



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue February 2022

President's Message

The Englewood Democratic Club is growing! I believe that more and more voters recognize that the Republicans are not acting in our best interest. We have had over 20 new memberships in the last few months. Don't forget there is strength in numbers.

When my sister, Holly, and I decided to move from Minnesota (my dad called the weather "not fit for man nor beast") to Florida, the first thing we did is locate a realtor. Bob found us the perfect home and eventually Bob and his wife became dear friends. Actually, our very first friends in Florida.

Bob helped us get acquainted with Englewood — showed us the best restaurants, etc. Since I have always been a dedicated Democrat, I asked him about the politics in Florida. His answer was "it's corrupt." Now I don't know if Bob was a Republican or a Democrat, but I found it hard to believe that ALL political officers in Florida were corrupt. I believe it is easy to become cynical and have tried my best to not become cynical myself at times.

But now, I have come to realize that 90% of our Republican lawmakers are not representing the people. It is so discouraging. But I'm not ready to give up and I hope you don't give up either! We must do everything we can to elect lawmakers who represent we the people.



Chris Kenealy

In This Issue

- President's Letter — pg. 1
- Legislative Update — pg. 4
- Small Business Competition Results — pg. 7
- Guest Columnist, Single Member District, by Kindra Muntz — pg. 8
- A Tribute to Muriel Glaim — pg. 9
- Meet a Member, 1, Lenny Gugenheimer — pg. 10
- Karn's Korner — pg. 12
- Meet a Member, 2, Bob Allen — pg. 13
- Letter from a Member, Mike McCarter — pg. 15
- Fred Carley Retires from the EDC Board — pg. 17
- Newsletter Info — pg. 17
- Membership Application — pg. 18

Calendar of Events

- ◆ **February 23, 2022** – EDC Membership Meeting will be a hybrid in-person at the Englewood Chamber of Commerce and on Zoom at 5:30 via zoom. Special speaker, Alice White, Northport City Commissioner. There will be the Annual election of EDC Officers and Directors, too. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.
- ◆ **March 3, 2022** – Drinking Liberally at Paraiso's at 4:30. The address is 2639 Placida Road, Englewood. This is a reoccurring event on the 1st Thursday of each month. Click [HERE](#) to sign up to ensure enough tables. Just fill in your own information.
- ◆ **March 9, 2022** – Board of Directors Meeting 10:00.
- ◆ **March 15, 2022** – Coffee at Mango Bistro at 9:15. The address is 301 W. Dearborn, Englewood. This is a reoccurring event on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Please RSVP to Ceil at ceilmccloy@aol.com.
- ◆ **March 19, 2022** – Adopt-a-Road. Help the EDC Clean up Pine Street at 9:00. Please email David Evans at drbox-ster01@aol.com for more information.
- ◆ **March 23, 2022** – EDC Membership Meeting at 5:30 via zoom. Special speaker from Sierra Club.

Allow me to rant a bit. I have heard Governor DeSantis criticize Biden over and over the last few weeks because monoclonal antibodies would no longer be distributed to the states. According to DeSantis, it was all Biden's fault. FACT — monoclonal antibodies were doing nothing to treat Omicron. That's why the FDA pulled its authorization. Do you think Biden should go against the FDA and continue to send this treatment when it is not a cure?

And then there is Dr. Ladapo — who is expected to be confirmed as the new Florida Surgeon General. I watched portions of his hearing. He was asked at least three times: "do vaccines work?" He refused to answer the question. The Democrats at the hearing walked out and the Republicans then voted to favorably recommend Ladapo. Ladapo said he would continue to use monoclonal antibodies.

It seems that Florida Republicans come up with a new disastrous idea every day. See Nikki Fried's facebook post below.

The following page is the letter that the EDC sent to all Englewood residents in Sarasota county who have not signed up for Vote by Mail. Nancy Shoemaker enlisted approximately 30 volunteers to hand address and stuff envelopes.

I am interested in hearing your comments. Feel free to contact me at chriskenealy@msn.com.

Chris Kenealy

P.S. "Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try." JFK



Nikki Fried

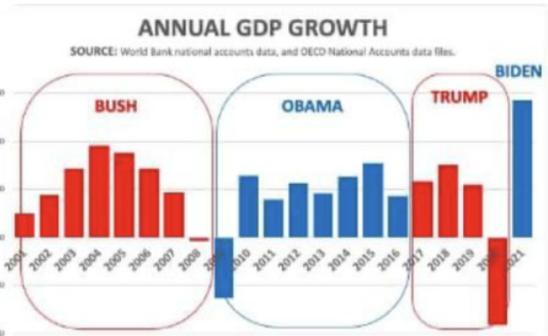
23h · 🌐

To give you an idea of the crap we are dealing with in Florida right now. Just this week:

- DeSantis pushing bad medicine
- 'Don't Say Gay' Bill
- 'White Discomfort' Bill
- 15 Week Abortion Ban
- Insane Surgeon General
- Corruption at Dept. of Ed

We have to win.

