



## ***From the President's Desk***

*By Rich Piper*

Having already established a sorry record as the party of greed and hatred, the Republican Party has now added to it a record of almost unbelievable irresponsibility in the battle over the budget and the debt limit.

Of course, the greed of the Republicans' paymasters (Koch Brothers, Rupert Murdoch, an array of rapacious Wall Street and oil company executives) remains central to the Republican leaders' actions in Washington and the state capitals. Though much of the mass media has chosen to frame the debt and budget issues as big government versus small government, the central issues are really the continuing war on the middle class that the Republican leaders are waging, activated by the greed of those among the top one or two per cent of our population who fund the G.O.P.

The Republicans' demands for massive cuts and privatization of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid would ruin the lives of millions of Americans, in order to allow the top one or two per cent of the population to retain the Bush tax cuts and tax loopholes that have enriched them at others' expense and created most of the current economic mess. In addition, the Republican leaders have done the bidding of the most retrograde, polluting industries in the country by seeking repeatedly to eviscerate environmental protections in the current laws and to despoil the air that we breathe, the water that we drink and the outdoors that we enjoy.

Unfortunately, an appeal to hatred also remains an integral component of many Republican leaders' behavior. All too often, Republican politicians seek to scapegoat gays, Muslims, Latinos, African Americans and other minorities in attempt to appeal to fears in the rest of the population. ("Your marriage is threatened by legalizing gay marriage," is an example. Ask the Republican leaders how and why, and they have no clear answers.) Since most of the public find little to support in the Republicans' efforts to wreck Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, these appeals to hatred represent an effort by the Republican leaders to win votes on other grounds. Despicable!

In addition to the greed and hatred that have been evident over recent years, we now see more clearly than ever the mind-boggling irresponsibility of many Republican leaders. By refusing to extend the debt limit (an artificial device existing in almost no other countries and previously extended in the U.S. with little fanfare) without massive cuts to vital programs and a guarantee against tax increases for their wealthy elite, the Republican leaders have shown just how reckless and

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## ***REMINDER***

**NEXT MEETING** of the Largo-Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club.

**Bring your donation of canned goods for the local food pantries.**

**DATE:** Aug 15, 2011

**TIME:** 7:00 PM

**PLACE:**

**Thirsty Marlin**

351 West Bay Dr # 1, Largo,  
(727) 586-3474 or email  
Rich at

[President@largodemocrats.com](mailto:President@largodemocrats.com)



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irresponsible they are. Some of them, such as presidential candidate Michele Bachmann, have actually welcomed default, apparently in the belief that wrecking the economy will enable them to defeat Obama and the Democrats in 2012. Even such noted conservative Republican columnists and commentators as David Brooks, Charles Krauthammer and Joe Scarborough have deplored this irresponsible behavior.

Kathy Hochul, the new Democratic Representative from upstate New York who won a special election earlier this year in a solidly Republican district, put it well: "Never, never in the history [of America] has there been an intentional disaster, perpetrated by the very people who were elected to be the caretakers of this country . . . ;" and yet that is exactly what much of the Congressional Republican Party have almost brought about by their outrageous behavior on the debt and budget issues over the past few months.

Like many of you, I have sometimes been disappointed by the actions (and inactions) of President Obama and the Congressional and state Democratic leaders. There is much to dislike in the debt/budget "compromise" that Congress has finally passed and the President has signed, though I believe that the President limited the damage that it will impose on the most vital social programs and on the shaky economic recovery.

Despite the shortcomings of the President and other Democratic leaders, I strongly believe that they pale in contrast to the miserable record and dreadful plans of the Republican Party. Moreover, if you look at the overall record of the President and the Democratic Party over the past two and a half years, their achievements in fact compare favorably with the records of previous Democratic Presidents and congressional leaders of the past half century or more. I think that it is always best to compare political leaders with the available alternatives and with real-world examples, rather than with our own ideal types.

