



In Case You Missed It...

Attached, you will find a recap of our Republican Club of Solivita January 21st dinner event. We will try to provide this service on a regular basis to help those who could not attend in person.

At our next event, on March 18th, we will have two very high-profile candidates that you will find very helpful as you try to sort out this crowded candidate group.

For our May and July events, we will again provide widely known and well qualified candidates and speakers that you will want to meet and hear.

I would also like to take this opportunity to discuss other issues that may be of interest.

The first would be to remind everyone about the next Member Forum to be held on March 14th.

Some have already contacted me to sign up to attend, and we would like for more of you to do the same. 9-11 am in the Baltic room above the Bistro.

This is an informal setting to discuss club history, present status and discussions about the future.

Also, if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2026, please visit me in Freedom Park and I will help you with that.

As we are actively engaged in the political season, a discussion about voter registration efforts has been raised. Yes, we have registration forms available

and can provide them as needed.

What we cannot do is assist in completion of the forms or take possession of them with the obligation to then get them to the Supervisor of Elections.

The reality is that anyone who is a resident of Florida and/or has a driver's license, is probably already registered and the need is relatively small.

As you know, I thoroughly enjoy visiting with you and I hope this is something that you would like me to continue providing going forward. Let me know.

Thank you.

Peter Thompson

Republican Club of Solivita
Membership Meeting—1/21/2026
Notes by Gary Phillips

Featured Speaker—Dennis Ross (former Congressmen for Fl)

Carol Rimdzuis announced the results of the election of officers:
Peter Thompson- President



Glenn Larson- Vice President
Gary Phillips- Secretary
Jennifer Rush- Treasurer
Carol Rimdzuis- Asst Treasurer
Dennis Rush- Membership and Communications
Don Rimdzuis- Asst Mbrship and Comm.
6 Directors= Bill diercksen, Beverly Gianini, Beverly Stairs, Michael Gilli, Mary Lou Townsend, and Michelle Weisinger.

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Candidates circulating the room:

Steve Rance (District 9), Ron Parks campaign mgr for Sarah Corona (School Board) and Andrea DiMichael (Undeclared Judicial candidate).

Speaker Dennis Ross—Wanted to mention several points, the current state of elections, his affiliation with the previous T-Party, midterms and Charlie Kirk both of which touch on Socialism.



He got interested in Congress 6 years ago with DJ Trump presidency. He sees today's Congress as INEPT, and thanks DJT for exposing the deep state, fixing the border, re-instating our energy supremacy, re-gaining international respect, among others.

The Midterms will impact the Middle East, our pocket books versus foreign policy. Currently in Florida we have 41% Republican and 30% Democrat with 25% NPA. NPA does not mean they are hiding from declaring it means they aren't 100% behind the policies of one or the other parties. We will see some switch allegiances when they agree with say 75-80% of the party policy, but it's a certain fact we need to stop the infighting and bickering in the Rep party. We need to show a united front that for the most part the direction the Rep party is set to go is the right path.

Socialism in NY (Mamdani, Mayor of NYC), AOC won her district in NY with only 13% Dem but 14k showed up to vote and that placed her in our lap. Where were the Rep voters? We need to send a message to reach them.

Give reason to vote and be conservative not liberal, in our message. Good united policy does more than negate an opposing idea.

Gen Z's with Charlie Kirk's influence he has reached these young voters, more are attending church than the generation before, more are buying Bibles (and reading them) more men and being brought into the fold.

97% (estimate) of teachers lean to socialism or communism. WHY??? Started with Customer is always right, give them what they want, then begin to limit what they can have and when, let everyone offend everyone else (keep them distracted with hate and division) so they can be easier controlled.

U of MN a playground for DEI preference, abortion division, and LGBTQ confusion.

Are we at the point to Stand your ground, protect your self vs Freedom of speech, where did the phrase "Sticks and stones will break my bones but WORDS will never hurt me" come from and when stones become fists and sticks become legs and arms to assault, where is the law to stop this over stepping of our right to peacefully protest.

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Steve Rance-= District 9 Candidate to remove Darren Soto our current representative.

His message is to get out the VOTE. He is a 21 yr Air Force Veteran and MAGA-Conservative who-- stands for common sense, for energy independence, Putting America First, for staying out of world conflicts, for putting Veteran's first, school education not indoctrination, against males competing in girls sports, for advancing mental health initiatives, believes that GUNS are not the problem people are, and for legal immigration, and backing the rule of law (ICE supporter)



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Below are notes from Steve Labate the Vice chair of the Republican Executive Committee (REC) who holds our Charter with the Republican Party of Florida (RPOF).

To put our place in perspective we are the Republican Club of Solivita, we are the bottom of the activists who see problems and report them to the REC who then sifts them and researches them to refer them to the RPOF which then adopts the problem as wide spread and seeks to find solutions to write bills that remedy by becoming law in Tallahassee. It all starts with US!!!
We the People....



As I said Steve is the Vice Chair to the REC. His message is Success in Polk Co means no democrat should win any election. Their message is not for the people. They (Mamdani in NYC) dabble in sexual identity, they want to abolish private property. Don't take the bait of the free offers that car jacking is not a concern of drivers on the road, and that increased crime stats are not important to the average citizen. They are for the complete disregard of the citizen, again they offer free things, then being to limit those things, and reward those who preach their policies better than the average citizen forming elite groups (oligarchs if you will) that will determine the fate of those below them. When that happens our freedoms which we have fought so hard for are on the brink of disappearing. The next civil war will be over a different kind of slavery (total allegiance to a party).

Polk co has some 818k people and about 2011 sq miles of land. 181K are Republicans, 123k are Democrats and the ration of R to D is 1.46 to 1.

We need to re-engage our member base, we are doing so with bringing several clubs together (WH912, Solivita, Young Republicans, Women's Republican Club, and others). We should engage with like minded people in public areas (farmers markets and fairs), we need to tell our story and encourage community engagement.

We have a few elections coming up—Mayor of Lakeland, Commissioner in Polk Co, 2 School Board elections (which are over in August, the usual primary), Governorship, Senate and House of Rep. And Judgeships.

Commissioner of Polk co- one to track is Omar Arroyo
School board-- one to track is Sarah Corona
Gov- ones to track are Paul Renner and Byron Donalds
Senator—Track Ashley Moody
All our US Representatives
Judicial candidate—one to track is Andrea DiMichael (once she declares we will see less of her as this race by law is non-partisan. She however hails from a conservative background.)

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We can bolster the vote by finding out who is like minded as we are and offering to give rides to others when early voting begins so that one trip will bring in 2 + votes. How does this help? An area like Winter Haven gets about 16% of the voters out at any one election. At the last election this tactic was implemented and the turn out was 51% of the voters. Thats an increase of 200+% AND our candidate won his election.

Note the Dems did this when they elected Pritzker in Illinois as their Governor. If it worked for them it can work for us. Get to know your neighbors!!!

Peter announced that the following are special dates.

August 18 is the Florida Primary date.
June 28—planning a 250th birthday of America stop by our table in Farmers Market for details.

Mtg adjourned.

Gary Phillips (notes and comments in (-)). I am only one view make sure you research your own before casting any votes.



1/23/2026