From the President’s Desk

by Mary Lou Ambrose

I hope you received the Largo Club Palm Card I sent out yesterday. The Board spent a lot of time discussing the various choices. Most of the individual recommendations were easy. The School Board District 1 was harder because there are two Democrats running in this non-partisan race. The Constitutional Amendments and the Charter Amendments took more discussion but the Judge/Justice recommendations are complicated enough that a simple YES or NO would not suffice. So we did not put that recommendation on the Palm Card.

Retention of the Appellate Judges is almost impossible to resolve. On the whole, our Appellate Division is pretty good. Some bad decisions and many good decisions. To be honest, we never remove a Judge, so voting to retain the Appellate Judges is a reasonable decision.

The Florida Supreme Court is another matter. There are three Justices who are to be retained or not. All three of these Justices really should not be retained. My understanding is that Justice Canady is actually on Donald Trump’s short list for the US Supreme Court. That should tell you a lot about him. All three Justices, Canady, Labargo and Polston voted to allow the absolutely terrible language in Amendment 1 to go onto the ballot. That was a completely partisan decision and gave good reason to believe that they are in the pocket of the big Utilities. If we had seven Justices who rendered fair and reasonable decisions, Amendment 1 would not be appearing on the ballot. The problem here is that if any or all three Justices are not retained, Governor Scott will have full responsibility for appointing their replacements. The Governor has attempted to “pack” the Court and we all know that he cannot be trusted to make decisions which bode well for the average Floridian. So the choice is whether to retain bad Justices or to allow Governor Scott to appoint bad Justices. This is a No Win situation and I cannot suggest how you should vote.

I want to touch on Amendment 2, the medical marijuana amendment. We all know that 70% of Floridians approve of it. (Amazing!) The language has been cleaned up and it should be...
adopted easily. However Senator Latvala has joined the casino magnate, Sheldon Adelson, and other extremely wealthy wrong thinkers to try to defeat it. I know that many Democrats feel that the Senator is a moderate and like and vote for him. I often disagree. His position on Amendment 2 makes me feel comfortable in opposing him. He is taking $100,000 from his huge Campaign Fund, which he does not need since he is, for all intents and purposes, unopposed in his race. He is putting his money with Sheldon Addleson’s money in an attempt to keep needed pain relief from those who really need it. He says he has two reasons. The first is that he fears the children will find and use the marijuana as it is packaged. I would give him some credence on that if he were protecting children from the guns in their homes. His second reason is that he says the Legislature should do this, and we should allow them to work on it rather than amend the Constitution. I would agree with him if I did not live in Florida where the Senate and House are much more interested in following the requirements of ALEC than passing laws in the interests of the people. They make sure everyone has protection for their guns even to the detriment of others. They keep the poor from health care. They burden the public schools with testing and send money which should go to public schools to Charter schools which they allow to pretty much do as they please. The Republican majority Legislature cannot be trusted to do what is best for Floridians. Even when we pass Constitutional Amendments they refuse to act on them. They can be trusted to be bought and paid for by special interests, but they cannot be trusted to pass a reasonable law regarding medical Marijuana. They already tried and failed. I hate to agree with Senator Brandes, but his article in the Times was on-point in this matter. Please do not allow Senator Latvala to taint your vote on Amendment 2.

Upcoming meetings

NOVEMBER 21, 2016 DR. RICH PIPER
FOR POST ELECTION ANALYSIS

DECEMBER 10, 2016 - HOLIDAY PARTY

Save the date!
moving to Florida in 1978 he’s been a panelist on political talk shows on WTG-TV and WEDU. He took the moderator’s seat of WEDU’s Tampa Bay Week in 2001 and has piloted the program through its 2005 update to Florida This Week. He’s covered West Central Florida politics for more than 20 years and moderated numerous televised political debates including the 2002 Attorney General’s race, the 2003 Tampa Mayoral race, the 2004 U.S. Senate primaries, and the 2006 Gubernatorial Primaries.

He’s interviewed hundreds of authors, academics, politicians, musicians, artists and entertainers for his broadcasts, among his guests: former President Jimmy Carter, Ralph Nader, Ferdie Pacheco, Sen. Mel Martinez, Janet Reno, Daryl Jones, Al Franken, E.J. Dionne, John Dean, Tampa Mayors Dick Greco and Pam Iorio, Gov. Charlie Crist, Bill Moyers, and many others.

