From the President’s Desk

by Mary Lou Ambrose

At the last Board meeting Lois Fries asked if we should put something about 9/11 in the Newsletter. We, like everyone else, had during this 15 year anniversary been catapulted back to 2001 and the horrors of that day. We had once again watched the planes hit the Twin Towers over and over as we had 15 years before. We once again watched the Pentagon turn to rubble and heard about the bravery of those on a flight over rural Pennsylvania who averted another tragedy by sacrificing their own lives. No one seemed ready to write about it. I told them that I had a positive, even happy, story about 9/11.

On Sunday, September 11th, 2016, I had spoken with Father Jim Beaton, an Episcopal priest from Newfoundland, about a sermon he had given years ago here in Clearwater. Father Beaton is a part time priest at St. John’s Episcopal Church when he and his wife spend the cold Newfoundland winters here in Florida. A few years ago he had told us about the church in his small town in Newfoundland which was part of a huge effort to care for airline passengers stranded in Newfoundland on September 11th as the result of the decision to get all planes out of the sky until the danger was understood. If you remember, no one really knew what was happening or who was responsible.

Father Beaton told us how his small church took in a large number of passengers from planes which had been redirected to Gander, Newfoundland. Some stayed with parish families, others were put up in the old church. They were well taken care of for days. People cooked for them. They gave them personal items. If they needed medicine, they got it. When they needed a shoulder to lean on, or someone to talk to, the people of the parish were there for them. The church became the meeting place. Friendships which last to this day were formed between the parishioners and the passengers. Many still keep contact, with many of the passengers actually having visited Newfoundland multiple times through the years.

The old church had some problems, especially with the electrical system, which was very apparent to the passengers. The passengers kept in con-
tact not only with the Canadians, but with each other. After heading home they knew that they owed a debt of thankfulness to the people and the parish. They got together and raised the money to rewrite the church. They did not just write a check, many went back to the parish and did the work themselves.

When I spoke to Father Beaton on Sunday he told me that as a memorial to this 15th Anniversary, many of the passengers brought their children and grandchildren to meet the parishioners. Many of the children were babies on September 11th, 2001 or not even born. The parents and grandparents wanted the children to become part of the story which had begun 15 years before.

Unfortunately, I was unable to reach Father Beaton after I decided to write about his sermon. He and his wife are traveling back to Newfoundland. Given that, I did some research on the internet.

What I found out is that 38 planes were diverted to Gander, Newfoundland that terrible day. 7000 people +/- were on those planes which landed in an area of 0,000 people. There were also dogs and cat and two Bonobo Apes. Put yourself into the position of the people of Gander. They have been hearing all day about planes coming out of the skies raining death and destruction to those on the ground. Now there were 38 planes full of strangers there in their small area. Were any of these planes part of the attacks? They could well have been. The people of Gander ignored the possible dangers and reached out to the people on the planes. Keep in mind that there were no hotels or restaurants of any size in the area. The passengers filled schools, churches, community centers and small nearby towns like Lewisporte.

On the ride back to where they came from, one of the passengers who had stayed in Lewisporte, a professional fund raiser, passed around a notebook asking for contributions toward a scholarship for the graduates of Lewisporte High School. She raised $15,000.00 that day. Eventually almost $2Million was raised and 228 graduates of Lewisporte High have received scholarships so far.

I learned that there is a musical called “Come From Away” which plays each year at this time at Ford’s Theater in Washington DC. It tells the story of 38 planes filled with 7000 people landing in a small Newfoundland town and the people who cared for them and made them all feel at home. I think Joe and I will plan a trip to DC next September.

