

PINELLAS GOP

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PINELLAS COUNTY



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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PINELLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee Meeting

MONDAY, JUNE 10

6 PM Prospective Member/New
Member Orientation

7 PM General Meeting

GUEST SPEAKER:
Legislative Update

Feather Sound Country Club
2201 Feather Sound Drive
Clearwater, FL 33762

PCREC OFFICE HOURS
9 AM to 4 PM

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Person of the Month



Despite left-wing attempts to smear Republicans as xenophobic, it is becoming increasingly clear the opposite holds true. While Democrats refuse to adequately confront rising antisemitism and bias against Israeli in their ranks, Republicans continue to solidify their support for Jewish Americans and the state of Israel. One need look no further than Florida to see this is the case.

Governor Ron DeSantis recently led a caravan of Florida political, business and academic leaders on a historic trip to Israel to further grow Florida’s economic relationship and collaborate with the Jewish state, solidifying business relationships, connecting researchers at academic institutions, and establishing a cooperative agreement between Space Florida and the Israel Innovation Authority along the way.

This historic trip was capped off by a meeting of the Florida Cabinet at the annex to the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem recently established by President Trump. There, Governor DeSantis signed a bill to fight antisemitism here at home, adding religion as a protected class under Florida’s discrimination laws and curbing certain antisemitic speech in Florida’s schools.

He also repeatedly condemned the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions movement that demands boycotts of Israel, a movement Andrew Gillum supported but later distanced himself from in the 2018 general election reiterating the widening gap between Republicans and Democrats on the issue of protecting the Jewish community.

Todd A. Jennings, Esq.
Chairman, Pinellas Republican Party



Vice Chairman's Message

America's Border Security Forum: A Synopsis

On May 18, I moderated a Pinellas GOP-sponsored forum during which Pinellas Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, Colonel (USAF Retired) Evelio Otero, Katy Kelly and Anna Rodriquez addressed the four main facets concerning America's border security. The four facets are local law enforcement, national security, human trafficking and counterterrorism. Questions and answers followed their remarks.

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, recently named "Sheriff of the Year" by the National Sheriff's Association, spoke of the frustrations law enforcement has in identifying illegal immigrants, particularly when the 287g program was suspended under then President Obama. He said identification exits only if an immigrant is already imprisoned. Concern centers upon the non peaceful illegal immigrants.

Colonel (USAF Retired), recipient of two distinguished commendation medals, has vast experience in military intelligence, appropriating knowledge that Venezuela is funding Hezbollah. His concerns center upon unvetted, non-peaceful illegal immigrants entering through our border. What happens nationally affects us locally.

Anna Rodriquez, Founder of the Florida Coalition against Human Trafficking and recipient of certificates of recognition, stated that the majority of human trafficking is for labor; not for sex. Many enter our country legally through the guest worker program then illegally overstay their Visas and thus become susceptible to unscrupulous handlers.



Katy Kelly, retired CIA officer and award-winning former specialist in counterterrorism, shared concerns regarding the embedding of terrorists coming through the border from a variety of countries.

The meeting adjourned with knowledge gained.

—Pam McAloon
PCREC Vice Chair

Notes from the PCREC treasurer



Putting "conservation" back into "conservative"

For too long, Republicans have allowed themselves to be painted as not caring about the environment, clean water or air. With the election of Florida's current governor, Ron DeSantis, we have the opportunity to show the root word in "conservative" is "conserve", the basis for "conservation."

Republicans have long supported conservation and protection of wild spaces—just look at Teddy Roosevelt, considered one of the best Presidents. He made conservation a top priority, establishing many new national parks, national forests and national monuments, intended to preserve the nation's natural resources. These include well-loved places like the Petrified Forest (Arizona), Crater Lake (Oregon) and expanded portions of the Grand Canyon. More National Park Service units are dedicated to Roosevelt's life and memory than any other American.



