Library's Crystal Ball fundraiser, the Chamber of Commerce's Prime Time Expo, and the West Coast Woman Magazines Expo. We also renewed our annual memberships to the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce and the Latino/Hispanic Chamber, so we can continue to participate in their events.

At our January luncheon we heard from two Riverview High School students, John Stolz and Corey Rioux. They discussed the Young Democrats Club at their school and thanked our membership for your support. Because of your dues and donations we have been able to invite these students as our luncheon guests. We have also extended an invitation to students from Booker High School (who are starting a Democratic Club), Sarasota Military Academy, and Pine View. In order to continue to invite students to our luncheons we need your donations! **You can send a check made payable to the DCS, PO Box 51076, Sarasota, FL 34232, marked Student Lunch Donation.**

We want to give an enormous thank you to board member Helen Magill and Club member Candace Fisher, for organizing our student participation.

If you have any questions about membership please do not hesitate to contact us.

Your Membership Co-Chairs,

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



JoAnne DeVries—Photo by Dick Stammer

New Club Members and Friends in December

Melinda Bowens-Coats, Adrienne and Howard Feltman, and Helen James.

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

9 Feb (Sat): Democratic Club of Sarasota Luncheon – Monthly Meeting

Rich Roberts, Director of Special Operations and Public Information Officer for the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, speaking on gun control. 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. 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: www.sarasotadems.com#

OTHER EVENTS

12 Feb (Tues): Longboat Key Democratic Club - Luncheon Meeting

The lunch will be held at 11:30am in the Harbourside Dining Room of the Longboat Key Club. The meeting will honor the memory of Dr. Carroll Johnson, civil rights activist. Members of the West Coast Black Theater

Troupe will perform. The cost is \$26 per person and advance registration is required. For information, please call Jane Albaum at 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.

13 Feb (Wed): Sarasota County Democratic Party Monthly Meeting

This month's meeting is at the Waldemere Fire Station (2070 Waldemere Street, Sarasota) and will feature the Democratic Club of Sarasota. Come at 6:30 pm to socialize prior to the meeting at 7 pm. All Democrats are welcome. Info: 330-9400, info@sarasotadems.org, or www.sarasotadems.org

24 Feb (Sun): Sarasota County Democratic Party-Kennedy King Dinner

The SCDP's major yearly fund raiser will be held from 5 pm—8pm at Michael's On East in

(Continued on page 3)

President's Column

Dear Members and Friends,

I'm writing this after enjoying the Club's Inaugural Champagne Toast event on January 21st. Eighty Club members and guests came together to celebrate President Obama's second Inauguration. We listened with pride as he put forth a call to unity, and urged the nation to move past the divisions of the last four years.

But after living through those last four years, we understand the reality of the opposition party doing everything in their power to thwart this president and his agenda. You would think that the will of the American people that was so clearly demonstrated at the polls on November 6, 2012 would be acknowledged by our nation's congress. But over the past two months it has been clear that they have not gotten the message. They are still committed to standing in the way of President Obama at every turn. But the important thing to remember is that we did win and as evidenced in his Inaugural address, our president has the freedom to push harder and further than ever before.

His campaign organization is relaunching as a 501(c)4, a restructuring that will allow them to solicit and accept unlimited contributions with some restrictions on how the funds can be spent. This new organization, that will be made up of former campaign staffers and volunteers, will use the campaign's infrastructure and database to support the president in his second term. It is reassuring to know

that the expertise that went into the Obama campaign machine will not be resting, but will be actively engaged on behalf of the American people.

The most interesting political item I've heard in the news lately is about the Republican State Leadership Committee and its Redistricting Majority Project, or REDMAP. If you haven't heard about it yet, you will soon. They have openly bragged that the reason they kept the House majority was because of gerrymandering and they want to expand on that idea and change the way electoral votes are allocated. The next step is for them to identify key states, such as Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia, and work at changing the state laws that give the winner of the state's popular vote all of its Electoral College votes, to a method that divides the votes proportionally. This could transform the way we select our president by stacking the deck in Republican's favor. This type of legislation has already been introduced in Pennsylvania. Michigan and Wisconsin will be announcing their bills soon. Pennsylvania Democratic Senator Daylin Leach commented to the AP, "It is an obscene scheme to cheat by rigging the elections."

As thrilled as we are at keeping President Obama in the White House, it is clear that we have more battles to fight in the never ending war against progressive ideals and values. And that is why organizations like the Democratic Club of Sarasota exist. Thank you for supporting the Club by maintaining your membership and attending our events. We are excited about 2013 and look forward to moving forward together as proud Sarasota County Democrats.

Democratically yours,

Mary Clupper



Barbara Ford-Coates—Photo by Mary Clupper

Monthly Calendar

(Continued from page 2)

Sarasota. The guest speaker will be Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes North, representing the District of Columbia. The cost is \$100 per person. Info: 330 - 9400, www.sarasotadems.org/KK2013.

Last Month: The Real ID Law

(Continued from page 1)

were born on or after December 1, 1964 and if you were born before that date, you will need it by December 1, 2017. You can tell if your current driver's license is compliant by looking for a yellow star in the upper right hand corner.

For some, providing the documentation - a certified birth certificate or passport, social security number, and two proofs of residential address - is not difficult. For others, such as older people, it is daunting. Opponents of the law cite that it is invasive, full of red tape, expensive for states to implement, and pointless in protecting against terrorism. Right now 62% of Sarasota County driver's licenses are compliant and 38% percent aren't. Barbara urged the audience to talk to their friends and make sure they are educated on the topic.

—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

- Grilled Corvina Buerre Blanc with Rice Pilaf & Vegetables OR
- Grilled Vegetable Wrap with a Side of Fruit OR
- Chicken Caesar Salad

Dessert: Key Lime Pie

Menu choice NOT guaranteed past noon

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS & CANCELLATIONS:

Wednesday evening, February 6

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

Rich Roberts—IUPA—On Gun Control

Saturday, February 9, 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. Mastercard & Visa now accepted)

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. **FEBRUARY LUNCHEON IS IN GARDEN ROOM. ENTER THROUGH LEFT ENTRANCE.**