

CCDWC Highlights

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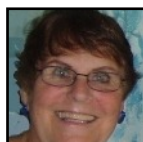
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DWC meets at 11 am, the 2nd
Monday of the month, at the
Charlotte County
Democratic Party Headquarters,
Schoolhouse Square
4300 Kings Highway, Suite 402,
Port Charlotte, FL 33980

www.ccdwc.com

President's message



**Judy
Schnabel,
President**

Charlotte County Democratic Women's Club hosted the Region VII quarterly meeting in early September. Twenty-one women and our male region treasurer, Shasha Taurke, attended the meeting.

In last month's issue we printed Sandra McClinton's farewell message. Sandra was elected 1st vice president of our statewide organization, DWCF, at the recent DWCF convention.

Betty Gissendanner is our new Region VII Chair. Betty also serves as 1st VP of the DWC of Charlotte County and serves as State Committee Woman of the Charlotte County DEC.

Nancy McCauley was presented the Sarasota County DWC charter at the convention. CONGRATULATIONS to Lee Bosserman who will serve as president of the DWC of Sarasota County. This has been a long time coming.

Mary Duda, president DWC of Manatee County, and Susie Johnson, Region VIII chair, reported on DWCF convention plans for 2017. Since Region VIII is a relatively small region, Region VII and VIII will host the 2017 convention. Mary reported the Hyatt in Sarasota has been chosen for the 2017 DWCF convention.



Judy Schnabel and Betty Gissendanner hang the banner before the meeting begins.

Region VII meets



You can always count on Lucy Garner to bring something sweet to the meeting.



(L) Lee Bosserman, president Sarasota County DWC, is greeted by Charlotte County's Barbara Muir.



Representing Lee County: (L) Lydia Lowell-Sherman, Patty Bigelow and Carolyn Helms.



Represented at the meeting were officers and DWC members from Collier, Lee, Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte. Susie Johnson, representing Region VIII also attended the meeting.

Region VII – Cont'd on p. 2

Make a positive impact with minimal effort



**Marilyn D.
Carpenter
Associate
Editor**

Earlier this month, I took action to help protect our beloved national parks by signing a petition to help prevent pollution in our parks. My action took less than five minutes and cost me nothing.

Everyone seems so overwhelmed with things to do even though most of us are retired. It is hard for many, including me, to find time to read a book, let alone take on a cause. Yet, we can do a lot to have an impact without taking much precious time away from reading a book, enjoying the pool or doing whatever the spirit moves.

The petition I signed came in an email from CREDO Action and asks Congress to stop bottled water companies from polluting our national parks. Because these bottles were the biggest source of pollution in the parks, in 2011, the sale of bottled water was banned in most park sites including the Grand Canyon and Mount Rushmore. To provide an alternative to the bottles, the sites sell refillable bottles for as little as \$3.29 and have numerous refilling stations throughout. Zion National Park alone reported that it "eliminated over 60,000 disposable bottles – 5,000 pounds of plastic – every year."

No surprise that the Republican Congress and big businesses such as Coca Cola and Nestle have pulled out the stops lobbying and spending money in efforts to slip an amendment into a spending bill to prevent the Park Service from banning plastic bottles.

So, I am asking you to go to the site "http://act.credoaction.com/sign/Parks_Water?" and sign the petition.

FYI: CREDO describes itself as "a social change organization that supports activism and funds progressive nonprofits —efforts made possible by the revenues from the mobile phone company, CREDO Mobile."

Note: Publix sells quite a selection of refillable water containers. I like the one that is glass on the inside with a heavy plastic shell on the outside, since I like to drink out of glass. My Tervis Tumbler bottle is another one of my favorites. They both are easy to clean with wide necks so you can wash the inside.

Deb Highsmith acts as guide for President Obama



In September, President Obama visited Kenai Fjords National Park in Seward, Alaska. The President was in Alaska to address the GLACIER Conference (Conference on Global Leadership in the Arctic). As part of his trip, the President toured Exit Glacier escorted here by Park Superintendent Bekki Lasell and Park Ranger Deb Highsmith (center) of Punta Gorda, Fla. and member of our DWC of Charlotte County. He also toured Resurrection Bay to view tidewater glaciers. The visit punctuated the Obama Administration's policies on climate change and provided a preview to the UN Climate Change Conference later this year. Photo credit: NYPost/Reuters.

Region VII –Cont'd from p. 1



Mary Bass (L) and Mary Duda, president Manatee Co. DWC arrive for the Region VII meeting.



Susie Johnson, Region VIII Chair, is greeted by Charlotte County DWC past president Mary Ellen Taylor.

thankyou,
Ginny Diehm for all the photos.

Fact checking

Do you ever read something or hear something from an acquaintance, or on Facebook that's just not believable? Listed below are some of the best sites for fact checking. Don't be gullible. If it seems unbelievable, it probably is. Speak up. Most Democrats have been quiet for far too long. Let your voice be heard.