We forget that Richard Nixon signed into law the landmark environmental legislation, the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), which requires all federal agencies to go through a formal process before taking action anticipated to have substantial impact on the environment.

After being endorsed by the Everglades Trust, one of Governor DeSantis' first acts as governor was to sign an executive order calling for funding to go toward Everglades restoration—a \$1 billion increase—and the establishment of a blue-green algae task force. The order calls for:

- \$2.5 billion for Everglades restoration over four years—the highest level of funding for Everglades restoration in the state's history, according to the governor's office.
- Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to "adamantly oppose" offshore drilling and fracking in Florida.
- Establishing a blue-green algae task force to reduce "the adverse impacts of blue-green algae blooms now and over the next five years."
- Setting up two new government offices, one for "environmental accountability and transparency," the other for "resilience and coastal protection."

See PCREC TREASURER, Page 5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—JUNE 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 PCRHO	5 PCRHO	6	7 BWRC	8
9	10 PCREC	11 PCRHO PCYR RRRCTOW	12 SPRC	13 CPRC	14	15 IVORY CLUB
16 	17 RCGL	18 PCRHO TBTRC	19	20 NPRC	21  First Day of Summer	22
23	24	25 PCRHO SLRC	26	27 PSBRC	28	29
30						

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB (1st Friday of the Month) **FRIDAY June 7 11:30 AM**

Guest Speaker: Sara Molo, Chief Assistant Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Court

Location: Belleair Country Club, 1 Country Club Lane, Belleair 33756

Contact: President Mari Riba (727) 455-9550 MariRiba1@gmail.com www.BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com

CENTRAL PINELLAS REPUBLICAN CLUB (2nd Thursday of the Month) **THURSDAY June 13 11:30 AM**

Guest Speaker: Alex Goldovich, Escape from Soviet Union

Location: 9100 113th Street North, Room 210, Seminole 33772

Contact: President Barbara Stephens (727) 397-3449 barbarasteve2@yahoo.com CPRC@PinellasRepublicans.com

NORTH PINELLAS REPUBLICAN CLUB (3rd Thursday of the Month) **THURSDAY June 20 6 PM**

Guest Speaker: Legislative Update

Location: Leo's Italian Grill, 33286 US 19 N, Palm Harbor 34684

Contact: Ron Walker (727) 725-4241 ronwalker209@gmail.com

PINELLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2nd Monday of the Month) **MONDAY June 10 7 PM**

Program: Legislative Update

Location: Feather Sound Country Club, 2201 Feather Sound Drive, Clearwater 33762

Contact: (727) 434-4008 info@PinellasRepublicans.com www.PinellasRepublicans.com

PINELLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN HISPANIC OUTREACH (Every Tuesday) **TUESDAY June 4, 11, 18, 25 9 AM—2 PM**

* By appointment only

Location: 4707 140th Avenue North, Suite 208, Clearwater, FL 33762

Contact: (727) 539-6009 info@PinellasRepublicans.com www.PinellasRepublicans.com

PINELLAS COUNTY YOUNG REPUBLICANS (2nd Tuesday of the Month) **TUESDAY June 11 6 PM**

Guest Speaker: Pinellas County Commissioner Kathleen Peters

Location: St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg 33701

Contact: Lucas Michalski michalski17@gmail.com

PINELLAS SUNCOAST BLACK REPUBLICAN CLUB (4th Thursday of the Month) **THURSDAY June 27 6 PM**

Guest Speaker: TBA

Location: Datex Commerce Center, 10300 49th Street N., Clearwater 33762

Contact: President Sheila Griffin (727) 373-3847 psbrcl@yahoo.com

REPUBLICAN CLUB OF GREATER LARGO (3rd Monday of the Month) **MONDAY June 17 7 PM**

Guest Speaker: District 66 Representative Nick DiCeglie & Installation of Officers

Location: Alfano's Restaurant, 1702 Clearwater Largo Road, Clearwater, FL 33756

Contact: Kimberly Berfield (727) 244-8947 kimberlyberfield@yahoo.com <http://largorepublicans.com>