JAN 29, 6:13 PM



Florida Seniors Blue '22

Visit group



Donald Trump — On the dangers of universal Vote-by-Mail —
“You’d never have a Republican elected in this country again.”

Dear Englewood Democrat,

Well, at least he got one thing right. Trump and DeSantis understand fully the power of Vote-by-Mail and they are trying to stop it. DeSantis has signed laws which restrict voting, including forcing voters to sign up for Vote-by-Mail repeatedly in order to stay eligible.

This impacts each and every one of us.

- If you were signed up to Vote-by-Mail, check now to see if you’re still eligible. You can go to the Supervisor of Elections website: <https://www.sarasotavotes.com> or call (941) 861–8618
- If you have not registered for Vote-by-Mail, do so now. We can’t predict the future and being signed up for Vote-by Mail protects your voting options; you can still cast your vote in person or you can deposit your Vote-by-Mail ballot in an official drop off box.

What can YOU do to protect your rights?

#

Remember: On March 8th there are important elections

VOTE YES on the School District Referendum

to support our public schools.

VOTE NO on the Charter Amendment

to change County Commission elections to Countywide voting.

Keep **YOUR** power to elect **YOUR** County Commissioner in **YOUR** District.

We’ve enclosed a Vote-by-Mail request form — it’s a snap to fill out and you can use the enclosed, stamped envelope to mail it to the Supervisor of Elections. You can also register at <https://www.sarasotavotes.com> or by calling (941) 861-8618 (Supervisor of Elections’ office).

The next big test of democracy in Sarasota County occurs on March 8th. In an exercise of raw political power, “our” commissioners have scheduled a “redo” election on March 8th in an attempt to overturn the will of 60% of Sarasota voters who, in 2018, selected to empower the voters in each of our 5 districts to elect their own county commissioners.

There are powerful forces, local, state, and national, which are seeking to disenfranchise us. Are we helpless victims? Not hardly. Now is the time to step up. Now is the time to request your Vote-By-Mail ballot and vote on March 8th. Our future, our democracy, depend on it.

Yours for a Democratic America,

Chris Kenealy, President of the Englewood Democratic Club

p.s. Please see the enclosed Englewood Democratic Club flyer. We’d love to have you join us!

Legislative Updates

Compiled by Joannie Hillis

This update of the Florida Legislature will address two areas. The first is the recent Special Session that was held on November 15-17, and a preview of coming attractions for the 2022 Session. Our elected “representatives” have been busy during the past few months, and we continue to realize they are like two-year-olds—never take your eyes off them! (Yes, I have a two-year-old grandson!).

The Republican Majority of the Florida Legislature fell into lockstep during the recent Special Session, called by Governor DeSantis as a purely political stunt to enhance his national image as a leader who is a strong defender of personal freedom, who would stand up against any local or Federal control of the individual rights of his radical far right supporters. (The words radical and left seemed to be mandatorily paired by the red hat crowd, so radical far right automatically appeared on my screen. As you may have noticed, the Legislative Updates in this newsletter are purely partisan – no claim here to journalistic neutrality!)

The outcome of the three-day session was never in doubt. A package of bills that both defy the Biden administration’s COVID-19 vaccine-or-test requirements for larger businesses and stop local governments from enacting those standards were passed and enacted in the blink of an eye. The primary bill ([SB 2B/HB 1B](#): COVID-19 Mandates) does not completely ban vaccine mandates for large companies, but would require private employers to offer opt-outs for any employees who refuse to be vaccinated. Three of them — medical and religious exemptions or an agreement to be tested regularly — are already included in OSHA guidelines. But the bill adds more exemption options: A claim of “immunity” from COVID-19 with a medical test (although it

does not specify what that test would be); “anticipated pregnancy” or workers could simply agree to wear employer-provided protective equipment whenever around other people are the additional opt-outs included.



Joannie Hillis

The bill also creates serious penalties for companies that fire employees for noncompliance with COVID policies if the employee successfully challenges the move: \$10,000 per violation for employers with fewer than one hundred employees, \$50,000 per violation for larger companies. The bill allocates \$5 million for the Attorney General’s office to investigate violations and enforce penalties. Employers also would have the option to avoid the fine by reinstating the employee, with back pay. And the bill makes it clear that anyone fired for noncompliance would be eligible for unemployment benefits. (DeSantis has said that he will use yet unspent federal stimulus dollars to reimburse any OSHA fines imposed on noncompliant businesses. This will most probably be challenged by the Biden Administration.)

In another part of the bill, DeSantis’ emergency order that prevents any school official, school board member, or elected official from imposing either vaccine or mask requirements on any students for school attendance or extra-curricular activities became actual law. It does allow a child to wear a mask at the discretion of parents. (What a noble gesture at bipartisanship).

