



ENGLEWOOD Democratic Club



Issue May 2021

Presidents Messages

I hope all of you are well and have now been vaccinated!

What a disastrous legislative session we had in Florida! The bills signed by DeSantis were aimed at restricting our Constitutional Rights including voter suppression and criminalizing peaceful protests.

Our newly elected Florida Democratic Party Chairman, Manny Diaz, has already begun to strengthen the Party. When Manny became Chairman, he found the Party broke and in debt. Now the Party is in the black and preparing for a strong, coordinated effort to defeat these Trump-aligned elected officials. Manny pointed out that the Florida Republicans had a very strong voter registration drive, and the Democrats did not. But we are going to do our best to change that!

Our last general membership meeting will be at 5:30 on May 26, 2021, at Lemon Bay Park and Environmental Center located at 570 Bay Park Blvd. in Englewood. We will finally get a chance to meet face-to-face! We welcome all fully vaccinated members and friends to this summer event. Bring your



Calendar of Events

- ◆ May 26th, 5:30 – EDC General Membership Summer Outing at Lemon Bay Environmental Center. Bring your own food and drink.
- ◆ June 9th, 5:30 – EDC Board Meeting
- ◆ June 17th, 9:00, Coffee Hour Fun at Mango Bistro, see page 2 for details.
- ◆ NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

own food and drink as well as a non-perishable food item to be donated to a local foodbank. We expect to have a short business meeting and then have some fun with music and possibly games.

Board meetings will continue throughout the summer and membership meetings will resume in September. Our hard-working newsletter committee will also take a break this summer as this will be the last newsletter until September.

So have a wonderful and safe summer and be ready in September to make a difference.

Feel free to contact me anytime at chriskenealy@msn.com

Thank you.

Chris Kenealy

Coffee Hour Fun

Come meet and discuss the state of Florida politics! We are going to start a coffee hour gathering on Thursday June 17th at 9:00am. If it is popular, we will have it monthly! Our first coffee hour will be at Mango Bistro at 301 W. Dearborn St., Englewood. Mango is willing to try seating up to 15 of us on their porch, which they have reconfigured for social distancing.

If you want to go, you must RSVP to Ceil McCloy at ceilmccloy@aol.com. We will not be able to welcome those who just show up. When you reply please indicate whether you need one or two places. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

REMEMBER THE FIRST OUTDOOR MEMBER MEETING

Our last general membership meeting will be at 5:30 on May 26, 2021, at Lemon Bay Park and Environmental Center located at 570 Bay Park Blvd. in Englewood. We will finally get a chance to meet face-to-face! We welcome all fully vaccinated members and friends to this summer event. Bring your own food and drink as well as a non-perishable food item to be donated to a local foodbank. We expect to have a short business meeting and then have some fun with music and possibly games.

Legislative Updates

Florida State Legislative 2021 Session Wrap-up

One thought that keeps coming to mind as I prepare to write this summary of the recent session of the Florida State Legislature has been “Absolutely unbelievable how a singularly focused, determined group of politicians can do so much damage to the constitutional rights of their constituents in such a short time.” I am sure that something positive happened up in Tallahassee over the past few months, but it going to take some real searching to find it, and hardly worth the effort, but I will try to find at least one. DeSantis carefully made his “Red Hat Club Wish List”, specifically designed to firmly cement his position as a Trump loyalist and heir to the GOP Presidential nomination for 2024 if the “Man of the Golden Statue” ultimately decides to pass the baton to one of the underlings. The Republican majority legislators, just as eager to gain favor with Floridian Trumpers, dutifully checked off each item with minimal regard for the protests from the Blue side of the aisle. Elections matter. Boy, do they matter.