When he worked at WYSO in Yellow Springs, Ohio, he wasn’t paid except for those times that he would occasionally fill in for the news director. In 1978 he saw an ad in Mother Jones Magazine; the ad said they were starting a radio station in Tampa. He sent his resume, got accepted and drove to Tampa. As co-founder of WMNF, it took from June of 1978, to September of 1979 to get the station on the air. The idea for WMNF came from a USF student, who was unhappy when WUSF eliminated the student run programming. Although the overall political climate of Tampa Bay area was quite conservative in the 70’s, there were those who opposed the Vietnam war, and many who were concerned about the environmental impact of the booming development and were interested in having a station that spoke for and to them.

A man named Joe Fox, who worked for a of ACORN, stepped up to assist with the fundraising to get the station going: He thought that he could go door-to-door, ask people for donations, and to parlay it into a radio station.

Every afternoon, Rob and about six or seven other people would go out and start knocking on doors, in targeted neighborhoods around Pinellas County, Polk County, and Hillsborough County. They would ask people for donations and would also take a survey asking them what kind of programming they liked to hear on the local radio station, a new public radio station. They gathered tens of thousands of replies. Overall, from the time the canvas was started to the time they went on the air, they raised about $25,000, which nowadays doesn’t sound like that much, but back then it was real money. From that they paid their own salaries, which was $65 a week; and paid the $300 a month it cost to rent the building. They also paid the phone bill; we paid and everything else they needed.

The politics of MNF were going to be decided later. That was going to be decided by who was listening. MNF had a commitment early on to peace and social justice, but you can interpret that a lot of different ways. Those were the early forays into news and public affairs. MNF’s mission is for peace and social justice. But their stated reason for being “is that we really believe that if people can talk to each other, in a responsible and respectful way, that they might be able to resolve their problems”. In the early days it was mostly a music station. While still are mostly a music station, but now has more talk, news and public affairs.

Rob can tell you the stories of how the limited staff and volunteers actually ‘built’ the initial station in 1978, and how they constructed the control boards from used parts and soldered components and moving the microwave tower four blocks down MLK to the new location, staffers and volunteers carrying the tower down the street. WMNF pays Pacifica a membership fee, and from that membership fee they get three things. Pacifica owns its own satellite channel, so they get any programming they want from that Pacifica channel, including the Free Speech Radio News and Democracy Now.

The station has a history of community spirit and pacifism, and it’s just a pleasant—almost an oasis on the radio dial. He doesn’t think any other community really supports their community station the way the Tampa-St. Pete-Sarasota area supports this one. He thinks WMNF has to be one of the most supported community stations in the country.
Club member Joe Barkley, was on a Florida This Week panel on WEDU. Joe said, “I was fortunate enough to join Dr. Susan McManus of USF, Daniel Ruth of the St Petersburg Times, and the Sharon Calvert, Secretary of the Hillsborough Republican Executive Board to discuss 4 topics: The impact of Hurricane Matthew, Vote by Mail, Hillary Clinton’s status after the 2nd debate, and the Crist v. Jolly campaign. I handled the last issue, and got numerous good reviews.”

Bill Clinton was in Safety Harbor October 11 and about 1,000 people turned up. The candidate for First Spouse was his usual expansive self, taking the time to reach out, shake hands, kiss babies and explain why Hillary is the only reasonable candidate for President. There were a handful of Trump backers outside, but few people paid attention to them. One made it inside to collect his stipend from Trump to disrupt the proceedings. Again, few people paid attention except the photographer for the Tampa Bay Times.

A campaign event in Tampa gave our Founder and former Club President Rich Piper the opportunity to have photos taken with Presidential Nominee Hillary Clinton, and VP Nominee Tim Kaine.

The Democratic Women’s Club National Convention was held in St. Petersburg in September. They had special recognition of Women Veterans. One veteran who received special recognition was our own Club member, Raemona Mae Clark, who was a Navy Corpsman (trained as a Combat Medic).

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By Heidi Sanchez

Kay Hagen, former Senator of North Carolina (and niece of Florida’s former governor Lawton Chiles) came to the Clearwater Coordinated Campaign Office on October 4 to stress the importance of the drive to register voters as well as how critical turn-out in any election can be.