RONALD REAGAN REPUBLICAN CLUB OF TOP OF THE WORLD (2nd Tuesday of the Month) **TUESDAY June 11 7 PM**

Guest Speaker: County Commissioner Dave Eggers

Location: Belleair/Sunshine Room WEST Activity Center, Top of the World 33763

Contact: Marvin Lazernik (951) 377-0913 suemarvlaz@gmail.com

ST. PETERSBURG REPUBLICAN CLUB (2nd Wednesday of the Month) **WEDNESDAY June 12 7 PM**

Guest Speaker: Lisa Cane, Pinellas School Board

Location: St. Petersburg Community Church, 4501 30th Avenue North, St. Petersburg 33713

Contact: President Gail Hebert (727) 526-2492 SPRC@PinellasRepublicans.com

SUNRISE LEADERSHIP REPUBLICAN CLUB (4th Tuesday of the Month) **TUESDAY June 25 7 PM**

Guest Speaker: TBA

Location: Perkins Restaurant, 2626 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater 33759

Contact: President Bruce Rector (727) 507-1710 brucearector@aol.com

TAMPA BAY TRUMP REPUBLICAN CLUB (3rd Tuesday Every Other Month) **TUESDAY June 18 6:30 PM**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Bill Urban, expert on Islamic terror, speaking on "Dangerous Open Borders & Islamic Terror"

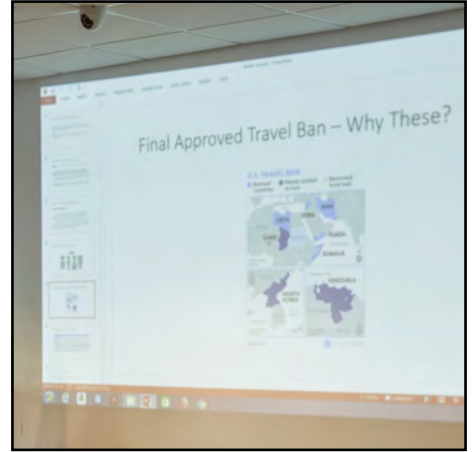
Location: Mugs Sports Bar & Grill, 13563 Icot Blvd., Clearwater 33760

Contact: President James Stratton (727) 410-6758 tampabaytrumpclub@gmail.com Facebook: Tampa Bay Trump Club



Border Security Forum in May attracts full house

Speakers, shown left photo, from left, included Ret. Colonel E.J. Otero, Ret. CIA Officer Katy Kelly, Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking Executive Director Anna Rodriguez, Moderator Pam McAloon and Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri.



The Pinellas County GOP
Cordially invites you to the summer
Ivory Club Party

Saturday, June 15, 2019

6:00 to 9:00 pm

Hosted By:

Senator Jeff and Natalie Brandes

Russ and Mary Brandes

The Bayou Club

7363 Sawgrass Point Drive

Pinellas Park, FL 33782

Attire: Country Club Casual

RSVP no later than June 10th

(727) 539-6009

Non-members \$50

History Committee working to research and document 100 years of Pinellas GOP action

Plans are underway for major centennial celebration events in 2020

The PCREC History Committee is focused on exploring the beginnings of the Republican Party of Pinellas County and collecting information on early Republican leaders who worked for the party even before there was a formal party.

It all began with St. Petersburg Republican Club, the oldest Republican Club in continuous existence in Florida. SPRC was founded in 1920 by Roy S. Hanna, a man many claim to be responsible for the current strength of the Republican Party in Pinellas.

The Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee was organized a few years later, and the History Committee is trying to create a list of all PCREC Chairmen since David R. Grace became its first on June 21, 1926. Names that may be familiar include Merle Rudy, Ed Turville, Ed Keifer, Ray Aden, State Senator Richard Deeb, State Rep. George Heiber and Paul Bedinghaus, the longest serving chairman (10 years). Others like Henry Morgan, Al Roberts, Jim Woods and Ron Walker are less well-known. The Committee is seeking help with finding the stories of all these leaders.

