



**From the President's Desk**

*By Rich Piper*

President Obama has correctly emphasized that we must act now to spur economic growth and create jobs in this country, and his American Jobs Act goes a good distance toward meeting our desperate needs in these difficult times. Among its most critical provisions are:

- Infrastructure upgrades to our bridges, roads and schools. These will directly create new jobs while enhancing public safety and education. They are a necessary investment in our future.
- Extension of payroll tax cuts to put more money into the hands of most citizens, creating the buying power to fuel economic growth.
- Business tax credits to encourage the hiring of new employees.

Unfortunately, though Republican Speaker John Boehner's initial reaction to the President's address was less negative than usual, he and his Republican colleagues have increasingly been cherry-picking the President's proposals, opposing more and more of them and ferociously fighting against the President's efforts to raise needed revenue over the long haul.

The President's proposed "Buffett-rule" tax hike on multimillionaires and billionaires – a very fair and proper proposal --sends the Congressional Republicans into a wild rage of opposition. They cry "class warfare" while they themselves daily wage class warfare against the middle class by attacking Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and public employees. The top one per cent of our population has been gaining control over more and more of our national wealth over the past four decades. Now the top one per cent owns 40% of the wealth (the highest figure since 1929), thanks in large part to the Republicans' economic policies. Warren Buffett, himself a billionaire, has noted this pattern and the fact the he pays less of his income in taxes than many of his employees do. Once again, the Republicans are demonstrating that they care much more about the tax breaks of their multimillionaire and billionaire paymasters than they care about their constituents who have lost their jobs in the recession that the Republicans caused in the first place.

The lines are clearly drawn now, and President Obama's appeals to the public in visits to an array of states and the new Democratic National Committee advertisements on television offer hope that we can win the campaign for public opinion with the Republicans who are waging war on the middle class.

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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:** Oct 17, 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)



Visit our website at:  
[www.largodemocrats.com](http://www.largodemocrats.com)

We in the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club are sponsoring a series of phone banks with Organizing for America to reach out to the volunteers in Pinellas County who have helped President Obama in the past and to find new volunteers. Please contact Heidi Sanchez ([sanchezhp@aol.com](mailto:sanchezhp@aol.com)) or me ([rpiper3404@aol.com](mailto:rpiper3404@aol.com)) if you can help out with one of our Saturday phone banks this month or would like to make phone calls from your home. We are seeking to galvanize support for the President's American Jobs Act as well as laying the ground work for the 2012 campaign. We'll also soon be undertaking a massive voter registration drive that will need your support.

Here in Largo in 2011, we should assist our club member Michael Smith in his effort to win election to the Largo City Commission. His campaign manager, Steven McHugh, spoke at our last club meeting about the Smith campaign; and Michael will be a featured speaker at our October 15 picnic in Taylor Park. Especially if you live in Largo (but even if you don't), please volunteer some time and/or money to Michael's worthy campaign. To get involved, please contact Steven McHugh at [stevenmchugh@gmail.com](mailto:stevenmchugh@gmail.com) or visit Michael's campaign website: [www.smithforlargo.org](http://www.smithforlargo.org)

### Join Us at Saturday's Old-Fashioned Democratic Picnic

Ever had the urge to smash Rick Scott's smirk with a wet sponge? Great news! You'll get the chance on **Saturday, Oct. 15** at the Largo club's "Old Fashioned Democratic Picnic." To cheers from fellow Dems and no legal repercussions! What better way to get in the spirit of Campaign 2012?!

If you haven't purchased a ticket, just bring your \$5 to Taylor Park off 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Largo between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. In addition to pigging out on hot dogs and sides, you can play bocce or volleyball, listen to live music, cut a rug if you're in the mood, get inspired by some rousing but brief campaign speeches, get your picture taken with a cardboard President Obama, and take chances on a large number of raffle items and a 50-50.

