



# The Forum

## July 2018

**PEACE RIVER FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S FORUM**

**P.O. Box 511985 • Punta Gorda, FL • 33951-1985**

### **July Speakers: Candidates for the Charlotte County School Board District 1**

*Gerri Waksler* is a lawyer, businesswomen and long-time community volunteer and advocate. A Charlotte County resident for 34 years, she has been managing partner of two law firms and, together with her husband Joe, owned and operated Morton's Ace Hardware from 1984-2015.



For over 20 years, Gerri has served local organizations focused on children and education. She is a co-founder of Charlotte Academy (now called Charlotte Preparatory School) and served on its board of directors for 7 years. She is a past-president of the board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Charlotte County, Inc., a past-president and current board member of the Charlotte Local Education Foundation, and for the past 9 years has conducted weekly mentoring sessions with at-risk Charlotte County high school students.

Gerri's husband and two sons all graduated from Charlotte County Public Schools. She is a 1998 graduate of Leadership Charlotte and a 2015 graduate of Leadership Florida and has served on its statewide Leadership Team for the past 3 years.

*Cara Reynolds:* I grew up in a small town just outside of Cleveland, Ohio. After graduating with my Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Education, I moved to Charlotte County in late 2005, and was hired as a teacher at Port Charlotte Middle School. I went on to earn my Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and taught in CCPS for 7 years.



I am the co-owner and Vice President of Wrightway Emergency Services; the largest privately-owned restoration company in our area.

I am the president of Leadership Class 2018, secretary and treasurer of my HOA, the secretary of Deep Creek Elementary School's School Advisory Committee, a member of the CCPS Transportation Review Committee, a member of the Suncoast Grade Level Reading Campaign, and little league baseball coach.

I have been married to Josh for 12 years and we have three incredible boys, Brady, 10, Blake, 7, and Brantley, 5, all enrolled in Charlotte County Public Schools.

### **Forum Meeting** **Wednesday, July 11, 2018**

**Isles Yacht Club**  
1780 W. Marion Ave. • Punta Gorda, FL  
Social: 11:30 A.M.-Noon  
Lunch & Meeting: Noon-1:00 P.M.

#### Menu

House Salad with  
Balsamic Vinaigrette  
Chicken Crepes with  
Sauce Supreme  
Rice  
Fresh Vegetables  
Bread & Butter  
Cookie  
Coffee • Iced Tea • Decaf

**Members: \$20 • Guests: \$22**

**For reservations, please contact:**

**Dora Smith**

**by noon on the Friday preceding  
the meeting**

**email:**

**[peacriverforum@gmail.com](mailto:peacriverforum@gmail.com)**

**or call: 941-916-7224**

Use PayPal for advance reservations and memberships here:  
[www.charlottegop.com/peace\\_river\\_forum](http://www.charlottegop.com/peace_river_forum)  
(Payment Services).

**LUNCHEON CANCELLATIONS**  
Please email [peacriverforum@gmail.com](mailto:peacriverforum@gmail.com) or call 941-916-7224 no later than Friday noon prior to the meeting. Late cancellations may be charged to the Member, and invoices may be issued for payment for all no-shows and late cancellations.

#### **INFORMATION CHANGES**

If you have a change of name, address, telephone or email address, please contact Joette Maynard (941-457-0271) or email her on: [joettemaynard@comcast.net](mailto:joettemaynard@comcast.net)

## The Minutes

The June 13, 2018 meeting for the Peace River Federated Women's Forum was held at the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Debbie Harrington at 12:00 noon. Pres. Harrington gave the invocation and The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deborah McMullen, Republican State Committeewoman. The May Forum minutes were approved as presented. The Treasurer's report was approved as presented and filed. Pres. Harrington opened the floor for any unfinished or new business, to which there was none.

**Officers Present:** Debbie Harrington, President; Joette Maynard, Treasurer; Christine Lee, Assistant Treasurer; standing in as Secretary Kim Feit-Kapela.

**Dignitaries Present:** Greg Stuebe, State Senator District 23; Jae Williams, Legislative Assistant; Cynthia Beckett, District Aide; Roger Eaton, CC Clerk of Court; Paul Polk, CC Property Appraiser; Kathleen Coppola, CC Airport Authority District 5; Lynne Matthews, Punta Gorda City Council District 4; Deborah McMullen, Republican State Committeewoman; Bob Starr, Republican State Committeeman; Ken Roberson, former State Representative.

**Candidates for Elected Office Present:** U.S. Congress Florida District 17: Bill Akins, Dr. Julio Gonzalez, Greg Stuebe; CC School Board District 1: Cara Reynolds, Geri Waksler; CC Airport Authority District 4, Kathleen Coppola.

**New Members and Guests:** Julio Gonzalez, Vickie Brill; Christine Pontoriero, Justin Kim-Hummel; Sandra Cheek, Stacey

Mininsohn, Alice Zachas.

**Announcements:** Plans are in place for us to meet at The Twin Isles Country Club located at 301 Madrid Blvd., Punta Gorda for the months of August and September. They do require a week in advance notice for lunches so please make a note of this and be sure to call your reservation in. This is also a good time to remind everyone that you must make a reservation by the Friday before the scheduled Forum (except for August and September when you must respond by the Monday of the week prior to the Forum). The next meeting will be held July 11, 2018 at the Isles Yacht Club.

**Program:** Pres. Harrington introduced each of the three candidates that are running for Congress Florida District 17. Bill Akins spoke about his commitment to God & Country with his six-point pledge. Dr. Julio Gonzalez spoke of his background in the medical field, dealing with health insurance, and becoming a lawyer and that he feels it would make him the strongest candidate. Greg Stuebe spoke of his record as a Senator and wants to take his experience to the national platform. He also cited his strong background in our agriculture community being a native Floridian and growing up on a cattle ranch. All candidates stayed for questions. The *Sun* newspaper join us to interview the three candidates. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Woodmansee, *Secretary*

## From the June Meeting . . .



## Treasurer's Report

PRFRWF Check Register Balance (04/30/18) ..... \$5,675.30

Receipts:

Luncheon income ..... 781.97

Total receipts ..... 781.97

Disbursements:

Luncheon ..... -840.11

FFRW dues ..... -330.00

Reimbursement for name badges & supplies ..... -380.83

Reimbursement for Trump Celebration ..... -75.00

Mobile phone ..... -28.15

Total disbursements ..... -1,654.09

PRFRWF Check Register Balance (05/31/18) ..... **4,803.18**

\$Petty cash on hand ..... 100.00

PRFRWF Balance (05/31/18) ..... **\$4,903.18**

## Temporary Meeting Location for the Peace River Forum in August and September 2018

The Isles Yacht Club dining rooms will be closed for renovations in August and September. The Forum will meet at Twin Isles Country Club, 301 Madrid Boulevard, Punta Gorda (941-444-6600).

**Reservations at Twin Isles must be made no later than 1 week prior to meeting date. A reminder will be sent to members.**

## 2018 Peace River Forum Board of Directors

President ..... Deborah L. Harrington  
Vice President ..... Vanessa Oliver  
Treasurer ..... Joette Maynard  
Assistant Treasurer ..... Christine Lee  
Secretary ..... Monica Woodmansee