I urge you to ponder these matters as you consider the level of your support for President Obama and other Democratic candidates in 2012. Please join me in supporting President Obama's re-election effort. If you haven't already done so, you can begin by signing an "I'm In" pledge for the Obama 2012 campaign or the longer "One-on-one" form. We'll have these available at our August 15 meeting, and **Saumya Narechania** (the regional head of Obama for America) will be there to talk a little about the campaign and address any questions that you may have. In addition, at this meeting, **Jonathan Snow** will be presenting to us on the uses of social networking for political purposes. Jonathan is a young activist and member of the Greater Tarpon Springs Democratic Club who has really impressed many with his skillful and informative presentations.

Join us at our next club meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, **Aug. 15 at the Thirsty Marlin, 351 West Bay Drive, Largo** for an evening of political education, good discussion and fun. Come early to eat, drink and socialize. Please bring some canned or packaged foods for the local food banks, too, if you can.

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## FLORIDA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

- **Sen. Bill Nelson** -  
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<http://billnelson.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm>
- **Sen. Marco Rubio** -  
813 977-6450 or  
(202) 224-3041 email:  
[http://rubio.senate.gov/contact\\_form.cfm](http://rubio.senate.gov/contact_form.cfm)
- **Rep. Bill Young** -  
727 893-3191 or  
(202)225-5961

## Calendar of Events

### **NEXT CLUB MEETING**

In its Citizens United decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that money is equal to speech and that corporations are entitled to the same First Amendment rights as people.

Money is not speech. Corporations are not people.

Meanwhile, those of us without millions of dollars to spend on political campaigns are, in effect, silenced. It is as if we have to speak through kazoos while corporate CEOs speak through megaphones.

That's why we have to team up to amplify our voices through Facebook, Twitter and other social media avenues.

Come to the club's Aug. 15 meeting and learn how from Jonathan Snow. The business meeting gets underway at 7 p.m. at the Thirsty Marlin Grill on West Bay, Largo.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>MONDAY, AUGUST 15</b>	7:00 PM – TBD	<b>Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club</b>	Thirsty Marlin Grill, 351 W. Bay Drive, Largo 33770
<b>MONDAY, AUGUST 15</b>	7:00 PM – 9:00 P	Campaign Meeting for Bill Nobles	DEC HDQ--2250 First Avenue North, St. Pete For information contact Johnny Boykins 460-7949
<b>TUESDAY, AUGUST 16</b>	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Kornell Cares Tour Meet And Greet	Event Location: Mid Peninsula Seafood -400 49th St. S They have a great \$1.99 fresh fish sandwich deal! Please RSVP to Mike Fox at 727-320-4502 or tampabaydemocracy@yahoo.com so we're sure to have enough space set aside.
<b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17</b>	1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Lunch'NLearn-Speech 101	Event Location: DEC HDQ--2250 First Avenue N. Event Description: Our third assignment is to give our political speech we've been working on. We will have 7 minutes speaking time with 3 minutes allotted to questions. You may dress up like a candidate and your audience is a Democratic Club meeting where you are announcing your candidacy.  We will focus on voice, mannerisms, eye contact, etc.
<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 18</b>	6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Stonewall Democrats	Pinellas County Democratic Party Office - 2250 - 1st Avenue N., St. Petersburg Join the Stonewall Democrats for their regular monthly meeting at DEC Headquarters, 2250 1st Ave. N. in St. Pete. Social at 6:30, meeting starts at 7. Questions? Contact Rick Boylan at RQBoylan@gmail.com.
<b>MONDAY, AUGUST 22</b>	11:30 AM – 2:00 PM	Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas	Location: Golden Corral--10050 Ulmerton Rd, Largo Guest Speaker is Mary Stanley. Mary is a self-made business woman, National Women's Political Caucus Activist, Republican turned Democrat and new Board member of VFA(Veteran Feminists of America) Senior Lunch is \$7.79 and Non-Senior Lunch \$8.29
<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 25</b>	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Hispanic Caucus Meeting	Event Location: St. Pete Marriott Hotel, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd. N., St. Pete Event Description: Please join us as we discuss strategy.

