



## PINELLAS FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN

**We Walk the Walk!!**

Pinellas County's newsletter



**Next meeting will be Thursday, January  
8<sup>th</sup>, 6PM. Delukas Bar & Grill, 1343  
Cleveland St., Clearwater, Florida**

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Stacy Geier:  
1st Vice President: Anju Galer  
2nd Vice President: Lavinia Weisz  
Secretary: Debra Wilson  
Treasurer: Janelle Makowski

Website: [pinellasfrw.com](http://pinellasfrw.com)  
Facebook site:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/282887896355480/>

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Executive Board
- President's Message
- Meeting Flyer
- Christmas Party
- Never Give Up
- Legislative Session
- Committees
- Social Media Sites
- Membership
- Dates to Remember
- Members Circle



## President's (Immediate Past President) Message



Happy New Year to all you lovely ladies and gentlemen. This message will be my last message as President. Pinellas Federated Republican Women was chartered in April of 2020. Julie Vayne, our first President, had to jump through

hoops to accomplish this task. A shout out to Julie for accomplishing this task. She was a mentor to me and to the board itself. Since then, I served as President since 2022. We had our peaks and our valleys, but we never gave up. We built a club, and we will continue to build it. Our club walks the walk. We have had various members serve as poll watchers, poll workers, candidate rally organizers (Thank you Penny Lee Todd), phone bankers, door knockers, and members who helped organize our educational forums and fund raisers. Bonnie Steinberg has put together our newsletter, and members contribute to it. Thank you, Olga Cruz and Kasia Dominczak for teaching us about the country of Poland. Lavinia Weisz wrote a summary about Romania. Education is the key to knowledge. Sharon Jank, DAR Chapter President, has educated us about DAR itself. Her commitment takes her to Washington D.C. periodically. She has also served as our Parliamentarian. Doris Sotirellis has admirably served as Chair of Caring for America. Lastly, but not least, let us not forget to thank Darina Talanga for opening her restaurant to our club. The food is yummy and the ambience is top notch.

All of this would not have been possible if I did not have the support of our Executive Board.

1. Stacy Geier, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. and our incoming President, has done a great job securing speakers for our club. Thank you, Stacey!
2. Anju Galer, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. and Membership Chair and incoming 1<sup>st</sup> V.P., has been an asset as membership chair and in recruiting new members for our club. She has kept me organized. Thank you, Anju!
3. Debbie Wilson, Secretary, has kept an impeccable record of our minutes. She is also our Legislative Chairwoman and has already given our club educational presentations utilizing charts and graphs pertaining to the organizational structure of our state legislature. Thank you, Debbie!
4. Janelle Makowski, our Treasurer, has done a wonderful job keeping the books current and accounting for every expenditure. Thank you, Janelle!

I will be the past president and consultant to the new Executive Board. The new year, 2026, will be formidable. We cannot afford to lose the midterm elections. Let's pull together and win!! Never Give Up!!!

Pam McAloon  
State Committeewoman. Republican Party Pinellas  
President of Pinellas Federated Republican Women

**Our Next Meeting Will Be the KEY To Winning the Midterms**

**PINELLAS FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN**  
INVITE YOU TO A SPECIAL PROGRAM



**INSTALLATION OF CLUB OFFICERS BY  
FORMER FFRW PRESIDENT BARBARA PRICE  
&  
VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATES**

*Please join us for this month's special guest  
speaker*

**Mark Blum**

**JANUARY 8TH, 2026**  
THURSDAY, 6:00PM - 7:30PM  
**DELUKAS RESTAURANT & BAR**  
1343 CLEVELAND ST.  
CLEARWATER, FL 33755

CASH BAR AVAILABLE  
MOJITOS  
COSMOPOLITANS  
OLD FASHIONS  
MOSCOW MULES  
WINE  
CHAMPAGNE  
AND MORE

*Cheers to  
GOP  
Majority!*

*Men & Women Are Always Welcome  
Social Hour at 5:30pm*



## Our Christmas party was fun!

There was plenty of food and fellowship. A good time was had by all.