In front of a group of about three dozen volunteers plus campaign organizers assigned to north Pinellas County, former governor Charlie Crist spoke first, talking about his ongoing Congressional campaign and then introducing Senator Hagen. She talked about her first very successful run for the Senate eight years ago, when she defeated Elizabeth Dole, during President Obama’s first Presidential election year. Six years later, though, after the Citizens United decision allowed many millions of dollars to be used against her in her reelection campaign (in a non-Presidential election year), she was narrowly defeated, by just over one percent of the vote.

Having been a victim of outside money being used to buy an election, and coming from a state that took advantage of the Supreme Court’s decision to free states from oversight under the Civil Rights Law by adopting restrictions including voter ID requirements that have been determined to have been designed to suppress minority votes, Senator Hagen talked about the need for changes in the law but also stressed the importance of registering people to vote and working hard to ensure large turnout in this year’s election.

Immediately following the speech, the attendees were all encouraged to hit the streets to register voters, and many did, including club member Renee Lee. As a result of the hard efforts of many volunteers this year, registered Democrats in Pinellas once again outnumbered registered Republicans. As of October 15, the lead was over 1200, with new registrations now not due until Tuesday Oct. 18 still arriving and being processed; and of the 52705 people who had voted by that date, the Democratic lead (ballots cast by registered Democrats) was just over 1500 (even though more Republicans request mail ballots than Democrats in the county). If party registrations are a good predictor of actual votes this year, the early enthusiasm in Pinellas is a hopeful sign.

Citizen’s United — Please read **Event Thursday Oct. 27 7:30 PM**

The St Petersburg Council is stepping up to challenge CITIZENS UNITED. In what they hope will be a Landmark case and may go to the United States Supreme Court as a challenge to one of the worst decisions ever made by that Court - Citizens United. The issues that will be discussed will be banning foreign money in St Pete elections and banning Super PACS in St Pete elections. We do not have the exact time for the Council meeting, but will get it. Interested parties are welcome.

As part of that challenge, Ellen Weintraub who is a member of the U S Federal Election Commission will appear at the St Petersburg hearing as an expert witness. That same evening, Ms Weintraub will speak at Temple Beth-El on Oct 27 starting at 7:30. She will be explaining the background and the expectations in what St Peters burg is attempting to do. Temple Beth-El is at 400 South Pasadena Ave in St Petersburg 33707. For more information you can reach Karen Lieberman at karenlieberman0231@gmail.com.
TIMES RECOMMENDS: FOR A BETTER FLORIDA HOUSE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2016

Lorena Grizzle  District 66

This is a rematch from 2014, when incumbent Republican Rep. Larry Ahern won re-election. But this time Lorena Grizzle is better organized, and the Democrat remains the best option.

Grizzle, 63, is a special education teacher who recognizes the state relies too heavily on standardized testing and school letter grades. The Largo Democrat wants to invest more in public schools, supports a regional approach to creating a robust transit system and lists environmental issues such as preventing fracking and addressing climate change as priorities. She understands the need to encourage redevelopment in the district, which stretches from Indian Shores to Clearwater and includes Seminole and part of Largo.

Ahern, 61, is a three-term incumbent who remains the most conservative and least effective Pinellas legislator. He is a reliable vote for the National Rifle Association, providing a key vote to advance open-carry gun legislation that eventually failed to pass. He regretted voting to lift the ban on gay parents adopting and later pushed to allow adoption and foster-care agencies to deny parents based on the organization’s religious beliefs, which failed.

To his credit, Ahern sponsored legislation that gives regulators more power to discipline assisted living homes and requires more employee training. But voters deserve more moderate, effective representation in this district.

For Florida House District 66, the Tampa Bay Times recommends Lorena Grizzle.

Reprinted from http://preps.tampabay.com/opinion/editorials/times-recommends-for-a-better-florida-house/2298040
Our September speaker, Rick Boylan, has worked with and for the Democratic National Committee for over 20 years, beginning as an unpaid intern, then paid employee, and now as an independent contractor, gave us an overview of his experiences within the Committee. Rick has been heavily involved in the assessments and recommendations that resulting in creating a balance of demographics not only in the local organizations and delegates, but in the total delegates elected to attend the National Nominating Conventions. The result of this effort is that the 2016 Convention in Philadelphia was the most diverse in history, more truly reflecting the composition of our country: gender balance, race, ethnic identification, sexual orientation and identification, abilities, and military services. Rick gave an overview of the efforts that went into preparing for the 2016 Convention, for which he wrote the agenda, and introductory scripts.