Most of us already know about the bill that makes it significantly harder to vote, the one that makes it almost impossible for a concerned citizen group to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot, and the one that places the threat of severe legal consequences for participating in a peaceful protest that all easily passed because not only are they newsworthy in Florida, but across the nation. You have

heard that the Republicans managed to add the transgender girls sports ban at the last minute into a large education bill, avoiding considerable debate opportunities by gender rights advocates. Perhaps you already know that of the 41 proposed local power preemption proposals, five made it to the finish line, including a financial penalty to a local government if they enact any gun control measure, prohibition of the banning of gas stations, and stopping local prohibition of the docking of cruise ships in deep water ports, a direct reversal of the ordinance passed by the voters of the Keys who are desperately trying to protect their treasured coral reefs. DeSantis pushed through his attempt to silence social media sites that are trying to remove blatant lies from their platforms by banning private companies, like Facebook from removing posts from any political candidates during the 30 days before an election. To see elected Republicans, members of a party that has long been the water boy for corporate America, try to pretend that this clear violation of the free speech of private enterprises is an effort to ensure free and fair elections is beyond comprehension, but their sincerity is truly Oscar worthy.

Democrats are watching SB90 with great interest. We worked so hard to enroll voters in Vote by Mail and were happy to see that 90% of the people enrolled in the program voted, either by mail or in person in Charlotte County and Sarasota County numbers were equally impressive. In contrast, only 54% of those who were not enrolled in VbM made it to the polls. I received a very informative email from Laura Ulrop that included the following summary of SB90 changes with an introduction by Laura.

Here is the summary of the legislation for SB 90 as written right now. I understand that a lot of the decisions are being decided by the SOE in each county as to how they are going to deal with this new law. We also have heard there are at least 6 groups who have filed suit against this law. They are now saying if the Congress would pass the HR 1, The John Lewis Voting Rights Act we could curb most of these changes to state laws. We need to pressure our Congressmen and Senators to pass this Act now! This summary was created by Jean Siebenaler, Chair of the Legislative Liaison of the DWC-FL and Jessica Ransome, LL Leader for Voting. Jessica tracked all the Voting bills and spent a considerable amount of time watching the Committee meetings on the Florida Channel. Many thanks to both!

SUMMARY OF SB 90 ELECTION ADMINISTRATION KEY CHANGES (“THE VOTER SUPPRESSION BILL”)

Compiled by Jessica Ransome, Jean Siebenaler

1. Voter registration:

- a. Strengthens the comprehensive risk assessment of the online voter registration database/system (i.e., more system stress tests the week before an election, screening for malware and fortifying defenses against cyberattacks)
- b. Simplifies the voter registration wording for ex-felons by including the statement “I affirm that I am not a convicted felon or, if I am, my right to vote has been restored” and providing a box for the applicant to check to affirm the statement.

- c. A voter registration is complete if it includes the applicant's name, address of legal residence, date of birth, check mark attesting to being an American citizen, and the current FL driver's license or ID number, or the last four digits of the SSN if no ID number available, and affirmation of felon and mental incapacity voter restoration status.
- d. The Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must assist the Dept. of State in regularly identifying changes in residence address on the driver license or identification card of a voter and the Dept. of State must inform the appropriate SOE.
- e. Regarding third parties that collect or handle voter registration applications:
 - i. Voter registration applications must be delivered to the appropriate county SOE where the applicant resides within 14 days after completed by the applicant or by the applicant, but not after registration closes for the next ensuing election;
 - ii. Third party is subject to fines if application is not received within 14 days.
 - iii. Applicants must be told whether the delivery will be in person or by mail.
 - iv. Applicants must be instructed how to register online and how to check if their application has been delivered.

