

CCDWC Highlights

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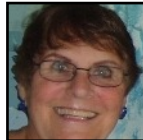
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DWC meets at 11 am, the 2nd
Monday of the month, at the
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Democratic Party Headquarters,
Schoolhouse Square
4300 Kings Highway, Suite 402,
Port Charlotte, FL 33980

Join us on Facebook. Our page is
updated multiple times each day.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Charlotte-County-Democratic-Women/249115885180880?fref=ts>

President's message



**Judy
Schnabel,
President**

Honoring the nine murdered in S.C.

I'm one of those people who has the TV tuned to MSNBC from the time I get up in the morning until I go to bed at night. I'm not watching most of the time but I'm certainly listening. Some people refer to me as a news junkie and that's OK.

After the events in Charleston, S.C. on June 17, for the next two days I felt I was attending a funeral. On Friday, June 19, I felt I couldn't take it anymore. We, as Democratic Women, had to do something to show our support for our friends in S.C. I phoned a friend, Dr. Martha Bireda, to see if there was a rally or something which our local DWC could support. By the end of the day I had not heard back from her so I decided we needed to take the bull by the horns and do our own thing. Time was slipping away.

Our Democratic Women's Club is very active in our community and we know many of our African-American leaders on a personal basis. At a recent Emancipation Day celebration, one of our members, Marilyn Carpenter, met one of the pastors of a local church.

When I heard the name Rev. Sharon Hobbs on TV, (local news) the name clicked with me immediately. I phoned Marilyn and suggested she try to get in touch with Rev. Hobbs and that we make a plan. You might say the rest is history. Rev. Hobbs invited us to worship with them on Sunday so Marilyn and I started sending out emails to everyone on our lists and urging our members to share the emails with their friends of like mind. We posted on FB and did everything in our power to get the word out since we didn't have a lot of time between then and Sunday morning.

Cont'd on p. 7 – President's Message

Victory in landmark court cases



**Sandra McClinton,
Region VII Chair**

Every once in a while, things happen in the high-court world that renews one's faith in the legal system, especially the conservative Supreme Court. The week of June 22, 2015, was that kind of week. This was the week that the United States Supreme Court amazed us with its historic decisions regarding marriage equality and healthcare subsidies. This is the week that will help President Obama be seen as a transformational president, who is shifting the country to center left.

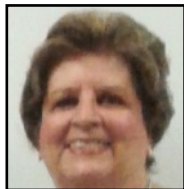
The 6-3 decision by the Supreme Court in the King v. Burwell case upholds subsidies already in place for those who purchase insurance under the Affordable Healthcare Act. The ruling holds that the Affordable Care Act authorized federal tax credits for eligible Americans living not only in states with their own exchanges but also in the 34 states with federal marketplaces. Chief Justice John Roberts joined Justice Anthony Kennedy and the four liberal justices. "Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them," Justice Roberts wrote in the majority opinion.

The 5-4 decision by the Supreme Court in the Obergefell v. Hodges case ensures that same sex marriage is legalized across all fifty states. This decision is in the top 21 most famous Supreme Court Decisions.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy delivered the majority opinion. The Court held that the "Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment guarantees the right to marry as one of the fundamental liberties it protects, and that analysis applies to same-sex couples in the same manner as it does to opposite-sex couples."

We applaud the Supreme Court for making these courageous and practical decisions. These were major decisions that will protect President Obama's legacy, insure that millions of people can afford health insurance, and liberate millions to marry those whom they love.

Hillary supporters in Charlotte County



Dr. Lucy Garner

On June 13th, 2015, a group of motivated and enthusiastic supporters of presidential candidate Hillary Clinton congregated locally for a "Hillary House Party." We were able to get to know each attendee, to have fun and to begin building up our local campaign season for Hillary Clinton from the ground up. We were fortunate to listen directly to our "Champion" via an exclusive TV live stream, from a house party being conducted in Iowa. Hillary's speech was well received by all attendees who received an extra dose of campaign motivation and optimism. Hillary Clinton wants to and is ready to be our "Champion" every step of the way and we are ready for her.