**Never Give Up!**

**First of all, to all fellow Republicans and their families, Happy New Year!! We have much to be thankful for as Americans.**

**We have a President who has followed through on his promise to put "America First" by closing our borders to illegal immigration, infusing our economy with trillion of dollars from tariff collections, bringing down inflation, and making energy cheaper, a great mechanism by which to make America Wealthy Again.**

**Personally, however, I can understand the frustration that many of us feel where the cost of groceries and housing are concerned. This will take time to improve. We are on a ship, not a speed boat.**

**If we, however, do not vote in the upcoming midterm elections, we are asking that our President's agenda come to a complete stop, impeachment proceedings for our President, Pete Hegseth, Kristi Noem, and Pam Bondi to name a few.**

**"Affordability" is the buzzword for the other side. Their concept of affordability for all is no better than "socialism". We will all be miserable together.**

**Our founding fathers did not give up on this great experiment, a Constitutional Republic; nor should we. We are about to celebrate a new year with a recommitment to the liberties and the freedoms that we cherish and should jealously guard.**

**Let us fight, fight, fight! Never give up!!**

***Pam McAloon, State Committeewoman, Pinellas***

## 2025 Florida Legislative Session

### Top 10 Significant Bills Passed and Signed into Law

*Submitted by Debra Wilson*

The 2025 Florida legislative session was one of the longest in recent history, extending into June due to budget negotiations. It resulted in approximately 269-285 bills passed, with a focus on public safety, education, health, environmental protection, taxes, and the state budget. Governor Ron DeSantis signed many into law, including a \$115.1 billion state budget (down from the previous year) and a major tax relief package. Below is a ranked list of the top 10 most significant bills based on impact, public attention, and scale (e.g., fiscal effects, statewide policy changes).

1. HB 7031 / **Tax Package** Provided \$1.3 billion in tax relief, one of the largest in state history, including permanent elimination of sales taxes on disaster preparedness items, health/safety products, and reductions on commercial leases. Signed as part of the final session actions.
2. SB 2500 / **General Appropriations Act** The \$115.1 billion state budget for FY 2025-2026, the first year-over-year decrease since 2011. Included funding for mental health, cancer research, education, and debt reduction (\$250 million allocated via HB 5017).
3. HB 1105 / **School Cell Phone Restrictions** Banned wireless devices (e.g., cell phones) throughout the school day for elementary and middle school students statewide; high schools retain class-time limits with a pilot for full bans in select districts.
4. HB 209 (or related) / **State Parks Protection** Prohibited developments like golf courses, pickleball courts, hotels, or similar in state parks, responding to public backlash against prior proposals.
5. SB 700 / **Fluoride in Public Water** Banned the addition of fluoride to public water systems, affecting community water fluoridation practices statewide.
6. **Condominium Relief** Bill Addressed the ongoing condo crisis by providing regulatory relief and measures to ease rising costs for owners (specific bill number varies in reports but highlighted as high-profile).
7. HB 1195 / **Gage's Law (Fentanyl Testing)** Required hospitals and emergency departments to test for fentanyl in suspected overdose cases and retain results.
8. HB 255 / **Dexter's Law** Increased penalties for aggravated animal cruelty (1.25x sentencing multiplier) and created a public animal abuser registry.
9. **Wrongful Death** Medical Malpractice Reform Lifted a 35-year ban on certain wrongful-death lawsuits against physicians and hospitals.
10. HB 1255 (or related to **education package**) Comprehensive education bill covering topics like opioid education, college cost awareness, and corporal punishment policies.

