

Happy New Year!

The holidays are winding down and 2012 is upon us. I wish you and all Hernando County Democrats a happy and prosperous New Year.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the hardworking members who have made it possible for the Hernando County Democratic Executive Committee (HCDEC) and its associated clubs to accomplish so much the past year. We've come a long way, and as I settle into the position of your Chairman, I am pleased that today's HCDEC is a positive, cohesive force with great potential. It hasn't been easy, but we did it under the dedicated leadership of our immediate past Chair, Jim Singer. In the coming year, we have a tremendous challenge ahead to continue his work.

My new year's resolution is a Democratic victory in this county in the next election. With your help, we'll have a productive year. We are growing and accomplishing more each month. A few highlights:

- Our **2012 Campaign for Democratic Success** was launched at the annual Jefferson Jackson Dinner Dance in November. A full house gained inspiration from guest speakers Alan Grayson, Scott and Susannah Randolph and the Reverend Charles McKenzie, Jr.
- Thanks to the generous professional support of Lori Bainum and Jeff Webb, the HCDEC is launching an effort to create a strategic plan to ensure our success. (We have created a committee to fulfill that purpose. If you're interested in participating as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, please let me know.)
- We are developing a program to increase Vote by Mail registrations for Hernando County Democrats. We have purchased software that can be set up to auto-dial registered Democrats at home during the day. They will hear a pre-recorded message which will offer them the opportunity to be directly connected to the Hernando County Supervisor of Elections office, where they can request to have ballots mailed to them a month before each election. Ballots for all members of the household can be requested as well. The goal is to encourage more Democrats to Vote by Mail and avoid the voter suppression tactics recently signed into law by Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature. I am spearheading this program on behalf of the Hernando DEC, but neighboring counties also are very interested in its obvious potential to turn out the vote.

Vote by Mail Heroes Campaign

To implement the Vote by Mail Program, I need your help. I'm donating a significant amount of time to develop the program, but I can't do it alone. We need just \$2000 to fund the costs of this innovative and potentially very productive strategy to motivate voters. This will cover the cost of software, telephone minutes and other expenses. These costs run far less than direct mail and by using a pre-recorded message, we will have no personnel costs other than my volunteer time and the cooperation of the Elections Office, which I have already secured.

Will you be a Vote by Mail Hero? Your contribution will help make the HCDEC's first proactive program of the New Year possible. Please do your part to raise the funds to implement it. As you consider your year-end giving, **please send a donation of \$100, \$50, \$25 or any sum for the Vote by Mail Program.** Please make your check payable to the HCDEC and mail it to: HCDEC, Post Office Box 3034, Spring Hill, FL 34606. Contributions can also be made on line at <http://hernandodemocrats.us>. Each contributor will be recognized at each HCDEC meeting and as well on our website. For further information, please email or call me at 352-442-1271.

2012 is going to be a challenging year, a defining year, but a great year. Together we can accomplish our goals and sustain our party's ideals. Thank you so much for your support.



Chairman, Hernando County Democratic Executive Committee