The other bills passed during the special session include early steps aimed at withdrawing from OSHA and creating a new, Florida-only workplace safety agency and a public records exemption that protects employees who complain about a company's COVID-19 vaccination policies. Another would repeal a longstanding and never used law that allows state health officers to order vaccinations. The legislation that originally instated the state-ordered vaccines was approved unanimously by the 2002 Republican-led Legislature, as a response to the 9/11 attacks and the mailing of anthrax spores to the National Enquirer offices in Boca Raton, which killed a company employee. Evidently the Covid-19 vaccine is a bigger threat to Republicans right now than biological warfare. Good grief.

Some Democratic Legislators have said the governor's and Legislature's push of the bills was a threat to efforts to halt a pandemic that has killed almost 61,000 Floridians and sickened more than 3.6 million and that attacking the Biden administration was clearly the goal of Florida Republicans. Democrats also warned about possible consequences of ignoring federal standards, especially for health care providers. A separate federal rule, which has not been halted by courts, requires vaccines for health care workers, potentially jeopardizing millions of Medicare and Medicaid dollars for Florida hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

And now – on to **What is Coming Up in 2022**. The chart at the end of this section shows the important dates remaining in the law-making process for 2022. Many other deadlines for introducing new proposed legislation have already passed with very little public disclosure. There are a few key areas that we will be watching with interest, but if you have knowledge of a particular issue that you are passionate about and believe deserves our attention, please email me at jchilllis@gmail.com and I will be happy to explore it with you. I am, as I did last year, putting

out an appeal for a few people volunteer to help me monitor what is happening in Tallahassee and keep our membership informed throughout the session. I would really appreciate help!!

I have started to identify key issues to follow more closely during the 2022 session. The activity of the legislature in the off season, and in the 2021 session put **Voting Rights, Abortion Rights, Redistricting, and Educational and Child Protection Policies** at the top of my list so far. We have seen how quickly the Republicans can make sweeping changes in consequential statewide policies in the results of the recent Covid-19 Special Session, so there really should not be any surprises as to how life changing Republican legislative control in the 2022 session can be to all of us.

We are nowhere without our **Right to Vote**. We know that increasing participation by Democrats in Vote by Mail is the best chance we have available to us to turn Florida Blue. In Charlotte County in the 2020 election, over 90% of our Democratic voters who were registered for VBM cast a ballot, while only 54% of those who were not enrolled made it to the polls. That difference is too great to be ignored. We need to learn the additional restrictions to voting that the Republicans passed in the 2021 session, pay close attention to any additional rules the Republicans may try to sneak by us in 2022, and **Register, Register and Register voters and Enroll every one of them in VBM**

The consequences of the stacking of the top court that McConnell accomplished during the Trump Administration (still makes me sick every time I think about it!) were clear during the summer when Republicans across the country passed laws severely limiting **Abortion Rights** as soon as the egregiously restrictive Texas abortion bill received a pass from the US Supreme Court. Florida Republican state lawmaker Webster Barnaby immediately filed HB167, a 40-page document named the Florida Heartbeat

Act, proposing a ban on most abortions as early as around six weeks, would allow members of the public to sue anyone who helps end a pregnancy beyond that point and fine physicians \$10,000 for each abortion they perform later in pregnancy. The number of concerned people who gathered in Port Charlotte and Sarasota to stand in opposition to this suppression of the **Freedom of Choice** for women and their partners in Florida clearly demonstrated the potential voting power of the local outrage. This bill deserves our attention.

The Legislature will also begin the once-every-decade redrawing of the political boundaries. Florida is now the third most populous state and will gain a 28th Congressional seat, so **Redistricting** is required. We are all aware of the practice of gerrymandering, and activists and lawmakers are already drawing their own battle lines. The delegation now consists of 16 Republicans and 10 Democrats, and there is one vacancy created by the death of South Florida Democrat Alcee Hastings. How lawmakers divide the state congressional and legislative districts could determine control of the U.S. House and whether the GOP reaches a supermajority in the Florida House — they're just four seats short — and continue to hold an eight-seat Senate advantage. Deserves our attention as well.

Public Education in Florida schools appears to be under serious attack from many different directions during this new school year. In the past few months DeSantis has tried to dictate the curriculum at our public universities, proposed monitoring the opinions of students, as well as attempting to limit the free speech of professors in their private lives, all unbelievable actions in what is supposed to be an intellectually advanced society. An alarming increase in book banning by the ultra-far right in school libraries, state funded monetary awards to teachers who follow “the approved messages” in their classrooms and school board protests over nonexist-

ent CRT “indoctrination” have all been areas of real concern to fair minded parents, teachers, and our students themselves. The bulk of our local tax dollars fund our local schools, and we should have some meaningful input when conservatives go so far as to radically alter what our children learn as “truth”. DeSantis has also called for legislation to replace the current statewide student assessment with an “Assessment of Student Thinking.” Teachers are in favor of a revamping of student testing and assessment but monitoring just what the Republicans will call acceptable “Student Thinking” is critical. Democrats must actively prevent the distortion of the truth before all semblance of accuracy disappears. In wider aspects of Child Advocacy, our EDC President, Chris Keneally, who is currently a Child Advocate in Sarasota County, will keep us informed as to any continuation of the Republican attempts to punish Foster Children just for needing protection that were on the docket last year. Attempts to limit the distribution of the Federal Funding for childcare and universal pre-school currently included in the Build Back Better Bill that just passed the House are almost a given. Can't let Florida children and families be cheated out of what they deserve!!

