



## Upcoming Meetings, Speakers and Events

### **POSTPONED/To be rescheduled:**

"Iron Jawed Angels" movie at Pat Benson's home, \$5.00 donation (758-4610 for info)

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 5 & 6, Democratic Women's Legislative Day in Tallahassee (Call Pat for info, 758-4610) Reduced hotel costs.

Tuesday, April 12, DWC Luncheon, Bradenton Country Club, 11:30 am

Tuesday May 10, DWC Luncheon, Bradenton Country Club, 11:30 am

### CHECK OUT THE DEC website:

www.manateecountydemocrats.com for a variety of activities. Just a few examples: 3/26 Parrish Heritage Parade, 3/27 Beach to Bay Eco Day, Bradenton Beach, 3/27 Poll Telephone Training, Lakewood Ranch Cinema.

## CLUB OFFICERS/LEADERS

Pat Benson, President 758-4610  
pattybenson43@gmail.com

1st VP (Programs)

Judy Drake, 2nd VP (Membership) 753-2132  
jpdtd@msn.com

Mary Bass, Recording Secretary 748-8536  
marygbass@gmail.com

Shirley Snyder, Corresponding Secretary 798-9882  
srs2918@yahoo.com

Jean Lewis, Treasurer 351-6568  
JeanLewis55@verizon.net

### Committees:

By-laws Sue Dickie, chair 761-4098  
suzannedickie@tampabay.rr.com

Fund raising Pat Benson 758-4610  
pattybenson43@gmail.com

Hospitality/Calling Phyllis Virzi 795-7608

Candidate Search Vicki Waters 753-9741  
vwaters@earthlink.net

Evangeline Hall, Chaplain 746-5324

VACANT, Parliamentarian

Judy Balevre, Directory Editor 727-8128  
balevre2@verizon.net

Historian/DWC Scrapbook, Brenda & Stephanie Katz 778-2227  
hbbrenda@tampabay.rr.com

VACANT, Publicity Chair

Jeanne Yeagle, Web Master

Newsletter Editors:

Myra Jones mjones672@tampabay.rr.com

Francine Slack fslack@tampabay.rr.com

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: April, 2011***

President's Message:

I am happy to report that our Fashion Show did quite well due to our wonderful members who attended and purchased items from the Silent Auction.

The total amount raised was \$1,734 for scholarships but we also had some money in reserve. If the board agrees, we will give one \$1,000 and two \$500.00 scholarships. Again, I would like to thank my models and all my helpers. You all did your part to help make it a success.

I would like to have a real committee next year so the burden is shared. Can anyone else think of a good money maker for our club?

I will be attending the DWC legislative trip in Tallahassee on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Nancy O'Toole will be my roommate, but I would love to have others join us. Our bus is going to a much cheaper hotel about three and a half miles away from the Capitol. The bus will stay with us the whole time so we do not need to worry about getting us to the Capitol on time. This will be a fun trip. Games and fun on the bus have been organized by Collier County.

I would also like to thank all the DWC women for **RUNNING** the DEC headquarters. As I was driving home one night, I just thought about the hours all of you have put in at 5910 Cortez Rd. You are a GREAT group of Gals. Thank you so much

***Patty***

### ***Etcetera:***

***Our donation numbers to Our Daily Bread now total 130 pounds, according to Brenda Katz. Great! Let's keep it up!***

***Jean Lewis, our Treasurer, reports that before our scholarship disbursements our DWC had a balance of \$5131.74. It's a good start on our political war chest!***

## CALLING ALL GOOD DEMOCRATS (the only kind)

by Myra Jones

As you know, the next elections are coming up, and there are a lot of elected officials that we want to send home. So we have our work cut out for us. We don't need to feel that we are watching a train wreck, but can't do anything about it. Let's get together and do something!

We can all write **letters to the editor**, expressing our values, or disagreeing with some of the conservative positions that we see every day. Because there has been some interest in letter writing, I have agreed to hold a workshop on how to write a better letter to the editor. We don't want the Other Side to be better represented than we are, so we need to send more letters to the newspaper.

Maybe you have wanted to write a letter but felt a bit unsure of the best way to go about it. Or maybe you have had letters already printed, but want to hone your skills. This workshop won't insult your intelligence! I assume that you are already literate and a competent writer. But it always helps to get a few tips on how to organize and express your thoughts in the most effective way. Or if you feel that you already write pretty well and would like to help edit someone else's writing, we need you too! The aim of this workshop is to get a few people into the habit of regularly writing letters, or who would write a letter on a particular topic if there is a need, or who could go to another volunteer for a little editing. Ultimately we want people who could also communicate in others—speaking to groups or being interviewed on local radio or tv. But that's down the road.

If you are interested in attending a workshop, let me know, either via phone, e-mail, or by filling out a form we have constructed. The date and time of a workshop will depend upon how many people sign up for it and what their preferences are, but I envision about 1 1/2 to 2 hours, sometime in April. Later, if there is interest, we will offer a second workshop on how to present arguments. For more information, my e-mail is [democratjones@gmail.com](mailto:democratjones@gmail.com), you can phone me at (941) 755-6091, or go to the address on the announcement below.

Remember what Harry Truman said?? Someone told him that he really gave the opposition Hell. He replied, "I don't give them Hell; I just tell the truth and they think it's Hell!" We can do that!

I hope to see many of you soon!

## **The Manatee County Democratic Party Is Sponsoring Two Writers' Workshops**

***Myra Jones, a frequently published "Letters-to-the-Editor" writer, has agreed to share her success, knowledge, experience, and skill in writing by conducting two extended Writers' Workshops.***

**The two workshops assisting volunteers in sharpening their writing skills are:**

- **How to write letters to the editor**
- **How to hone a compelling argument**

**For those interested, please complete the online "Key to Better Writing Questionnaire" at :**

**<http://www.manateecountydemocrats.com/writingquestionnaire.html>**

**You will be contacted personally about time, place  
and other pertinent information.**

**Your input is important in determining  
dates, times, and venues.**

If you had trouble with the link above go to [www.manateecountydemocrats.com](http://www.manateecountydemocrats.com), scroll down on the right side under Upcoming Events until you see the link for the questionnaire.