2. VBM ballots

- a. Requires people who want to vote by mail to request ballots every election cycle, instead of every two cycles. An eleventh-hour agreement between the two chambers did grandfather in those voters who are already on the request list through the 2022 election.
- b. VBM request can be made by the elector, an immediate family member of the elector, or the elector's legal guardian.
 - i. Immediate family member is a designee's spouse or the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling of the designee or of the designee's spouse.
- c. The VBM request must include the requestor's relationship to the elector (if applicable), the elector's name, address, DOB, Florida driver license number, the elector's Florida identification card number, or the last four digits of the elector's SSN, whichever may be verified in the supervisor's records. (Written requests must include the elector's signature).
- d. Any elector may designate in writing a person to pick up the ballot for the elector; however, the person designated may not pick up more than two vote-by-mail ballots per election, other than the designee's own ballot, except that additional ballots may be picked up for members of the designee's immediate family.
 - i. Criminal penalties if process not followed.
 - ii. The designee shall provide to the supervisor the written authorization by the elector (on a prescribed form) and a picture identification of the designee and must complete an affidavit. The designee shall state in the affidavit that the designee is authorized by the

elector to pick up that ballot and shall indicate if the elector is a member of the designee's immediate family and, if so, the relationship.

- iii. If the supervisor is satisfied that the designee is authorized to pick up the ballot and that the signature of the elector on the written authorization matches the signature of the elector on file, the supervisor shall give the ballot to that designee for delivery to the elector.
- e. The VBM ballot mailing envelope will not include political party affiliation.
- f. The county canvassing board may begin the canvassing VBM ballots upon the completion of the public testing of automatic tabulating equipment at 7 a.m. on the 22nd day before the election but must begin such canvassing by no later than noon on the day following the election.
- g. Cuts access to drop boxes by limiting their use to early voting hours unless they are located at election supervisors' offices. All drop boxes must always be staffed in person by election supervisors' office workers if they are in use. The bill also requires supervisors to set and publish drop box locations 30 days before the election. Those locations cannot be moved for any purpose.

3. Solicitation

- a. The terms "solicit" or "solicitation" shall include, but not be limited to, seeking or attempting to seek any vote, fact, opinion, or contribution; distributing or attempting to distribute any political or campaign material, leaflet, or handout; conducting a poll except as specified in this paragraph; seeking or attempting to seek a signature on any petition; and selling or attempting to sell any item; and engaging in any activity with the intent to influence or effect of influencing a voter. The terms "solicit", or "solicitation" may not be construed to prohibit an employee of, or a volunteer with, the supervisor from providing nonpartisan assistance to voters within the no-solicitation zone such as, but not limited to, giving items to voters, or to prohibit exit polling.
- b. Adds 150 ft around a drop box as a "no solicitation" zone.

4. Miscellaneous changes

- a. Adds a prohibition against use of private funds for election-related expenses (e.g., like the private donation that Mark Zuckerberg made during the last election to help fund infrastructure and staffing during the pandemic).
- b. Revises the frequency with which voter turnout data and vote-by-mail ballot information must be posted online by supervisors.
- c. Changes role of State executive committee members from affected counties (vs. County Chairs) in filling party candidate vacancies for US Representative, state senator, state representative, state attorney, or public defender.

- d. Adds voter certificates on mailing envelopes to the records that must be open for public inspection, and creates a new provision granting to specified individuals' reasonable access to inspect ballot materials before canvassing or tabulation.
- e. NPA candidates must affirm in writing that they have not currently, nor have they been registered members of any political party for at least 365 days before beginning the candidate qualifying process.

The passage of SB 54 and HB 719 brings Florida's 50 year No Fault Auto Insurance to the end of the road after many appearances on the House and Senate legislative calendars. There seems to be a clear split between the legislators, who claim it will reduce fraud by requiring a determination as to which party caused the accident and would be responsible for any costs, and the insurance industry position that fraud will not be reduced, and costs will escalate as more and more claims end up in the courts. Unsurprisingly, the primary proponents of these bills are trial lawyers. As of this writing, DeSantis has yet to sign the bill. The most important factors to the Governor and current Legislature are clearly the potential loss or gain of income to the state or putting the campaign donations of major players like the insurance and cruise industries at risk. DeSantis thought he would be able to placate the cruise lines by allowing them to continue to destroy the reefs off Key West and insisting that the CDC lift the ban on the use of American ports by cruise ships until Covid was well under control, but perhaps his ban on issuing Vaccine Passports was pushing the envelope a bit too far. Norwegian Cruise Line has already threatened to reroute their departures and arrivals to other states, so we will see what Ron will do about these two dilemmas. Add the decision of sports organizations like the NCAA to stop holding college level sports events in the state due to the transgender bill and the number of dollar bills flying out of Florida starts adding up to a point that the loss of cash cannot be ignored.