With all the hate and bigotry we are bombarded with during this campaign year, the idea of good people taking in and caring for strangers forced to land in their small town on that most horrible day, is a breath of fresh air. There are a lot of good people in this world. We just don’t hear a lot about them. 😊

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**Federal Congressional Delegation**

**Sen. Bill Nelson (D)**

(813) 225-7040 or (202) 224-5274  
Email: [http://billnelson.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm](http://billnelson.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm)

**Sen. Marco Rubio (R)**

(813) 287-5035 or (202) 224-3041  
Email: [http://rubio.senate.gov/contact_form.cfm](http://rubio.senate.gov/contact_form.cfm)

**Rep. David Jolly (R)**

(727) 392-4100 or (727) 823-8900 or (202) 225-5961  
Email: [https://jolly.house.gov/contact/email-me](https://jolly.house.gov/contact/email-me)

**Rep. Cathy Castor (D)**

(813) 871-2871 or (202) 225-3376  
Email: [www.Castor.house.gov](http://www.Castor.house.gov)

**Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R)**

(727) 940-5860 or (202) 225-5755  
Email: [www.bilirakis.house.gov](http://www.bilirakis.house.gov)

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**Upcoming meetings**

**OCTOBER 17, 2016 ROB LOREI**

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

**DECEMBER 10, 2016 - HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Save the date!**
THE COORDINATED CAMPAIGN OFFICES IN BOTH CLEARWATER AND LARGO OPENED WITHIN THE LAST MONTH - WITH GREAT FANFARE!

Clearwater Campaign HQ, 1812 Drew Street, Clearwater

Largo Campaign HQ, 125 1st Ave NW, Largo

Your Organizers! Back row: Pranav Lokin, Randi Doan, Haley Hager, Regional Director Mikala Demet

front: Mint Dalton, Kinn Badger.
Also, Zacharia Hartman (not pictured)

Pinellas County Commission Vice Chair, Janet Long spoke at the opening of the Clearwater Office.

Pinellas County Commissioner Pat Gerard, and Congressional Candidate for CD-13 Gov. Charlie Crist spoke at the opening of the Largo office
Highlights of August Meeting

Mitch Perry, was our featured speaker. He recapped his take on the 2016 races, local and national. His work at WMNF, and for local weekly, Creative Loafing and online blogs SaintPetersBlog and Florida Politics keep us informed on local and state political news.

Also speaking was Gov. Charlie Crist, Candidate for US House District 3, which incorporates the majority of Pinellas County will be a crucial one in regaining some semblance of balance in the House of representatives. The currently overwhelming GOP House has become an obstacle to even the appearance of governance, blocking any attempts by the President to pass meaningful legislation (example: funding for fighting Zika mosquitoes). While winning a majority of 218 House seats appears unlikely due to extreme gerrymandering in all states, improving the Democratic presence will lead to more compromise, and less obstruction; thus better government.

Florida House District 66 Candidate Lorena Grizzle and Club Member, updated us on her campaign, highlighting her weekly paid advertisements in the TBN newspapers - her original political cartoons. Feedback from readers/subscribers has been positive. Lorena has been assisted in her campaign by many club members. PLEASE understand how the State Legislature affects your day-to-day life, passing laws that restrict women’s health care options and rights to make decisions about their own health care, and the Legislature’s overwhelming NRA support to arm every resident - and attempts to pass open carry on college campuses. We need more Democratic Representatives in Tallahassee fighting for common sense, health care and safety.
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

What we have accomplished In the Past Three Years

- We have worked to close loopholes in background checks laws.
- We have personally educated thousands about gun safety.
- We helped pass laws to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.
- We’ve convinced a dozen businesses to stand up for gun safety and enact gun sense policies.
- We’ve worked to fight dangerous gun lobby legislation in all fifty states. In 2016 we defeated gun lobby priority legislation that would have allowed guns on K-12 school grounds and college campuses and also we helped defeat anyone to carry a concealed weapon without permit or safety training.
- We generated over 10,000 calls to the White House to President Obama for executive action to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

Locally:

