

DBCF CONFERENCE ISSUE

APRIL 2018, VOL.1

"The Soul of The Party"



As we usher in the new organizational year, my desire is that each and every one of our members stays committed to the DBCF's role in ensuring the tenets of the Democratic party are those that support our mission and improve the overall lives of black people, as well as others.

In 2017, it became more apparent than ever that we must be focused, organized, and united as we move forward in training and electing people who serve our interests. There is one positive in relation to our questionable leadership that resides in the White House - more people have become involved and aware of the importance in the democratic process.

The DBCF is positioned to play an important role in turning Florida blue in 2018. One of our responsibilities is to help parlay all this new community involvement into energetic and determined voters. For our part, we will expect our loyalty and votes to be cultivated and earned like any other group. Black people have repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to the Party. For confirmation of the that loyalty, the Party only has to

look to places like Alabama, Virginia and North Carolina. In spite of that, our communities continue to see huge disparities in areas such as graduation rates, unemployment, homelessness and incarceration. This is unacceptable.

Moving forward, we will continue to fight for leaders committed to supporting legislation that positively impact us. We will continue to remind the Party that their success is dependent upon their ability to move our voters. Moreover, we will continue to be unapologetically Black and unwavering in supporting those who speak to our issues. We must continue to elevate Black voices for equity and to ensure that we turn the state blue in 2018 and beyond.

Warmest Regards,
President Lydia Hudson



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Please submit information for the next newsletter by July 2nd, 2018 (text and pictures). Email correspondsec@dbcflorida.org.

We strive for completeness of information, so please bring errors or comments to the attention of the editor at the email address above.

ABOUT THE DBCF

**The Democratic Black Caucus of
Florida was established in 1983, to
unite and increase the political
power for Black Democrats who
went unnoticed.**

22 Chapters

Statewide & Growing

[HTTP://WWW.DBCFLORIDA.ORG](http://www.dbcflorida.org)



@DBCFlorida



Look for updates
on the DBCF website

Chapter Locations



Alachua County

Bay County

Brevard County

Broward County

Citrus County

Duval County

Hillsborough County

Lake County

Lee County

Leon County

Manatee County

Martin County

Miami-Dade County

Okaloosa County

Orange County

Pinellas County

Polk County

Santa Rosa County

Seminole County

South Dade County

Volusia County

Walton County

Leading By Example

The newly elected leadership hit the ground running during their first year in office. President Hudson and 1st Vice President Drake crisscrossed the state supporting local caucuses and promoting the DBCF message. Bay, Walton and Volusia County are only a few of the places President Hudson has shared her invaluable knowledge since being elected in 2017. First Vice President Drake also participated in several events throughout the state; his presentations are instrumental in promoting and maintaining a consistent message within the organization. Their involvement in events like Leadership Blue and the Congressional Black Caucus position them to make connections crucial to advancing the DBCF agenda at the local and state level.



First Vice President Russell Drake, U.S. Representative Keith Ellison and President Lydia Hudson at the Congressional Black Caucus Breakfast



PCDBC President Trevor Mallory, Actress Vivica Fox, President Lydia Hudson and 1st Vice President Russell Drake



President Lydia Hudson, Author Cornell Belcher and DNC Representative Grace Carrington



Leadership and members from various counties supporting Bay County "Meet the Candidates Day"

Florida Democratic Party Conference 2017

The Democratic Black Caucus hosted two successful and well attended events at the FDP State Conference held October 27-29, 2017, at the beautiful Disney Coronado Springs Resort. The initial event, the Black Caucus Legislative Forum was held on Saturday, October 28th and featured key elected officials that included Congresswoman Val Demings (DBCF member), U.S. Senator Bill Nelson and State Representative Sean Shaw.

President Hudson opened the event with a pivotal speech that outlined the importance of the DBCF's role in the FDP. She urged elected officials to speak to the issues that impact blacks and other minorities since they now make up a one-third of the Florida Democrats. The most candid moment of Hudson's speech came when she reminded the packed house that the success of the party is unequivocally tied to their ability to mobilize and get black voters to the polls. The event also included a panel of DBCF leaders (along with elected officials) who took questions and listened to comments from attendees. At one point, the packed forum had to be delayed to make accommodations for the sizeable audience.

The second event was held on Sunday, October 29th on the final day of the conference. The audience had an opportunity to listen to an informative presentation by DBCF Legislative Chair, Corey Wilborn before appearances from three gubernatorial candidates. Mayor Andrew Gillum, U.S. Representative Gwen Graham and businessman Chris King all spoke briefly about their platforms before the crowd.