Another goal of the committee is to write the histories of Ivory Club and the Lincoln Day Dinner. Anyone who knows anything about the beginnings of these fund-raising arms of the Party, is asked to let PCREC Director Charlotte Smith know.

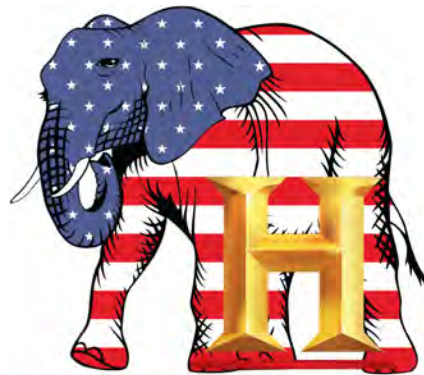
The Committee also hopes to show how the area Republican Clubs have contributed to the growing strength of the Party in Pinellas.

Lastly, and most importantly, the History Committee will be planning a series of events in 2020 to celebrate the Pinellas GOP Centennial Anniversary. At this point, the following ideas are being considered:

- Publish a book containing

the Committee's findings.

- Feature the stories of the founders and history makers in the newsletter and on the webpage.
- Hold a 100-year Celebration of the founding of the St. Petersburg Republican Club.
- Have special recognition of the Founders at the Lincoln Day Dinner.
- Create events in connection with a visit of the President to Pinellas County. (It is too early to confirm the possibility of a famous Trump Rally, but with the full support of the local Party and its members, it could happen!)



The Committee is made up of Joan Brock, Duane Schultz, Ginny Stewart, Jim Woods, Mary Jane Lofton, Gail Hebert, Sam McClelland and Ron Walker.

Joan Brock spent many years in the Supervisor of Elections Office working under Charles Kaniss, Dottie Ruggles and Deb Clark. Her main job included voter registration and working in the schools to promote young voters. After retiring, she has been part of the sign-waving crew that keeps the Republican message in front of voters. She attends Belleair Women's Republican Club, Trump Club and North Pinellas Republican Club activities.

Duane Schultz worked for Congressman C. W. (Bill) Young and Senator Paula Hawkins before becoming a Defense Contractor. Now retired, he is the committee's

main researcher, diving into the archives of the *St. Pete Times*. He is working on the first draft of a report which the committee hopes to turn into a book. He is also involved with the committee's other major project, a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the local Republican Party.

Ginny Stewart also worked in the Elections Office. She is the committee's main St. Petersburg contact, working to locate many of the places where the Party's history was formed.

Gail Hebert is President of the St. Petersburg Republican Club and a past Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee. Her Club is central to the history of the Party and older than the Executive Committee by six years.

Sam McClelland spent most of his working life at the Pinellas Tax Collector's Office. He served with O. Sanford Jasper, the longest serving Pinellas Tax Collector (1950 to 1992), Fred Petty and Diane Nelson. Also, he has provided DJ services for many Republican events. He is deeply involved with the Historical Society of Clearwater. For the History Committee, he has proven to be a great internet researcher.

Mary Jane Lofton is a retired history teacher and has written a history of all the churches in Macon County, North Carolina. That history was published in a book available to church members. On the Committee, she has helped focus efforts and edited too-long stories.

Jim Wood served on the County Commission during the 1950's. He was part of the wave that turned Pinellas into the first Republican county in Florida. He worked with leaders like Rudy, William Cramer and Bill Young. He is the committee's original "original source."

Ron Walker is a former Pinellas School Member, County Chairman and has served as President of three Republican clubs (Largo, Palm Harbor and North Pinellas).