- We have held three vigils in memory of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School and all others who have been the victims of mass shootings.
- We have visited the offices of legislators, both state and federal, in our district to urge them to oppose open carry and guns on campuses, and support federal background checks, closing loopholes in internet sales, private sales, and gun shows.
- We have had tables at the Largo Public Library with literature describing the work of Moms Demand Action and inviting people to sign up to participate in our work.
- We have collaborated with the State Leadership in doing training, using VAN to register members and list events.
- We participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. parade.
- We held an Orange Walk for Gun Safety on Indian Rocks Beach.
- We have published reports in the Largo Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club newsletter each month.
- One of our members attended the Gun Sense University in Minneapolis for training as a chapter leader.
- One of our members has visited a gun shop asking the owner for information on background checks.
- She has also visited a gun show here in Pinellas County.
- We attended a rally at City Hall in St. Petersburg to kick-off the Everytown Initiative which combined the work of Moms Demand Action and Mayors Against Illegal Guns along with collaboration with many other groups across the nation.
- We have canvassed and phoned for candidates who will support expanding legislation for gun safety.
- We have showed the BeSmart Program for gun safety for children and seek to repeat this to other organizations.
- Our state organization in 24 hours generated over 6000 calls to state legislators opposing “guns on campuses” and “open carry” bills in our state legislature. The bills did not come out of committee in the Senate.
- We made “Care Cards” which were sent to Everytown for distribution to the families of victims of gun violence.
- We participated in the showing of the movie “The Killing of America” produced by Brave New Films.
- The film was sponsored by the Democratic Women's Club and the Largo-Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club at the Clearwater Library. We presented the goals of Moms Demand Action and the need to support candidates who support our agenda.
Another Bloody Summer in America

Summer had barely begun when the grim record was set: Forty-nine people murdered at a gay nightclub in Orlando, the worst mass shooting in modern American history. Summer’s end brought another unwanted milestone as 85 homicides — 73 of them by gun — gave Chicago a single-month body count unseen in 20 years, pushing the city past its shooting total for all of 2015. In between, in Dallas, another terrible superlative was notched when a sniper’s rifle delivered law enforcement its deadliest day since September 11.

Now add in the gun violence you didn’t hear about. The period between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend — 93 days — left more than 4,100 Americans dead from gun homicides and unintentional discharges, according to the Gun Violence Archive (GVA). More than 8,650 others were wounded. That’s a daily average of at least 44 dead, 93 injured, a rate slightly greater than last year, when the totals were higher but a quirk of the calendar also made the summer a full week longer.

(Ed Note: The rest of this article is available to anyone who Googles “The Trace.”)
The West Central Chapter of the Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida would like to re-share our endorsement list of these environmental champions running in the upcoming primary and general election.

**JULIE WARD BUJALSKI, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF DUNEDIN**

Julie Ward Bujalski has been on Dunedin’s commission 10 years, and is running for her second term as Mayor. She represented Dunedin on the PSTA Board, Greenlight Council, ACPT (Advisory Committee for Pinellas Transportation) & MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization). Julie brought forward the concept of a septic tank abatement program to protect local waterways. She fought for the clean-up of Lake Sperry & Cedar Creek. Julie proposed that the Dunedin’s Environmental Quality Committee discuss removing the sales of bottled water at city events to help the environment. Julie has a consistent record of protecting the environment.

To donate to Julie Ward Bujalski’s campaign, send checks to:

1856 La Grande Drive  
Dunedin, FL 34698  
Website: [juliewardbujalski.com](http://juliewardbujalski.com)

**LORENA GRIZZLE, CANDIDATE FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 66**

Lorena Grizzle teaches K-5 and is a native of Indian Rocks Beach. Her mother, Mary Grizzle, was a lawmaker who was a champion for the environment in the 70s and later served in the FL Senate. Lorena has advocated for recycling through educating youth, solar energy in place of fossil fuels, banning the black bear hunt, awareness and preparation for climate change/sea level rise, and a long range plan for a more efficient transportation system.

To donate to Lorena Grizzle's campaign, go to:

Website: [lorenagrizzle.com](http://lorenagrizzle.com)

**JENNIFER WEBB, CANDIDATE FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 69**

Jennifer is involved in the Climate Change Conference conversations. Jennifer has long been an advocate for the environment, she organized grassroots campaigns focused on environmental issues for the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group. Jennifer opposes fracking, and is a proponent of a solid investment in solar energy and in our infrastructure. Jennifer works at USF as the Director of Community Engagement.