Best sites for fact checking:

FactCheck.com

OpenSecrets.org

Snopes.com

Politifact.com

Truthorfiction.com

Hoaxslayer.com

If you use another fact checking site you would like to share, let us know.

judyschnabel@embarqmail.com or

justmarilyn@embarqmail.com

DWC Sept. meeting



Judy Schnabel, president, and Betty Gissendanner, 1st vice president, of DWC of Charlotte County present our September speaker, Bryan Bouton, with a certificate of appreciation.

Bryan Bouton is president of the Charlotte Florida Education Association. The CFEA represents most of the approximately 1,000 teachers in Charlotte County Public Schools.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR NEWEST MEMBER
Natalie Skrzyniarz who lives in
Punta Gorda. Her home state
is Massachusetts.**



DWC

October 12, 11 a.m.

Deb Highsmith, guest speaker.

Democratic Executive Committee

Monday, October 5, 7:00 p.m.

CCDC

**meets 2nd Saturday of each
month at 10:30 a.m. at Democratic
Party Headquarters**

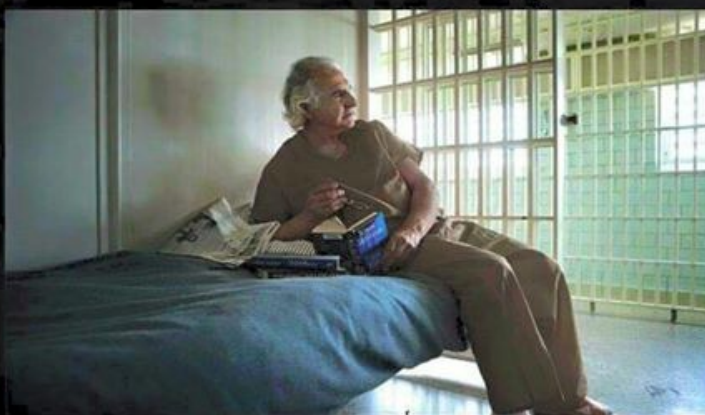
**Congratulations ,
Becky**



Becky Corvill (red shirt on left) was our DWC's 2015 scholarship winner. (Sorry for the photo bomber!) Becky is shown attending her first Democratic Club meeting at FAU. Not knowing exactly what the sign says in its entirety, it seems to say "When were the STUDENTS asked about GUYS on our campuses?" The sign, just guessing here, refers to the signs the young men in Virginia hung out at their college campus warning fathers about dropping their daughters off at their campus.

Congratulations to Becky and to our wonderful scholarship committee for picking another "winner!"

**Why is Bernie Madoff the only
Wall St. Criminal to face jail time?**



**Because he robbed the 1%,
not the 99%**

Nuclear non-proliferation – a different approach to disarmament



Preston Nieves

When the United States and the USSR entered a nuclear arms race, fears of Armageddon ran high. Though times have changed, with several arms reduction and test ban treaties in place, nations are modernizing their nuclear arsenals, and 4100 of the 15,700 existing warheads are operational ("Status of World Nuclear Forces - Federation of American Scientists." *Federation Of American Scientists*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Sept. 2015). Many advocate for nuclear disarmament, and understandably so. In the long run, it actually may not be a bad idea, depending on who you ask. But, the way we tend to go about it is backwards. Nuclear disarmament will not make the world more peaceful. Rather, it is a potential benefit that we could enjoy if peace is attained.

It is important to first understand why nuclear weapons are so hard to get rid of. The answer is knowledge. Even if we got rid of all nuclear weapons, it would be near impossible to make sure that nobody knows how they work or how to make them. One reason for this is that peaceful applications of the atom rely on the same technology as military ones. What separates weapons grade Uranium from reactor grade Uranium is that weapons grade Uranium is enriched to a higher grade (World Nuclear Association." *Uranium Enrichment*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Sept. 2015). Additionally, even low enriched Uranium could be used to make a dirty bomb (Terrorist 'dirty bomb' as Easy as Ever Due to Political Upheaval, Wider Nuclear Access." *RT English*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Sept. 2015.). Given that nuclear power is on the rise with over 60 reactors under construction in 15 countries (World Nuclear Association." *Plans for New Nuclear Reactors Worldwide*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Sept. 2015), this technology will only become more prevalent. Peaceful nuclear applications aside, any technology is nearly impossible to uninvent in the information age in which we live. Things such as the Internet have made sharing knowledge easier than ever, and many people seek knowledge for its own sake even if it could be dangerous in the wrong hands.

The only way there would be even a small chance of erasing this knowledge is if it is a collective worldwide effort, and this is where we start to see why nuclear disarmament, even if a desirable goal, is no way to make the world safer.

