

# PINELLAS GOP

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PINELLAS COUNTY

January 2024



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## ON THE MOVE !

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PINELLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee Meeting

**MONDAY, JANUARY 8**

#### Social Media Training

(Advance Registration Required)

4:30—5 pm Check in & Boxed  
Dinner Distribution

5—8 PM Training

Feather Sound Country Club  
2201 Feather Sound Drive  
Clearwater 33762

### PCREC OFFICE HOURS

**9 AM to 4 PM**

**Monday—Friday\***

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Poll Watching Training

Person of the Month



I am pleased to report we ended 2023 with a great Reagan Day Blue Jeans & Blazers Dinner. With the money raised from the many great sponsors for the event, Pinellas GOP has enough money to help our many municipal candidates on the March 19th ballot. Local officials are the most direct representation we have, and these elections are just as important as the August and November elections. If you live in one of these municipalities, these officials set your millage rate, vote on development projects and infrastructure and address many other important issues that impact your daily life.

With Jeb Bush's win in 1998, Republicans won a trifecta in state government for the first time since 1875. The House and Senate in Florida had only been flipped in the 1996 elections. In 2018, with Rick Scott's win, Florida has been represented by two Republicans in the U.S. Senate for the first time since 1879. Last year's elections were historic. Florida Republicans swept all the statewide elections, Florida Republicans won super majorities in both the House and Senate, Florida Republicans elected 20 out of 28 seats in our state's congressional delegation and Pinellas Republicans flipped majorities in the School Board and County Commission.

With so much Republican control around the state, Florida Democrats are focusing on local elections to start building a bench. We cannot let this happen. The Pinellas GOP will be sending poll watchers to precincts during the March elections and will be passing out conservative voter guides at the precincts. We need you to help! Emails will be going out ASAP regarding poll watcher training and signing up to pass out voter guides and volunteer for other opportunities to help. Together, we will keep Pinellas red!

***Pinellas GOP Adam McGill Ross, Esq.***  
Chairman, Pinellas Republican Party



## VICE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### The Power of Truth

In my invocation remarks at the Reagan Day Dinner, I shared a significant description of President Ronald Reagan's reaction to truth as recounted by one of his key speech writers, Peggy Noonan, in her 2006 book *"When Character Was King—A Story of Ronald Reagan"*—page 200:

"Ronald Reagan loved the truth — it was like fresh water, something he needed and wanted. He loved the truth for a number of reasons, a primary one of which is that he thought it, in our current political circumstances, uniquely constructive. He thought that by voicing it you were beginning to make things better. He thought the truth is the only foundation on which can be built something strong and good and lasting — because only truth endures. Lies die."

### The Greatest Campaign Story Ever Told

Luke 2:8-12 *"The Gospels of The New Testament"*:

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

I've often referred to this as "the greatest grassroots field team ever", because those humble and startled shepherds, outside of the neglected humble village of Bethlehem in Judea (Israel), couldn't keep the magnificent news (Truth) inside of their tired bodies and astounded minds. They had to act, and that action led to the first phase of God's grassroots campaign to seek out and save the hearts of mankind forever.



Let us be empowered by truth as we seek to bear witness and persuade hearts and minds in 2024.