## **Our Committees**

**Join One!! Have Fun!!**



**Committees are the machinery of an organization. We need staff to make it function. Please consider joining any or all of the following:**

### **EVENTS:**

**If you would like to help plan an event for our club, please join this committee.**

### **MEMBERSHIP: Chairman: Lavinia Weisz**

**We are looking to grow and expand with like-minded women. Let's grow our membership. Attached to this newsletter is our membership application. Please share with friends and relatives.**

### **PUBLICITY: Chairman Bonnie Steinberg**

**If you have an article of interest that you would like to submit to the Publicity Committee, please do so no later than the last Wednesday of the month.**

### **LEGISLATIVE/CAMPAIGN: Debra Wilson**

**Voter Registration and following bills up in Tallahassee plus sign waving, door knocking and or phone banking or contacting by texting.**

### **BYLAWS: Julie Vayne**

**If you like to read and interpret our bylaws, suggest amendments or just be knowledgeable about the rules by which we function, please consider this committee,**

### **Special Committees:**

#### **CARING FOR AMERICA: Doris Sotirellis**

**Caring for America encompasses the community, our schools, support for young mothers, mentorship, etc.**

#### **ARMED SERVICES: Stacie Bolin**

**Supporting our troops, our veterans, Honor Flights are major focuses of this committee. Please consider joining.**



### **Find the FFRW on Social Media!**

- **Join FFRW on our private Facebook GROUP**
- **Like FFRW on our public Facebook PAGE (YOU CAN SHARE FROM HERE!)**
- **Follow FFRW on X (formerly Twitter).**
- **Find FFRW on Instagram**
- **Follow FFRW on Truth Social**



**We are very excited to welcome all the new and returning members. Thank you for your membership and your involvement. You make the difference!!**

***Welcome to the Pinellas Federated Republican Women's Club where we Walk the Walk and not just talk the talk. We need You!!***

**Time to renew your membership!!** Payment can be made via Cash app. In the app search for Pinellas FRW. The membership renewal fee is still \$30. Thank you for all you do for the club, Florida, and for our country!

**Dues can also be paid through the website [pinellasfrw.com](http://pinellasfrw.com). Go to join the movement scroll down and click on the payment button and make the \$30.00 payment.**

**Please reach out to Lavinia Weisz, 2nd VP/Membership, at [lavystyle@gmail.com](mailto:lavystyle@gmail.com) 727-597-2704.**

**Pinellas FRW website: [pinellasfrw.com](http://pinellasfrw.com)**

**Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/282887896355480/>**

# Membership Application

## Pinellas Federated Republican Women

PO Box #254

Clearwater, FL 33757



### NEW MEMBER/RENEWAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Military service/elected official: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of interest: (check at least one)

☐ Membership

☐ Legislation

☐ Campaign Activities

☐ Fundraising

☐ Voter Registration

☐ Social Media

☐ Special Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$30.00 annually with renewal due in January of each year by cash or check payable to Pinellas Federated Republican Women or PFRW. Payment may also be remitted via Cash App, ID \$Pinellas-FRW or through our website [pinellasfrw.com](http://pinellasfrw.com). Go to join the movement scroll down and click on the payment button and make the \$30.00 payment.

Please mail your check to: Pinellas Federated Republican Women PO Box #254 Clearwater, FL 33757

You must be a registered Republican in good standing to be eligible to join. Associate memberships are available for men.

Any questions contact Lavinia Weisz, 2nd VP/Membership, at [Lavystyle@gmail.com](mailto:Lavystyle@gmail.com) 727-597-2704

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For office use only

VR # \_\_\_\_\_

CD/SLD/PCT \_\_\_\_\_

Rev 01/26

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**



### **PFRW Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

## Members Circle



The SILENCE of the good people  
is more DANGEROUS than the  
BRUTALITY of the bad people  
~**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Our lives begin to end the day we  
become silent about things that  
matter.  
~**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*I often wonder what MLK Jr. would  
say or do in today's world.  
Bonnie Steinberg*

Have a story to share? We welcome comments from all members.  
Please contact Pam McAloon at [pmaloo@aol.com](mailto:pmaloo@aol.com)