We are reaching out for additional supporters for Hillary's campaign. Locally, a "Team Hillary" was formed in Charlotte County. It consist of : Lucy Huyke Garner, Mary Ellen Taylor, Judy Schnabel and Nancy Razvoza. Our purpose is to sign up supporters and lead them in our community. Sandy Ducane has been hired as a Regional Director in Florida for Hillary for America. His energy is contagious in organizing Hillary's volunteers.

We need your support to continue moving forward for a successful campaign to elect Hillary Rodham Clinton as our 45th President of the USA. We all can make a positive difference in this presidential campaign with our actions and our voices.

Contact one of the above named members of the local "Team Hillary" to sign up or visit : Hillaryclinton.com to sign up as a volunteer. More information on page 5.

And the winner is --

By Naomi Pringle



Every season the arts awards come around: The Oscars, The Golden Globes, The Screen Actors Guild, The Tony's etc. Nominees get all glammed up and come to awards night. They hold their breaths waiting to hear their name called out: "The winner is...." An equally glammed up fellow actor announces from the stage---so and so. The camera quickly pans the audience for the winner among the nominees and soon settles on the faces of the losers who smile broadly. They applaud and shed no tears. Then later the losers smile to reporters and say: "Oh, it was just an honor to be nominated; I'm so thrilled for...Meryl."

Well, ever since I was a kid my sister wanted to be an actor and I wanted to be a writer. We wrote plays together and she performed for my parents and me. After our parents gushed, my sister took a bow. Then she pretended she was at the Academy Awards making her acceptance speech. She thanked her agent and manager and most of all her family---me especially for my fine writing---we were thrilled. Years later, when my sister, Joan, really did win an award: the NAACP Image Award for her work on the *White Shadow*, she got up and thank our family.

Last month my novel, *Lily Riding the Color Line* was nominated for a Phillis Wheatley Book Award for fiction. Wheatley was the first African American

female poet to be published in the United States. She was born in Senegal and taken to Boston in a slave ship. The Wheatleys who purchased her, encouraged her to read and write. She studied Latin and Greek. She was later recognized internationally for her volumes of poetry.

I wanted to win that award with her name on it.

By now I guess you have figured out that I did not win. One of eleven nominees, I did not make the final cut. I did shed some tears, but not in front of any cameras. In his consolation to me, my publisher, James Abraham, quoted Ecclesiastes 9:11.

The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happened to them all.

This summer I will attend the Harlem Book Fair which recognizes the nominees for the Wheatley Book Awards and names the category winners. I will sell my books at the fair and applaud the fiction winner.

I am proud to be a nominee. I get a chance to go home to New York, see my old house where my sister and I performed and I will renew some special friendships- folks who always encouraged me to keep writing.

Naomi Pringle, a former broadcast journalist at WABC in NYC is the author of *Ginga' Root Tea, an American Journey* and *Lily: Riding the Color Line*.

The road from Selma to Montgomery

By Nancy C. Turner

A large number of individuals reading this newsletter have taken the time to put together a "Bucket List" of things to do and places to visit in their lifetime. I am now able to cross off one of the places to visit that appeared high on my Bucket List. I have just returned from traveling a portion of the Black History Trail in Alabama.

Fifty years ago I was a young adult of twenty-one and very involved in the United Methodist Church. It was a time when the church was working hard to change the voting laws for the people and to pursue our commitment to racial justice. At that time I was not able to respond to the call to go to Selma, but I have regretted that decision over the years.

With 2015 being the 50th Anniversary of the march from Selma to Montgomery I made it a priority to fulfill my dream of making my pilgrimage to these cities. It is hard to describe the feelings that rushed over me as I approached the east side of the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Route 80. I pulled off the road into the Civil Rights Memorial Park before crossing over the bridge for the first time. I needed to rest and gather my thoughts because I knew that I was about to have an incredible overwhelming experience of sadness. I looked up from the base of the bridge and observed a large steel structure of squares with only a yellow vertical clearance sign and the name "Edmund Pettus Bridge" showing. This is the side of the bridge where the State and local law enforcement officers waited and began their attack on Bloody Sunday and Turn-Back Tuesday. I knew that it was now time to make the drive across the Pettus Bridge to begin my visit of Selma. The first stop was the Selma Interpretative Center (Welcome Center to the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail). There I was able to view videos, exhibits and browse through a small gift shop. There are plans to expand this Interpretative Center to include the second and third floors of this historic building located at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The Center is owned by the City of Selma and is staffed by the National Park Service.