Theresa Fedorczyk and her picnic committee have outdone themselves to make this a real blowout which will feed our political souls as well as the club's campaign kitty. Hope to see you there.

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### FLORIDA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

- **Sen. Bill Nelson** - 813 225-7040 or (202) 224-5274 Email: <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

### Sen. Bill Nelson Sends Regional Director to October Club Meeting

Senator Nelson, Florida's sole statewide-elected Democrat, is cranking up his 2012 re-election campaign, likely against Adam Hasner or George LeMieux. At the club's monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 17, Shakra Anderson, his regional director, will report on the Orlando lawmaker's positions on issues ranging from the American Jobs Act to Florida's voter suppression law to a proposed congressional investigation of Planned Parenthood.

(In a letter in the Oct. 11 *St. Petersburg Times* regarding Planned Parenthood, the Senator wrote: "I am not privy to all that is behind this matter, but I haven't yet heard of reasonable or probable cause that would justify Congress using its awesome power to conduct such a sweeping investigation. . . . I, for one, would like to see this same investigational vigor aimed at Wall Street's misconduct.")

The business meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the Thirsty Marlin Grill, 351 West Bay, Largo. People are invited to come earlier to eat and socialize.

With interest in 2012 drawing more and more people to club meetings, we may need to start looking for a roomier location. If any members have suggestions, please let us know.

Date	Time	Event	Location
<b>SATURDAY, OCT 15</b>	11:00 AM – 3:00 PM	<b>2ND Annual Picnic, Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club</b>	<p><b>Event Location:</b> Taylor Lake Park, Shelter #2, Largo (8th Ave. SW)</p> <p><b>Event Description:</b> Please join us for good food and a great time at our annual picnic at Taylor Lake Park, Shelter #2, Largo, on 8th Ave. SW, West of Clearwater-Largo Rd./Ridge Rd. and East of Indian Rocks Rd. Tickets are \$5 each, available from President Rich Piper, <a href="mailto:rpiper3404@aol.com">rpiper3404@aol.com</a> or 727-588-0891, or any members of the club executive board</p>
<b>SUNDAY, OCT 16</b>	12:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Mike Fox Phone Bank	<p>Event Location: Dem HQ, 2250 1st Ave N, St. Pete</p> <p><b>Event Description:</b> Come for a couple of hours or the whole time. We'll be making calls to make sure Pinellas County becomes even more Democratic! Bring your cell phone (if you have anytime minutes) and wireless networkable lap top. Call Mike @ 727-320-4502 to RSVP so we're sure to have enough phone lines.</p>
<b>MONDAY, OCT 17</b>	7:00 PM – TBD	<b>Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club</b>	Thirsty Marlin Grill, 351 W. Bay Drive, Largo 33770
<b>MONDAY, OCT 17</b>	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Mike Fox Phone Bank	<p>Event Location: Dem HQ, 2250 1st Ave N, St. Pete</p> <p><b>Event Description:</b> Swing by any time between 4 and 8pm to get trained on the votebuilder tool and make calls to Dems to help make Pinellas becomes even more Democratic! Bring your cell phone (if you have anytime minutes) and wireless networkable lap top. Call Mike @ 727-320-4502 to RSVP so we're sure to have enough phone lines.</p>
<b>THURSDAY, OCT 20</b>	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Stonewall Democrats	<p>Pinellas County Democratic Party Office - 2250 - 1st Avenue N., St. Petersburg</p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:RQBoylan@gmail.com">RQBoylan@gmail.com</a>.</p>