To donate to Jennifer Webb’s campaign, go to”

Website: [electjenniferwebb.com](http://electjenniferwebb.com)

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* mail ballots will go out on October 4, 2016
TRUMP’S PITCH TO BLACKS IS DELUDED

by Donna Brazile, interim chair of the Democratic National Committee.

Excerpted from USA Today August 24, 2016

Forsake a party that has welcomed us, given us voice and advanced our interests? For him? Dream on.

“Look at how much African-American communities have suffered under Democratic control. To those I say the following: what do you have to lose by trying something new like Trump?”—Donald Trump in Dimondale, Mich.

Population 92.7% white, 0.7% African American as of the 2010 Census.

I don’t know how many black people Donald Trump knows, has employed, befriended, or crowned champion on The Apprentice. That’s not the issue here. His claims that the Democratic Party has failed African Americans are every bit as wrong as his delusional claims that he can win 95% of the African-American vote. He is polling at 1% among black voters for a reason.

For over 40 years, the Democratic Party has been my home. And it has been home to the vast majority of black voters in increasing numbers since the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s, and going back even further to the New Deal and earlier.

This despite the fact that the GOP was the party of Lincoln. The Republican Party would have been the natural home of black voters, but it was the GOP that turned away from us. And at the height of the civil rights struggle, President Lyndon Johnson made a conscious decision to fully commit the Democratic Party to the cause of equality for African Americans, even though he knew that would cost the Democrats the South — and many elections — for at least a generation.

And each subsequent Democratic administration has expanded upon those gains with initiatives of its own, leading up to our first African American president, Barack Obama (a man that Trump refused to even concede was born in the United States.) President Obama has made good on the promise of the Democratic Party to African-Americans in myriad ways. His overall policies benefited all Americans with such accomplishments as rescuing us from the Great Recession (African-American unemployment has dropped more than 4 percentage points during his tenure) and finally giving every American greater access to healthcare with the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

Hillary Clinton is firmly on board with expanding and improving upon all of those accomplishments. Trump should just take a look at the page of her campaign website devoted exclusively to issues of racial justice. Compare it to his own campaign’s web page for racial justice. Oops…

Trump doesn’t seem to have a webpage devoted to racial justice. A Google search of the phrase “Donald Trump campaign website racial justice” mostly turns up variations on “Donald Trump racist.….” That’s because the hallmark of his candidacy has been incendiary statements designed to divide America and demonize minority communities, from his deplorable birtherism to his “law and order” rhetoric.

Oh, and note to Trump, the African-American community is not “under Democratic control.” African Americans are part of the Democratic Party — an integral part. We’re a valued part of a family. And just like any family, sometimes relationships are rocky. We’ve had disagreements. But we have come out of them stronger and more unified thanks to leaders like Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

This is bigger than the differences between two parties. Trump’s own words and deeds have made him a singularly unqualified messenger of any sort of reconciliation. Martin Luther King said “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Trump’s support among African Americans will continue to be virtually nil until we see some light and love from his campaign. I’m not holding my breath.

So, let me answer Trump’s question about what we have to lose by forsaking the Democratic Party for “something new.” What we have to lose is a tried and tested relationship with a party that has welcomed African Americans, given us voice, and helped for decades to advance our interests — a party devoted to the well-being of all Americans. I’m proud to be an African American and I’m proud to be a Democrat.

SCOTUS STANDS FOR VOTING RIGHTS

Dem Daily September 1, 2016

(Ed Note:The most basic right in a Democracy. This is why we need a Democratic President – for a Supreme Court that follows the Constitution!)

On Wednesday, the US Supreme Court dealt a blow to Republican voter suppression efforts by refusing to reinstate a restrictive North Carolina law that would have required voters to produce a photo ID at the polls.

➢ Next page
In a 4-4 split decision the high court refused North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory’s request to block a lower court ruling which struck down 2013 voting restrictions previously enacted by the state’s Republican-controlled legislature.