See the Important Legislative Dates on the next page.

That's enough for now!!! You now have a lot to ponder. Thank you for reading all the way to the end of this probably way too long article. We need resolute, enthusiastic Democrats who are willing to step up and help during 2022 – and I know there are many of you in the Englewood Democratic Club!!!

Thanks for being, along with my slew of kids, grandkids and great grandkids, my motivation to keep plugging away!!

Think Blue!!!

Joannie Hillis

Important Florida Legislative Session Dates 2022 Session

DATE	EVENT	SOURCE
January 11, 2022	Regular Session convenes Noon deadline for filing bills for introduction	[Article III, section 3(b), Constitution] [Senate Rule 3.7(1)] [House Rule 5.2]
February 26, 2022	All bills are immediately certified Motion to reconsider made and considered the same day	[Senate Rule 6.8] [House Rule 11.7(k)] [Senate Rule 6.4(4)]
March 1, 2022	50th day rule (Senate) – last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings	[Senate Rule 2.9(2)]
March 11, 2022	60th day – last day of Regular Session	[Article III, section 3(b), Constitution]

Small Business Competition

The Englewood Democratic Club (EDC) conducted a Small Business Competition in the greater Englewood area. We asked small businesses to apply and address one or more of the following areas: Employee Satisfaction, Sustainability or Community Involvement. We are delighted to announce to outstanding winners.

Memory Care Solutions, LLC provides personalized senior care coordinated by nurses including healthcare management, dementia support and assessment, and education serves as well as other services for seniors. Memory Care Solutions, LLC has an outstanding track record in community service. The organization has worked as a community educator with the Alzheimer’s Association (Gulf Coast Chapter) as well as pro-bono services for individuals.

Mango Bistro Restaurant offers a variety of freshly made specialty foods in a fun atmosphere that includes a colorful decor, artful gifts,



and world music. They serve breakfast and lunch. They were selected for their commitment to sustainability and community involvement. Since they opened, they use only biodegradable products, and their food waste is composted by a local gardener. In addition, they are involved with the local community through the Englewood Farmers market from the beginning 10 years ago, and they remained open during the Covid pandemic providing over 300 free meals to local citizens on food stamps.

EDC commends these two small business winners and hopes you will patronize these businesses.

Guest Columnist Single Member District

by Kindra Muntz

Thanks to the Sun Newspapers (Venice, Englewood, North Port) for publishing my guest column Saturday, January 8, titled:

“Don’t be deceived by extra ballot question, March 8”.

This shows what we are up against in the battle to SAVE Single Member Districts in the **March 8 Special Election**.

Don't Be Deceived by Extra Ballot Question, March 8th

By Kindra Muntz, President of the Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections.

On March 8, the 1-mill referendum renewal election will have an extra item on the ballot: a Charter amendment by the Sarasota County Commissioners to overturn single member districts for electing County Commissioners and change county commission elections back to county-wide voting.

Voters in Sarasota County voted overwhelmingly in 2018 to change to single member districts with good reason. Sarasota is the 14th largest county of 67 in the state. It takes big money to run statewide.

Only candidates well-funded by special interests can win. As a result, commissioners elected countywide who should be responsible to every voter, often don't listen to the voters, and simply ignore their wishes completely.

Big moneyed interests donate thousands to their campaigns to reap millions in return.

Candidates well-qualified to serve the public interest serve private interests above all. The public gets stuck with the bills and the loss of quality of life.



Kindra Muntz

Commissioners are so intent on overturning single member districts that they can't wait until November to get full voter participation this issue. They seized the opportunity to change the system in a low-turnout Special Election.

They will be happy to achieve their goal March 8 with perhaps just 35,000 voters overturning the will of almost 116,000 voters who passed Single Member Districts in November 2018. Apparently, they don't care if the few overrule the many.

That's not democracy.

Commissioners can't even submit their ballot amendment to the Supervisor of Elections until January 10, because a Special Election must be held within 60 days of filing. Odd, isn't it, that they chose this way to overrule the wishes of the voters?