The powerful lobby of women who are still relying on alimony payments to survive have once again managed to defeat those who desperately would like to stop that monthly check. There are not that many June's around anymore, but they have not lost their power over the Ward's. Don't want to be snarky, but women who dutifully played their role in the days when they were forbidden to earn any money independently, in my opinion, don't deserve to be left penniless in their golden years. The attempt to interfere with the voter approved \$15 Minimum Wage Amendment by adding a Hard to Hire category that would include people like felons and teens, somehow stalled in committee, so at least there were a few disappointments for the Republicans.

The Democrats have many allies who shared our dismay over the 2021 Legislative Session, and lawsuits were immediately filed upon the passage of many of the egregious bills. Some of the groups that had appeals prepared are the League of Women Voters, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Common Cause, the League of United Latin American Citizens, Black Voters Matter Fund, the ACLU, and the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans. The Biden Administration is also doing what they can to protect voting rights and the civil rights of minorities through legislation or Executive Actions when possible. We are not giving up on our democracy without a fight.

Once again, I would like to thank all our members who told me about what was happening up in Tallahassee, and to Laura Elizabeth Ulrop, from Charlotte County, who did a stellar job of keeping us informed throughout the entire session. Great job, Laura!!! Thanks to all who had the courage and stamina to read the updates in our EDC newsletter month after month. You may receive occasional notices during the summer of interesting developments, and hopefully some court victories to give us hope. Thank goodness this session is over!!

Joanie Hillis

Meet A Member

David Evans, EDC Vice President

Englewood has now been my home for 16 years. I was somewhat familiar with this area as my parents move to S. Venice in the late 70s. Semi-annual trips with the children to visit their grandparents followed.

Previously I held several positions in healthcare, primarily with hospitals in conjunction with physicians. My last position being a joint venture of a local hospital and physicians in Anderson, SC.

While there I served on two non-profit Board of Directors and as a member of the local Chamber of Commerce. As a member of the local Chamber of Congress we took annual trips to Washington DC to lobby the legislative delegation.

Since moving to this area, I have held several part-time jobs, one being the part-time ranger at Stump Pass Beach State Park for about 6 years. Also served as past President of the Venice Area Audubon Society and as Chair of the Keep Sarasota County Beautiful Advisory Board for two terms. The major result of my term was the submission to the Sarasota County Commissioners was to ban smoking at Sarasota County beaches presented through the county staff. County Commissioners approved the proposal

the ban of smoking on county beaches was adopted. Currently, on the board of the Charlotte Harbour Environmental Center doing volunteer work at Ceder Point Environmental Center.



Much to my despair, I did not participate on the 2016 election. At that time, I decided to get involved for the 2020 election. Working with other Democrats in Precinct 527 began, including participating at the information table for the Primary and General Election. Other activities included sign waving on Dearborn Street and Nokomis for various Democratic candidates. My volunteer work included working one day a week at the South County Democratic Office in North Port. I also joined the Englewood Democratic Club and am now a Board of Directors member. Other Democratic activities include joining the Environmental Caucus of Sarasota County Democrats

and was elected to serve a two-year term as an at-large member of the Board of Directors.

My history includes graduating from the University of Tennessee and veteran of the US Army.

I am looking forward to working together to meet our goals and objectives and contributing

to the election of Democrats locally, regionally and nationally.