The earlier law not only required photo IDs but eliminated same-day registration, prevented voters from casting ballots in the wrong precinct and significantly cut the number of early-voting days.

In July the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the 2013 restrictions as excessive and unconstitutional, citing that the state had “failed to identify even a single individual who has ever been charged with committing in-person voter fraud in North Carolina.”

The court also found that the early voting restrictions proposed by the law had a much larger effect on black voters, who “disproportionately used the first seven days of early voting.”

In fact, the only evidence of fraud found by the court was with absentee voting by mail, which the state legislature had exempted from the photo ID requirement - and is used disproportionately by white people.

**SCOTUS & Voting Rights**

The state GOP’s effort in 2013 was one of many nationwide that followed a 5-to-4 US Supreme Court decision (Shelby County vs Holder) that same year which struck down Section 4b of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, weakening federal oversight of voting rights by giving states the right to impose restrictions without federal pre-clearance. Yesterday’s decision by the Supreme Court to reject the challenge to the 4th Circuit’s ruling is hailed as a win for voting-rights advocates who say the 2013 law disproportionately impacted minority, poor and elderly voters.

**FLORIDA HOUSE DISTRICT 66 UNLIKELY TO BE RED THIS YEAR!**

*by Larry Potter August 20, 2016*

Florida House District 66 is unlikely to be red this election year. The Republicans’ Red-haired leader, Donald Trump has consistently degraded women as “pigs” and “bleeding” sexual objects. Even the Florida Democratic Party, itself led by a female, does not seem fully sensitive to the toll Trump’s comments and behavior have had on Republican and Republican leaning women in Florida. If that were not the case, more Florida Democratic Party efforts to switch red districts to blue would be in evidence. One hopes that the Pinellas County Democratic Party will be more proactive in encouraging the opportunities that exist for Democrats in districts like House District 66. The Republican House District 66 incumbent, Representeative Larry Ahern, enthusiastically endorsed Trump, earlier in the primary season --- while more thoughtful Republicans, like State Senator Jack Latvala were backing Jeb Bush.

As I canvassed Seminole and Largo neighborhoods, as a Grizzle volunteer, nothing but positive comments were heard from Republican women that remembered Lorena Grizzle’s mother, Senator Mary Grizzle. Mary Grizzle was the first Republican woman elected to the Florida Senate. Given her dedication to public service, a public building on Ulmerton Road in Largo bears her name. Voters’ reactions were extremely positive that daughter Lorena was now following in Mary’s footsteps.

The effect of the Trump factor in turning Pinellas bluer, is also cited in Creative Loafing Tampa Bay: “Trump has had trouble uniting his party behind him. In Florida’s 13th Congressional District, of which State House District 66 occupies the west-central portion, a recent St. Pete Polls survey reported 47 percent of those polled would vote for Democrat Hillary Clinton and 37 percent would vote for Trump.” Republican Ahern supported diversion of taxpayer monies from public schools to subsidize private for-profit charter schools, and he agreed to ignore the Constitutional Amendment/public mandate to purchase public lands. Lorena Grizzle will earn the votes of independents on the issues.

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Creative Loafing Tampa Bay, “Downward Don: Will Having Trump at the top of the November ballot help Democrats?” by Kate Bradshaw June 16, 2016
DONALD TRUMP IS MAKING AMERICA MEANER

by Nicholas Kristof AUG. 13, 2016

FOREST GROVE, Ore. — ALL across America, in little towns like this one, Donald Trump is mainstreaming hate.

This community of Forest Grove, near the farm where I grew up in western Oregon, has historically been a charming, friendly and welcoming community. But in the middle of a physics class at the high school one day this spring, a group of white students suddenly began jeering at their Latino classmates and chanting: “Build a wall! Build a wall!”

The same white students had earlier chanted “Trump! Trump! Trump!” Soon afterward, a student hung a homemade banner in the school reading, “Build a Wall,” prompting Latinos at area schools to stage a walkout.