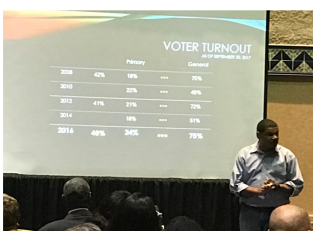
Several people became members of the DBCF or asked about starting chapters in their counties, this confirms that the hard work of our members and leadership is paying off.



President Lydia Hudson, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson and Congresswoman Val Demings at the Black Caucus Legislative Forum



President Lydia Hudson and 1st Vice President Russell Drake before the General Session



Legislative Chair, Cory Wilborn giving the DBCF presentation



Members of the DBCF socializing before a conference session



Gubernatorial candidate and former U.S. Representative Gwen Graham



Black Caucus Legislative Forum Panelists speaking to the audience

Chapter Highlight

Duval County

Duval County Chapter had a very active year; they continue to be a vital part of the Caucus both locally and statewide.

In late November, Hazel Gillis, Vice President of the chapter, ran an enthusiastic campaign for DEC chair. The election was held December 4, 2017. While Vice President Gillis did not win the election, her effort and tenacity are to be admired.

Some of the important work Duval County did in and around Jacksonville in recent months include co-sponsoring focus groups on political messaging and symbols with the Hispanic Caucus. They also co-sponsored the first forum of the Consortium of the Alliance of the Democratic Minority Caucuses of Color in Duval County. Attendees identified priorities and action steps to implement them during the 2018 campaign season and program year.

Duval County celebrated the end of busy year with a holiday party on December 5th at Highlands Branch Library. Over 45 members and guests attended and enjoyed the fellowship, networking and relationship building among the DCDBC family.

Pictured below: (left to right) Corey Wilborn, Hazel Gillis, James J. Morton, Michael and Philip Mner



Pictured below: Alliance planners: Mai Keisling, Phillip W. Miner (1st & 2nd from L) and Mario Decunto (far R) with 4 of 5 participating guests from New Florida Majority - Jacksonville)