Respectfully,

David Evans

Members Musings

It certainly is hard to be a Democrat in Florida, and many other states right now. Thank goodness knowing for a certainty that Democrats are on the side of the truth and common decency makes it possible at all to read the paper or turn on the news. Isn't it wonderful that the Charlotte County Commissioners decided that the county will now officially be a 2nd Amendment Weapon Sanctuary? It always seemed to be a haven for unregulated weapon ownership, but I guess the Commissioners decided to make sure that everyone knew it, in hope that the voters would reward them at election time! It makes me so sad when I hear Democrats say they feel like giving up on Florida and are seriously considering moving back North! We don't want to run away because someone like Flynn shows up at the Lighthouse, one of my favorite places, when I had a life, to enjoy a meal outside and sip a drink while watching the best sunsets anywhere!! Let's not give people like Flynn that kind of power over us! It is possible to make sure the man understands that not everyone in Englewood thinks he is Mr. Wonderful and remain civil. I am glad that I can repeat the words of Michelle Obama – We Go High – in my head when I feel that I am going to lose it!

It just might be a good idea to take a well-deserved break this summer and enjoy revisiting

our pre-covid lives! By now you have probably read somewhere in this newsletter that the EDC is going to take a bit of a hiatus this summer, something we only do in non-election years.

Our Snowbirds and Sunbirds are leaving in droves, eager to visit some of their favorite places in their northern homes that were closed tight last summer. Some people are taking extended road trips to reconnect with family and friends across the country, and some are taking shorter trips to get those dearly missed grandchild, sibling, dear friend, or parent hugs. We have all had plenty of time to prioritize what is important to us, and I believe it is finally time to start doing what will fill up all the empty places in our souls that grew over the past lonely year. I am one of those rare people whose favorite time of the year in Florida is when there are no crowded roads, restaurants, or beaches because it is “too hot” for



many, so my trips will be short ones. (I leave tomorrow for a few days in Indiana for a granddaughters wedding. Trips to red, red Indiana were already a wildcard for me, and I am sure I will be around family who are strong Trumpers, so I will be doing a lot of walking on eggs. They are all fully aware that Grandma is a crazy liberal! Many of the grandkids are Democrats, so that will be fun to hear their thoughts now that they are out in the real world of work.) There are others who will be around down here in Englewood most of the summer, so if you are staying at home too, watch for invitations to get together with other Democrats for some fun, conversation with like-minded people and maybe a little organizational work as the club gets our ducks in a row for the fall. 2022 will be here before we know it and we have work to do to replace DeSantis, Rubio, and local reps too like Steube, Gruters, Buchanan and Grant.

We are looking forward to our first in-person club meeting since February of 2020 for people who are fully vaccinated on Wednesday, May 26th at 5:30. We have reserved the pavilion at Lemon Bay Park, one of the hidden treasures here in

Englewood. You should have received a Mobilize Invitation with more information by now, but if you have any questions or suggestions, please send us an email at englewooddemclub.com or call and leave a message at 941-270-3441. One of the Board Members will get back to you as soon as possible. There will be no Zoom link, but we are still using the Mobilize sign-up system, so we have an idea as to how many people to expect. Since there are still people in our community, especially families with young children, who are suffering from hunger and so many of the supporters of the food banks are gone for the summer, we are asking that you bring nonperishable food items to the meeting and we will make deliveries in the name of our club to the Jubilee Center and Helping Hand. There will not be much of a business meeting, so come prepared to have fun!! What a concept!! To have a membership of close to 100 after the nightmare year we have experienced is beyond encouraging, Come to Lemon Bay Park, and bring a friend or two. Cannot wait to see real Democrat smiles in person again.

Think Blue. Joanie Hillis

Task Force Action Steps

Although the membership meeting and newsletter committee will not be active this summer, please know that volunteers are needed throughout the year.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1. Organize coordinated, sustained and forceful efforts to register Englewood voters (Farmers Market, Elsie Quirk Library, Port Charlotte Hospital, etc.)
Join: Joe Delbonis jdebonis843@comcast.net and
Ceil McCloy ceilmccloy@aol.com
2. Increase Membership (Newsletter, personalized letters and postcards)
Join: Karn Cunningham cunninghamkarn@gmail.com

