



Words From the President

Nancy Simms

“A teacher gave her class of second-graders a lesson about the magnet and what it does. The next day, in a written test, she included this question: “My name has six letters. The first one is “m”. I pick up things. What am I?” When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word “mother”.” (Taken from _Our Daily Bread_ 5-10-09) At our May meeting I’m sorry that I forgot to wish everyone a “Happy Mother’s Day”; however, I pray that you were blessed and had a wonderful day!

be “hurting financially” ourselves, we have taken seriously the call to “do unto others” as best we can. The laborers are indeed few, but the harvest is plentiful!



I will not be with you for the June meeting since Levon and I are going to visit our daughter in California. (She is in the Navy and will soon be heading for Afghanistan.) Please keep all of us in your prayers!

*We join our hearts and hands together
Faithful to the Lord’s command:
We hold each other to God’s standards --
All that truth and love demand.
--- D. DeHaan/*

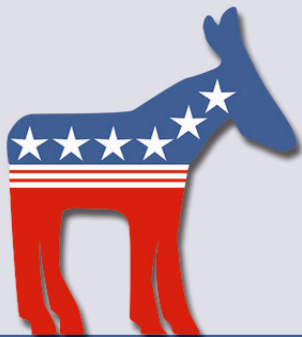
With all of the attention being given to the plight so many are facing in this horrible economy, I am truly proud of the fact that as good mothers/fathers and Democrats we began addressing the need to “feed the hungry” over a year ago. Even though some of us may

Preview: Sandy Oestrich: So you think you have equality?

Most people think the Equal Rights Amendment did pass. It barely missed passing by 3 states’ ratifications. We need to ratify 3 more states now. Florida is one. Hear a riveting update on Equal Rights Amendment ratification bills before the Florida legislator from the one who is spearheading it for Florida. She is Sandy Oestrich from St. Petersburg who is Professor Emerita from Adelphi U., NY; former elected official; author of internationally distributed pharmacology reference texts; nurse practitioner; biographed in the new *Feminists Who Changed America*. Sandy reintroduced the ERA effort in 2001, has had ERA bills filed since 2003, getting it out of Senate Judiciary committee twice. She and her ERA lobbying teams relocate to Tallahassee for each March Ses-

sion. She is here to assist the work of Ft. Myers 4 ERA, a local constituent group.

Florida’s various Speakers of the House have continuously refused to hold a hearing to vote on the ERA though it would PASS and Floridians are clearly in favor. Your own Rep. Nick Thompson has refused to meet with Sandy’s Equal Rights Alliance or to hear the bill. Sandy hopes to meet with him while making ERA presentations about the ERA in several places--what it does and what it does not do; what makes it still “viable and contemporaneous”. And, what easy, fun, no-cost things WE can and must do if we are serious about leaving our children, theirs, theirs, theirs, and theirs a more just, equitable, and harmonious country. A warm welcome awaits you at www.RatifyERAflorida.net for more info.



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DWC Minutes from the May meeting

President Nancy Simms called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. She gave a meditation and then called for a moment of silence.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary. There were no corrections. On motion of Joan Patterson, seconded by Patti Duffy, the Minutes were unanimously approved.

Our guest, Nancy Glazer, was introduced by Vi Niggel. She works for Sea Breeze Communications and offered to help the Club to get more publicity announcements in the local newspapers.

Patti Duffy gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance is positive. Major expenses included printing costs for redistricting petitions and a publicity ad for the Jefferson-Jackson dinner program.

Pat Carnevale, First Vice President, announced that she still needs stamp donations for mailing. Charlotte Blitt, Second Vice President, is away for the summer, but will keep in touch by e-mail. Charlotte has drafted a publicity announcement that can be altered and used for monthly meetings. Pat said that they are trying to have Will Prather, Chairman of Democratic Executive Committee, to be the speaker in June.

Lydia Sherman had asked for a cordless mike for meeting use. No bids were submitted. Nancy will check on prices and report at the June meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The Scholarship presentation has been postponed until the June meeting. The Chairman, Mildred Schindler, hopes to be well by that meeting and will bring the recipient, Nicole Murphy, to the meeting with her.

Each month the Chairs of the Committees formed at the Retreat will report to the members. Charlotte Kowitch gave a progress report for the Redistricting Committee. About 200 petitions have been collected. The petitions affect all Florida voters. She said that she will be in Washington, DC for the summer. She suggested the Lake Regional Library, other libraries, and the post offices are good places to collect signatures.

Patti Duffy reported for the Educational Committee. The committee is formulating a qualifi-

cation list for school board candidates and then will be looking for a suitable candidate.

Joan Patterson said that the Single District Committee is writing a neutral communications paper. Joan and other members will speak at meetings showing a map and distributing facts on paper. She sees a potential to elect two Democrats in the five Supervisor positions which has not been possible before. The NAACP is definitely for single district members.

NEW BUSINESS

Correspondence has been received from ERA representatives who will be in the area shortly and would like to speak with members.

Ellis Robinson was not available to give the State Representative report. She is attending functions in Washington, DC. Nancy announced that applications to go the DWC-Florida convention, September in Melbourne are available and need to be submitted by May 11.