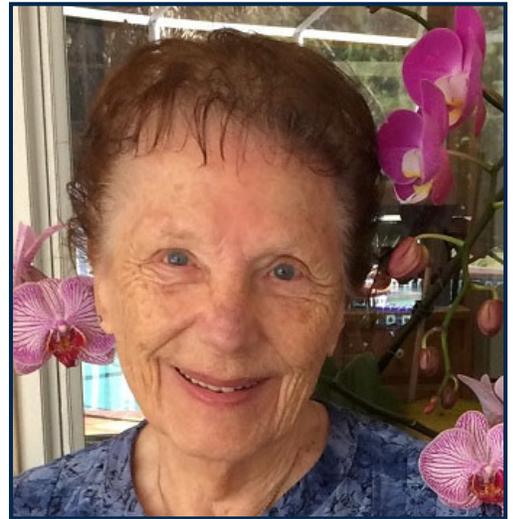
A Tribute for Muriel Glaim

I had the pleasure of first meeting Muriel in 2016. We were both Precinct Captains in Precinct 527. It didn't matter how bad a day I was having or what was going on in the wider world, going to have a Precinct captain meeting with Muriel was always a treat. Her energy and passion for life was intoxicating and contagious.

Eventually Muriel and I, led by our co-captain Pam Nolan decided to re-found the Englewood Democratic Club. Pam and I talked about how good it would be for the Club to reach out to voters, get out the vote, help candidates, etc., but it was Muriel who always interjected to say, "it has to be fun! No point in doing it if we can't have a little fun."

That was Muriel, always looking at the brighter side of the situation and always making you feel

right at home. Hosting Precinct meet and greets or Englewood Club Meetings, Muriel was always making sure everyone was welcomed and always started the meetings with an energy and enthusiasm that was at times off-putting yet oddly endearing. "HELLO DEMOCRATS!" I can hear it now.



Muriel Glaim

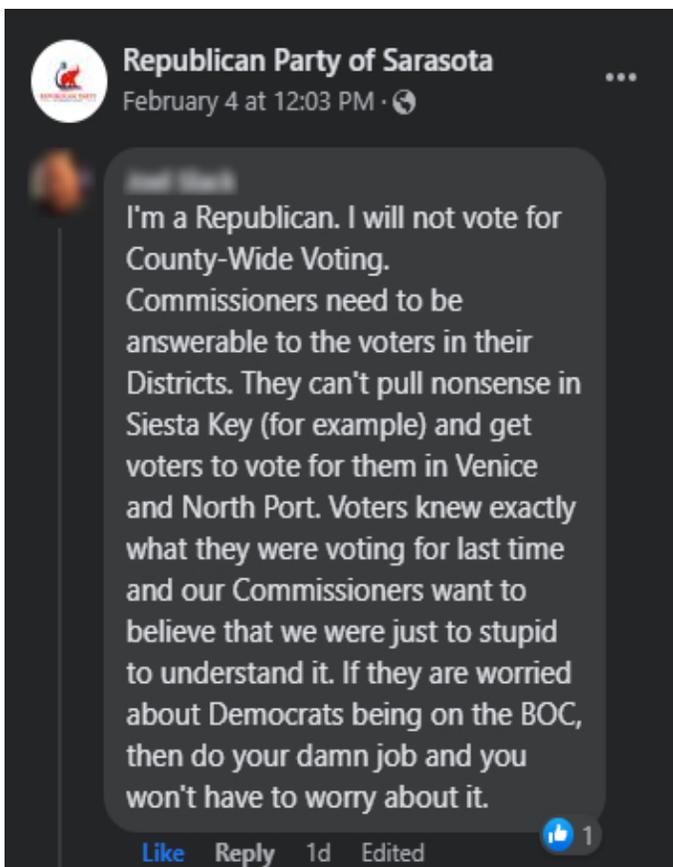
I will miss her being a part of the board, her hard work mixed with that Minnesota spunk simply cannot be replaced. But she is still going to be involved with the Club, she isn't going anywhere, and I don't think we would want it any other way.

So, Muriel, enjoy spending more time with Roger and your grandkids. You deserve to slow down; you have been making the rest of us look bad for far too long! Have fun watching your Vikings (even if I was raised by a Cheesehead and a Bears fan) and your continued involvement with the art alliance.

I am proud to call you a friend and a partner in crime. So, congrats on your "retirement", I think we can all agree we are better people for having you in our lives and may that never change.

With love,

Peter Imhoff,
EDC Member



Taken From the RPoS Facebook page.

Meet A Member, 1

Lenny Guckenheimer, Board Member at Large

I'm Lenny Guckenheimer and have joined Englewood Democratic Club and the communications team and will help build the Democratic presence in Englewood.

About me: Like most of us, I'm a transplant from somewhere else. I moved to Englewood (Charlotte County) with my wife, Carol, from Columbus, Ohio in 2002. We moved here to be closer to Carol's family and to enjoy the Gulf weather, sun, and beach. Sadly, Carol died two years ago. We were together for 43 years and married for 40 years. Her death was a shock and it took time for me to want to resume my life. But with help from family and friends, including my Democratic friends here, I am pulling through.

I have always been involved with community and at times in elections. Like most of us, I took politics and government for granted. I campaigned for Democrats and disliked the Republican agenda, but at least could accept that Republican politicians cared about civic and governmental institutions. They weren't going to burn the place down.