3. Proactively work to diversify membership (high school Dem clubs; registration tables at State College of Florida, etc. Fran Dance has identified volunteers to organize a Dem Club at Lemon Bay High School. Need volunteers to organize at local colleges.
Contact Chris Kenealy chriskenealy@msn.com
4. Raise our positive profile (beach clean-ups, Pioneer Day, recognize local businesses)
Join: David Evans drboxster01@aol.com
5. Educate and inform Electorate: Amplify Our Voice (join cadre of volunteers writing and helping write letters to the editor; response to developing news)
Join: Ceil McCloy ceilmccloy@aol.com and
Nancy Shoemaker njshoemaker@comcast.net
6. Mitigate "isolation" of local Democrats (coffees, cocktail hours, group events)
Join: Ceil McCloy ceilmccloy@aol.com
7. Enhance communications between Charlotte and Sarasota Democrats and their clubs (liaison with other groups and caucuses)
Join: David Evans drboxster01@aol.com

2022 will be here before we know it. Let's work now to position the Democrats in Sarasota and Charlotte counties to make as great an impact as we can on the future of our counties, state, and nation. Please join us by contacting your fellow members at their email addresses above. They are eagerly waiting to hear from you. Questions? Contact Nancy Shoemaker at njshoemaker@comcast.net or Chris Kenealy at chriskenealy@msn.com.

Karn's Korner

This is the last Karn's Korner and EDC Newsletter until September 2021 as we all need a break!

Before we take our "break", I want to share with all of you some exciting and happy news. My husband and I are going to be grandparents for the first time. Our daughter and her husband are expecting a son in September. I love sharing this wonderful news with others because of the responses I get. People share their special stories of being a grandparent or about a wonderful grandparent.

Everything is the same, yet everything is different. Instead of thinking about Michigan State

football in September, I'm thinking about a new human being arriving, our grandson. I wonder what he'll call us! Our daughter and her husband just moved from downtown Washington,

D.C. to Rockville, MD. My son-in-law proudly told me that Rockville is one of the ten most di-



verse cities in the U.S. I don't think I can imagine in my wildest dreams what our grandson's world will be like when he's our age. We love him already. We think about him and his parents all the time. Of course, we worry some.

I'm not worried, however, about my grandson's education. I feel confident my daughter and her husband will prioritize and enhance his education. As a former teacher, what I do worry about often and a lot is education in America. In this time of immense division and hurt in America, one significant instrument of change is education. I know my grandson has two wonderful, caring parents who will provide everything a child needs to thrive and grow up to be a happy, productive member of society. As an educator, I repeat, I have no concerns about my grandson and his future education. What I do have a huge concern about is how America took a wrong turn starting in the 1970s and began slowing investments in health and education and embraced a

harsh narrative that people just need to lift themselves up by their bootstraps. We shrugged as working-class America was disintegrating. We ignored increased inequality. The rich got richer; the poor got poorer.

The highest return on investment in America today isn't in private equity, but in early childhood initiatives for disadvantaged kids of all races. This includes home visitation, lead reduction, pre-K and childcare. In America today, as many people have criminal records as college degrees. This needs to change. The question today is not whether our country can afford to make ambitious investments in our people, including their education. It's whether we can afford not to. Something to think about over the summer.

See you in September with updates about our new grandson.

Karn Cunningham

A LOOK BACK

Hello Democrats!! Thank you for joining me in our final look back to when our Englewood Democratic Club was formed and what we have accomplished since then. It was just 3 weeks from that kitchen table decision to re-start a Democratic Club, until August 31st, 2018 when we held our first organizational meeting with 11 people attending. We got to work and started our Facebook page, set up a Dem table at the Farmer's Market every week, and we even had a truck with candidates, and many walkers in the Pioneer Days Parade. All of these activities helped to get the word out that the Englewood Democratic Club was BACK and like-minded friends were invited to attend our first meeting at Elsie Quirk Library on September 26, 2018. When 38 people attended, we knew we were off the ground ... the Blue Wave had arrived!! We hit the road running after that initial turnout, and with enthusiasm and excitement, we held a Candidate Night. Twelve Candidates met with over 100 Dem voters and the night was a huge success.