<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 25</b>	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	PCDEC	St. Pete Marriott Hotel, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd. N., St. Pete
<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 27</b>	3:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Beach Weekend Fundraiser	Event Location: Alden Beach Resort--5900 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach Event Description: \$25.00 per person, Kids under 12 are free. More details to follow but save this date for a fun event
<b>MONDAY, AUGUST 29</b>	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM and 6:00PM – 8:00 PM	Fair Districts Now-- Hillsborough County Hearing	Event Location: Hillsborough County Commission, Tampa Event Description: Also a second time has been denoted: 6:00 to 8:00 PM
<b>TUESDAY, AUGUST 30</b>	8:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Fair Districts Now-- Pinellas County Hearing	Event Location: Epi-Center at St. Pete College, Largo Event Description: State Legislators are holding meetings regarding the new district lines that are being drawn. We need to speak out at these meetings so that fair districts become a reality.

More Information available at:

<http://www.pinellasdemocrats.com/calendar.asp?nMonth=8&nYear=2011>

## Pinellas Democratic Party NEWS

### **FLORIDA VOTER SUPPRESSION ACT IS TOXIC FOR DEMOCRACY**

*By Rod Smith, Chairman, Florida Democratic Party*

First it was students and teachers. Then came public employees, firefighters and policemen.

Now, Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature are taking aim at Florida voters.

Just last spring, Scott and this Republican legislature rammed through a dangerous and transparent voter suppression law, House Bill 1355, aimed directly at making it harder for Floridians to vote. They are criminalizing voter registration, virtually putting the League of Women Voters out of business, and disenfranchising thousands of young voters and college students by preventing people from changing their address at the polls; all the while, making it more difficult for hard-working Floridians and the elderly to vote by shortening the number of days and hours for early voting.

Recently, in a dead-of-night, back door attempt to evade the U.S. Justice Department and its enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, the governor directed his Secretary of State to circumvent the Justice Department's process mere days before a ruling was expected — a process that had lasted two months and been

fully vetted. Instead, he chose to file a lawsuit in a federal court in Washington — a move that will cost the taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars and months and months of unnecessary delay.

The move is nothing more than a partisan power grab aimed at stalling a ruling the Republicans recognize they would not win — a move that leaves Floridians holding the bill, again. Scott's administration knows that HB 1355 hinders the voting rights of Floridians and that any delay will further freeze voter registration efforts and place our state's hard-working county supervisors of elections in an untenable position.

It's no coincidence that the governor is ramping up his efforts to evade the law just in time for the 2012 elections, and that his target are those that supported our president in 2008. It's also no coincidence that a governor with a 29-percent approval rating — making him the least popular governor in the nation — doesn't want people to vote or even register to vote.

In the midst of an economic recovery, with nearly a million Floridians out of work, this governor has chosen to prioritize restricting Floridians right to cast a ballot over keeping his promise to create jobs.

It's time to focus on helping Floridians, not hindering them at every turn. It is time to stop playing politics with the right to vote. This governor's frivolous lawsuit is nothing more than partisan politics at its worst.

Of all our rights, the right to vote is the most sacred. Women and minorities fought to get it and our soldiers fight to protect it. Playing politics with voting needs to stop and it needs to stop now.

### ***Fair Districts = Fair Elections***

## **It's Time to End the Gerrymandering**

Everyone is encouraged to attend the public meeting on redistricting and speak directly to the senators and representatives about the subject. The legislators say they are going to listen and learn how the public wants the standards governing redistricting to be implemented and how the public thinks districts in their area can work best for all voters and constituents.

In the meantime, the Republican legislative leaders are spending hundreds of thousands of your tax dollars trying to overturn the **Fair Districts Amendments** that were overwhelmingly passed last election.