Date	Time	Event	Location
<b>SUNDAY, OCT 23</b>	12:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Mike Fox Phone Bank	Event Location: Dem HQ, 2250 1st Ave N, St. Pete  <b>Event Description:</b> Come for a couple of hours or the whole time. We'll be making calls to make sure Pinellas County becomes even more Democratic! Bring your cell phone (if you have anytime minutes) and wireless networkable lap top. Call Mike @ 727-320-4502 to RSVP so we're sure to have enough phone lines.
<b>THURSDAY, OCT 27</b>	TBD	Hispanic Caucus Meeting	Pinellas County Democratic Party Office - 2250 - 1st Avenue N., St. Petersburg
<b>THURSDAY, OCT 27</b>	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	PCDEC	St. Pete Marriott Hotel, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd. N., St. Pete
<b>FRIDAY, OCT 28 – SUNDAY Oct 30</b>	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE CONVENTION	Event Location: Contemporary Resort, Walt Disney World
<b>WEDNESDAY, NOV 2</b>	6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	St. Petersburg Democratic Club	Event Location: Location: Picadilly Cafeteria 1900 34th St. N (Plaza at sw corner of 34th St. N & 22nd Ave. N.) St Petersburg, FL For more information, please contact Mike Fox at 727-320-4502 or <a href="mailto:tampabaydemocracy@yahoo.com">tampabaydemocracy@yahoo.com</a>
<b>SUNDAY, NOV 6</b>	12:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Mike Fox Phone Bank	Event Location: Dem HQ, 2250 1st Ave N, St. Pete  <b>Event Description:</b> Come for a couple of hours or the whole time. We'll be making calls to make sure Pinellas County becomes even more Democratic! Bring your cell phone (if you have anytime minutes) and wireless networkable lap top. Call Mike @ 727-320-4502 to RSVP so we're sure to have enough phone lines.

More Information available at: <http://www.pinellasedemocrats.com/calendar.asp?nDate=10%2F1%2F2011>

## Pinellas Democratic Party NEWS

### **PCDEC Planning Holiday Bash**

Pinellas Democrats are invited to party hardy on Dec. 3 to raise money to keep the county headquarters open, pay property taxes and put on a new roof. The holiday bash, which will be held at the St. Pete VFW, is jointly sponsored by the county's Democratic clubs. Tickets are \$25.

The Largo club will hold a silent auction as its contribution, so help is needed collecting items – preferably ones that will generate excitement and big bids. Any assistance will

be greatly appreciated. Suggestions include tickets to sporting events, artwork, jewelry, restaurant gift certificates – but please feel free to be creative.

Rich Piper is coordinating our club's effort.

### **FLA Dems Launch On-Line Digest**

**Another way to stay in touch with the state's Democratic political activities is the new FLA Dems Digest. To sign up, go to [www.fladems.com](http://www.fladems.com)**

Rod Smith, State Democratic chairman, had this message in the first edition:

"This past month I've been on the road traveling throughout Florida, attending events and talking with Democrats from across the state. Let me tell you, after attending the Annual Boots and Blues Barbecue in Jackson County and Palm Beach County's sold out Truman-Kennedy-Johnson dinner, Democrats are more motivated than ever for 2012.

"From Marianna to Palm Beach, Democrats are fighting for our values and standing up to defend Social Security, Medicare, and defend Florida's hard working middle class from Tea Party Republicans like Rick Scott and this legislature. I recently attended the 68th Annual NAACP State Conference and participated in a panel on civic engagement that rallied supporters to continue our fight to protect your right to vote.

"The next step on the road to 2012 is the 2011 Florida Democratic Party State Convention. Democratic delegates from every corner of the state will join together with influential Democratic leaders to officially nominate President Obama as our 2012 candidate. Our State Convention is the perfect opportunity to participate in the momentum

that's building in Florida as we work to re-elect President Obama, Senator Bill Nelson and a host of other Democratic leaders. Vice President Joe Biden is the keynote speaker at the "Legacy of Leadership: A Promise for Tomorrow" dinner on Oct. 28.

"I look forward to seeing you all as I continue to travel across Florida."