*Mark Phillips*  
PCREC Vice Chair

## Congratulations to the PCREC members awarded Years of Service Pins at the December 2023 PCREC meeting:



**45 Years**  
**Janet Hill**



**10 Years**  
**Susan Avalos**



**25 Years – Barbara Stephens & Steven Dante**



**15 years – Charlotte Smith, Rosemary Mills, Sharon Dante and Chris Latvala**



**5 Years – Michael Bailey, Michael Broadus, Cathi Chamberlain, Doris Kasold, Bonnie Steinberg, Julie Wayne, Richard Thornberry and Robert Uhls**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 PCREC OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4	5 BWRC	6
7	8 PCREC	9 PCYR RRRCTOW	10 SPRC	11 CPRC PFRW GBR	12	13
14	15 RCGL	16	17	18 NPRC	19	20 HRO
21	22	23 SRC	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB** (1st Friday of the Month) **FRIDAY JANUARY 5 11:30 AM**  
 Guest Speaker: Pinellas GOP Chairman Adam Ross  
 Location: Belleair Country Club, 1 Country Club Lane, Belleair 33756  
 Contact: President Diane Blum (727) 421-4750 [bwrcpresident@yahoo.com](mailto:bwrcpresident@yahoo.com) [BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com](http://BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com)
- CENTRAL PINELLAS REPUBLICAN CLUB** (2nd Thursday of the Month) **THURSDAY JANUARY 11 11:30 AM**  
 Guest Speaker: Loren Spivack, author of "The New Democrat"  
 Location: Seminole Rec Center, 9100 113th Street N., Seminole 33772  
 Contact: President Barbara Stephens (727) 397-3449 [BLStephens35@gmail.com](mailto:BLStephens35@gmail.com)
- GULF BEACH REPUBLICANS** (2nd Thursday of the Month) **THURSDAY JANUARY 11 7 PM**  
 Guest Speaker: TBA  
 Location: Madeira Beach Town Hall, 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach 33708  
 Contact: President Rich Cariello (917) 673-5896 [www.gulfbeachesrepublicans.com](http://www.gulfbeachesrepublicans.com)
- HISPANIC REPUBLICAN CAUCUS & OUTREACH** **SATURDAY JANUARY 20 10 AM**  
 Location: Pinellas GOP Office, 4707 140th Avenue N, Suite 208, Clearwater 33762  
 Contact: Chely Hernandez-Miller (727) 434-4008 [cmilr@aol.com](mailto:cmilr@aol.com) [www.PinellasRepublicans.com](http://www.PinellasRepublicans.com)
- NORTH PINELLAS REPUBLICAN CLUB** (3rd Thursday of the Month) **THURSDAY JANUARY 18 6 PM**  
 Guest Speaker: Bill Urban  
 Location: Tarpon Woods Golf Club, 1100 Tarpon Woods Boulevard, Palm Harbor 34685  
 Contact: President Debbie Buschman (727) 742-2382 [dbuschmanpr31@gmail.com](mailto:dbuschmanpr31@gmail.com)
- PINELLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (2nd Monday of the Month) **MONDAY JANUARY 8 5 PM**  
 Program: Leadership Institute—Social Media Training (Advance registration required—call 539-6009 for link.)  
 Location: Feather Sound Country Club, 2201 Feather Sound Drive, Clearwater 33762  
 Contact: (727) 539-6009 [info@PinellasRepublicans.com](mailto:info@PinellasRepublicans.com) [www.PinellasRepublicans.com](http://www.PinellasRepublicans.com)
- PINELLAS COUNTY YOUNG REPUBLICANS** (2nd Tuesday of the Month) **TUESDAY JANUARY 9 6 PM**  
 Program: Candidate Mixer  
 Location: Ferg's Sports Bar, 1320 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg 33705  
 Contact: President Chris Verkuilen (727) 955-1776 [president@pinellasysrs.com](mailto:president@pinellasysrs.com)
- PINELLAS FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN** (2nd Tuesday of the Month) **THURSDAY JANUARY 11 6 PM**  
 (\*Note date and location change)  
 Guest Speaker: Florida Federated Republican Women President-Elect Barbara Price  
 Location: Home Care Office—1530 N. McMullen Booth Road, Unit D-12, Clearwater 33759  
 Contact: Pam McAloon (727) 421-1608 [pmaloo@aol.com](mailto:pmaloo@aol.com)
- PINELLAS SUNCOAST BLACK REPUBLICAN CLUB**  
 Contact: President Gregory Porter (727) 291-3235 [gregoryporter91@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryporter91@gmail.com)
- REPUBLICAN CLUB OF GREATER LARGO** (3rd Monday of the Month) **MONDAY JANUARY 15 5:30 PM**  
 Program: Loren Spivack, "Free Market Warrior"  
 Location: Daily News Restaurant, 1575 Ft. Harrison, Clearwater 33756  
 Contact: Sirena Pellarolo (619) 389-8939 [RSVPJanCox727-515-0163](mailto:RSVPJanCox727-515-0163) [www.largorepublicanclub.com](http://www.largorepublicanclub.com)
- RONALD REAGAN REPUBLICAN CLUB OF TOP OF THE WORLD** (2nd Tuesday of the Month) **TUESDAY JANUARY 9 7 PM**  
 Guest Speaker: Business Meeting & Workshop  
 Location: WEST Activity Center, Top of the World  
 Contact: Carl Turner (443) 624-9303 [carlmarvinturner@gmail.com](mailto:carlmarvinturner@gmail.com)
- ST. PETERSBURG REPUBLICAN CLUB** (2nd Wednesday of the Month) **WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10 7 PM**  
 Guest Speakers: Pinellas Property Appraiser Mike Twitty  
 Location: St. Petersburg Community Church, 4501 30th Avenue N, St. Petersburg 33710  
 Contact: Barb Haselden (727) 709-7039 [bhaselde@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bhaselde@tampabay.rr.com)
- SUNRISE REPUBLICAN CLUB** (4th Tuesday of the Month) **TUESDAY JANUARY 23 7:30 AM**  
 Guest Speaker: Pinellas County School Board Candidate Erika Pickard  
 Location: Perkins Restaurant, 2626 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33759  
 Contact: Harry Fuller (727) 215-6314 [sunriseGOPclub@gmail.com](mailto:sunriseGOPclub@gmail.com)
- TAMPA BAY TRUMP REPUBLICAN CLUB** (3rd Tuesday Every Other Month) **NO MEETING**  
 Program: No Meeting—Next meeting February 20  
 Location: Mugs Sports Bar & Grill, 13563 Icot Blvd., Clearwater 33760  
 Contact: President James Stratton (727) 410-6758 [tampabaytrumpclub@gmail.com](mailto:tampabaytrumpclub@gmail.com)