2019 Spring Quarterly Meeting

By Daniel Tucker, State Committeeman, Pinellas County

The RPOF meeting was held May 17 and 18 at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota. Rules & Constitutional Committee rule changes: 18A setting standard committees, 25 absents of RPOF members require three of four Quarterly and Annual meetings and 31C Presidential Primary cleanup. Additional rule proposals were submitted to be addressed in 2020: First submittal added the requirements from the U.S. Constitution to the Presidential Candidate's Oath. The second rule proposal altered delegate assignments from "Winner Take All" by state popular vote to "Winner Takes Delegates" by each (27) Congressional District. These can be reworded or discarded.

Proposal to Legislative Committee: 1. brings the Electoral College to the state level, the popular votes counted by county determines the Presidential candidate. Whoever takes the majority of the 67 counties would win all of Florida's Electoral votes. 2. sets law that anyone who wishes to be listed on a ballot as a Republican would need certification from the members of each county's executive committee. As noted, the only requirement verified for any elected position is that the candidate's check is good.

Guest speaker was Sarasota Congressman Greg Steube of the Florida 17th Congressional District. After training classes and board meeting, members were treated to a tour of Mote Marine and dinner on Siesta Key.



James Stratton: Passionate advocate

James Stratton, president of the Tampa Bay Trump Republican Club for the last two years, has a passion for freedom

inspired by his parents and grandparents and lit on fire by the Obama administration and the country's perilous flirtation with Socialism. He was Pinellas County's co-chairman for Trump's Campaign, worked at his inauguration and was lucky enough to meet the President several times.

Originally from Connecticut, where his two children still live, James came to Clearwater 25 years ago. He has an economics degree from Florida Southern College, and he's been involved in financial advising, real estate, mortgage lending, insurance and construction businesses.

James never was much for politics until he became active in the Tea Party and protested in Washington, D. C. multiple times, including against the Iranian nuclear deal and the IRS protest. With the possibility of a Hillary Clinton Presidency, he jumped in to support Donald Trump and was instrumental in bringing many volunteers to 11 of his rallies across central Florida.

James has a passion for travel and has been to 15 different countries and plans to visit more. He also enjoys helping the foster children at Eckerd Connects Kids' Program and the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch, and, through the Tampa Bay Trump Republican Club, has helped raise and donate over \$10,000 in cash and necessities for the children.

PCREC Treasurer, cont. from Page 2

- Enabling a chief science officer "to coordinate and prioritize" data and research "to ensure alignment with current and emerging environmental concerns most pressing to Floridians."

Even the left-wing *Mother Jones* offered this headline praise in April: "The New Governor of Florida Is Not the Environmental Disaster Everyone Thought He'd Be".

Recognizing the need to fix the red tide problems causing havoc on Florida beaches, the 2019 Legislature passed SB 1552, which will guarantee investments of \$3 million per year for six years in red tide mitigation. Republican representatives Ed Hooper and Joe Gruters introduced this legislation.

More can always be done to protect Florida water, air, beaches and sensitive areas from pollution, degradation and development. But Republicans need to push back against the inaccurate label of anti-environmentalists and remind people of the proven fact: *Conservatives believe in conservation.*

—Casey Cox

PCREC BOARD

Todd Jennings, Chairman

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Pam McAloon, Vice Chairman

ViceChairman@PinellasRepublicans.com

Sheila Griffin, Secretary

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Charlotte Smith, Executive Director

administrator@PinellasRepublicans.com

Adam McGill Ross—Legal Counsel

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

info@PinellasRepublicans.com

STATE PARTY OFFICIALS

Joe Gruters

Chairman-Republican Party of FL

Dan Tucker

State Committeeman

Nancy Riley

State Committeewoman

Attention PCREC Members:

RPOF County Model Constitution: Section 4—Removal for Non-Attendance at County Executive Committee Meetings
(a) A county executive committee member who is absent for three (3) consecutive regular meetings without a valid excuse shall be removed from the County Executive committee as of the date of the third consecutive missed meeting.