### **PROJECT 67**

Florida's 67 Democratic Executive Committees (DECs) are the lifeblood of the state party. Project 67 creates an opportunity for local Democrats to make their voice heard. Many members of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club - including our president, Rich Piper, vice president Lois Fries, secretary Mary Lou Ambrose, Belleair Commissioner Joe Barkley, Belleair Beach Commissioner Wanda Schwerer, Charlotte Maas, Ginny Nelson, Heidi Sanchez, Kathleen Jamison, Deb Anderson, Elaine Granata, Peggy Goodale, Mary Freeman, Kathryn Larkin, Tom Steck and Ethan Kellogg - are members of the Pinellas County DEC. Anyone interested in getting involved at this level and working with other activists from throughout the county should contact Rich at 727 588-0891

## **Club News**

### **Two Presidents Meeting in Orlando**

President Obama is heading for Florida this week to meet with unemployed construction workers in the Orlando area to discuss the importance of passing the American Jobs Act to create jobs and rebuild our nation's schools and infrastructure.

President Rich Piper is heading for Orlando to attend one of two presidential fundraisers also on tap.

The First Lady will be in Florida on October 27, and Rich has also scored an invite to attend a soiree in a private home, location still under wraps.



*President Obama addresses the attendees at the Orlando Fundraiser Photo by Rich Piper*



Former US Representative Alan Grayson meets attendees at the Orlando Fundraiser Photo by Rich Piper

### **Working 24/7 for Obama 2012**

Victoria Kirby, who started as an OFA summer organizer, got to meet the President over cheeseburgers, and is now Pinellas County's field director was the guest speaker at the September meeting.

Organizing for America is a project of the Democratic National Committee committed to building on and strengthening the historic grassroots network created during the 2008 Obama campaign and helping advance

the President's agenda.



OFA Pinellas Director Victoria Kirby and Rich Piper at the Obama Fundraiser in Orlando

### **Sign Up for Signs**

The Largo City Commission election is rapidly approaching and even though this is a non-partisan race, the club is supporting our fellow member Michael Smith. If you live in Largo and are willing to have one of his signs in your yard for the next few weeks, please contact Michael Fox at [tampabaydemocracy@yahoo.com](mailto:tampabaydemocracy@yahoo.com) or at 727-320-4502.

It's really important to get more progressives into office and Mary Grey Black has a record of ultra-conservatism in her on-again, off-again 35 year commission career.

## **LETTERS and OPINIONS**

### **Opinions**

#### **Republican Party Not the Champion of Life**

*By Kyle Quattlebaum, club member*

It's seemed obvious for some time that the current version of the ultra-conservative movement that has taken over the Republican party resists the notion that we are a society

that is willing to share the risks of life with our fellow countrymen. The recent Republican debates brought that fact home to much of the rest of the country.

An important confirmation for me came two years ago when an official of the local Republican Party, told me he would let a woman receiving welfare die before he would

approve of his taxes being used to buy her food. While he wasn't the first to express opposition to various safety net programs his was certainly the most graphic. He and I still talk about our family, business, sports and other topics but we don't discuss politics.

Recently, the nation got some insight into just how virulent similar opinions have become in the Tea Party strain of the ultra-conservative movement. It was first visible on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Republican Presidential Debate hosted by the Reagan Library, NBC News and Politico. An even more revealing view came on Sept. 12 at the CNN, Tea Party Presidential debate. If you haven't seen the two most compelling exchanges click on the links at the end of this document for your personal view.

In a question to Ron Paul, Wolf Blitzer set up a scenario where a person without deep pockets or health insurance needed intensive medical care over a long period of time and Paul was asked who should pay for that care. He initially gave the standard; we are responsible for our own actions, response when Blitzer asked the follow on question. "Are you saying that society should just let him die?" Paul said "No." but the crowd said yes. Later, Rick Perry told a reporter that he was surprised by that response because the Republican Party is the "party of life".

It's interesting to watch just how narrow the ultra-conservative concept of "party of life" has become. It is, after all, an extension of the old Moral Majority movement headed by Pat Robertson in the early 80's given new strength through the advent of the internet and Fox "News".