A lot of countries want to have nuclear weapons because of the security benefits they offer to both individual nations, and the world. Nuclear weapons prevent industrial scale conflicts through mutually assured destruction. Since a nuclear war would be incredibly destructive, no country dares to attack a nuclear power, and nations are reluctant to escalate conflicts. Nuclear weapons can also be used to mitigate conventional military disadvantages, allowing less developed, less advanced or otherwise vulnerable countries to protect themselves from stronger ones. This strategy was employed by Russia in the early 2000s amidst concerns of conventional military inferiority compared to NATO. (Profile for Russia | NTI." NTI: Nuclear Threat Initiative. N.p., Apr. 2015. Web. 11 Sept. 2015).

These benefits are what make it so hard to propose arms reduction. If every country disarmed at the same time then a world without nuclear weapons would be a reality. The problem is not all countries trust each other enough to take statements promising disarmament at face value. For example, the US and Russia determine their nuclear doctrine based on one another rather than their individual needs due to residual tensions from the cold war. If not for the sizable US and Russian arsenals, both countries could reduce their arsenals by a factor of ten. This, in turn, would pressure other nations into disarming as well (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists." *Science* 123.3189 (2015): 217-18. Web). Furthermore nations relying heavily on their nuclear deterrent due to inferior conventional capabilities are unlikely to sacrifice their ability to protect themselves.

DWCF convention highlights



Flavie Jean (left) and Betty Gissendanner carry the DWCF of Charlotte County banner in the banner parade. A banner parade of all DWCF clubs in the State of Florida takes place at each convention.



Elaine Vaccaro and Angie Pfister carry the banner for Collier County.



Lee County's banner is carried by Sandra McClinton, Beatrice Jacquet and Steve Sherman.



Mary Duda, president DWCF of Manatee, and Mary Bass carry the DWCF of Manatee County's banner.



DWCF President Dr. Maureen McKenna presents Betty Gissendanner with the DWCF Honorable Member Award for Helen Wrobbel at the 2015 DWCF Convention in Cocoa Beach, Fla.

Helen Wrobbel was nominated for this award by Betty. Helen passed away in 2014 but the date had passed for nominations in 2014. Betty insisted on the nomination being accepted in 2015.

In the background, a slide show highlighted many of Helen's activities and achievements throughout her wonderful life.



Everyone was lining up to have their photo taken with State Senator Dwight Bullard. Sen. Bullard serves on many committees, including Environmental Preservation and Conservation. In the last session, Sen. Bullard introduced legislation dealing with single-serve plastic bottles and single-use plastic bags, as they are an environmental concern in Florida also. Judy asked him about that particular legislation and he said it will be introduced again in the next session.

Betty Gissendanner and Judy Schnabel finally had their turn for a photo while many attendees were chanting "Governor Bullard!"

CCDC news

We signed up for Adopt-A-Road last spring and have done one clean up so far. Our street is Olean Blvd. from Kings Highway to Beacon Blvd. The County asked us to do an additional location. Any volunteers?

The Club has two fundraisers coming up: Game Day Saturday, October 17 from noon to 4. \$10 ticket includes dessert & coffee. Bring your own games or use ours. Lunch is available for a reasonable price from noon to 2. Tickets are available at the office. Bring address stickers to October DWCF meeting and bid on baskets.

Casino Trip Thursday, November 19. Cost is \$30 – includes light breakfast at Headquarters at 8 a.m. and \$5 off lunch buffet at Hard Rock Casino, Tampa. Reserve your seat now: [941.258.3542](tel:941.258.3542).

Birthday wishes

Happy Birthday wishes were sent out to the following DWCF members:

Aug.

Valarie Young
Nancy Razvoza
Janith Masteryarni
Mari Usera
Susan Williams

Sept.

Liz Cole
MaryHolly Allison
Marilyn Carpenter
JJ Juliano
Bonnie Rallo

Cont'd from p. 4

So the only way to eliminate nuclear weapons is to eliminate the need for them. Nuclear weapons are not what makes the world dangerous, rather they are tools that countries use to respond to danger through deterrence. For any further non-proliferation to be successful, the atmosphere of hostility and mistrust needs to be dealt with first. Whether nuclear disarmament is something beneficial is still a matter of debate. But if it ends up being a goal we decide to continue pursuing, we need to go about it the right way.



Democratic Women's Club of Charlotte County

DWCF Membership Application

New _____

Renewal _____

Please print (new members only). Members renewing their membership only need to fill out application if changes have occurred in your information.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone#s: () _____ () _____ () _____
(Home) (Cell) (Work)

Email: _____

Congressional District _____

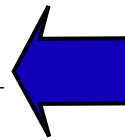
State Senate District: _____

State House District: _____

County Commission District: _____

Voter Registration #: _____

**No need to fill in this
portion if you are
Renewing your
membership.**



Required Information

I hereby certify that I am a member of the Democratic Party of Florida who supports active involvement and influence of citizens in politics and government affairs in my county, the State of Florida and the United States of America.

Signature

Date

Please make your check in the amount of \$25.00 payable to CCDWC and send to:

Mari Usera, 2nd Vice President,
Membership Chair
2325I McQueeney Ave.
Port Charlotte, FL 33980