Lydia Sherman announced that she will be a candidate for Ward Five, Fort Myers City Council. It is the first time in ten years that the position is vacant. The current incumbent, Randy Henderson, is running for Mayor. Michelle Guerin will be her volunteer coordinator. She will be running as a non-partisan. Lydia gave a statement of her background experiences as a long-time resident of Ft. Myers and she is amply qualified to be a Ft. Myers Council member.

Lori Spencer was complimented by members for her wonderful photographs on the website.

Pat Carnevale introduced Carolyn Helms, who has held every elected office in our Club except Treasurer. She has been working on Democratic campaigns since the Al Gore campaign. Carolyn spoke on her role as Region VII Chair, the relationship of the DEC and DWC, our role with the DWC-Florida and future challenges.

Carolyn announced a treasure trove of archival material was given to the Club by John Hogan, whose mother was a member of the Club for many years. Carolyn discovered that the actual birthday of our Club was September 6, 1958. Our Charter gives the year as 1968. The University of Central Florida

continued on page 3

Review:

At the May meeting our own Carolyn Helms gave the history and the organization of the Democratic Women’s Clubs in the U.S. Carolyn started with a discussion of how a club gets formed: (a) there must be a minimum of ten members, (b) the region chair must be asked to attend an organization meeting meeting, (c) a request for a charter must be submitted to the DWCF, Inc. and (d) the by-laws must be approved by the DWCF parliamentarian. Also, a county may have more than one club.

The state organization is known as the Democratic Women’s Club of Florida, Inc. (DWCF, Inc.) and was organized in St. Petersburg May 24, 1956. At that time some clubs were already in existence, but they received their corporate charter from the Florida Secretary of State in 1972. and joined the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) in 1980. Local clubs receive their charters from and pay dues to the DWCF.

Florida is divided into nine regions by the DWCF; we are in Region VII which comprises Manatee, Charlotte, Lee, Collier and Sarasota Counties. Each Region Council is composed of a President, 1st Vice President and one appointed or elected representative. The next Region Meeting will be May 23rd in Port Charlotte.

The NFDW was founded in 1971 and is recognized by the Democratic National Committee as the official women’s organization. The NFDW has a seat on the DNC Executive Committee.

The president of the DWC is automatically a member of

the Democratic Executive Committee (DEC) of his/her county, but may not be an officer. The president sits on the DEC Steering Committee.

The goals of the various DWCs is the same as the DEC: to stimulate active interest in political and governmental affairs;

to strengthen and further the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party; and to support and elect duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state and local elections.

The Fort Myers DWC charter is dated October, 1968, but the son of Anne Hogan, an eight-year member who passed away in 2004, found her old scrap book of the organization which gives the charter date as September 6, 1958. Our club is fifty years old – not forty!



Pres.Obama’s letter (1st 2 & last 2 paragraphs) to Senators Kennedy & Baucus, 6/2/09

“The meeting that we held today was very productive and I want to commend you for your leadership -- and the hard work your Committees are doing on health care reform, one of the most urgent and important challenges confronting us as a Nation.

“In 2009, health care reform is not a luxury. It’s a necessity we cannot defer. Soaring health care costs make our current course unsustainable. It is unsustainable for our families, whose spiraling premiums and out-of-pocket expenses are pushing them into bankruptcy and forcing them to go without the checkups and prescriptions they need. It is unsustainable for businesses, forcing more and more of them to choose between keeping their doors open or covering their workers. And the ever-increasing cost of Medicare and Medicaid are among the main drivers of enormous budget

deficits that are threatening our economic future.”

“These are some of the issues I look forward to discussing with you in greater detail in the weeks and months ahead. But this year, we must do more than discuss. We must act. The American people and America’s future demand it.

“I know that you have reached out to Republican colleagues, as I have, and that you have worked hard to reach a bipartisan consensus about many of these issues. I remain hopeful that many Republicans will join us in enacting this historic legislation that will lower health care costs for families, businesses, and governments, and improve the lives of millions of Americans. So, I appreciate your efforts, and look forward to working with you so that the Congress can complete health care reform by October.”

(The Issues Committee plans to keep ourselves and DWC members informed of progress until health care reform is a reality.)



DWC May Minutes, continued from page 3

keeps archives of Women’s Clubs in the Women’s Studies Department. It has been suggested that, after being viewed by members, the materials be stored there permanently. Gayle Mullins asked if the charter date can be changed to September 6, 1958, the date listed in the scrap book. The suggestion needs to be researched.

Joan Patterson suggested a letter written by each President detailing the activities of the Club under her leadership. These letters will be added to the archives. There being no further business, the President ordered the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Claire de Elizalde

Coming DWC/Democratic Events

- Sat., June 13th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. DWC Breakfast Meeting.
The speaker will be Sandy Oestreich, Founder and President, Equal Rights Alliance, Inc.
At the Royal Palm Yacht Club, 2360 West First Street, Ft. Myers
(one block north of the Edison & Ford Estates on McGregor, left on Larchmont Ave.)
- Sat., July 11, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. DWC Breakfast Meeting. Speaker to be announced.
At the Royal Palm Yacht Club.

To Reserve for the June Meeting:

Call Pat Fish, 466-8381, or Vi Niggel, 768-6511; or e-mail: dwc@dwc-lee.com



ON THE WEB

DWC – our own Lee County Democratic Women’s Club site:
www.dwc-lee.com

DWCF, Inc. – Democratic Women’s Club of Florida
<http://democratic-women.org>

DEC -- Democratic Party of Lee County
<http://leecountydems.org>