

- The Florida Caucus, along with 10 chapters were submitted to the FDP CCOC by the April 19th deadline for certification. Those chapters are: **Alachua, Brevard (new for 2019!), Broward, Citrus, Escambia, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk and Sarasota. Thanks to all who were involved in putting together these packages!**
- We have 6 chapters that will be submitting recertification packages by the August 16th deadline and two in the re-formation stage (Orange and Miami-Dade). Both Orange and Miami-Dade were certified in 2017, and I fully believe that both will be ready to recertify by the August deadline. **Recertification is extremely important to continue doing the work we are charged with in electing Democrats, and I encourage those chapter who have not recertified to do so as soon as possible! If any assistance is needed, please contact me.**
- Both the Caucus and the FDP websites are being updated to include all county chapters with contact information. It is important that we know leadership changes, so the websites and the databases can be updated.
- Along with supporting our 18 existing chapters, we continue working with LGBTA Democratic activists in St. Lucie, Highland, Bay, Indian River, Flagler, Sumter, Monroe, Seminole, Collier and Volusia Counties. Please continue to be on the lookout for interested LGBTA Democratic activists, in counties with no Caucus chapter. We know there are LGBTA Democrats in all 67 Florida counties and our goal is to have chapters in every one of them!
- Thanks for all you do!

Respectfully,
 Sally Phillips – Director
 Alfredo Olvera – Deputy Director

Region 1 Report

Capital Equality Democratic Caucus – Submitted by Andy Janecek

Since January, Capital Equality has been holding regular membership meetings to reengage voters following the 2018 election cycle. Special guests have included Equality Florida’s Jon Harris Maurer, Leon County Commission Rick Minor, and For Our Future’s David Akintonde.

During the May, 2019, “Pizza and Politics”-themed membership meeting, Caucus members will learn more about the Leon County Democratic Executive Committee’s voter registration initiative. This will provide an opportunity for Caucus members to be engaged in voter registration. Additionally, the Caucus is working on scheduling a VAN/VoteBuilder training session for members with access.

Capital Equality is a red-level sponsor of Tallahassee PRIDEFEST, April 20-27, 2019. The chapter is preparing for the annual election of officers scheduled for June, 2019.

Escambia County LGBTA Democratic Caucus – Submitted by Jeff Nall

At its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 10, the chapter elected officers and directors to serve through February 2021. Due to unforeseen events, two substitutions had to be put forward from the

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original slate. The officers and directors are Brian Heike, president; Carol Cleaver, vice president, Mark Gillman, secretary; Bill Brancati, treasurer; and at-large board members Nancy Hagman and Jeff Nall.

The recertification packet was submitted prior to the April 16 deadline. Thanks to Sally Phillips for assistance.

The chapter continues to struggle with meeting attendance. Going forward, the board is looking to incorporate a more social component such as phone banking together and watch parties for Democratic Party debates. The first phone bank gathering was held on Wednesday, April 17.

Pending the outcome of proposed state legislation, the chapter is prepared to begin pursuit of a Human Rights Ordinance in the City of Pensacola.

Respectfully,
Andy Janecek – Regional Director
Jeff Nall – Alt Regional Director

Region 2 Report

Equality Caucus of Citrus County - Chuck Higgins, President

At our April regular meeting, we had a presentation from the Director of Florida Trans Proud, Denise Johnson. She and a board member described their work and organization. We discussed some potential joint effort such as exploring how best to reach out to LGBTQ+ youth in rural areas.

Two members of the caucus attended the Hernando Pride planning meeting in order to continue building a relationship between the two counties. All agreed to at least cross promote each other's events. Through the Hernando meeting we discovered the existence of a small LGBT social group in Citrus County that we were unaware of. We're in the process of reaching out to them.

Sumter County is likely to try and hold an exploratory meeting in May. Citrus has agreed to participate in the discussion. A date for that meeting has not yet been scheduled.

We continue to plan for Citrus Pride! which will occur on June 29th.

Respectfully,
Chuck Higgins – Regional Director

Region 3 Report

Rainbow Ridge LGBTQA Democratic Caucus of Polk County:

- All required items for re-certification have been submitted.

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- Caucus members successfully lobbied Haines City Commission for a resolution urging the Florida legislature to pass the Competitive Workforce Act.
- The following committees have been formed: Legislative, Finance, Membership, Campaign, Communications and Polk Pride.
- Efforts are afoot exploring prospects of securing all-inclusive civil rights ordinances / human rights ordinances in municipalities within the county.

The next general membership meeting will take place beginning at 6:30 PM Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at the Rib House 2918 Florida Ave S., Lakeland, FL. Guest speaker will be Wes Davis, area representative for Equality Florida. For further information, call Rainbow Ridge Democrats President Woody Wilbanks at 863-450-7166.

Osceola County LGBTA Democratic Caucus:

The next general membership meeting will take place beginning at 7 PM Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at The Center, 21 W. Monument Avenue, Kissimmee, FL. Phone number for The Center is 407-201-2544.