The Republican leadership would prefer to have their maps drawn in secret! Let's have a good turnout at the public meeting in this area. It's our opportunity to demand that they abide by the law and follow the fair district amendments.

**Tuesday, Aug. 30**

**8 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

**EpiCenter at St. Pete College**

**13805 58th St. N. Largo**

### **From the Tampa Tribune:**

One Republican argument in favor of the voter suppression law is that it is necessary to curb voter fraud. But the facts don't support that assertion.

Between January 2008 and March 2011, there were just 31 cases of alleged voter fraud referred to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Only three resulted in arrests. It is more likely that a person will be struck by lightning than be impersonated by another voter at the polls.

### **From the St. Pete Times**

In an attempt to tilt the balance of the next election toward Republicans, Gov. Rick Scott and the Legislature have designed ways to suppress voting by racial and ethnic minority voters. The Justice Department should protect voting rights by seeing through their tricks and calling it what it is: illegal.

### **Phantom of fraud**

"While Republicans claim that their assault on voting is to combat fraud, the fact is that no widespread voting fraud exists. But the most susceptible to voter fraud is absentee voting. So why did the Republicans not address this?"

"According to the Florida Senate Interim Report 2011, "The trend noted...in 2006 continued in the 2008 general election – overall more Democrats took advantage of early voting, while more Republicans took advantage of absentee voting." Obviously, fraud was the least of their concerns.

"I urge everyone to make this voter suppression assault backfire. Sign up to vote by absentee ballot now. Absentee voting does not mean you have to be away from home – it is simply voting by mail, saving time and gas."

Dan Favero, St. Petersburg

## ***OBAMA FOR AMERICA 2012***

By Kathleen Jamison

It's 15 months before Election Day and President Obama's Pinellas County supporters have already been gearing up for three months. And thanks to the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club (largely Heidi Sanchez, Rich Piper, Charlotte Maas and Deb Anderson), a big dent has already been made in the first task: reaching out to '08 supporters and getting them re-involved while cleaning up the all-important phone lists.



*OFA Meeting at Rich Piper's House*

Thousands of calls have been made to mid-county voters. We're far ahead of both north and south Pinellas – and very likely the entire state. Heidi's target is 50 a day and the response, she says, has been on the whole very positive. Even if people are disappointed in some of the President's actions, or lack thereof, the very thought of a Republican president and Congress is too frightening to contemplate.

One sign of the important role Florida will play in the re-election strategy is that Jeremy Bird, a top grassroots organizer from '08 and the 2012 field director has already been here to reactivate old phone bankers, door knockers and donors. OFA has also given us Saumya Narichania, who worked at the White House until just a few weeks ago, to keep the ball rolling. He is working 24/7 as regional field director for West Central Florida and invites contact at [NarechaniaS@dnc.org](mailto:NarechaniaS@dnc.org) or 813-393-0047. Sign up for text message updates from the campaign by texting Florida to 62262.

More than 30 volunteers, some returning troops, some new, came to a recent OFA meeting at club president Rich Piper's Harbor Bluffs home. From 91 years young Elsa Schultz, a lifelong Democrat, to a former Republican, all are committed to keeping Barack Obama in the White House. Hopefully that will translate into lots more phone calls.



*Saumya Narichania at OFA meeting*

Phone banks are being scheduled and with some training volunteers can do virtual phone banking from their homes. Contact Rich Piper at 727 588-0891 or [rpiper3404@aol.com](mailto:rpiper3404@aol.com) or Heidi Sanchez at [sanchezhp@aol.com](mailto:sanchezhp@aol.com) to get plugged in.

If you need further inspiration, just think of Michele Bachmann or Sarah Palin in the White House!!

