



# The Trumpet

## Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida

Newsletter

October - December 2017

# Inaugural Edition

Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Trumpet, the quarterly newsletter of the Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida (DVCF). We hope you find this newsletter interesting, informative and provocative. Our plan is to inform and connect the members of the Florida Democratic veterans caucuses. We also hope that this newsletter will encourage more Democratic veterans to become active and also to form more veterans caucuses across the state.

Please give us your feedback and ideas. We want to hear from you. Let us know what your caucus is doing. We will always present a calendar of events so send us those events. We would like to have at least one historical article in each newsletter. If you know of a historical event of importance but not well known, send us an article. If you know of an event but can't write a report on it, let us know and we will try to have someone research it and write it.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested. Also, if you know of internet or computer challenged people who might want a paper printed copy, let us know. This newsletter can't be successful without your input therefore send us your comments, articles, pictures and events. Thank you for your support.



### Democratic Veterans Caucus Of Florida 2018 Retreat

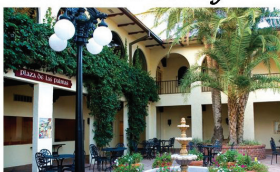
**Save the Date!!!**

**February 16th - 18th, 2018**

**Mission Inn Resort**

**Howey-in-the-Hills, Lake County**

Learn more at [Facebook.com/FLDemocraticVets/](https://www.facebook.com/FLDemocraticVets/) or Contact  
President Phil Giorno  
[presdvcfgiorno@gmail.com](mailto:presdvcfgiorno@gmail.com)  
386-717-3979



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## February 2018 Retreat

The 2018 Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida (DVCF) Retreat is now scheduled for Friday, February 16th – Sunday, February 18th, 2018 at the Mission Inn Resort. The Mission Inn Resort is in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, which is only minutes from Orlando. Check out the resort at [www.missioninnresort.com](http://www.missioninnresort.com).

The Keynote Speaker at the Saturday night dinner will be Ron Armstead, Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust ([facebook.com/CBCVeteransBraintrust/](https://facebook.com/CBCVeteransBraintrust/)). Mr. Armstead has been the Executive Director of the Braintrust since its inception in 1988, speaking around the country, writing educational treatises and advocating for veterans with elected officials for nearly thirty years.

Candidates seeking office in Florida who want an endorsement from the Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida can also contact us. This retreat will offer candidates and Democrats from around the state the opportunity to meet. Candidates may attend the retreat with registration. This retreat will be an excellent time to reach veterans around the state.

Everyone attending the retreat must fill out a DVCF 2018 Retreat Registration. Please contact the DVCF for a registration form. Please visit the DVCF web site [www.demvetsfl.org](http://www.demvetsfl.org) or the Facebook page @FLDemocraticVets to get more information about the retreat. Organizations and candidates might want to consider sponsoring the event or buying an ad. This is the same facility that hosted the 2014 Retreat.

### DVCF Leadership

<i>President</i>	Phil Giorno
<i>Vice President</i>	Elena McCullough
<i>Treasurer</i>	Marian Williams
<i>Secretary</i>	Lynne Fish
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Reuben Sparks

### Board of Directors

Vic Ogilvie	(Seminole County)
Travis Bridges	(Duval County)
Carlton Cartwright	(Palm Beach County)
Frank Doglione	(Volusia County)
Barry Horowitz	(Orange County)
Robert Keenan	(Hillsborough County)
Carol Ogilvie	(Seminole County)
Connie Parham	(Flagler County)
Dan Parham	(Flagler County)
Dennis Plews	(Sarasota County)
Wanda Schwerer	(Pinellas County)
Milli Smith	(Santa Rosa County)
Reuben Sparks	(Bay County)

## Upcoming Events

DVCF 2018 Retreat

February 16-18, 2018  
Mission Inn Retreat

November 6, 2018  
National Mid-Term Election Day

**Veterans Online Shopping Benefit** VetVerify is a shared verification service of the four military exchanges (AAFES, NEXCOM, MCX and CGX) that supports the Veterans online shopping benefit by verifying Veterans who cannot be authenticated by the exchanges alone. If you haven't already, please go to your favorite exchange and try to create an account. You will be redirected to VetVerify if additional information is needed. Go to [www.vetverify.org](http://www.vetverify.org) to take advantage of this opportunity.