Respectfully,
David Jones – Regional Director

Region 4 Report

Hillsborough County LGBTA Democratic Caucus

The Hillsborough Caucus has participated in several events of action to help our endorsed candidate Jane Castor win the runoff election on Tuesday April 23, 2019 to become Mayor of the City of Tampa. Ms. Castor is the former police chief and a member of the LGBT community. In addition three City Councils seats will also be decided in the runoff elections.

Breaking News! Ms. Jane Castor won by a landslide (74%) and is the newly elected Mayor of Tampa! This win sets a record as the fourth openly lesbian mayor of a major U.S. city and the third largest Florida city! Also, the Caucus endorsed city council candidate and Caucus member, John Dingfelder won with 64% of the vote!

Our guest speaker for the April membership meeting was Kelly Smith, who is running in the HD-38 special election in Pasco County on June 18. Kelly is a strong ally of the LGBT community and an endorsed candidate of the Pasco LGBTA Caucus.

The Caucus also updated our bylaws and submitted the recertification package by the April deadline.

The 5th Annual Tampa Pride on Saturday March 30, 2019 was the largest one ever and was very successful for the Caucus. We had a huge contingent in the parade with diverse support coming from

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other Hillsborough Clubs and Caucuses. The Caucus and DEC had booths next to each other and were busy all day registering voters, collecting VBM's and educating voters.

We are very excited to be hosting the summer conference in Hillsborough County!

Visit our Facebook page and like us!

Stonewall Democratic Caucus of Sarasota County – Submitted by Joe Agostine Jr

The Stonewall Democratic Caucus of Sarasota County participated in the 2nd Annual March for our Lives. Despite the bad weather, the event was successful. We also facilitated our 2nd Annual "Love Is Love" fundraiser which was extremely successful. Funds raised at this event will be used to boost our war-chest as we begin preparations for the 2020 election cycle. We completed our re-certification efforts (with time to spare!!) and fully expect a positive outcome. Stonewall will be participating in Sarasota's Harvey Milk Festival and we have extended an invitation to other Caucus' in Sarasota to share our booth space.

Manatee LGBTA Democratic Caucus

Manatee April 2019 summary: (note, the numbers with a V, indicate approx. attendances).

EDITORIAL: We are sending multiple people on **MAHC** (Manasota Attainable Housing Coalition) **Cruise** (Symphony of the Seas out of Miami) in Jan 2020. Please request info via this email svan98@hotmail.com or call 941-748-8404, we have great event planned. Multiple "Social Equality" groups from across USA, will join this event. We have had anywhere from under 50 to over 1000+ join these cruise events in past when GA advertised, as they are this time (part of the global "linked-in" business networking). We have videos of some past cruises available on multiple international sites, let us know if you would like link.

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April 4th Stop Fracking Rally 1023 Manatee Ave Bradenton, Fl. Multiple media covered demonstration in front of Senator Galvano offices, and his Secretary received a petition from hundreds and including many businesses demanding this dangerous practice be stopped; to protect Florida. (On ABC News , and multiple newspapers.) (21v)

April 10th Progressive Caucus 7:00pm Dem Headquarters Discussed status of 4 Action items and teams progress. Special MAHC Meeting with Tiger Bay Forum 4/11/19, media coverage ABC, Newspapers, many groups working on Affordable & Attainable Housing present. (17v)

APRIL 13th Saturday DEC GALA hundreds of Dems from Manatee and area attended. (300+v)

April 17th Manatee LGBTA DEMS Caucus—6:00pm Dem Headquarters, LGBTA Action Plans organized for 2019; Status reports: Discussed CRF separation to autonomous group, was done with no decent. New name "CP&RF". Caucus name change discussed and tabled until Jan. 2020. Worked on more data for State Re-cert. Discussed WHY "member data" is sent to state, **and our inability to keep private**, will continue to impact "paid membership", but ALL volunteers welcome including NPAs. (Note: Our current paid membership is under 30, but we have a field of more than 80+ volunteers from past 2 years, many will not become "paid members" due to this issue, several who have paid, gave testimony on their understanding situation. We will continue to work to STOP/REDUCE the continual discrimination on LGBTQIA, by various hate groups; employers, "religious groups"; Housing, etc.) (14v)

April 22nd DEC Meeting-- 6:00pm in DEM Headquarters. JOIN our march to 2020!

April 26th CP&RF Radio Interviews--- 5-7pm Radio interviews Guest include Tracy Pratt Chair Manatee Dem Party; Souad from Open Arms Surrogacy & Egg Donations, serving LGBTQIA; Steve from MAHC gave current monthly update; **Equality FL. State Director of Communications** on working with **State LGBTQ+ Dems**, and Equality Issues.

April 30th PFLAG Meeting -- 6:00pm at ALSO Youth in Sarasota. NYC. Film on Trans issues.