### ***THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR STATE CONVENTION***

*By Scott Arceneaux, Florida Democratic Party*

The " Legacy of Leadership: A Promise for Tomorrow" State Convention will be held from Oct. 28 28-30 at Disney's Contemporary Resort and Convention Center in Lake Buena Vista.

Elections have been taking place at local party headquarters across the state to select delegates for this important gathering. While the deadline to run as a DEC candidate for delegate has passed, there is still a chance to register by requesting a chair's appointment. (Rich Piper can tell you how.)

Our state is at a crossroads. Our tea party governor and Republican-led Legislature are pressing forward with a radical, job-killing agenda aimed squarely at our state's hard-working firefighters, police officers, teachers and public employees. Faced with this extreme agenda, Democrats are more determined than ever to fight back and stop this right-wing agenda from sweeping Florida.

With 29 crucial electoral votes, Florida is the most important swing state in the country. With your help, we will re-elect President Obama, Senator Nelson and send more Democrats fighting for middle class families to Congress to join our Democratic Delegation. This year's State Convention is exactly what we need to harness our collective enthusiasm and focus on electing Democrats in 2012.

For more information, visit our convention website at:  
<http://www.fladems.com/page/content/2011appointments/>

### **KENDRICK MEEK NAMED UN REP**

If you've been wondering what ever happened to the former congressman and U.S. Senate candidate, it was recently announced that the Miami Democrat has been nominated as a representative by President Obama as a representative to the Sixty-Sixth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

After losing to Marco Rubio – a sad day! – he formed a consulting firm and was chairman of the Board of Politic365, an online news source for politics and policy affecting minority communities.

## **Club News**

### **PICNICKING AND POLITICKING**

Get out your calendar and put a big red circle around Oct. 15. That's the date of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Club's second annual Old-Fashioned Democratic Picnic and plans are already afoot to make it even bigger and better than last year's.



*Picnic Planning Committee meeting - Cynthia Fox, Theresa Fedorczyk, Lois Fries, Jackie Vandenberg, Rich Piper, Iris Szwarc.*

We'll be rallying at Taylor Lake Park off 8th Ave. from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tickets are just \$5 for hot dogs and all the fixin's, entertainment, door prizes, and some barn burning speeches - not to mention free parking.

Club members will be getting calls sometime soon to line up food contributions, ticket sellers, people willing to help out that day,

etc. Please pitch in as much as possible. Especially in the ticket sales department. Let's use this opportunity to bring in new members and supporters. This is the club's biggest fundraiser and we need to start building a war chest for 2012.

Tickets will be sold at the Aug. 15 meeting.

### **PCDEC BEACH BLOWOUT**

The Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee is throwing a beach party fundraiser at the Alden Beach Resort, 5900 Beach Blvd., St. Pete Beach.

Come enjoy the beach, sunset, a chicken dinner, beer, live music and more starting at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27.

Tickets are \$25 (free for kids under 12) and will be for sale at the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club's Aug. 15 meeting.

### **The President's Birthday Party**

*By Mary Lou Ambrose*

On Aug.4 President Obama celebrated his 50th birthday. The evening before, celebrations were held across the country, with the main event in Chicago broadcast live to all the other celebrations.

The local party was held in Tampa at "Mangroves" on Howard Avenue. The Pinellas

contingent was well represented by former state representative Janet Long, Rich Piper, Doug Hickman, Belleair Bluffs Commissioner Joe Barkley, Mary Lou Ambrose, Heidi Sanchez, DEC Chairman Mark Hanisee, former School Board member Nina Hayden, DEC Chairwoman Karen Hodgen, Gordon Chernecky and Dr. Mona Mangat. I am sure I missed someone and apologize to anyone who was there but not mentioned.