“They openly express their dislike of my race,” Briana Larios, a 5-year-old Mexican-American honor roll student who hopes to go to Harvard, said of some of her white classmates. Wounded by accusations that she doesn’t belong in the country in which she was born, Briana is thinking of being home-schooled rather than returning to the high school when classes resume. “People now feel that it is O.K. to say things that they might not have said a year ago,” she said. “Trump played a big role.”

Among any nation’s most precious possessions is its social fabric, and that is what Donald Trump is rending with incendiary talk about roughing up protesters and about gun owners solving the problem of Hillary Clinton making judicial nominations. Trump only mildly distanced himself when an adviser suggested that Clinton should be executed by firing squad for treason, and his rallies have become toxic brews of hatred with shouts like “Hang the bitch!” The Times made a video of Trump fans at his rallies directing crude slurs not just at Hillary Clinton, but also at blacks, Latinos, Muslims and gay people.

The tension reflects deep resentment among some white working-class families. They are angry at immigrants who have taken over some jobs, at the way communities they cherish are changing demographically and linguistically, and at what they perceive as a stifling political correctness that leaves whites accused of racism when they speak up.

Many of my old Oregon farm-town friends are strong Trump supporters, and they will completely disagree with this column. Their headline would be, “Big Media Suffocates Real Americans With Political Correctness.” The upshot is that this election year, we’re divided not only by political party and ideology, but also by identity. So the weave of our national fabric unravels. And while our eyes have mostly been on Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, the nation’s history is being written not just in the capital and grand cities but also in small towns and etched in the lives of ordinary people.

This is why America can’t have nice things

The Week by Ryan Cooper

Submitted by: Bob Glass

The American Constitution, a poorly-designed relic of the 18th century whose every imitator eventually fell apart, is designed to force compromise. Every two years the whole House of Representatives, and one-third of the Senate, is up for reelection — but the president is elected for four years. As a result, it is extremely common for one political party to control one or both branches of Congress while another controls the presidency.

So unless it’s one of the rare moments of one-party control, parties have to come to some sort of compromise on key political questions to keep the basic functions of government rolling along. That situation has persisted for all but two years of Barack Obama’s presidency, and it’s been a terrific struggle.

The reason is that Republicans, and to a lesser extent Democrats, have forgotten what compromise even means. Instead of accepting that partial control of government means accepting tactical partial defeats, and trying to win enough elections to get the full run of things and implement their agenda, Republicans have behaved like a desperado in an action movie, constantly trying extremist tactics to stave off having to meet the other party halfway.

Exhibit A in this effort is ObamaCare, which has been the focus of frankly psychotic GOP hatred since the moment it passed. They have put forward more than 60
repeal bills, shut down the government in an attempt to defund it, and are currently preventing nearly three million of their own constituents from getting ObamaCare’s Medicaid expansion — and laying waste to their own states’ medical systems — out of sheer spite.

Now, several years into its operation, ObamaCare needs some legislative attention, like any gigantic jalopy bill with a bazillion moving parts. Several insurers have quit the ObamaCare exchanges — one, Aetna, in retaliation for the government rejecting its proposal to merge with another company — and so several rural places are going to be left without anyone offering insurance on their exchange in 2017 if nothing changes.

There are many fixes on offer for such a problem, from merging remote marketplaces with bigger ones to adding a public option to every exchange. Furthermore, most such places are conservative and Republican-governed. One might think this is an opportunity. Democrats can fix up their favorite law while Republicans preserve coverage for their constituents, perhaps with a few extra goodies to sweeten the deal.

Nope! Republicans came up with the same thing they always do, as Simon Maloy notes: a proposal to destroy ObamaCare thinly veiled as one to fix it. Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Tex.) came up with a bill to repeal the individual mandate and set up some alternative subsidy system. Neither President Obama nor a future President Clinton would possibly agree to such a bill, as repealing the individual mandate would quickly destroy the exchange system.