DEMOCRACY

OF THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE

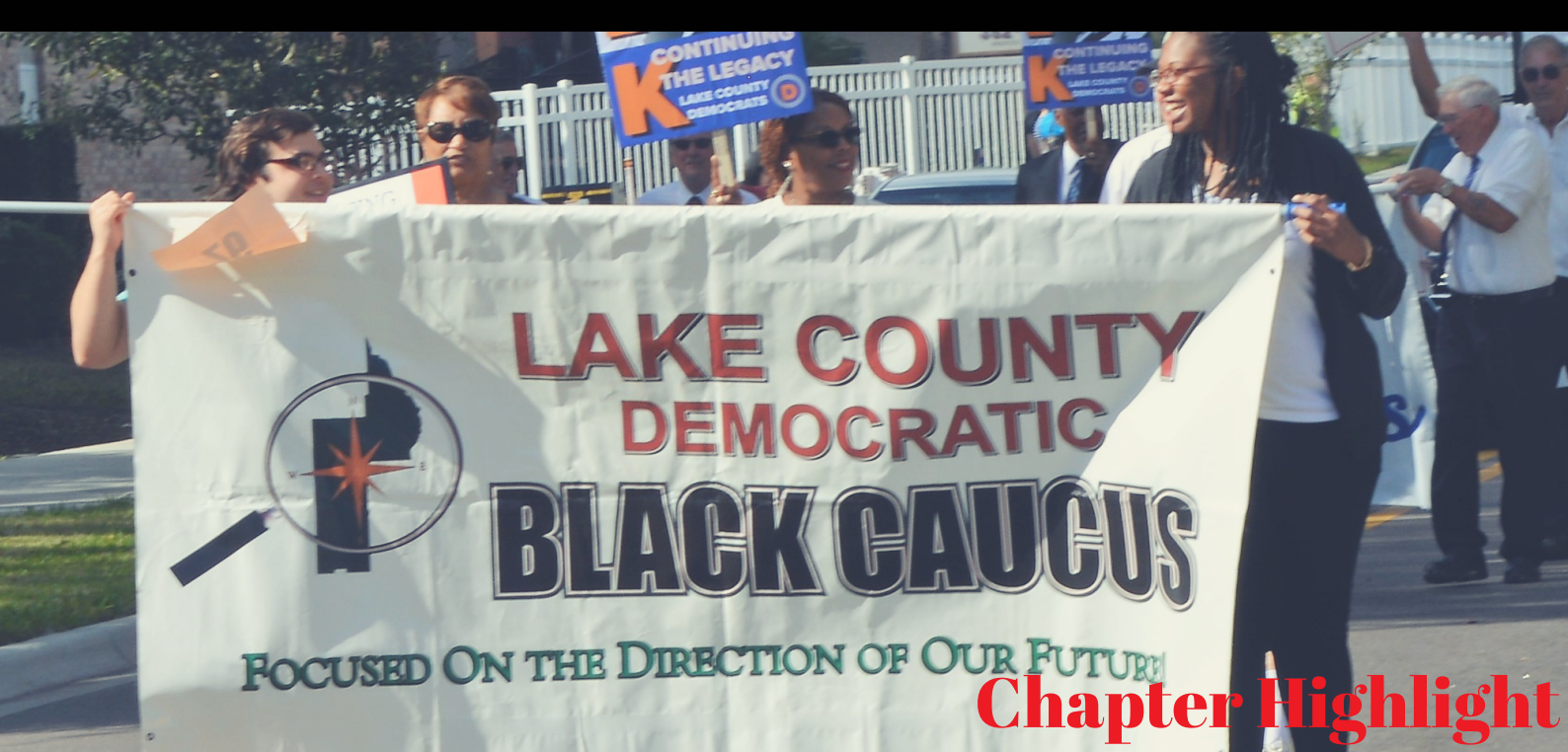


Duval County members enjoying the festivities at their holiday celebration!

Chapter Highlight

Duval Photo Gallery





Chapter Highlight

LAKE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC BLACK CAUCUS KEEPS IT MOVING

by Louis Ward

The Lake County Democratic Black Caucus is always involved in electing more Democrats in Lake County, working with community organizations, churches and businesses to improve the lives of community residents and children, and whatever it takes to make public policy meet the needs of the Lake County community.

One of LCDBC's main focuses was obtaining signed petitions for Restoration of Civil Rights for Ex-Felons. Our initiative to work in this area received a \$1500 grant in order to do Restoration of Civil Rights for Ex-Felons from the Florida Democratic Party. Various RCR workshops were presented in our community at organizations and churches.



TLCDBC members pose outside of Leesburg City Hall after attending its City Commission meeting..



Vice President Louis C Ward interviews Mayor of Tallahassee and gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum at the Florida Democratic Convention last October.



Member Linda Cunningham (Center front) walks with Lake County Sheriff and Leesburg Police Chief Robert Hicks in Love Walk Rally against racism, bigotry and hate last August.



President Lillian Lockette poses with speakers C. Holder and G. James at the annual "Evening with Friends" event in September.



Chapter Highlight

Okaloosa County

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, Okaloosa County members spearheaded hurricane relief efforts that united concerned citizens and community organizations from Mobile, Alabama to Bay County in the Florida Panhandle down to Miami. The idea began with an effort to get every church, every school, every organization, every business and every group to donate one backpack for Hurricane relief. The result was an overwhelming four truckloads and a Community United around helping those in need.



Pictured below (left to right) are, Santa Rosa President Christina Forrest and Okaloosa President Jill Lewis-Daggs and a guest at the joint Christmas party. Community members, including newly registered Democrats were invited; more than 125 guest enjoyed the festivities.



Pictured below (left to right) Jill Lewis-Daggs, a member and member Danny Dillard, who ran and won Cinco Bayou City Council with support from the ODBC, ODEC, ODWC.



Pictured below: Members enjoying the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet held in partnership with OCDC - Over 40 Democrats attended the event.



Pictured below - Okaloosa joined Santa Rosa and Walton County Democratic Black Caucuses, DEC and concerned citizens to demand the removal of the Confederate flag in Walton County. Ultimately, forcing commissioners to place the issue on the November 2018 ballot.



Chapter Highlight

Orange County

The Orange County Chapter has been instrumental in developing leaders serving the community at all levels.

Pictured below: (left to right) 1st Vice President Russell Drake, Attorney Georgiana Holmes, Attorney Bruce Mount and Orange County Commissioner Candidate Patricia Rumph



The Orlando Chapter, kicked off it's "Community Education - Taking Our Show on the Road" Initiative at the Pine Hills Community Council Meeting on October 3, 2017. Members Georgiana Holmes and Bruce Mount, Jr., put on an awesome presentation about "Red Light Cameras" that was both efficient and enlightening.

The community came out to support both organizations and the attendees included Orange County Dems Chairman and OCDBC member Wes Hodge. This is the first of many neighborhood events that the Orange County chapter has planned for Central Florida.