*Mary Lou Ambrose, Heidi Sanchez, Joe Barkley, Rich Piper and Janet Long at the President's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at Mangroves in Tampa*

It was a terrific celebration and the crowd was large and enthusiastic. David Plouffe, beamed in directly from D.C., spoke at length about the difficult battle ahead against an extremely well-funded candidate, whoever that candidate turns out to be. Representative Kathy Castor spoke about being so happy to be back at home and away from the Republicans who believe that compromise is a dirty work. The underlying message from both of them was that we have a fight on our hands

The President's address to the gathered faithful in Chicago was shown. His message was the same as David Plouffe's: This will not be an easy election.

A good time was had by all, but everyone left knowing that we need to work hard from now through November 2012. Losing is not an acceptable option.

### **CLUB MEMBER IN RACE FOR LARGO COUNCIL**

Michael Smith is running for Largo city commissioner and even though it is a non-partisan race we Dems need to get him elected. He is running against the conservative Mary Gray Black who has been on and off the council since the 1970s. Largo needs some fresh new blood to deal with the city's considerable challenges.

He qualified by petition and on Tuesday, Aug. 16 will learn where he will fall on the ballot. The drawing will be held at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers at Largo City Hall and a good turnout of supporters would be helpful and appreciated.



*Candidate Michael Smith confers with Club President Rich Piper.*

Michael was born in Largo and has lived in the area for most of his life, developing a deep love and appreciation for his home town. He started working on campaigns at 14, and was student body president at Saint Petersburg College. He is a lifetime member of the Friends of Largo and Seminole Libraries, as well as the Seminole Historical Society and was appointed to the Largo Historical Preservation and Advisory Committee by Mayor Pat Gerard.

One thing he pledges to bring to the office is a commonsense approach to fiscal responsibility. "In tough economic times such as these," he says, "it is more important than ever to have leaders who are able to bring a new voice to the discussion, and who are willing to take on the difficult decisions with a true understanding of sacrifice. Growth can only be considered responsible if it is also sustainable, and I am committed to the thorough

evaluation of spending proposals from both a short- and long-term perspective, as well as the exploration of creative alternatives to get the most out of our resources. After all, it's your money, your community."

### **JANET LONG HAS 'THE BUZZ' BUZZING**

The political future of Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club member and former state representative Janet Long has lot of folks – including area Republicans – guessing and that's the way she likes it. Ask her what her plans are and, for now at least, you get a big smile.

According to a recent Bay Buzz column in the St. Pete Times, she is either preparing to run against Republican County Commissioner Nancy Bostock, for the state house again, but definitely not for Congressman Bill Young's seat.

In the meantime, she's staying active in her district and with the OFA.

### **CLUB MEMBERS SERVE AREA HOMELESS**

*By Charlotte Maas*

On the last Thursday of July, six members of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club volunteered to help serve a meal to the homeless at the PEACE Café of Clearwater's Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The church serves a meal family style, complete with tablecloths and flowers, so that their guests do not have to wait in line as they so often have to do to receive many services. Sometimes the meal is prepared there. Other times food is donated. The day we were there, Crabby Bill's had donated food left over from a catered event.

The church does this from 4-7 p.m. every Thursday year-round, but understandably can be sort of volunteers in the summer. If this is something you would like to help out with - any Thursday of the year but especially May-October- please contact Charlotte Maas at (727), 593-5949 or [Elizabe7Ma@aol.com](mailto:Elizabe7Ma@aol.com). We don't always have to make this a club project.

You can always go individually or take someone from another group you are affiliated with.

The idea to do this came from club member Cathy Ewing. Club members have donated bananas and decaffeinated coffee to the church's cold night shelter. Hopefully we can help out with this again next winter. They can also use warm clothes like the sweaters and coats you are hanging onto from your "Up North" life so that when they leave the shelter when the temperature goes up to over 40, they are bundled up as best as possible against the elements.

The church and the homeless citizens of this area whom it serves are very appreciative of our time and donations.

### **Hands Across the Sand**

Along with Indian Rocks Beach, participants gathered at 12 other Pinellas County beaches. Numbers were down from last year's protest that came on the heels of the BP oil spill and drew more than 100,000 in all 50 states and 43 countries. Those who did show up are still ready for a show down to protect our beaches.