# Learn how to unleash the power of social media at PCREC Leadership Institute

In the digital age, social media is not just an option, it's a necessity. Harness its power to amplify your voice, mobilize supporters, and make a real impact. Learn how at the PCREC Leadership Institute Workshop on Monday, January 8, 5 to 8 pm, at Feather Sound Country Club, 2201 Feather Sound Drive, Clearwater.

This workshop, which is taking the place of the regular second Monday PCREC meeting, will discuss the various uses of social media in political campaigns. From language used to images displayed, attendees go home knowing how to join the conversation in the digital age.

Those attending will learn:

- how to identify the best opportunities for an organization on social media, based on what is currently being produced.
- best practices for adapting content for social media, down to the right image dimensions.
- tools and techniques that will allow creation of content quickly and confidently.

Advance registration is required. Call 539-6009 for the online registration site link. The \$15 fee will be paid by Pinellas GOP for PCREC members. Enter PinellasGOP on the registration form to enable the fee waiver.

## Leadership Institute

### Social Media Workshop

4:30 - 5:00 PM	Registration & Boxed Dinner Distribution
5:00 - 5:15 PM	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Faculty and Staff</li><li>▪ Introductions</li><li>▪ Agenda Overview</li></ul>
5:15 - 6:00 PM	<b>Building Your Social Media Brand</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Your online personality</li><li>▪ Planning communication goals</li><li>▪ Evaluating various platforms</li></ul>
6:00 - 6:45 PM	<b>Building Content</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Targeting your message</li><li>▪ What makes content sharable</li><li>▪ From Twitter to LinkedIn, what's out there</li></ul>
6:45 - 7:00 PM	Break
7:00 - 7:45 PM	<b>Tools and Creative Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ What makes photos, videos, and audio clips work</li><li>▪ Generating memes</li><li>▪ Resources available</li></ul>
7:45 - 8:00 PM	Q&A and Adjournment



## Thank You for Supporting the Foster Care Angel Tree

Once again, PCREC members came through with great generosity for foster care children in Pinellas County. Representatives from the group are always blown away by the responsiveness of PCREC members and their willingness to bring Christmas joy to the foster children in their care.