Selma does not look much different from what it must have looked like back in 1965. Like a lot of downtown communities, there are beautiful old brick and concrete buildings that are unoccupied and in need of some TLC. However, I did see signs of renewal and trust that more individuals and families will make their trip to Selma and visit the National Park Service Interpretative Center. A large sign covers one beautiful white stone brick building with the words "Honor the Past Build the Future". This building will be the home of a new youth center.

It was now time for me to make my walk across

the famous Edmund Pettus Bridge. I wish that the bridge carried another name but only the future will hold the answer to that. It was a hot day and the bridge is built with an incline on both sides spanning over the Alabama River. How emotional this walk became for me. I could see the hundreds of individuals on the west side of the bridge walking arm-in-arm looking straight ahead being brave but knowing that they had to have been scared. I could see the other side of the bridge where ignorance and hate lived within the souls of those individuals ready to beat and kill anyone in their way. I actually walked this bridge twice while visiting Selma. Each time grief and sadness entered my heart.

After visiting Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, the site of the attack on Rev. James Reeb, and other historical sites, it was time for me to head to Montgomery. Route 80 is a National Scenic Byway and a beautiful drive with historical markers along the way spelling out the history of this famous March. There are markers indicating the four campsites used each evening as well as a memorial indicating the site where Viola Liuzzo was shot and killed by Klansmen. Approximately half-way across the route is the new Lowndes Interpretive Center built on the land of what was known as Tent City. Here, I was able to listen to voices of the March, view videos, and experience interactive exhibits.

I did not walk to Montgomery but with each mile I drove, I reflected on the courage, strength and commitment that enabled the original participants to complete such an incredible walk. Footwear in 1965 did not include the comfort of Niki, New Balance, or Skechers. It could not have been easy to complete this pilgrimage when rain soaked your body and flooded the roadways. I arrived in Montgomery, parked my motorhome and visited the Information Center located at the historic Union Station. From there I walked up Dexter Avenue to the Alabama State Capitol building. If you have never been to the Capitol building in Montgomery, you need to know that the approach is all up hill. For those of us who live in Florida, we don't get the opportunity to walk up hill very often. I can just imagine the extra spurt of energy the marches experienced once they saw the large white dome of the Capitol. It truly was an "up-hill" battle for those participants, but a peaceful one. Twenty-five thousand plus people were there to greet the marches. I kept my eye on the dome as I completed my final steps in a journey that took 50 years. I encourage each of you to make a road trip to Selma, Alabama and drive the 54 miles to Montgomery. Your life will be enriched as you learn the history of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March.

Great God Almighty, the truth is free at last

By Kay Kendall



Kay Kendall is Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions at St. Catherine

University. These are Kay's words as posted on I Am A Liberal Facebook page. She gave us permission to reprint her post.

"We wept recently as we watched a video of President Obama's eulogy of State Senator and Pastor Clementa Pinckney. The magnitude of this historic moment was not lost on either of us - two people who have worked and yearned for social justice for a lifetime. We have had our hearts broken so many times... the assassinations of MLK, JFK and his brother; the defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment for women; the shameful discrediting of Anita Hill when Clarence Thomas was confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice, and more. Each of these sad milestones made time stand still and our collective pain and disappointment, poignant.

Recently we witnessed a genuine victory for love, courage, and justice in our complicated world - a world, so deeply divided by fear and hatred, but with such phenomenal potential. When he sang, the President defied any threat of a political

twisting of his words, motives, or values. He sang from the heart - a grateful and brilliant black man who understands his unique place in history and now has found the courage to rise to his destiny.

Mr. Obama displayed, for all to see, the full measure of the leadership we have been so sorely in need of. His uncensored words, his emphatic demeanor, and his courage in speaking truth to this deep national, institutionalized tragedy brought us to tears. Finally, he used his presidential power fearlessly to convey what he really thinks, knows, and believes, without fear of political blackmail or character assassination.

The President is not a preacher and neither am I. I'm not writing this in hopes of convincing you to think, act, or believe as I do. I am writing this to document a watershed moment in our national cultural evolution and to acknowledge my privilege in witnessing it.