Respectfully,
Ercilia Albistu & Steve Ryan - Directors
Mary Ann Shea – Alternate Regional Directors

Region 5 Report

"PALM BEACH PRIDE" - A ROUSING SUCCESS!!

On Sat/Sun (March 30/31), our Chapter was part of the Historic "PALM BEACH PRIDE" - OVER 24,000 THOUSAND IN ATTENDANCE!!

This year's theme was "STONEWALL 50".

We made numerous contacts with people interested in learning more about the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus & Our Chapter.

Among the contacts made: 1 from St. Lucie Co.; 1 from Broward Co.; and 3 from Martin Co. I am following up on those leads. (The Broward Co. contact has been given to Nik Harris.)

We registered 10 New Voters - including 1 Party Change (to "Dem.") & 1 Name Change (Transitioning), along with several VBM requests.

On the petition drives - we garnered over 200 signatures (Total for both petitions).

Sunday's Parade through downtown Lake Worth was the BIGGEST YET.

The parade started 30 minutes earlier (11:00 AM), lasting just over one hour in length.

As an annual tradition, County (and State) Party Chair Terrie Rizzo marched with us, as did PBC State Attorney Dave Aronberg (with his adorable Basset Hound), County Commissioner Gregg Weiss, along with many more supporters.

Overall, about 30 people walked behind our caucus banner - ahead for our parade vehicle (driven by Nicholas Coppola) with the U.S., State, Rainbow, & Transgender Pride Flags on full display, billowing in the wind. Somehow we found ourselves placed at the back of the parade, arriving inside Bryant Park 20 minutes after the park opened (12:00 Noon).

When we arrived at our booth-space, we found "Strangers (GASP!) staffing our booth" - gathering petition signatures! Luckily for us, it was "Friendly Forces" - members of other PBC Democratic Clubs had seen the need and stepped up to help out.

Our booth was photographed repeatedly on both days, due to our "Impeccably Tasteful Decor": We had 4 "Baby Trump w/ Cellphone" balloons - a Definite Crowd Favorite!!

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After two very long days (awake before 6:00 A.M. Sat. & Sun.), we left "PALM BEACH PRIDE" Absolutely Exhausted!!

##

Our April 16th meeting featured Guest Speaker Meredith Ockman. Meredith has spent most of her adult life working on behalf of Women's Rights's and Reproductive Issues, LGBT Rights's, as well as being a long-term board member of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council (PBCHRC). We also heard a few words from State Caucus Vice-President Nik Harris.

##

Some Upcoming Events our chapter will focus on to increase our visibility:

April 30 - "Dining Out For Life" (DOFL). Plans are being made for us to dine out together. Participating restaurants will be donating 30% (from the bill) to the Compass HIV Prevention & Treatment Program.

May 24 - Youth Equality Prom at Compass GLCC

June 7 - Baseball (Minor League) Pride Night at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter (Hopeful, we'll be able to display our chapter's parade banner)

June 14 - Pride Night @ the Norton Museum of Art (recently reopened after a several year mega-expansion)

June 22 - "The Stonewall Ball" at the Harriet Himmel Theater @ Rosemary Square (formerly known as CityPlace)

Respectfully,

Beth McMillen & Wayne Whitson – Regional Directors

Davy Whims & Nicholas Coppola – Alt Regional Directors

Region 6 Report

Hello Florida LGBTQ Democrats:

It's April 2019 and here in Area 6 it is heating up for 2020 Elections. Just go to a Dolphin Democrats Meeting; last meeting was nearly 70 People attending; Membership just hit 200 paid members. I went to the Dolphin Mixer at Rumors and packed with LGBTA

With that said, the entire Wilton Manors commission are paid members; And one of the Guest Speakers of March meeting was Broward County Vice Mayor Dale Holness; he paid for two years in advance.

It is my fiduciary responsibility as Regional Director get
Get ALL who address the Dolphin Democrats to
Be a paid member of both Caucus & Chapter.
No more free rides; put your money where your PRIDE is at.

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The Broward Rally on April. 7th against Governor Ron DESATAN
Had a nice turnout of over 120 movers and shakers of Democratic
Activists. 15 club presidents were in the room with State Committeeman Ken
Evans. As well as our very own President Stephan Gaskill spoke on point
About the silent Giant. State Senator Perry Thurston and Broward County
Commissioner Beam Furr both coincided with the same
Message. Broward County is NO LONGER A BLUE COUNTY.
Ron DESATAN pulled two Democratic elected winged constitutional officers
And replaced them with REPUBLICANS. The SOE and Sheriff; he did this right
In the backyard of Madam Chair Terrie Rizzo, in PALM BEACH, pulled the Elected
Democratic SOE & placed it with a Republican.
He is setting it up for 2020.

On to the Stonewall pride events, registering voters for the Blue;
Florida Blue June. 7 & 8th; the Summer Conference in Tampa
And 50th Anniversary Stonewall events everywhere.

Respectfully,
Kerry Ann Parsons & Michael Albetta – Regional Directors
Alfredo Olvera – Alt Regional Director

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