OCDBC AROUND TOWN



OCDBC Vice President, Dawn Curtis with US Representative Darren Soto as she receives a Congressional Certificate for her invaluable contributions to the community



Orange County members pose for a photo at the 35th Annual DBCF Conference



(Orange County members - (2nd from L) Verne Washington, Commissioner Sam Ings, County Vice Mayor Victoria Siplin, former Senator Gary Siplin and OCDBC President Russell Drake serving the community

Chapter Highlight

Pinellas County

DEMOCRATS: FIRED UP AND READY TO GO. . .

by Ray Tampa (reprinted from The Bulletin News)

On Friday night, December 15, 2017 at the beautiful Magnuson Hotel in south St. Petersburg the Pinellas County Democratic Black Caucus held its inaugural banquet. The event was attended by a very diverse crowd of individuals who are prominently involved in the important business of making people's lives in St. Petersburg and Pinellas County better.

Rene Flowers, Chairwoman of the Pinellas County School Board, coordinated and hosted the gala event. She spoke briefly to the crowd before introducing to them the PCDBC President, Trevor Mallory. President Mallory took the pleasure of expressing his appreciation to the audience for their attendance and support of the caucus. Also, he identified members of the organization's leadership team – 1st Vice-President Carla Britol, 2nd Vice-President Matt Byrd and Treasurer JerJuan Green, and Secretary Michelene Everett. Furthermore, President Mallory proudly introduced his wife, kids and dad to the audience. Vice-President Byrd shared with the audience the mission of the PCDBC and talked about the achievements of the organization that have occurred over the past year, particularly the efforts that went into reelecting Mayor Rick Kriseman.

Several notable elected officials and other community leaders were present at the event. Besides Rene Flowers there was Senator Darryl Rouson, Pinellas County Commission Chairman Ken Welch, newly elected St. Petersburg Councilwoman, District 6, Gina Driscoll, Attorney General Candidate Ryan Torrents, Southside Democratic Club Chairwoman Linda Lucas and her Vice- Chair Norma Roberts along with Secretary Julie Weintraub, Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church Pastor Greg Murray, Carter G. Woodson Museum Chair Terri Scott, Community Activist Icon Winnie Foster, former NAACP Vice-President Reginald Davis, House District 70 candidate Vito Sheeley, Political Strategist Ella Coffee, Callaloo Group Marketing Executive Mario Farias and so many others. From all appearances, The Pinellas County Democratic Black Caucus is poised to make a major impact in the political landscape in our city and county for years to come.



Member Al Hill and PCDBC
President Trevor Mallory



1st VP Matt Byrd, Senator
Darryl Rouson, Trevor Mallory
and 1st VP Carla Bristol



School Board Chairman Rene
Flowers



Cigma chapter members,
Trevor Mallory and
PCDBC Treasurer
Jer Juan Green

Chapter Highlight

Pinellas County Photo Gallery



Chapter Highlights

Santa Rosa County

The Santa Rosa Chapter hosted their first fundraising event on December 9, 2017, at the Tiger Point Community Center in Gulf Breeze, Florida. Nearly 50 guests showed up at the Holiday Blue Jazz Brunch Fundraiser to party with a purpose. Santa Rosa was honored to have former DBCF President Henry Crespo, Sr., give the opening greeting. The crowd was joined together for a day of jazz, fellowship and activism prior to the keynote speech given by the esteemed Mayor of Tallahassee and gubernatorial candidate, Andrew Gillum.

The event raised funds for the Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family Christmas program; during the afternoon, members also took time out to collect Restoration Rights petitions and more. The brunch was well supported by members from across the state, including Central Florida, Escambia, Okaloosa, Walton and Bay County.



SRDBC members, Kathy Jensen (Secretary), Elaine Reid (Treasurer), Former DBCF President Henry Crespo, Sr., Sandi Smith (1st Vice President) and Christina Forrest (President)



SRDBC members and guests enjoying the festivities



SRDBC member Gerri Bell and Elaine Reid



SRDBC President Christina Forrest addressing the crowd during the brunch



Mayor of Tallahassee and gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum, SRDBC President Christina Forrest and her husband, Charles Forrest