*Opponents of offshore drilling – including Chris Jamison, Lil and Jack Nazario, Mary Lou Ambrose, Joe Barkley, pictured, and Ginny Nelson and Kathleen Jamison - held "Hands Across the Sand" protests at noon on June 25.*

## Doc v Glock – Florida’s Gag Rule on Doctors

Dr. Mona Mangat of St. Petersburg, a regional director of Doctors for America who recently spoke to the club about the importance of the Affordable Health Care Act, advocates for children’s safety in a St. Pete Times letter to the editor. She will be speaking at the September PCDEC meeting.

“As a physician, I find it unbelievable that our legislators passed a bill that does not allow a doctor to ask if a patient owns a gun, and if it is secured, for fear of significant financial penalties.

“When parents are asked if they own a gun, the intention is not to encourage families to dispose of their firearms but to offer an opportunity to teach them how to store and lock their guns safely and out of the hands of inquisitive children.

“Every day this law is on the books is one day closer to next preventable, accidental gun death.

### “They ain’t got nothin”

*By Rich Romine*

I’m tired of all of the insanity of the national campaign of “let’s shoot ourselves in the foot” from the conservatives/ Decepticans. All to get rid of the greatest abomination (in their minds) of a president with dark skin. Never mind that the guy speaks better English than 99% of them and is a man with incredible education, persistence and talent. So millions of my fellow “baby boomers” are happy as hell to follow along and become “tea partiers” or whatever to get rid of him. As all along, the Decepticans pull off the heist in history!

### LET’S START WITH THE DEFICIT

What do you say? Let’s pay it off by the end of 2012! How? The “Olympus economy” (economy of the economic gods) has created a market for derivatives of about one and a quarter quadrillion dollars (face value). These were many of the institutions / people that we just bailed out, but now we need them! A half of one percent (of the face value) transaction

fee/tax would pay off the national debt in one year. Let’s pay off this puppy! And when they yell “Lost jobs!” we just need to ask them – where, who?

### SECOND – GAS AND COMMODITIES

I think the CEO of Exxon said it all when gas was \$4 a gallon- \$1.52 or 38% was from market manipulation – or, as he said, “market forces were right for about \$2.48 a gallon.” This is what really kills jobs!

Everything goes up and we receive nothing in return! Let’s go to a “cost for value” regulation in the market with criminal penalties! You can’t add cost without adding value (transportation, storage etc); unlike now when the total volume of the world’s production of oil is traded eight times daily –much of it, just to add cost! The same happens with food and other necessary commodities. Every time there is any hint of a problem, the hedge funds, pension funds and big banks are there to jump in and add more misery to any situation.

### DECEPTICAN BUBBLES ARE KILLING US!

The great talent of the Decepticans has been the ability to use our own money and make it appear that they have created great prosperity! Beginning in the late 1980s, the “Reagan Revolution,” in the person of Alan Greenspan and a host of Republicans and some Democrats, began this “death spiral” of bubbles; first by saving us from our own pensions. American corporations had been guilty of not funding, partially funding or stealing from their pension funds, set up for their employees as a reward for excellent service during their working lives.

Pensions were the first of the “crown jewels” of wealth owned by the lower and middle class of our nation. The other two were home equity and social security. We were saved by having our stable and secure pension, backed by the wealth of the company (and a liability to them) that we had worked for and the (supposed) trust fund they had set up – to a stake in the stock market, with absolutely no guarantees except that someone was making a huge amount of money off your money! So began the reign of the 401k/ 101k in America!

The banks, investment houses and hedge funds began to gain momentum as your money supported them. Remember, the stock market was very anemic before this transition, but your money poured into the market without an equal amount of value, equals-stock price inflation and with ever growing fees- equals –free money! We had statements showing that we were rich and they had our money! But we could borrow on it and now we could buy that 2001 giant SUV and that new home in the gated community and send our kids to the best schools! So, we borrowed and borrowed, after all we had our “portfolio” to show us we were rich! We felt good!