Like the iconic speeches, "I Have A Dream" by Dr. Martin Luther King and "Ask Not..." by President John F. Kennedy, I can see President Obama's words that day being immortalized as the "Amazing Grace" speech in which he claimed his authentic voice. Free at last. Free at last. Great God Almighty, the Truth is free at last."

Scholarship winner

Rebecca Corvil, "Becky" was selected as the DWC Scholarship recipient for 2015. She attended our June meeting and was presented with a \$1,000.00 check. She is quite poised and articulate and was very comfortable mingling with members and guests.

Rebecca is a graduate of Port Charlotte High School where she had a distinguished career. Throughout the past 4 years Ms. Corvil has been involved in Drama Club, Beta Club, FCA, and Executive Internship courses. As a senior this past year, she was inducted into PCHS Senior Hall of Fame.

"I have a very charismatic, persevering personality. My fellow classmates voted me 'Most Theatrical,'" stated Ms. Corvil.

Her parents came to the United States from Haiti. They were determined to give their children a greater chance at education than they had. From a young age, they have taught Rebecca that success requires things such as hard work, dedication, and passion. She also benefited from the Take Stock in Children Program with a supportive mentor.

She is very proud of her accomplishments and is proud to be a registered Democrat. We wish her the very best as she heads to Florida Atlantic University where she plans to major in "communications".

The Scholarship Committee plans to keep in touch with her and looks forward to having her again visit with us at a future meeting of the DWC.



Becky is pictured with two members of the DWC Scholarship Committee - MaryHolly Allison, left and Lucy Garner right. Two members, Rae Denison and Mary Ellen Taylor were out of state the day of the presentation.

DWC Happenings



Allen Ellison, Congressional Candidate, (C.D. 17) was the featured speaker at our DWC June meeting.



Allen took time to pose with several of the members for a group shot.



Allen pictured with Naomi Pringle (center) DWC corresponding secretary and Mari Usera, DWC 2nd Vice President, membership chair.

Lucy Garner hosted her first Hillary House Party For Charlotte County Hillary supporters



Lucy Garner's "Hillary House Party" was quite a success. Pictured above are Charlotte County Democratic men and women who are ready for Hillary.

While we understand local DWCs cannot endorse any candidate before the primary (if the candidate has opposition) we can support the candidate of our choice on a personal basis.

You're invited to a **"Pizza Party for Hillary"** at Luigi's Restaurant to be held Saturday, August 15 from 3 to 6 p.m. The first 30 attendees will get a free slice of pizza and a free drink. We will keep you up to date with news on her campaign and we'll be signing up volunteers. Come on out to 3883 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL. Call Nancy at [941-743-0871](tel:941-743-0871) for more information.



Badges are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00.

Badges are laminated and have magnets for attaching them to your clothing – no more pins to ruin your favorite jacket.



These hand-made fused-glass pendants have an adjustable blue cord, 16 - 18". Each pendant is signed by the artist. \$15.00 each.

Badges and pendants are for sale at the Democratic Party Headquarters.

The South Carolina Shooting: Hate crime or racist terrorism?



Preston Nieves

Recently tragedy struck in Charleston, South Carolina. A gunman opened fire on a group of innocent people while they were at church. The NY Times reported that hate crime charges are likely to be filed in the case.¹ However not everyone agrees on exactly what to call this horrific incident. According to the Washington Post Hillary Clinton called the shooter's crime "an act of racist terrorism."⁶ While this may seem strange at first when one really thinks about it this statement starts to make sense. Perhaps the question we should be asking, in addition to what can be done to prevent these tragedies, is; was the gunman a terrorist?

To find the answer we need to look at a similar "terrorist" attack. Take the Charlie Hebdo attack for example. While the attacks are far from identical they have some key similarities; one being that both were mass shootings rather than bombings. To truly determine whether or not it is logical to call this a terrorist attack we need a definition of terrorism. US law defines terrorism as behaviors that "involve acts dangerous to human life that violate federal or state law" and "appear to be intended (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping."³ It is sections (i) and (ii) that are the most intriguing. While the gunman did not appear to be inspired by a "terrorist organization" like ISIS or Al Qaeda, the attack did exhibit characteristics which pointed to an intention to intimidate a segment of the population. Now obviously he did not intend to intimidate the ENTIRE civilian population (just races he disliked), but keeping in mind the fact that Mrs. Clinton referred to the act as "racist terrorism" his actions could still seem to fall into this sub-category of terrorism.