It’s understandable that Republicans would balk at allowing Democrats to fix their favorite thing (though again, it’s mainly Republican constituents who would be materially helped here). But what about good old horse-trading? Lots of GOP priorities have been sitting on the back burner for years now. How about a corporate tax holiday? Or a break on the estate tax?

That would be a really queasy compromise for lefties, but it would set up the terms of negotiation on ground amenable to both parties. Instead of trying to force resolution on issues of fundamental disagreement, each faction gets a thing they actually want.

No, Donald Trump, America Isn’t a Hellhole

by Paul Krugman AUG. 26, 2016

Donald Trump has taken a strange turn lately. O.K., he has taken a lot of strange turns — that’s what happens when you nominate a short-attention-span candi-
traditional values and that things would get even worse unless those values were restored.

But then a funny thing happened: The murder rate began falling, and falling, and falling. By 2014 it was all the way back down to where it was half a century earlier. There was some rise in 2015, but so far, at least, it’s barely a blip in the long-run picture.

Basically, American cities are as safe as they’ve ever been. Nobody is completely sure why crime has plunged, but the point is that the nightmare landscape of the Republican candidate’s rhetoric — call it Trump’s hellhole? — bears no resemblance to reality.

And we’re not just talking about statistics here; we’re also talking about lived experience. Fear of crime hasn’t disappeared from American life — today’s New York is incredibly safe by historical standards, yet I still wouldn’t walk around some areas at 3 a.m. But fear clearly plays a much diminished role now in daily life.

So what is all of this about? The same thing everything in the Trump campaign is about: race.

I used scare quotes when talking about Mr. Trump’s racial “outreach” because it’s clear that the real purpose of his vaguely conciliatory rhetoric is not so much to attract nonwhite voters as it is to reassure squeamish whites that he isn’t as racist as he seems. But here’s the thing: Even when he is trying to sound racially inclusive, his imagery is permeated by an “alt-right” sensibility that fundamentally sees nonwhites as subhuman.

Thus when he asks African-Americans, “What do you have to lose by trying something new, like Trump?” he betrays ignorance of the reality that most African-Americans work hard for a living and that there is a large black middle class. Oh, and 86 percent of nonelderly black adults have health insurance, up from 73 percent in 2010 thanks to Obamacare. Maybe they do have something to lose?

But how was he supposed to know? In the mental world he and those he listens to inhabit, blacks and other nonwhites are by definition shiftless burdens on society.

Which brings us back to the notion of America as a nightmarish dystopia. Taken literally, that’s nonsense. But today’s increasingly multicultural society is a nightmare for people who want a white, Christian nation in which lesser breeds know their place. And those are the people Mr. Trump has brought out into the open.

WHAT HAPPENS IF NO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GETS 270 ELECTORAL VOTES?

If no candidate receives a majority of Electoral votes, the House of Representatives elects the President from the 3 Presidential candidates who received the most Electoral votes. Each state delegation has one vote. The Senate would elect the Vice President from the 2 Vice Presidential candidates with the most Electoral votes. Each Senator would cast one vote for Vice President. If the House of Representatives fails to elect a President by Inauguration Day, the Vice-President Elect serves as acting President until the deadlock is resolved in the House.

What would happen if two candidates tied in a state’s popular vote, or if there was a dispute as to the winner?

A tie is a statistically remote possibility even in smaller states. But if a state’s popular vote were to come out as a tie between candidates, state law would govern as to what procedure would be followed in breaking the tie. A tie would not be known of until late November or early December, after a recount and after the Secretary of State had certified the election results. Federal law would allow a state to hold a run-off election.

A very close finish could also result in a run-off election or legal action to decide the winner. Under Federal law (3 U.S.C. section 5), state law governs on this issue, and would be conclusive in determining the selection of Electors. The law provides that if states have laws to determine controversies or contests as to the selection of Electors, those determinations must be completed six days prior to the day the Electors meet.

(Ed Note: This would be a devastating outcome, given that the House is controlled by the Evil Re-pugs!)

A Letter to the Editor to the NYTimes.