But even all of that “free money” began to run out and again Alan Greenspan and the boys come to the rescue!

The plundering of your home equity started in the late 90s but came to prominence after the attacks of 9/11. The economy was running out of “free money” and another infusion was needed and of course we can’t have a recession during a Republican administration! So our friend Alan and the big banks declared that extremely low interest rates would rule the day, the banks began putting pressure on

appraisers and suddenly your home was gaining 15, 20, 25% in value a year – you were rich – again! Until you weren’t! They did it again. The final play was in 2005-2007 when they tried to “privatize” Social Security and to begin it all again. But when money ran out (after the raid on Social security was blocked by Democrats) – you know what happened. So again they are trying to get their hands on your money – to save you again! But they need your money to do it!

The sad fact is that without a source of fresh capital the Republicans/ Conservatives/ Decepticans can’t do anything with the monster they have created. It has become so top heavy that it no longer works. Look at the incredible amounts of money being pumped into election propaganda! Already Karl Rove’s Crossroads GPS is spending money like a drunken sailor. They have no shame, as we are told that we are broke and must give up everything while they give up nothing! Their only weapon/hope is that there is a core of voters that will never accept a black-skinned President. And they will follow any group trying to end his administration.

## For Your Information

Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club Board of Directors

<b>President</b> Rich Piper <a href="mailto:President@largodemocrats.com">President@largodemocrats.com</a>	<b>Vice President</b> Lois Fries
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<b>Director</b> Deb Anderson	<b>Director/newsletter editor</b> Kathleen Jamison
<b>Outreach Coordinator</b> Charlotte Maas	<b>Director</b>

*All of the officers were elected February, 2011, to serve until their term ends in February 2013.*

*Additional contact information is available on [www.largodemocrats.com](http://www.largodemocrats.com) – click on Opinions and Letters*

### ***What Do We Include in the Newsletter?***

It's clear that we Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club members are an interested, involved, informed - and opinionated - bunch. And providing a forum for all that "good stuff" is an important function of our newsletter. The Board encourages articles and letters to the editor.

This newsletter is created by volunteers who make every attempt to publish factual information, and who encourage the free exchange of information and opinions. It should include input from all of us. However, the opinions and viewpoints expressed by contributors may not necessarily reflect those of the club.

**Please send submissions** to newsletter editor, Kathleen Jamison, at [Editor@largodemocrats.com](mailto:Editor@largodemocrats.com)

*If you don't wish to receive this newsletter, let Editor Kathleen Jamison know. She will also be happy to add*

more folks to our newsletter email list. (Please forward to anyone you know who may be interested in what we do and how to join.) Her address is [newsletter@largodemocrats.com](mailto:newsletter@largodemocrats.com).

### **Why Join the Largo-Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club**

The club provides a variety of ways to stay informed and involved in local, county, state and national political discussions. But we're not just about talk. We will be part of the action in finding the best candidates and getting them elected, as well as supporting the most important causes. We will write letters, make phone calls, knock on doors, register voters, and whatever else it takes to bring change to our communities, our county and our state. But, just as important, we also want to make time to enjoy each other's company and celebrate each other's efforts at social events throughout the year. Grassroots politics is effective and fun!

As a member of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club you can:

- Meet other active Democrats
- Meet and get to know your elected officials and potential candidates
- Raise funds and work for candidates
- Participate in community service projects
- Hear speakers and discuss issues of local, state and national importance
- Attend special events and monthly meetings.
- For membership information, email [administrator@largodemocrats.com](mailto:administrator@largodemocrats.com)

For membership information, email [Admin@largodemocrats.com](mailto:Admin@largodemocrats.com)

**ANNUAL DUES ARE JUST \$10**

**CHANGE, YES WE CAN!**