Yet signs pointing towards political motivations are perhaps the strongest pieces of evidence a person accusing the gunman of being a terrorist can use. Much of the controversy sparked by the shooting

has to do with the Confederate flag, and photos of him posing with it. The issue with this is that it being the flag of the Confederacy makes it a political symbol, similar to how the Swastika was a symbol for Nazi Germany. But it goes beyond there. According to NPR, Dylan Roof supported segregation⁴. Since segregation was a policy in the United States before the civil rights movement, promoting it counts as being politically motivated. Could he have been trying to influence government policy through intimidation? If so the shooting in South Carolina might have been terrorism.

However I am not going to say for sure whether or not he was a terrorist because this discussion is most significant in that the debate reveals the extent to which racism and other forms of discrimination are present in our country, as well as flaws in the common idea of what a terrorist is. One thing to consider is what would people be calling this attack if he were Middle Eastern instead of white, or if he claimed to be Muslim rather than a White supremacist? The chances are they would point towards terrorism, and an article by RT supports this when quoting Abdul Cader Asmal, a longtime spokesman for Boston's Muslim community, as saying (in reference to terrorist activity). *"With non-Muslims, the media bends over backward to identify some psychological traits that may have pushed them over the edge," "Whereas if it's a Muslim, the assumption is that they must have done it because of their religion." While it is clear that this attack exposes the degree to which racist mindsets still exist against African Americans, the fact that the gunman committed a similar crime as the Charlie Hebdo "terrorists" (whom are considered to be radical Muslims) and was not viewed to be a terrorist as they were, demonstrated that our preconceived idea of what terrorism is has not only racially motivated bias, but also religiously motivated bias.*

So by our current definition, the gunman could be considered a terrorist. However, this event, and the fact that similar cases have been called terrorism while it is often not, sheds light on the extent to which discrimination still exists. So is he a "Racist Terrorist"? Perhaps the most important thing we need to focus on is to continue marching forward, towards a

brighter future where racism and discrimination become things of the past.

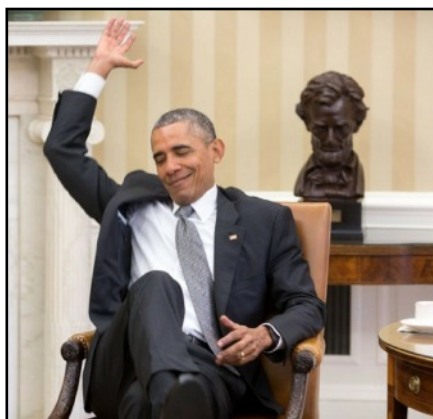
If you are reading the newsletter on your computer, the links below are all hotlinks.

- 1) Apuzzo, Matt, Michael S. Schmidt, and Richard PÉrez-peÑa. "Federal Hate Crime Charges Likely in South Carolina Church Shooting." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 24 June 2015. Web. 29 June 2015.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/25/us/campaign-to-remove-confederate-symbols-from-public-lands-builds.html?_r=0

- 2) Rayner, Gordon. "Charlie Hebdo Attack: France's Worst Terrorist Attack in a Generation Leaves 12 Dead." *The Telegraph*. Telegraph Media Group, n.d. Web. 29 June 2015.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11331902/Charlie-Hebdo-attack-Frances-worst-terrorist-attack-in-a-generation-leaves-12-dead.html>
- 3) FBI. FBI. 20 Aug. 2013. Web. 29 June 2015.
<https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/terrorism/terrorism-definition>
- 4) "Photos Of Dylann Roof, Racist Manifesto Surface On Website." *NPR*. NPR, n.d. Web. 29 June 2015.
<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/06/20/416024920/photos-possible-manifesto-of-dylann-roof-surface-on-website>
- 5) "Right-wing Terrorists Twice as Likely to Kill Americans than Muslim Jihadists Are â Report." - *RT USA*. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 June 2015.
<http://rt.com/usa/269506-american-terrorist-attacks-study/>
- 6) "Hillary Clinton: Charleston Shooting 'an Act of Racist Terrorism'." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, n.d. Web. 29 June 2015.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2015/06/23/hillary-clinton-takes-her-message-of-ra->

Recent events show elections do matter



White House photographer Pete Souza captured this photo of President Obama when the SCOTUS ruling came down on the Affordable Care Act.