# Special awards presented at dinner

*Linda Chaney, Jonathan Vazquez are honored at Reagan Day Dinner*

## LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Pinellas GOP recognizes the achievements of its legislators each year with a Legislative Achievement Award, recognizing a Republican legislator who has exhibited unparalleled leadership, integrity and devotion to the people of Pinellas County, the State of Florida and the nation.

This year's recipient, Florida Representative Linda Chaney, was chosen for her leadership in moving ahead a number of key issues through the Florida legislature. Right out the gate, she filed a bill to close a loophole in Florida's sex offender registration law created by a ruling by the 2nd District Court of Appeal. She has been bold in tackling important issues such as legislation regarding prescription medication, family leave, employments laws, the PSTA, among others.

Rep. Chaney has other accomplishments, but the bottom line is she has made it her mission to work to apply Republican principles to improve the lives and welfare of Florida's citizens.



**Florida Representative Linda Chaney, left, receives the 2023 Legislative Achievement Award from Pinellas GOP Chairman Adam Ross at the Reagan Day Dinner.**

## CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AWARD

Pinellas GOP created the Champion of Justice Award to recognize often-unsung heroes who exhibit unparalleled leadership, integrity and devotion to the people of Pinellas County, the State of Florida, and the nation.

For the inaugural year for this award, it was presented to Jonathan Vazquez, who joined the St. Petersburg Police Department in December of 2007. He was selected to serve as a street crimes officer from March of 2008 to April of 2013, and he has worked as a K9 officer from April 2013 to the present. Officer Vazquez works a dual-purpose patrol/EOD dog and is a certified K9 trainer and a certified firearms instructor.

Prior to his law enforcement service, Officer Vazquez was inspired to join the United States Army in 2001 after the September 11 terrorist attacks. During his time in the U.S. Army, he was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was the recipient of multiple awards for his actions taken in combat.

In January of 2020, Officer Vazquez was elected by his peers to serve as the Board President of Sun Coast Police Benevolent Association and Sun Coast Law Enforcement Charities. Prior to that role, he served as a PBA Director for his peers at



**St. Petersburg Police Officer Jonathan Vazquez, left, is the first Champion of Justice Award recipient. He received a plaque from GOP Chairman Adam Ross.**

the St. Petersburg Police Department until May 2019, when he was elected to serve as Sun Coast PBA's Senior Vice President. In October of 2022, Florida Police Benevolent Association appointed Mr. Vazquez to the role of statewide Vice President of Recruitment. In that role, he travels the state to strengthen PBA charters and chapters.