During this year we were fortunate to have the leadership of Pam Nolan who devoted all her time doing the “tough stuff” such as setting up our web site, getting a Facebook page, developing a data system for members, lists showing anyone who signs up and what they might help as a volunteer, applying for charter certification with the State, and so many other essential details for the Club. Many volunteers and dedicated Democrats worked diligently to get the Club going in the direction we all hoped for ... to win the Presidential election. In the meantime we had our own first election of Officers and Board members. Peter Imhoff did a great job in taking the leadership role in the election of – President – Pam Nolan, Vice President – Muriel Glaim, Secretary – JoAnne St. Amand, Treasurer – David Jones, Board Members – Karn Cunningham, Stephanie Harrison, Tony Dunbar, Joe Del Bonis, and Fred Carley.

Starting the new year into 2019 we were grateful to find our “meeting home” at the Elsie Quirk Library where we meet at 5:30pm on the 4th Wednesday of every month unless otherwise notified. The Club offered an impressive list of speakers to a heavy turnout of Dems at those meetings such as... Professor Brendon Goff, New College...Mary Clupper, SCOP Club and Caucus Chair...Ron Turner, Supervisor of Elections...Garrut Murto, Pres. of Manasota Young Dems and many more.



A large group of us designed and built an environmental float for the upcoming Pioneer Days Parade which took many (hot and humid) hours to accomplish. Thanks to Stephanie and Dan Harrison who let us build it in Dan’s airplane hangar. It turned out beautifully with 4 dolphins (8 ft long) jumping out of the water on the sides of the float, and it fit the Parade’s theme “Living the Dream” (we added) “on a Planet That’s Green”. The group finished and had just moved the float to a safe location when they got the notice that, due to severe storm warnings, the Parade was cancelled. It was up to us to save

the float from any storm damage. Have you ever tried to wrap in plastic, an 8-foot dolphin, 12 feet in the air? Neither had we and the effort produced a great deal of comedic relief, something akin to a Max Senet comedy. But the task was accomplished. When the Parade finally took place, the Club had an award-winning float, about 30 walkers behind it, and a truly wonderful time being together.

The Club continued to grow, doubling its voting membership in the previous few months. Democrats registered to vote in Florida are eligible to join the EDC as a voting member and any U.S. registered voter, regardless of affiliation may join as an associate (non-voting) member. The last in-person general meeting held at Elsie Quirk Library was on February 26, 2020 when we elected the new officers and board members. President – David Jones, Vice President – JoAnne St. Amand, Secretary – Karn Cunningham, Treasurer – Joanie Hillis and corresponding Secretary – Pam Nolan.

Due to Covid 19 and ensuing Pandemic, we learned how to ZOOM. We had to find a way to carry on working toward our goals and do all we could to get out the vote during this very important election year. Understanding the great need, our members got to work. Nancy Shoemaker and her team made over 500 masks for local nursing homes, homeless people and local fire stations. Realizing that “Vote By Mail”(VBM) was critical to this election, volunteers made hundreds of calls to voters urging them to sign up to VBM and mailed 2,750 hand-addressed letters including info, VBM registration form and stamped envelope addressed to the Supervisor of Elections. The amazing result of this effort was that over 31% of these voters did sign up for VBM. The Club was also aware of other Community needs and donated \$2,000. to our local food banks and Meals on Wheels.

Our treasury was also growing so we used a good share of it to place 8 full-page ads in the local Sun declaring (in very large letters) VOTE BY MAIL.... VOTE EARLY....VOTE DEMOCRAT. These ads were also seen in the Englewood Review, the BocaBeacon, and the local radio station WKDW gave us Public Service Announcements to inform voters of all our meetings. Peter Imhoff also answered our request to feature Ron Turner on his show, discussing everything about VBM.