While much has been said about two of the recent SCOTUS rulings, regarding Marriage Equality and the Affordable Care Act, several other rulings have been made which have not received a lot of publicity.

Fair Housing

In [Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project](#), the court decided that plaintiffs suing under the Fair Housing Act of 1968 must prove intentional discrimination or merely that the challenged practice has produced a “disparate impact.”

The case was brought by a Texas group that helps mostly lower income black families find housing in the Dallas suburbs, which are mostly white. The families use housing vouchers, but not all landlords accept them. Landlords receiving federal low-income tax credits, however, are

New Members

Congratulations to our new members so far this year:

Percy Angelo
JoAnne Burch
Val Cooper
Kimmie (KIM) Correll
Alice D’Anna
Christine Green
Deb Highsmith
Karyl Katz
Laurie Ulrop

required to accept the vouchers, and a disproportionate share of the tax credits goes to landlords in minority

Execution drugs

The Supreme Court ruled against three death row inmates who had sought to bar the use of an execution drug they said risked causing excruciating pain. In the process, two dissenting members of the court — Justices Stephen G. Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg — came very close to announcing that they were ready to rule the death penalty unconstitutional. This gave rise to slashing debate with Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas about the reliability and effectiveness of the punishment, a dispute that overshadowed the core issue in the case.

The 5-to-4 decision on the execution drug broke along familiar lines, with Justice Anthony M. Kennedy joining the court’s more conservative members to allow its use.

Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr., writing for the majority, said the inmates had failed to identify an available and preferable method of execution and failed to make the case that the challenged drug entailed a substantial risk of severe pain.

Texas Abortion Clinics

The Supreme Court also acted to keep Texas’ 19 abortion clinics open, amid a legal fight that threatens to close more than half of them.

The justices voted 5-4 to grant an emergency appeal from the clinics after a federal appeals court upheld new clinic regulations and refused to keep them on hold while the clinics appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court order will remain in effect at least until the court decides whether to hear the clinics’ appeal of the lower court ruling, not before the fall. The court’s decision to block the regulations is a strong indication that the justices will hear the full appeal, which could be the biggest abortion case at the Supreme Court in nearly 25 years.

**Display and Layout
By
Judy Schnabel**

Arizona redistricting law upheld

The Supreme Court ruled that an independent commission created by Arizona voters to draw congressional and state legislative districts is constitutional. If the court had struck down AZ’s commission, it would have made it much harder for states to find ways to stop partisan lawmakers from drawing districts in a way that benefits their party.

By 5-4, the justices ruled that the Constitution does not necessarily bar states from cutting their legislatures out of the redistricting process. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote the majority opinion and was joined by Justices Kennedy, Breyer, Kagan and Sotomayor. Chief Justice Roberts, as well as Justices Scalia, Thomas, and Alito dissented.

Worth noting

Special thank you to Susan Williams for her contributions of stamps.

Condolences to DWCF President Dr. Maureen McKenna on the loss of her father.

Get well wishes to Charlotte County Democratic Party Chair Valerie Guenther. We wish her a speedy recovery after her recent surgery.

Cont’d from p.1 President’s Message

About 12 members wrote me back saying they would be there. Twelve people showing up would be good, we thought. Marilyn and I rode to the church together and when we pulled up to the church, people seemed to be coming from all directions. It looked like bees coming from their hives.

As we entered the church, we were so proud to see so many of our friends and DWC members already seated in the church and then we watched as others entered the church. A plan did come together!