Rick brought many photos of the recent Convention and past conventions, but we didn’t have time to view them all. Maybe some time in the future, we’ll just watch the slide show.

For those of us who have attended conventions, it put the work involved into a new perspective. For those who have not, it did inspire a few to want to do so in the future. Thanks, Rick.
Mark your calendar! Plan to attend! As usual, this is a potluck, so think about what side-dish you will bring. The club will provide Turkey and Ham.

8th Annual
Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club
Holiday Potluck
Saturday
Dec 10, 2016
6:00 - 10:00 pm
Randolph Farms Clubhouse
13300 Indian Rocks Road
Largo, FL
Citizens for Responsible Gun Laws/Moms Demand Action

by Rod & Elizabeth Snedeker

Report of Citizens for Responsible Gun Laws/Moms Demand Action-Pinellas County

Elizabeth and Rod Snedeker and Judy Sellers again staffed a table at USF-St. Pete on October 11.

We handed out many cards encouraging gun safety in the home and describing the efforts of Moms Demand Action to reduce gun violence. Several students engaged in good discussions with us. A couple of gun owners expressed their concerns for background checks and gun safety. It was a good experience that brought the attention of our goals to more students.

At our October meeting we made the decision to hold our fifth Vigil honoring the victims of the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut and the thousands others who have died since December 2012. The date we set is Sunday, December 11. More details next month.

Among the burglaries that were reported in Flagler County while hurricane Matthew raged up the coast, 41 guns were stolen from a gunsmith in Palm Coast. Also, 11 guns were stolen from an Orlando automobile as Hurricane Matthew closed in. Finally, the Trace that follows gun violence reported that a high school student in Coral Gables was arrested after posting threats that he was planning a shooting that would be greater than Columbine or Sandy Hook. ☹️
L.A.’s Quest to Cut Fossil Fuels

By THE NYTimes EDITORIAL BOARD  OCT. 12, 2016

Los Angeles has suffered the worst ozone pollution of any American city for three years running.

Coastal areas of the city could be swallowed by the Pacific by the end of the century as a warming climate causes sea levels to rise. A natural gas leak in northwestern Los Angeles, finally plugged in February, was the most disastrous in American history.

Small wonder that Los Angeles is joining a growing movement to confront environmental challenges at the local level. As the former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg realized early in his tenure, cities, with their concentrated populations, can play an important role in addressing local air pollution as well as global climate change. (Mr. Bloomberg helped to lead a delegation of mayors from various countries at last December’s global climate summit meetings in Paris, and their presence had much to do with pushing a final agreement over the finish line.)

Moreover, it has proved easier to act locally than to push legislation through Congress, many of whose members publicly question the existence of human-caused climate change, and whose recalcitrance has forced President Obama to use his executive powers to get anything done on climate change or, for that matter, any environmental issue. ☛
LANGUAGE MATTERS:

A Letter to the Editor

By Rodney Snedeker

Over the weekend as people reacted to Trump’s infamous, notorious tape, two comments occurred multiple times; one was used by Trump to excuse his behavior and others who would support him, including former Mayor of NY city, Giuliani; “this was just locker room talk”. What a twisted excuse! Unfortunately it is true—it was locker room talk. But this locker room talk is also the language which encourages and justifies the sexist, male dominant, women-exploiting behavior which lets men who can afford it haunt the brothels of southeast Asia. It leads to men who solve their difficulties with women by divorcing them, abusing them, abandoning them when the women don’t sacrifice their lives to save their male egos. It is language that reflects the behavior that has no right to exist in a nation that respects the equality, the intelligence and great contributions that women have made to our society.

Giuliani also commented that “politics is not a Sunday School Class.” This is also true; but what an insult to all those people, clergy and laity, who have taught Sunday School classes and the thousands of children who learned something of what moral behavior looks like. Surely, some Sunday schools were hopelessly inadequate. Some were infected with poor doctrines. But Church Schools are grounded in the life and teachings of Jesus who for some is the Christ. Whatever beliefs we may hold, theistic, atheistic and non-theistic we can agree that Jesus has had a tremendous influence upon our world over the past two thousand years. His openness to others, his invitation for us to live with love towards our neighbors, his criticism of sterile legalism, his recognition that amassing wealth is an empty achievement and we ignore the condition of the poor at our peril. Jesus’ influence will continue as a positive force in society long after Donald Trump has passed from the scene.

