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November 14, 2023

Greetings Members:

I hope this letter finds you well. As we move into the holiday season and we once again focus on family, giving thanks and preparing for a new year, I want to take a moment to bring each of you up to speed on some new focus areas for the East Pasco Democratic Club. Before I do that though, let me take a moment to thank each and every one of you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your president, and for your dedication to promoting democratic ideals. I hope you get to spend time with family and friends and that the end of 2023 will bring both prosperity and calm to you. Please take a moment to review the information below.

As the Political Action Committee has become more active, I need to make you aware of a new focus/campaign that will drive our club's actions for the coming year. As you are aware 2024 is an important election year, but our focus is not just on Nov, for there are important races in April and August. (see below) This doesn't include the push for clean water, women's rights to choose and the countless other issues affecting our state. In conjunction with this focus, we are setting dates to canvas in local areas, arranging phone banking opportunities and planning for petition drives and tabling events. And I share this because it will take all of us to accomplish our goals:

- 1- Identify potential candidates for local municipal elections, while increasing our membership.
- 2- Create a distinction between our democratic club and our Political Action component of our club.
- 3- Build momentum and enthusiasm for the general election in November.

As the chair of the Political Action committee, I have developed a plan of action which will be shared at our upcoming meeting. We can no longer wait for others to step up and act. Real change needs to come at the local level, and the East Pasco Democrats will be leading this movement.

Reminders:

- If you have done so, please sign-up for Vote By Mail at your earliest convenience. The link to submit your application is provided [here](#). You can submit your application in person as well.
- Does your community send out a local newsletter or newspaper (printed or emailed) that we can use to advertise our events? We currently contact the following: Tampa Bay Times, Wesley Chapel Neighborhood News, Wesley Chapel Community, The Laker, BayNews9, and the RKR riley newsletter. We would love to reach more potential members. Please let us know if there are any other resources we should contact.
- Because of the separation of the club from the PAC, we need to reorganize our current committees. As a reminder, the EPDC has the following, and we are all in need of more members: Political Action (Washington), Media (Ardis), Speaker's (St. James) and Fundraising (Hires); most committees meet less than once a month and many meet via Zoom. Please reach out to the Chair (in parentheses) for more details. Some upcoming events (see below) need help

planning and coordinating. We will be looking for a chair for the Social Committee as we will be separating the Social/Fundraising Committee into 2 committees.

- Next Monday's (11/20) meeting is our last meeting for the year. As a reminder, we will be holding our Holiday Party on Dec. 10th, in lieu of a monthly meeting.
- There will be ample opportunities for each member to take an active role in our new focus for 2024. We will need recommendations for topics that you wish to have addressed at our meetings. We need volunteers for tabling events, phone banking and canvassing. But we will also need people to volunteer to call potential donors, converse with neighbors and friends to identify candidates. Below is a list of potential topics and speakers for 2024:
  - School board and state of Education in Pasco County, especially HB109 and potential speakers-school board candidates and Chris Dunning, candidate for Superintendent.
  - Over Development and Growth of County
  - Potential County candidates for 2024 elections (city and county commission, county officials, city governance, etc.)
- Speaking of local races.... We are looking for potential candidates. In 2024, the following cities within East Pasco will be holding elections: St. Leo, San Antonio, Dade City, and Zephyrhills. Not to mention many county level elections where we need Democratic leadership. Please let us know if you are interested or know of someone who would make a strong candidate. Be assured, you will not be alone in this process. Many in our club have sought and won office; and, we can be a resource for you!

Calendar of Upcoming Events: (To be updated as events are scheduled)

November	Various Committee Meetings- TBD
14 <sup>th</sup> - EPDC Board meeting- ZOOM 6:30-8:00 PM	Pasco County School Staff Recognition TBD
20 <sup>th</sup> - EPDC General Meeting- <b>In Person Only</b> at Genesis Center- 6:45-8:30PM	February-
Poinsettia Fundraiser Kick Off	Pigs in Z'hills tabling 2/10
Various Committee Meetings TBD	BOD 2/13@4:30 PM
Pasco County School Staff Recognition TBD	GEN 2/19 @ 6:30 PM
December-	Pasco County Fair DEC tabling one day 2/19-2/25
Holiday Party/Gathering 12/10	Pasco Pride Festival- tabling 2/24 Heritage Park Land O' Lakes
Stamp/Letter party- Letters to New Dems ??	Various Committee Meetings- TBD
No General Meeting	Pasco County School Staff Recognition TBD
Various Committee Meetings- TBD	Lily Fundraiser Kickoff
Pasco County School Staff Recognition TBD	March-
January-	Spring Newsletter
BOD 1/9/23 @4:30 PM	Spring Fling/Party Gathering
GEN 1/15/23 @ 6:30PM	BOD 3/12
	GEN 3/18
	Various Committee Meetings- TBD
	Pasco County School Staff Recognition TBD
	Lily Fundraiser Distribution

Hope to see you all Monday night, 11/20 for our final General Meeting of 2023. Remember that this is an **in-person meeting only**; there will be no ZOOM. If not have a peaceful Thanksgiving and I hope to see you at the Holiday Gathering on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

*James Washington*

James Washington, President of EPDC