2015 marks 50th anniversary of passage of voting rights legislation

"Selma" was the movie shown at June's fourth Thursday Women Against Racism and Discrimination (WAR&D) movie night. Many in the audience were alive when the marchers coming over the Edmund Pettus Bridge were met with brutality. As with many tragedies, until the tragedy is brought into our living room via TV or other means, we are pretty much removed from the incidents. Tens of thousands of people gathered in Selma, Ala., recently to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a turning point in the American Civil Rights movement. Activists hoped to use the moment to turn the spotlight back on voting rights issues in the USA.

President Obama visited the Edmund Pettus Bridge and joined living foot soldiers of the civil rights movement at the landmark. The bridge is where hundreds of peaceful protesters were brutally beaten on "Bloody Sunday" as they sought to end discriminatory tactics — such as poll taxes and arbitrary literacy tests — used by white officials to prevent African Americans from voting.

The protesters of Selma ultimately prevailed and helped usher in the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

But, since those voting rights were passed, we are now seeing sweeping erosions of voting rights that affect minority communities disproportionately. Several states have passed more stringent voter ID rules after the Supreme Court in 2013 struck down a key provision of the landmark legislation that was born via the blood and sweat of the Selma protesters.

With the 5-4 Supreme Court ruling, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that the Voting Rights Act formula used to determine which parts of the country would need federal approval — known as pre clearance — to change their voting procedures was outdated. The court instructed Congress to write a new formula that was reflective of current conditions, but Congress has yet to act.

Since the court ruling, legislatures — including those in North Carolina, North

Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin — have passed measures that require voter ID or proof of citizenship and have reduced early voting days and poll locations.

"We're celebrating something that has been neutered," said James Perkins, who was elected as Selma's first African-American mayor nearly 25 years after the Voting Rights Act was passed. "That is exactly what it feels like. You've kicked the teeth out of a lion."

"We have witnessed over the last few years, the worst assault on voting rights since the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965," said the Rev. Raphael Warnock, who leads the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. "We've seen a parade of politicians make their way to Selma. Our message to those politicians is that you cannot celebrate the lessons of history while sitting on the wrong side of history."

President Obama hit on the voting rights theme when he spoke recently at Selma. He has paid homage to the civil rights era leaders before, noting that his path to the Oval Office would not have been possible had it not been for the work done by activists like the Rev. Martin Luther King, Rep. John Lewis and the Rev. C.T. Vivian who stood their ground at Selma.

Alabama state Sen. Hank Sanders, a Democrat who represents Selma, said it's critical for people to keep in mind the blood that was shed 50 years ago as they continue the current fights on voting rights. "It's really good to commemorate and celebrate, but the most important thing for me is to come out of this commemoration determined to restore the Voting Rights Act and to stop the attacks on voting rights," Sanders said.

Did you know there are many states where you can use your concealed handgun license to vote, but not your student I.D.? A federal judge in Texas had previously struck down this law, arguing that it could disenfranchise 600,000 voters or a full 4.5 percent of registered voters, many of them black and Latino. However, the Supreme Court allowed Texas to go forward with this controversial voter ID law.

Many say voter ID laws, especially the one in Texas, amount to voter suppression, because it can be both difficult and costly to get the required identification.

You might ask yourself about the 80 or 90-year old senior who's now in assisted living facility, where's your ID?

You may have read about a judge in Texas (where else?) who was not allowed to vote. She was registered using her maiden name, along with her married name but her driver's license which she used as her ID, did not have her maiden name, along with her married name — only her first name and her married last name.

From AARP Bulletin

The midwife at the 1949 home birth in rural South Carolina delivered a healthy baby girl but didn't file a birth certificate. Donna Jean Suggs grew up, got a Social Security card and found work as a home health aide. Try as she might, though, she couldn't get a birth certificate. That meant she couldn't get a driver's license or register to vote.

- **Requires a photo ID:** Ga., Ind., Kan., Miss.*, S.C.*, Tenn.
- **Requests a photo ID:** Ala.*, Fla., Hawaii, Idaho, La., Mich., Pa.**, Puerto Rico, S.D.
- **Requires a non-photo ID:** Alaska, Ariz., Colo., Conn., Del., Ky., Mo., Mont., N.D., Ohio, Okla., R.I., Texas***, Utah, Va., Wash.
- **Does not require an ID:** Calif., D.C., Guam, Ill., Iowa, Maine, Md., Mass., Minn., Neb., Nev., N.H., N.J., N.M., N.Y., N.C., Ore., U.S. Virgin Islands, Vt., W.Va., Wis.***, Wyo.