OPINION

IMPERFECTIONS: WHY I WILL VOTE FOR HILLARY

I’m officially done with the “she’s so flawed but she is the lesser of two evils” rhetoric. Cause, you know, I’m flawed. And you’re flawed. And Bernie Sanders is flawed and Barack Obama is flawed and even Michelle Obama is flawed. But the difference between all of them and me -- and probably you, is that they have all given their flawed lives to public service. And now, they are all working together in their inevitably flawed ways, to save all of us, and the whole world from a sociopathic narcissist. And every day, Hillary puts a hopefully unflawed bullet proof vest on her flawed and aging and sometimes unsmiling self and stands up in front of people who have been incited by her opponent to shoot her, and she says calm and rational and intelligent (and sometimes flawed) things about how to make a difference. In my book that makes her a fucking rock star. And in the words of another flawed and resilient rock star. There is a crack in everything. That’s where the light gets in.

CAN THE U.S. WIN THIS ELECTION?

By Thomas L. Friedman, Oct. 12, 2016

Seriously, why didn’t we sell tickets? If only our national election had been pay-per-view for the rest of the world, we could have wiped out the national debt. But while viewers around the world seem to be lapping up our national reality TV show, are we, the citizens of America, going to get anything out of it? Specifically, are we going to get the thing we need most and have enjoyed least this century: effective government? We have too much deferred maintenance to fix, too much deferred leadership to generate and too much deferred reimagining to undertake to wait another four years to solve our biggest problems, especially in this age of accelerating technology and climate change.

If we will have indulged in almost two years of electoral entertainment and pathos just to end up back where we were, only worse, with even more venomous gridlock in Washington, it won’t just be emotionally depressing, we’ll really start to decline as a nation. When we forfeit governing our country strategically at the national level for this long, inevitably the roof will start to leak and the floors will start to buckle.

This version of the Republican Party has to die. I don’t say that as a partisan. I say that as a citizen who believes that America needs a healthy center-right party that offers more market-based solutions to problems; keeps the pressure on for deregulation, freer trade and smaller government; and is willing to compromise. But today’s version of the G.O.P. is not such a problem-solving party. We have known that ever since the G.O.P. speaker of the House John Boehner quit, because roughly a quarter of House Republicans were simply not interested in governing and had made his job impossible. For the sake of the country, this version of the Republican Party has to be fractured. But it will need to nurture a new base, one inspired by a Jack Kemp spirit of conservative innovation, not by Trump dog whistles of anger, xenophobia and racial enmity. Toward that end it is particularly important that Trump be crushed at the polls to send the message inside the G.O.P. and out that someone of his poisonous ilk can never win in America, and to strip him and his loyalists of any argument that the election was rigged.

At the same time, we have to hope not only that Hillary Clinton wins the national election but also that Democrats
retake at least the Senate, so she has some real leverage to forge trade-offs with a more sane G.O.P. to start fixing things: putting in place common-sense gun laws, like restoring the Assault Weapons Ban, requiring universal background checks and making it illegal for anyone on the terrorist watch list to buy a gun; borrowing money at near-zero interest rates to rebuild our infrastructure; replacing some income and corporate taxes with a revenue-neutral carbon tax to stimulate more clean-energy production; fixing Obamacare; and implementing sensible immigration reform and responsible tax and entitlement reforms.

SECOND DEBATE CRITIQUE

By David Leonhardt Op-Ed Columnist, N.Y. Times

He lied about a sex tape.
He lied about his lies about ‘birtherism.’
He lied about the growth rate of the American economy.
He lied about the state of the job market.
He lied about the trade deficit.
He lied about tax rates.
He lied about his own position on the Iraq War, again.
He lied about ISIS.
He lied about the Benghazi attack.
He lied about the war in Syria.
He lied about Syrian refugees.
He lied about Russia’s hacking.
He lied about the San Bernardino terrorist attack.
He lied about Hillary Clinton’s tax plan.
He lied about her health care plan.
He lied about her immigration plan.
He lied about her email deletion.
He lied about Obamacare, more than once.
He lied about the rape of a 12-year-old girl.
He lied about his history of groping women without their consent.
Finally, he broke with basic democratic norms and called on his political oppo-

tent to be jailed — because, in large part, of what he described as her dishonesty.