Once again in February we held the election of Officers for the coming year, but in April David Jones resigned his position as President due to his election to an Executive Committee position. He did remain on the Board of directors. Chris Kenealy moved from Vice President to take over the Presidents role and the rest of your current elected officials are Vice President – David Evens, Treasurer – Joanie Hillis, Recording Secretary – Karn Cunningham, Corresponding Secretary – Holly DeVogt, and the Board of Directors – Fred Carley, Tony Dunbar, Muriel Glaim, David Jones and Joe Del Bonis.

January also saw the first edition of the Englewood Democratic Club Newsletter, developed by a group of five volunteers, to keep you updated on all the accomplishments, legislative news, the needs of EDC, and interesting news of the members. The newsletter goes out to ~700 Democratic voters and keeps us all on the same page.

This is the final “Look Back” episode and I do thank you for taking this journey with me. I have learned so much and I hope you have. Our Englewood Democratic Club has grown and developed with time, even working through a pandemic, to do amazing acts of kindness, supporting VBM, informing the Englewood public (and many more) that the Democrats are BACK and the BLUE WAVE has landed,

and, of course, to work for the election of the Biden/Harris ticket which we are still celebrating! Our growth and work is not over as we continue to support Democratic Values and do all we can to elect Democrats to local, State, and Federal offices...to turn Florida Blue... and to meet our Community needs. So, let's all make new history as we each do our personal best to protect our Democracy in our beautiful country. Now that we can begin to have open meetings once again, I look forward to meeting each of you in person. Until then...stay safe. Your Democrat neighbor and friend,

Muriel Glaim

THANK YOU FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS OF SARASOTA COUNTY DEMOCRATS

All, thanks for the turnout at Dearborn Street, Earth Day, to support the effort to call attention to Piney Point specific and phosphate mining in general. We had 28+ folks show with signs from EDC and a group from indivisible. It is my understanding that about 100 plus saw Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried along with the State Environmental President. Good turnout. The Environmental Caucus of Sarasota County Democrats was the sponsor. ECSCD supported Alice White election bid in North Port, litter pickup at Shamrock Park, Venice, with more in the planning stage. Again, thanks for your continued support.

David Evans

At Large Board Member, ECSCD,

also the Vice President of the Englewood Democratic Club

Newsletter Info

The Englewood Democratic Club Newsletter was put together by Karn Cunningham, Holly DeVogt, Muriel Glaim, Joanie Hillis and Chris Kenealy. We thank everyone who contributed in so many ways.

Send comments and articles to englewooddemclub@gmail.com or contact any one of us personally.



ENGLEWOOD Democratic Club



ABOUT US

Englewood is not incorporated as a city or town. It spans Sarasota County AND Charlotte County. The Englewood Democratic Club (EDC) has been formed to gather people across both counties to locally support environmental stewardship, accessible education, affordable healthcare, voting equity, good government policies and a sustainable economy.

We support Democratic Party principles and work to educate and inspire like-minded individuals to make a difference.

Our monthly meetings foster fellowship and include speakers on important national, state and local topics.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Democrats registered to vote in Florida are eligible for **Voting Membership**.

Any voter registered in another state, even "No-Party-Affiliation" voters, may join as an **Associate** (non-voting) **Member** of the EDC by paying annual dues.

VOTING MEMBER – Membership with voting privileges (FL Voter Reg as Democrat) **\$25/year**

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – two Voting Memberships with voting privileges for two adults living at the same address (FL Voter Reg as Democrats) **\$45/year**

ASSOCIATE MEMBER – non-voting Membership (any voter registered in another state, even "No-Party-Affiliation" voters) **\$20/year**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PLEASE PRINT)

In what State are you registered to vote?

State _____ County _____

What is your registration affiliation? _____

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

(CIRCLE ONE)

Voting Member: \$25

Family membership: \$45

Associate Member: \$20

**MAIL CHECKS PAYHABLE TO "EDC"
AND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:**

EDC Membership
PO Box 2073
Englewood, FL 34295-2073

For further information, call 941-270-3441