That genesis is evident when the legislation passed by Republican / conservative state legislatures as well as the federal House Of Representatives are examined. Far more bills restricting a woman's healthcare choices during pregnancy and segregating those with non-heterosexual lifestyle choices have been enacted than matters affecting economic conditions.

When they have dealt with economic matters it has most often been in ways that limits our government, which is another way of saying

"us", from providing support of any kind to those who may need it. Insistence on personal financial responsibility was a factor in the Moral Majority platform but not to the extent it is in this iteration. Limiting worker rights and removing support for the medium to long term unemployed has been a prominent addition to their agenda.

It seems clear that massive financial support for ultra conservative activity has come from corporate America. Seven of the top ten political PACs supporting this movement are funded significantly by business interest. That accounts for the emphasis in limiting union activity and eliminating legislation protecting the environment as well as corporate oversight by the various levels of government. It also accounts for the intense movement to deny assistance to those in need because that assistance requires tax money. That explains why that audience was willing to let the sick man die and my Republican friend was willing to let the poor woman starve.

It does not account for the cheers and applause given when Bryan Williams of NBC News pointed out that 234 people have been executed during the time Rick Perry has been governor of Texas. That was a special response. It is not at all clear that it is cheaper to put someone to death versus incarceration for life. It also ignores the increasing evidence that some convictions can no longer be supported by the information presented at trial.

Some folks will argue that the death penalty may be a deterrent to some crimes but there is no argument that can be made in support of applauding its more frequent use. We should accept the fact that we have chosen to take someone's life through legal means with solemn reverence and not with applause.

The conservative / Republican movement may be the champion of a number of causes. The evidence on display there does not support the claim that it is the champion of life.

**OCCUPY WALL STREET PROTESTS ARE SPREADING**

*By Carl Zimmermann, Tarpon Springs, PCDEC member, former State House candidate*

Wall Street and Congress seem confused about what the Occupy Movement is about. So, here it is.

We are your answer.

You have organized a movement to strip workers of their retirement and their benefits.

You attack the integrity of the American worker.

You threaten to destroy our social security – the backbone of the middle class.

You insult our teachers, lie about education and manipulate statistics to manufacture crisis.

You disrespect our police, our fire fighters and our right to collective bargaining.

All while you get more. And we get less.

We the people did not cause this economic crisis. Our benefits did not cause the crisis any

more than it caused the economic boom in the past. Greed caused it.

You, the economic leaders are responsible.

The working man does not have the power to make the bad investments and wrong business decisions to topple the world market. You do and you did.

Yet, you expect us to believe that the solution is that we must expect less while you make more. And you think so little of us that you expect there will be no answer. Well, this is your answer.

The Occupy Movement is the recognition of the problem. You are destroying the American dream for all but the elite. It's time to be held accountable by the people.

If corporate leaders want to fix this country, pay off the \$15 trillion debt. Pay it now.

Bring back the money you keep off shore and pay the taxes due.

And continue to pay your fair share so we can all get back to the wonderful life we had.

## For Your Information

### Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club Board of Directors

<b>President</b> Rich Piper <a href="mailto:resident@largodemocrats.com">resident@largodemocrats.com</a>	<b>Vice President</b> Lois Fries
<b>Secretary</b> Mary Lou Ambrose <a href="mailto:Admin@largodemocrats.com">Admin@largodemocrats.com</a>	<b>Treasurer</b> Elizabeth Snedeker
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<b>Director</b> Deb Anderson	<b>Director</b> Ginny Nelson
<b>Outreach Coordinator</b> Charlotte Maas	<b>Director/newsletter editor</b> Kathleen Jamison

Additional contact information is available on [www.largodemocrats.com](http://www.largodemocrats.com) –

### **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 [Editor@largodemocrats.com](mailto:Editor@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!**