But came 2016 and Trump. I couldn't believe how he kept beating decent, competent candidates in the Republican primaries. The one Republican candidate I liked was John Kasich. In Ohio, Kasich was my congressman. I didn't care for him. He was very conservative, anti-abortion and had a brash and irritating style. But he was also principled and cared about people. As Ohio governor, he was one of a few Republican governors who expanded Medicaid in their states. He stated he expanded Medicaid because of compassion for those who needed the care. I would have voted for Kasich if he had a chance. But by the time of the Florida primary, it was all over and Kasich was out.

Like many others who were disturbed and fearful for how the elections were going, I became active with the Charlotte County Democrats. There was an influx of talented and highly motivated people who contributed to a revamped Charlotte County Democratic Party and Club. Among the changes were the new offices in Sunny Dell Plaza, the website, and newsletter. I helped with the website and newsletter and continue to contribute stories.

I've had a variety of jobs and worked in construction, reporter, tech support, substitute teacher, and Census Bureau field rep. A jack of all trades and a master of none. But I have had the opportunity to work with and become friends with people from a wide variety of backgrounds. I feel that I can relate to people and understand some of what their lives are like.

I find that Democrats have a hard time understanding and relating to the average working people. We are mostly financially successful, white, middle-class, and college-educated. Most of Charlotte County is working-class and not college-educated.

We have to find ways to meet and talk with the average voter while understanding their point-of-views.

We are frustrated because we have policies that will help their lives, yet they vote against Demo-



Lenny Guckenheimer

crats. We don't understand how they can vote against their own interests.

A stark example is the 2018 election. Amendment 4 (allowing ex-felons who completed their sentences to vote) handily won by a margin of 2.5 million votes. However, in the governor's race, Ron DeSantis, who openly opposed Amendment 4, beat Democratic candidate Andrew Gillum by only 33,000 votes, a margin of less than 1 percent. Out of the 5 million voters who voted "Yes" for Amendment 4, Democrats couldn't find a way to get another 33,000 more votes for Gillum.

The race for U. S. Senate was much tighter. Bill Nelson lost to Rick Scott by 10,000 votes. Imagine the U. S. and state political landscape if Nelson won and the Democrats would have now had a 51 seat majority. And if Gillum had won.

I am proud to say that during the 2018 election, Charlotte County Democrats campaigned hard for our candidates. Even though Charlotte County is a small county, we had candidates at local, state, and federal levels. The DEC and Club offices were beehives of activity. Among our major accomplishments was ["Politics in the Park"](#). We were able to get two governor and two agriculture commissioner candidates to speak.

We know that elections are decided by small margins. Our job is to talk with our neighbors and show them that we care about our communities, state, and country. We need to gain their trust to win their votes. Thankfully, more Democrats are continuing to step forward and get actively involved. I am glad to be part of that effort in Englewood and Charlotte County. Go Blue!!

Lenny Guckenheimer

Winner of the 2021 EDC Small Business Competition

MEMORY CARE SOLUTIONS, LLC

Caring for a family member who is suffering from dementia is difficult for the caregiver and the person suffering. Don't do it all alone!

Memory Care Solutions can provide healthcare management, dementia support and assessment and education as well as other services for seniors.

Memory Care Solutions, LLC, has worked as a community educator with the Alzheimer's Association as well as pro-bono services for individuals.

CALL 941-000-000 ♦♦♦ Email: MemoryCareSolutions@gmail.com

<http://www.MemoryCareSolutions@gmail.com>

Karn's Korner

“Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery. TODAY is a gift.”
Eleanor Roosevelt

Welcome to 2022!

A new year has arrived.

Today presents an opportunity to discard destructive old habits for healthy new ones.

Today presents an opportunity to do something positive to improve your health.

Today presents an opportunity to decide to be happy.

Today presents an opportunity to improve one's mind.

Today presents the opportunity to make a conscious effort to be agreeable.

Today presents the opportunity to do gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for your own actions.

Many of you will recognize that I incorporated portions of the original credo of Al-Anon in the beginning of this piece. Combined with the quote about TODAY by Eleanor Roosevelt, I decided what to write for Karn's Korner today for the January 2022 Englewood Democratic Club Newsletter. If every Democrat just did a little more, gave a little more and decided today to really become involved, what an opportunity we have to make some wonderful changes in our own community. If only each Democrat realized how close we are today to actually being able to get rid of Governor "Deathantis" and have a Democrat Governor who cares about the people

of Florida and not just his own future political aspirations, it could really happen.

Perhaps no Democrat has said it so aptly, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." President John F. Kennedy.

Our country needs help.

We all need to recognize we have an opportunity TODAY to help save our Democracy. Today is your gift to recognize the opportunity we have and to step up and help by making phone calls, being a precinct worker, for volunteering for our local Democrat, and local Democrat Clubs like the EDC, raise money for Democrats and so many for worthwhile Democrat activities.

TODAY is the gift we each have, and it is a real opportunity for change.