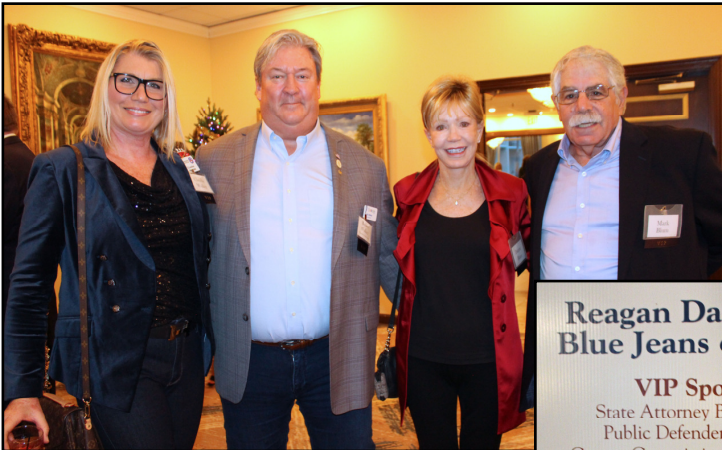


# Reagan Day Dinner is lovely, inspirational affair





# Safety Harbor Resort & Spa is festive venue



## Reagan Day Dinner Blue Jeans & Blazers

### VIP Sponsors

State Attorney Bruce Bartlett  
Public Defender Sara Mollo  
County Commissioner Chris Latvala  
County Commissioner Brian Scott  
Ryan Cotton for Clearwater  
Mike Mastruserio for Clearwater  
Bruce Rector for Clearwater  
Chriss Andrews  
Belleair Women's Republican Club  
The Honorable Neil Brickfield  
Charles Cagnon  
Jennifer Dubbeld, Esq.  
Robert Eckard Law & Associates  
Rodger Futerman & Associates  
Home Care Assistance  
Dr. Mark & Sharon Jank  
Stacey Geier for School Board  
Danielle Marolf for School Board





WELCOME



New members welcomed at the December PCREC meeting are:

**Marlene Bellomo**

District 59  
Precinct 323



**Victoria Forbes**

District 59  
Precinct 256 (Alt.)

**Michael Carroll**

District 57  
Precinct 627

**Carl Turner**

District 58  
Precinct 522

**Mary Konyndyk**

District 61  
Precinct 303 (Alt.)

Poll Watcher Training  
for March 19 Clearwater  
Municipal Election



Saturday, January 13

9:00 AM

Pinellas GOP  
Headquarters

4707 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue N  
Suite 208  
Clearwater 33762

RSVP (727) 539-6009



## **DIANNE BLUM**

### **New BWRC President**

Dianne Blum moved to Clearwater from Atlanta, Georgia nearly 30 years ago. While in Atlanta, she founded and built a business that performed medical audits of clinical research trials for pharmaceutical companies. She sold her company

in Atlanta and founded a similar company when she moved to Florida. Prior to her work in clinical research, Dianne worked as a critical care nurse, was manager of intensive care units in three hospitals and taught nurses, paramedics and operating room technicians.

When she retired 15 years ago, Dianne became involved in politics. She joined Belleair Women's Republican Club and found her calling. She has worked on the club's Hospitality Committee, its Ways and Means Committee and its New Member Committee and now serves as BWRC president. Dianne is devoted to the club and its goals of educating women about political issues and encouraging volunteerism. She is very excited to help make a difference as the club's leader. Dianne says she has made so many wonderful friends and feels very fortunate to know the stellar women and men who are BWRC members.

## **PCREC BOARD**

**Adam Ross, Chairman**

[Chairman@PinellasRepublicans.com](mailto:Chairman@PinellasRepublicans.com)

**Mark Phillips, Vice Chairman**

[ViceChairman@PinellasRepublicans.com](mailto:ViceChairman@PinellasRepublicans.com)

**Michael Broadus, Secretary**

[Secretary@PinellasRepublicans.com](mailto:Secretary@PinellasRepublicans.com)

**Jamie Jodoin, Treasurer**

[Treasurer@PinellasRepublicans.com](mailto:Treasurer@PinellasRepublicans.com)

**Charlotte Smith, Executive Director**

[administrator@PinellasRepublicans.com](mailto:administrator@PinellasRepublicans.com)

**Jennifer Dubbeld—Legal Counsel**

**Questions? Comments? Suggestions?**

[info@PinellasRepublicans.com](mailto:info@PinellasRepublicans.com)

## **STATE PARTY OFFICIALS**

**Christian Ziegler**

**Todd Jennings**

**Pam McAloon**

**Chairman Republican Party of FL**

**State Committeeman**

**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.