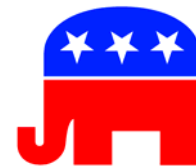


# WEST CHARLOTTE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CLUB



WCCRC • P.O. Box 271 • Placida, FL 33946 • [www.charlottecountygop.com](http://www.charlottecountygop.com)

EDITOR HARRY FATUM

IN GOD WE TRUST

JANUARY 2008

## Menu for January 15 Meeting

*Your Choice of one*

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Baked Grouper

Chef's Salad

*Vegetable, Parsley Potatoes & Cheesecake*

Don't forget to make your reservations for dinner. You will be contacted via telephone or email. You can make your reservations by e-mailing Susan Bowers at [hsboenglwd@aol.com](mailto:hsboenglwd@aol.com) or call Harold Bowers at 460-0952. Please indicate how many reservations you need and what entree you have selected. All reservations need to be in by the Sunday before the meeting. All cancellations need to be in by noon on Monday before the meeting.

**Location: American Legion**  
3436 Indiana Rd.  
(off Cape Haze Drive)  
Rotonda West  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month  
Cash Bar - 6 to 6:30 pm  
Dinner & Meeting -  
6:30 pm

## OFFICERS:

Lou Spacco - President  
[lou.spacco@earthlink.net](mailto:lou.spacco@earthlink.net)  
Scott Rueckel - 1<sup>st</sup> V.P.  
[sbattl@earthlink.net](mailto:sbattl@earthlink.net)  
Harold Bowers - 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.  
[hsboenglwd@aol.com](mailto:hsboenglwd@aol.com)  
Nina Stamoulis - Secretary  
[ninams@comcast.net](mailto:ninams@comcast.net)  
Dick Wieland - Treasurer  
[Dickdoris@aol.com](mailto:Dickdoris@aol.com)  
John Stanwix - Past President  
[Stanwix@embarqmail.com](mailto:Stanwix@embarqmail.com)  
Sue Rueckel - Director of  
Membership & Activities  
Harry Fatum - Director of  
Communications  
Steve Ahlrich - Director of  
Political Activities

## President's Message:

*Lou Spacco*

Fellow Republicans,

I trust everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With a new year comes a change in the club leadership. The following people were elected as members of the 2008 board of directors:

Lou Spacco - President  
Scott Rueckel - First Vice President  
Harold Bowers - Second Vice President  
Janina Stamoulis - Secretary  
Dick Wieland - Treasurer  
Steve Ahlrich - Director Political Activities  
Sue Rueckel - Director Membership/Social  
Harry Fatum - Director Communications  
John Stanwix will hold the position of Past President

We want to thank John Stanwix for his excellent leadership as President in 2007. John's leadership was instrumental in moving the club forward and preparing us for this year's elections.

The by-laws change in 2007, allowed the addition of three directors-at-large to the club's board. These directors will be in charge of Political Activities, Membership and Socials, and Communications. We want to encourage more participation by our members so if anyone has interest in helping out in any of these areas please contact the appropriate board member.

Input from our members is very important. Please let us know if there are any speakers you would like to hear or subjects you would like discussed at the meetings. The discussion session held last August was well received. I would like to have more discussions on a monthly basis. Tell us what topics you would like discussed and we will try to accommodate them.

Remember this month is the Presidential Primary election - January 29<sup>th</sup>. The Property Tax amendment will also be on the ballot. We are advising everyone to request an absentee ballot as this will be the first election with the new voting system. Long lines and problems are anticipated. You can avoid all the headaches by voting absentee.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. The speakers will discuss the property tax amendment, and answer your questions before the primary vote.

*Lou Spacco*

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Newsletter Editor, Harry Fatum - [828-0021-harryfatum@embarqmail.com](mailto:828-0021-harryfatum@embarqmail.com)

# Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, January 15, 2008  
Regular Meeting *Property Tax Amendment Discussion*

Tuesday, January 29, 2008  
Florida Primary

Tuesday, February 19, 2008  
Regular Meeting

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Liz Stamoulis

### A NOTE FROM MARY

As we begin this New Year, I want to thank Harry Fatum for agreeing to be the Editor of our 2008 newsletter. He is very capable and I'm sure we will all benefit from his expertise. Last year when I was Editor, I learned many things about putting a document together, staying on schedule with deadlines, and computer skills, in which I was lacking. It also confirmed what a great team we had, with John Stanwix at the helm, Sue and Scott Rueckel organizing our activities, Betty Fernandez coordinating jewelry sales, Lou Spacco handling menus and other items for our meetings, and others who participated one way or another with the newsletter process. I would be remiss if I didn't mention how our Past-President John Stanwix challenged me to correct spelling, content, and grammar. He wrote excellent articles; then I had the honor/task of amending them. Good job, John! Thanks again to everyone for the privilege of serving you. God bless you!