This is the second time I’ve summarized a presidential debate by listing Donald Trump’s untruths, and there’s a reason. The country has never had a presidential candidate who lies the way that he does — relentlessly.

Yes, virtually every politician, including Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, Mitt Romney and George W. Bush, strays from the truth at times. To be fair, virtually every human being does. But Trump is fundamentally different.

His gamble is plain enough: He believes he can fool a lot of the American people a lot of the time. He has decided that lying pays.

It’s up to the rest of us to show him otherwise.

What I’m reading: As you know if you’ve been reading this newsletter, I’m sometimes critical of my own profession. The media is far from perfect, and we should grapple with our shortcomings.

This morning, however, I want to salute my peers — at Politico, Politifact, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, NPR, The New York Times and many other places — who have answered Trump’s fabrications with facts. I encourage all of you to dig into the links above.

WOMEN'S GENDER EQUALITY GROWTH

— Maryam Monsef, Women's Equality

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Some Republican Opinion

-- Conservative Washington Examiner columnist Byron York argues that “Trump’s performance will shut down Republican defections from his struggling campaign, at least for now”: “Say you were a Republican lawmaker contemplating breaking with Trump. You didn’t do it Saturday, when several GOP officials jumped, because you wanted to see how Trump would do in the debate Sunday night. Now you’ve seen it — a more aggressive, hard-hitting, and focused effort than Trump’s losing performance in Debate One — and you’re probably not going to abandon Trump now.”

Weekly Standard Executive Editor Bill Kristol concurs but describes this as a fatal mistake: “Here’s the problem: Some Republican leaders could well make the mistake of thinking that because Trump wasn’t destroyed at the debate, there isn’t now a dire need to act. They could decide that because Trump didn’t dissolve into a puddle in the center of the town hall, the situation has stabilized, and the status quo is sustainable. That would be a fatal mistake. The Declaration of Independence identified the problem: ‘All experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.’ Republicans may be disposed to suffer, rather than take bold action, contrary to the forms to which they are accustomed, to shove Trump aside. Republican leaders may think, or hope, that Trump is a sufferable evil. They will be cruelly disappointed in that judgment.”

Washington Post Endorsement

By Editorial Board October 13 at 6:06 AM

IN THE gloom and ugliness of this political season, one encouraging truth is often overlooked: There is a well-qualified, well-prepared candidate
on the ballot. Hillary Clinton has the potential to be an excellent president of the United States, and we endorse her without hesitation. We recognize that many Americans distrust and dislike Ms. Clinton. The negative feelings reflect in part the bitter partisanship of the nation’s politics today; in part the dishonest attacks she has been subjected to for decades; and in part her genuine flaws, missteps and weaknesses. (Edited by Lois for brevity.)

**Garrison Keillor Comment**

Submitted by Kathleen Jamison

A week ago, a panhandler in Times Square sat holding a sign reading, “Give me a dollar or I’ll vote for Trump,” and people laughed and reached into their pockets. His bucket overflowed. He stuffed the bills into his jacket, and other panhandlers looked at him with admiration. The man could’ve sold franchises and retired to Palm Beach.

The panhandler knows what every New Yorker knows, which is that the biggest con job since the Trojan horse is taking place in our midst. Millions of Americans are planning to cast their votes for a man who has lived his life contrary to all of their most cherished values. They are respectful, honest, generous, loyal, modest, church-going people with no Mafia connections and good credit records who try not to spout off about things they know nothing about.
**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, Lois Fries, at loisfries@gmail.com.

If you don't wish to receive this newsletter, let Editor Lois Fries 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: loisfries@gmail.com.

Many of you expressed interest in making regular contributions to the LARGO/MID-PINELLAS PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. The Political Committee allows us to donate more to candidates or issue advocacy than our club bylaws and state statute allow from our General Funds.

For example, many banks have repeating automated bill paying. That makes contributing automatic and easy each month. Or you can send a check to:

*The Payee Name must be: Largo/Mid-Pinellas Progressive Political Committee. OR LMPPPC*

The mailing address is
Largo/Mid-Pinellas Progressive Political Committee. or
Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club
P.O. BOX 1242
LARGO, FL 33779

**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 admin@largodemocrats.com