* Will require U.S. Department of Justice approval.

** Pending possible appeal to state supreme court.

*** Court has barred enforcement of law requiring photo ID; state is appealing decision.

Fact checking sites

Do you ever read something or hear something from an acquaintance 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.

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

NOTE: We've been asked to publish this list in each newsletter. If you have a site to add, please let us know.

Join us

Our tour of the children's hospital will take place of our regular DWC membership meeting on Monday, July, 2015. We are all systems go for the July 13th tour of the children's hospital. The tour is scheduled to start at 1:00 pm, and we will meet in the lobby of Healthpark Medical Center (9981 S. Healthpark Drive, Fort Myers). As of today, nine others will be joining us from Lee County DWC.

I did a mapquest from my house (200 Madrid Blvd., in P.G) to 9982 S. Healthpark Drive and it takes about 46 minutes. It doesn't matter that much whether you take I-75 or 41. That's your choice, or your GPS' choice.

Betty Gissendanner will be the point person for those meeting/carpooling from Port Charlotte. Please let Betty know if you plan to join us and will meet up at the Democratic Party Headquarters. If you leave around 11:45 that should be plenty of time. Betty may decide otherwise. If you plan to join us on Monday, July 13, please contact her so she knows when all have arrived at hqtrs.

We will also have a staging site in P.G. for those south of the river, if you wish. We can gather in Punta Gorda. We should be at the Punta Gorda location at noon. Judy Schnabel will be the point person for Punta Gorda. The same request applies about notifying her if you plan to go. We do not want to be waiting for people who are not coming. The PG staging area has a large driveway so there's plenty of room to leave your car. Betty's and Judy's information is on page one of the newsletter.



DWC
July 13
Field trip to Ft. Myers

Democratic Executive Committee
Monday, July 6, 6 p.m.

CCDC
No meetings during summer months

Will it be Harriett?

America has spoken, loud and clear. They want Harriet Tubman to be the face of our \$20 bill.

Right now, our currency is very male and very white. A grassroots campaign called [Women on 20s](#) hopes to change that, and started an online petition to replace Andrew Jackson on the twenty.

Women on 20s held two rounds of voting. After the first round, there were four finalists: Tubman, Wilma Mankiller, Eleanor Roosevelt and Rosa Parks. All extraordinary women, not just in their time, but in history.

DWCF Convention

The DWCF Annual Convention is an event that you do not want to miss! Each year, a different DWCF Region sponsors this exciting event to bring top-notch speakers, workshops and fun activities to be enjoyed by delegates from all of the DWCF Clubs.

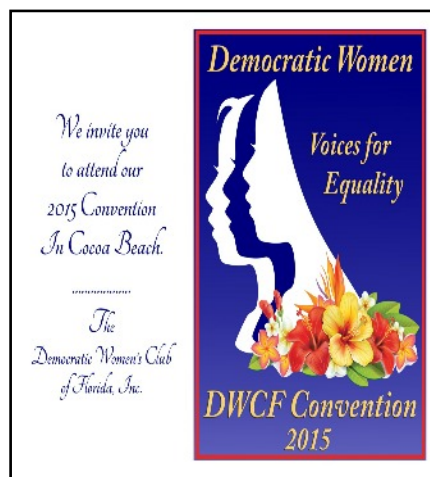
If you are a member, you can attend this annual event and meet and enjoy the company of other DWCF members from across Florida.

When: September 17, 2015 through September 20, 2015

Venue: Hilton Cocoa Beach

Where: Cocoa Beach, FL

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!



Thank you, Dems

Democrats are busy people. A group from the Charlotte County Democratic Club cleaned up trash on Olean Blvd. Monday, June 22. Look for the sign on the corner of Olean and Vessels St. It proudly states "Adopt-A-Road Program - Democratic Party of Charlotte County." We will be asking for help every now and then with this project. If you would like to participate, call Nancy at [941-743-0871](tel:941-743-0871). We may have a second road to clean up as part of "Keep Charlotte Beautiful."



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 _____

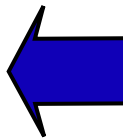
State Senate District: _____

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