## County Caucuses

**Bay County:** President Reuben Sparks  
Email the President at: RbnSparks@aol.com  
Meetings: Usually the first Tuesday of the month  
Facebook: Like Bay County on Facebook  
facebook.com/Bay-County-Democratic-Veterans-Caucus-871926146231643/

**Brevard County:** President John Frazier  
Email the President: jdf2666@aol.com  
Meetings: Usually the second Tuesday of each month

**Hillsborough County:** President Bob Keenan  
Email the President at: bkdem@msn.com  
Meetings: Usually the first Tuesday of the month  
Facebook: Like Hillsborough County on Facebook  
facebook.com/groups/DVCFHillsborough/  
(Search Facebook for DVCFHillsborough)

**Lake County:** President Richard Lockette  
Email the President: richardlockette@gmail.com  
Meetings: Usually the 4th Tuesday of the month  
Facebook: Like Lake County on Facebook  
facebook.com/Lake-County-Democratic-Veterans-Caucus-of-Florida-706030749513645/  
(Search Facebook for Lake County Democratic Veterans  
Caucus of Florida)

**Palm Beach County:** President Carlton Cartwright  
Email the President at: carlton3553@gmail.com  
Meetings: Contact for information  
Facebook: Like Palm Beach County on Facebook  
Facebook @DemocraticVeteransCaucusOfFloridaPalmBeach

**Pinellas County:** President Joe Barkley  
Email the President: joe.barkley@greatflorida.com  
Meetings: Contact for information  
Facebook @DFGVPC

**Seminole County:** President Laurie Lee  
Contact email: mmj9244@aol.com (Marian Williams)  
Meetings: quarterly, contact for information  
facebook.com/groups/648328871887583/ (Search Facebook for  
SCDVCF)

**Volusia County:** President Frank Doglione  
Email the President: fdoglione@gmail.com  
Meetings: Quarterly, contact for information  
Facebook: Like Volusia County on Facebook  
Facebook @volusiademvets

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PO Box 953663  
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Facebook:  
Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida-DVCF  
Facebook@FLdemocraticvets

Contact Certification Chair Marian Williams at  
mmj9244@aol.com to learn about the chartering process  
required to start a veterans caucus in your county.

## TAI National Convention Aug 2017

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. conducted its 46th annual convention at the Hyatt Regency in Orlando, Florida from August 2nd through August 5th. The theme of the conference was "Tuskegee Airmen - Helping Youth Fulfill Their Promise." In addition to continuing the commemoration starting in March 2016 of the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Tuskegee Airmen program, this year marked the 70th anniversary of the US Air Force. This convention had a vast array of events, seminars and speakers to celebrate the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Reuben Sparks, President of the Bay County Democratic Veterans attended the convention.

There were several highlights of the convention. About 20 original Tuskegee Airmen attended the conference which were a delight to all to hear their stories. Also, Leonardo DRS, the American subsidiary of the Italian jet maker Leonardo, took part in the conference. Leonardo DRS is the manufacturer of the Leonardo T100, which is one of the jets seeking to replace the US Air Force jet trainer, the T-38. Leonardo DRS had a large scale model of the plane in the display area. The Detroit Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, showed off its Ford Mustang painted in the colors of the Tuskegee Airmen. The chapter is touring the car and gathering signatures of original Tuskegee Airmen.

# DVCF Oct. 2017 Meeting

The Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida met at the Florida Democratic Party meeting in Orlando in October 2017. The DVCF meeting accomplished two major items. First the DVCF voted to have the 2018 Retreat at The Mission Inn in February 2018. The second item was to vote for the resolution.

“The Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida met with great success at the Florida Democratic Party’s Conference in Orlando when a resolution submitted by President Giorno on behalf of our caucus was adopted by the body of delegates during the General Session. Our Treasurer and Membership Chair Marian Williams had been appointed by FDP Chair Stephen Bittel to be a member of the Resolutions Committee. She fought hard to keep our resolution in the running over several committee meetings until it could be voted on and adopted by the delegates. Thank you to all delegates who supported the veterans. The final language of the resolution, which was modified by the FDP staff, may be found on page 11 of the Resolution Package on the FDP website ([http://files.www.floridadems.org/Resolutions-Package-2017\\_General-Session.pdf](http://files.www.floridadems.org/Resolutions-Package-2017_General-Session.pdf)). Aside from its expressed support of veterans and funding for their benefits, the resolution also requests the help of other Democrats in identifying veterans in our state to help us contact and mobilize them. Mrs. Williams is working with the FDP to help with this program.”



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