### **REMINDER: YOUR 2008 ANNUAL WCCRC MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE - NOW!**

**Couple Membership: \$30.00/year or Single Membership: \$20.00/year**

*IMPORTANT: Please review closely to be certain all of your contact information is correct: Please Print! Thank You!*

NAME(S): (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL ADDRESS: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOME PH: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PH: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\$30.00 (Couple Membership) \_\_\_\$20.00 (Single Membership)

**Please make all checks out to: WCCRC**

Two methods of payment:

1. Bring your DUES Check with you to our January 15th meeting or
2. Mail your check to the Club: WCCRC, PO Box 271, Placida, FL 33946-0271

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# January 29, Primary Election Day

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After two years of listening to the campaigning by the presidential Hopefuls, it's finally time to get out and vote your choice. January 29, 2008 is the date for voicing your opinion as to which Republican candidate you want to be the next President.

There is also a Florida constitutional amendment proposed by the Florida Legislature that is important. Speakers at the January 15 meeting will discuss this amendment and answer questions. If you wish to prepare questions for the speakers, details of proposed changes may be found at:  
<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/2008proposedConstAmend.shtml>

## Property tax exemptions:

This revision proposes changes to the State Constitution relating to property taxation. With respect to homestead property, this revision: (1) increases the homestead exemption except for school district taxes and (2) allows homestead property owners to transfer up to \$500,000 of their Save-Our-Homes benefits to their next homestead. With respect to nonhomestead property, this revision (3) provides a \$25,000 exemption for tangible personal property and (4) limits assessment increases for specified nonhomestead real property except for school district taxes.

In more detail, this revision:

- (1) Increases the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed value between \$50,000 and \$75,000. This exemption does not apply to school district taxes.
- (2) Provides for the transfer of accumulated Save-Our-Homes benefits. Homestead property owners will be able to transfer their Save-Our-Homes benefit to a new homestead within 1 year and not more than 2 years after relinquishing their previous homestead; except, if this revision is approved by the electors in January of 2008 and if the new homestead is established on January 1, 2008, the previous homestead must have been relinquished in 2007. If the new homestead has a higher just value than the previous one, the accumulated benefit can be transferred; if the new homestead has a lower just value, the amount of benefit transferred will be reduced. The transferred benefit may not exceed \$500,000. This provision applies to all taxes.
- (3) Authorizes an exemption from property taxes of \$25,000 of assessed value of tangible personal property. This provision applies to all taxes.
- (4) Limits the assessment increases for specified non-homestead real property to 10 percent each year. Property will be assessed at just value following an improvement, as defined by general law, and may be assessed at just value following a change of ownership or control if provided by general law. This limitation does not apply to school district taxes. This limitation is repealed effective January 1, 2019, unless renewed by a vote of the electors in the general election held in 2018

Further, this revision:

- a. Repeals obsolete language on the homestead exemption when it was less than \$25,000 and did not apply uniformly to property taxes levied by all local governments.
- b. Provides for homestead exemptions to be repealed if a future constitutional amendment provides for assessment of homesteads "at less than just value" rather than as currently provided "at a specified percentage" of just value.
- c. Schedules the changes to take effect upon approval by the electors and operate retroactively to January 1, 2008, if approved in a special election held on January 29, 2008, or to take effect January 1, 2009, if approved in the general election held in November of 2008. The limitation on annual assessment increases for specified real property shall first apply to the 2009 tax roll if this revision is approved in a special election held on January 29, 2008, or shall first apply to the 2010 tax roll if this revision is approved in the general election held in November of 2008.

**It may be prudent to request an absentee ballot as this will be the first election with the new voting system. Long lines and problems are anticipated. You may save a lot of time by voting on an absentee ballot.**