(Ed note: I read this and thought it would be a good addition to our Newsletter)

What worries me the most about the debates are not the moderators, even though they worry me a great deal. I’m most worried about the people watching them. The older I get, the more knowledge and wisdom I acquire as I travel through life, the more disappointed and dejected I get about our citizenry. I can’t believe how unbelievably stupid, gullible and ignorant large sections of the
population are. I’m not talking about rubes, hillbillies and poor people. I’m talking about many that went to college, or have decent paying jobs and appear to be high functioning. But yet, they swallow the most ridiculous lies, contradictions and even insults directed at them and beg for more.

This entire campaign has devolved into a slime bath of the cult of personality. Trump projects toughness and a can do attitude even though he really doesn’t know how to do anything or know much about anything. His followers love him for that even as he insults them and praises dictators. Hillary projects extreme intelligence, competence and worldly experience and gets ridiculed because she doesn’t come across like the host of a preschoolers TV show. When she speaks you can see the gears turning in her head which is perceived as being dishonest because she doesn’t speak from the gut like that Bush guy did. (He is the guy whose gut instincts blew up the Middle East).

The moderators will have little effect. It doesn’t matter what is said, only the emotional reaction displayed. ☹️
A crazed gunman’s attack on an Orlando club in June, killing 49 people, resulted in blanket news coverage and national trauma.

Now imagine that such a massacre unfolds more than five times a day, seven days a week, unceasingly for five years, totaling perhaps 470,000 deaths. That is Syria. Yet even as the Syrian and Russian governments commit war crimes, bombing hospitals and starving civilians, President Obama and the world seem to shrug.

I admire Obama for expanding health care and averting a nuclear crisis with Iran, but allowing Syria’s civil war and suffering to drag on unchallenged has been his worst mistake, casting a shadow over his legacy. It is also a stain on all of us, analogous to the indifference toward Jewish refugees in the 1930s, to the eyes averted from Bosnia and Rwanda in the 1990s, to Darfur in the 2000s. This is a crisis that cries out for American leadership, and Obama hasn’t shown enough.

In fairness, Obama is right to be cautious about military involvement, and we don’t know whether the more assertive approaches favored by Hillary Clinton, Gen. David Petraeus and many others would have been more effective. But I think Obama and Americans in general are mistaken when they seem to suggest: It’s horrible what’s going on over there, but there’s just nothing we can do.

“There are many things we can be doing now,” James Cartwright, a retired four-star general who was vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told me. “We can do many things to create security in selected areas, protect and stabilize those safe zones and allow them to rebuild their own country even as the conflict continues in other parts of the country.” Cartwright, who has been called Obama’s favorite general, acknowledges that his proposal for safe zones carries risks and that the American public should be prepared for a long project, a decade or more. But he warns that the risks of doing nothing in Syria are even greater.

This critique is bipartisan. Kori Schake, director of defense strategy in the George W. Bush White House, says, “Yes, there is something that we can do.” Her recommendation is for safe zones modeled on Operation Provide Comfort, which established the highly successful no-fly-zone in northern Iraq in 1991 after the first Gulf war.

Many experts recommend trying to ground Syria’s Air Force so it can no longer drop barrel bombs on hospitals and civilians. One oft-heard idea is to fire missiles from outside Syria to crater military runways to make them unusable. One aim of such strategies is to increase the odds of a negotiated end to the war. Obama’s reticence has robbed Secretary of State John Kerry, who is valiantly trying to negotiate a lasting Syrian ceasefire, of leverage. The U.S. was able to get an Iran deal because it held bargaining chips, while in Syria we have relinquished all clout. And Obama’s dithering has had a real cost, for any steps in Syria are far more complex now that Russia is in the war.

Perhaps it’s unfair to reproach Obama when other politicians and other countries are also unmoved — and the U.S. has been generous with financial aid — but ultimately the buck stops on Obama’s desk. He will host a summit meeting on refugees next month and I hope will seize that chance to provide the global leadership needed to address the crisis.
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.)

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

**ANNUAL DUES ARE JUST $10**