Each of us need to realize the gift and opportunity we all have and vow to do our part to turn Florida **BLUE**.

Karn Cunningham



Karn Cunningham
EDC Membership Chair

Meet a Member, 2

Hi, my name is Bob Allen and I'm a new member of the Democrat Club of Englewood and have volunteered to work on this newsletter. I'm originally from just north of Plymouth MA and can trace my ancestry back to the Mayflower, so I'm about as Anglo American as one can be. In '07 I moved to the SF Bay area of CA. A college buddy and I drove across the country to look for work in the tech sector. I remember being a little apprehensive moving to a place where my ethnicity was not the majority. After living there for 13 years, it was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I sure met a diverse array of people and cast out any negative dispersions I may have had about people from other cultures.

In every instance I was made to feel at home. From the drum circles in Berkeley, to living with Jewish, Black, Asian, Hispanic, and White roommates, I never felt the slightest bit of intolerance from any of them. I mention this because I have really began to sour when hearing all the Republican race baiting. Fox News has it's viewership believing their culture is under attack. When I was about 5 years old, I clearly remember my mother talking about the famine in Ethiopia. I remember saying to her, "Why don't they just come here"... "If I was starving, I would walk here if I had to". I can't get that out of my head when I think about people walking from places hundreds to even thousands of mile south of the border to come here for a better life. As mentioned, I've driven across the country, several times actually.

There is a whole lot of empty land between the Pacific and the Atlantic, and we should not be told to be so greedy with it. I highly frown upon anyone who would want to



Bob Allen

be so greedy with the American dream especially for those willing to risk and sacrifice so much. The 400+ years that Caucasians have been in America pails compared to the 10,000 year old human remains unearthed at warm mineral springs in North Port, we shouldn't act like we own the place.

In April of '20 My wife, two kids, and I moved to Venice to be closer to my aging parents who live in Englewood Isles. We noticed there are far more card carrying Trumpers here than CA. We have a neighbor two houses down that drove around with the Trump flag in the back of his truck. I saw online that he's not even a registered voter ;-D. I had another neighbor who is in real estate, tell me people are flocking here for the freedom. It made me think, and I came up with the following list:

Have you ever noticed that Republican "freedoms" come with a lot of pain and suffering?

Republicans feel free to force a 14-year-old rape victim to suffer by forcing her to have and care for her rapist baby.

Republicans feel free to allow kindergartens to be massacred, just as long as they can dress up like John Rambo and stand in

freedumb

noun

1 the belief that your personal freedom outweighs others' personal safety.

front of the mirror with their assault rifles pretending to be badasses.

Republicans feel free to not get a vaccine that could save their own lives as well as greatly stifling them from passing a deadly disease to their family, friends, and

strangers, causing them pain, suffering, and for many, death.

Republicans feel free to ban and burn books about the human condition that they find to be not so cozy and comfortable.



WELCOME to Mango Bistro!

Mango Bistro offers a variety of freshly made specialty foods in a fun atmosphere that includes a colorful decor, artful gifts and world music. We love to create foods that are as inventive as they are authentic. We specialize in combining fresh ingredients in flavorful ways, always looking out for optimum taste and freshness. Our menu includes grilled paninis, gourmet wraps, authentic French crêpes, heartwarming soups, garden fresh salads, healthy breakfasts, pure fruit smoothies, mouthwatering desserts and baked goods, hand-picked wines and beers and specialty coffee and teas.

301 W. Dearborn St. ♦ Englewood FL 34223 ♦ phone: 941-681-3500

Winner of the 2021 EDC Small Business Competition

Letter From a Member, Mike McCarter

Dear Englewood Democrats:

My wife and I are registered Democrats and, as 2013 immigrants to Englewood, signed up for membership in the Englewood chapter of the party.

We vote and, in the past, have been involved in politics and political campaigns, both non-partisan and partisan. Both of us are also retired attorneys, retired judges, parents, and life partners with a wide range of experience.

I am writing this because I have some suggestions for the local party, the state party and the national party. I make them to you, the local Democratic chapter, because I have no hope that anyone at the state or national level will read my individual letter. I have hope that the Englewood chapter can embrace and pass the suggestions upstream more effectively than I could as an individual.

MY SUGGESTIONS:

1. Democrat candidates for office and party organizations need to dump the daily and endless emails and texts with survey questions, which end with requests for donations, as well as the daily, sometime hourly, direct pleas for donations. Having given to and supported numerous candidates and party organizations, I am bombarded with such emails, messages and mail surveys. The messaging is over-the-top and counter-productive – they go into the trash and are a disincentive for me to give more.
2. The usual political ads do not work. I fast-forward through them whether Democrat or Republican. They are ineffective except to the true believers. What a waste of money!
3. There are more effective ways to persuade voters than the usual political commercials

and attacks. One way is to use SIMPLE editorial cartoons or messages that cut to the chase, and play them for 15 or 30 seconds with a simple statement Here are some recent examples of cartoons that I have come across that say it all:

Of course, you would need copyright permission to use them or would need to develop your own, but they send succinct and powerful messages. They could be accompanied by a simple message such as “Brought to you by responsible persons and the Democratic Party.”