Chapter Highlights

Okaloosa & Santa Rosa Photo Gallery

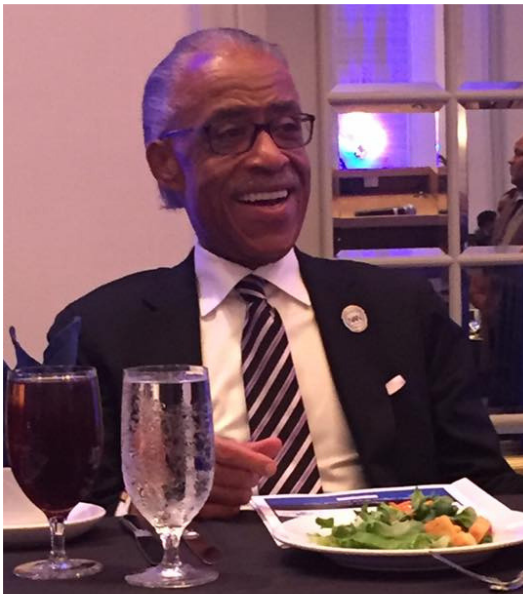


Chapter Highlights

Volusia County

"We have to make this a nation that includes Blacks, Hispanics, Muslims, Jews, gays and everybody. We too are focused on the 2020 presidential election, but we need to focus on the state, county and municipal elections. If we have the wrong people there, then we are in trouble," urged Reverend Al Sharpton; he is the host of MSNBC's "PoliticsNation" and a long-serving civil rights activist.

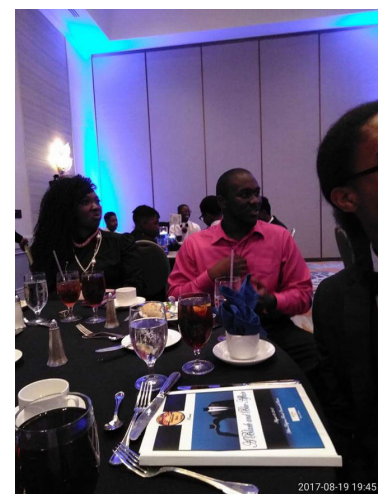
Reverend Sharpton was the keynote speaker at the first Black and Blue Affair Gala, a fund-raiser for the Volusia County Democratic Black Caucus, in Daytona Beach. The event was held on Aug. 19, 2017, at the Hilton Daytona Beach Resort. The crowd listened intently as Sharpton covered topics from activism to voting, confederate statues and equality. Attendees walked away with a renewed sense of urgency to galvanize local democrats for the 2018 elections.



The Reverend Al Sharpton enjoying his dinner at the Black and Blue Gala Affair




Leadership of the Volusia County DBC fellowshipping
with the Reverend Al Sharpton at the Gala



Guests at the Black and Blue Affair

UPCOMING DBCF EVENTS

Join the Central Florida Black Caucus of Elected Officials and Community Justice Partners for a

Restoration of Rights Workshop


Friday, April 27, 2018
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Orange County Courthouse Jury Room
425 North Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

Representatives from Government Agencies and Community Organizations will be available to provide assistance.

Thank you to the Central Florida Black Caucus of Elected Officials:

Congresswoman Val Demings	Orange County Commissioner Victoria Sipolin
Florida State Senator Randolph Bracy	Orange County School Board Member Kat Gordon
Florida House of Representatives Kamila Brown	City of Orlando Commissioner Regina Hill
Florida House of Representatives Bruce Antone	City of Orlando Commissioner Samuel B. Ings
State Attorney Aramis Ayala	Mayor of Eatonville Eddie Cole
Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings	Town of Eatonville Council Members
Orange County Clerk of Courts Tiffany Moore Russell	City of Apopka Commissioner Billie Dean

Special thanks to our partners:
Public Defender Robert Wesley
Latino Justice
Paul C. Perkins Bar Association
Florida Restoration of Rights Coalition



For more information call 407-836-6335 or visit www.myorangeclerk.com

CITRUS COUNTY EVENT Community Day at Copeland Park April 28 th.

Be sure to mark the date on your calendar. Saturday, April 28, at Copeland Park. It starts at noon. Come to the park for food and fun. Meet the candidates for the 2018 Primary Election, register to vote, and learn about important issues that will be on the ballot. Bring the entire family. Enjoy the music, make new friends and have a great time. All free.

Copeland Park is located at 76 NE 8th Ave, Crystal River, FL 34429. This event is sponsored by the Citrus County Democratic Black Caucus. For more information call 352-522-1859

SAVE THE DATE

LEADERSHIP BLUE GALA

DATE
Saturday, June 30, 2018
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

LOCATION
The Diplomat Beach Resort
3555 S. Ocean Drive
Hollywood, Florida 33019

To Sponsor or RSVP, contact Karina Rigel at Karina@floridadems.org

Contributions are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Your contribution may be used in connection with federal elections and is subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act. No federal officers will be involved in the solicitation of funds.




FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

LEADERSHIP BLUE 2018

JUNE 29-JULY 1, 2018 • THE DIPLOMAT

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KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR THE
NEXT DBCF QUARTERLY



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