4. Work on promoting the possible and stop wasting time on the impossible. It is okay to acknowledge the impossible as an ideal and ultimate goal but look realistically at smaller, incremental steps.
5. Focus on state and local elections and be pragmatic. The Republicans have been successful in taking over State and local offices by focusing on them. The Democrats need to do the same and to do so will need to appeal to the middle, moderate voters. If a district is non-competitive and predominantly Republican, consider switching party affiliation to Republican if your primary vote might elect a moderate, rationale Republican rather than an extremist Republican.
6. Get out the Vote and do so with regard to state restrictions: We can rail all we want about voting restrictions passed by Republican legislatures but, short of major and unlikely court victories or the elimination of the filibuster, we are going to have to muster the vote despite and in light of those restrictions. So, spend more time strategizing and implementing plans to do so instead of wasting time on surveys and asking me to send use-

less messages to Senators Manchin and Sinema.

7. Focus on the swing votes. Only a small percentage of voters decide elections. In my political science course in college, I was told that 5% of voters determine the outcome of elections, and recent elections would certainly lend credence to that estimate. Even a 1% swing will make a difference. With that in mind, here are some suggestions:

- a) Quit playing to the Progressives: The Progressives have some good ideas, but some of those ideas are not even palatable to me. In any event they are not going to garner a majority. So, start playing up the parts of the Progressive agenda that are less controversial and which have broader appeal; **de-emphasize or ignore** the rest. Again, focus on the possible not the ideal.
- b) The LGBTQ movement has achieved success, but the members of that class are a minority (10% - 15% at best?). I am an advocate of individual choice in these matters and have friends within that com-

munity. But, as a heterosexual, I find the frequency with which I encounter the focus of TV and movies, commentators and politicians on LGBTQ matters and relationships to be **over-the-top**. The inordinate focus on LGBTQ rights and relationships is something I believe is eroding support of some of those 5% of swing voters.

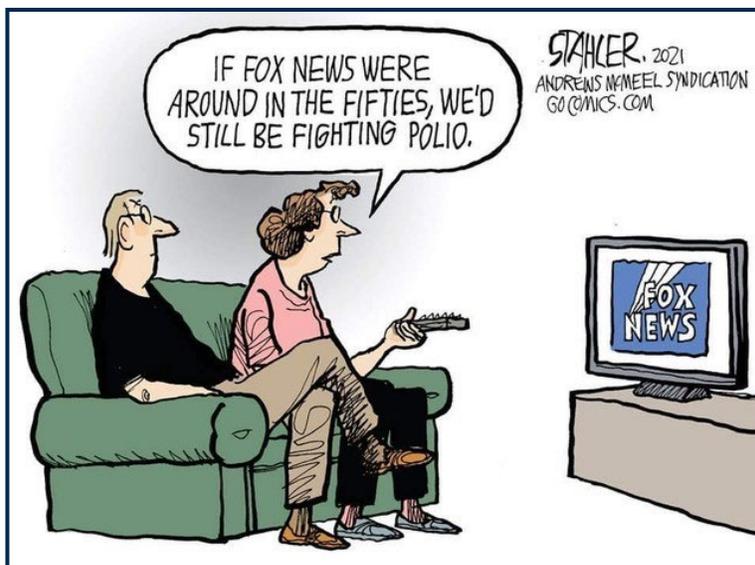
- c) **Picket Republican Officials** but do so peacefully and responsibly. Large crowds with picket signs make the news. The signs themselves make a difference and should be simple, on message and sarcastic. For example, vaccine and masking signs might say:

Bring back Smallpox, or
Polio is okay — why vaccinate? or,
Protect my freedom to infect you.

- 8. Spend money where it is meaningful and effective. Do not spend campaign funds on lost causes or the usual commercials and ads.

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,
Mike McCarter



Fred Carley Retires from the EDC Board



Fred Carley and Cyndi Carley

Our long time Board Member is retiring. When the Englewood Democratic Club was re-formed in 2018, we needed someone to represent Charlotte County and Fred eagerly agreed. Fred, together with his wife Cyndi, have consistently attended meetings and faithfully attended to its business. They are truly a team and will continue to be valued members.

Thank you, Fred and Cyndi.

Newsletter Info

The Englewood Democratic Club Newsletter was put together by Bob Allen, a new, terrific volunteer to help with the Newsletter, Karn Cunningham, Holly DeVogt, 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.



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 registered voter from any state of non-Democratic affiliation may join as an **Associate 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 (anyone registered to vote in a state other than FL OR any non-Dem registered voter in Florida) **\$20/year**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

BLUE COAST DONATION

\$ _____

MAIL CHECKS PAYABLE TO “EDC” AND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

EDC Membership
PO Box 2073
Englewood, FL 34295-2073

For further information, call (941) 270-3441