



FOUNDED 1982

# The DOLPHIN NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DOLPHIN DEMOCRATS

A Chartered Affiliate of the Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus

FLORIDA'S Oldest  
and Largest Gay,  
Lesbian, Bisexual,  
and  
Transgender  
Political Organization

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**Our Next Meeting**  
**July 13th, 2005**  
**7:30 P.M.**

GLCC  
1717 N. Andrews Ave.  
Fort Lauderdale

GUEST SPEAKER  
State Representative  
**TIM RYAN**

Special Drawing  
For A Fantastic Weekend  
At Our July 13th Meeting

3 Night Stay At  
The Hyatt Regency  
Coconut Point  
Resort & Spa  
Bonita Springs, FL

Value \$900.00

Buy Your Ticket At The Door

**Save The Date**

**Awards Banquet**

**Sat. Nov. 19th**

Doubletree Suites  
Fort Lauderdale, Galleria

Details To Follow  
In Our  
August Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every Board member for their dedication to the Dolphins. You may remember that in March of 2005 your Board and Executive Officers set out their vision for the Dolphins for the next twelve months. We are making substantial progress in fulfilling our goals as we promised you. I am happy to report that we have already, in five months, met one of our most important goals. In March, we advised you that we wanted to double the membership to 266 members from 133 members. As of today, we now have 270 proud Dolphin members! We have achieved this important goal in various ways. We have been very busy attending numerous GLBT events with the express intent of recruiting new members; obviously we have been successful in that regard. Additionally, one of our most important committees, the Dolphins' Membership Committee, came up with the idea of contacting the approximately 1,200 same sex couples who had previously registered with Broward County for domestic partnership rights. The membership Committee correctly predicted that some of these domestic partners would be interested in joining with the Dolphins in our struggle to further the GLBT Democratic agenda and more specifically, to assist us in our efforts to fight the homophobic anti-gay marriage/anti-domestic partnership constitutional amendment. This is the type of creative thinking that has, and will, make the Dolphins a stronger political force in Broward County and throughout the State of Florida. Job well done!

I also want to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate your Vice President, Melissa Fojtik, one of the founders of the Fusion Coalition for its extremely successful fundraiser last month. As each of you know, the Dolphins and the Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus are coalition partners with the Fusion Coalition. It was heartening to see our Dolphin and Caucus members at this event. While many

## KEN KEECHL, Esq.

wonderful and motivating speeches were made at the event, I was personally motivated by the speech made by the Democratic candidate for Governor, Scott Maddox. Once again, Mayor



Maddox publicly expressed his unconditional support for the rights of GLBT Floridians, including our rights to domestic partnerships, civil unions and even gay marriage. The Democratic Party needs more leaders like Scott.

One final topic. As most of you know, I am an openly gay Senior Litigation Partner with the law firm of Brinkley, McNerney, Morgan, Solomon & Tatum. As an attorney, I not only analyze current events from a political perspective, but from a legal perspective as well. As a result, I was extremely concerned in November of 2004 with the possibility of George Bush being re-elected. I did my part by providing pro bono legal services to our Presidential candidate, John Kerry. Many of us were rightly concerned with the possibility that one or more Supreme Court openings would undoubtedly occur during George Bush's second term if he were re-elected. Anyone who follows the Supreme Court knows that the Court is dominated by Republican appointees, who are antagonistic toward GLBT issues, a woman's right to choose, economic and social fairness, and environmental concerns. Our fears were well-founded. Many observers of the Court, including me, assumed that the first resignation during George Bush's second term would be that of Chief Justice Rehnquist. The Chief Justice has rarely supported our issues and thus his replacement with another conservative, while unfortunate, would not have had that much of an effect on the

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Court. However, Justice O'Connor, another Republican appointee, was a different issue. Justice O'Connor, who was nominated in 1981 to become the first female Supreme Court Justice, began her tenure as a conservative Justice. However, over the years, her positions moderated somewhat. Many will remember that she was nominated by President Reagan who actively sought to overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, which held that a woman has a constitutional right to abortion. Surprisingly to those on the right, in 1992 she voted to reaffirm Roe. In 2000, she provided the fifth and decisive vote that struck down a Nebraska law that was aimed at banning a procedure that pro-life individuals have improperly termed "partial birth abortions". In fact, last month, she was again the deciding vote in an important criminal case that vacated the death sentence of an American, who received an extremely poor legal defense at trial. Lastly, as many of us know, Justice O'Connor was one of the 6 Justices who voted with the majority in the ground-breaking Lawrence v. Texas decision, which overturned, on Federal constitutional grounds, those state laws which criminalized consensual gay and lesbian sexual relationships.

But Justice O'Connor was often on the "wrong" side of the vote with regard to issues supported by the Democratic Party. None of us will ever forget that she was the deciding vote in the shameful case of Bush v. Gore, which gave the Presidency to George Bush. Moreover, when Justice O'Connor voted in Lawrence v. Texas to strike down those laws which criminalized our relationships she did not find a constitutional right for lesbians and gays to form long-term, loving relationships. Instead, she based her ruling on her belief that the Texas law at issue (which criminalized only homosexual "sodomy" and not heterosexual "sodomy") violated the equal protection clause of the Federal Constitution, since it treated gays and lesbians differently than heterosexuals. In her view, a state could criminalize gay and lesbian sexual relationships, but only if the state criminalized heterosexual "sodomy" as well.

Nevertheless, Justice O'Connor was, without a doubt, a better Justice than most Democrats could have hoped for - again recognizing that she was appointed by Ronald Reagan. Many of her decisions in which she provided the decisive fifth vote are now in jeopardy. We must, as GLBT Democrats, do everything in our power to ensure that George Bush does not successfully replace her by nominating another extreme conservative, one in the mold of Justice Scalia or Justice Thomas, as he has often threatened to do. As a Democrat and as an attorney, I have been diligently reviewing the backgrounds of potential Supreme Court nominees since the election was handed to George Bush in 2004. ALL of the potential nominees that have been reported in the press are absolutely unacceptable to those of us who are committed to protecting civil rights. Thus, we face the untenable situation of hoping for a nominee that will do the least damage to us as GLBT Democrats. So which nominee will we reluctantly accept as the "best we can hope for"? And which nominee should we actively oppose? Obviously, we listen to what our enemies on the right are saying. Who are they suggesting should replace Justice O'Connor? Who are they opposed to? It appears to most of our allies that the most acceptable choice is the current Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales. Make no mistake; I do not want a Justice Gonzales. However, until we retake the White House and the U. S. Senate, our only alternative is to strenuously

advocate against the most extreme conservative possible nominees. As your President, and as a gay Democratic American, that's what I intend to do.

Dolphins, diligently pay attention to the United States Supreme Court. Let your voices be heard in Washington, D.C. Our futures are riding on it.

## NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT

In accordance with Article XIV, Section 1 of the Bylaws, notification was provided at the June 8, 2005 Regular General Membership Meeting of a proposed amendment to the Bylaws, adding the following to Article XIII. Miscellaneous Provisions:

### QUOTE

Section 3. Annual Award. Each year, the Board of Directors may, at the annual awards banquet, present the Jamie Bloodworth Leadership Award to any self-identifying female who has shown excellence in leadership and/or sponsorship of issues improving the human rights of the GLBT community at large. Tyhe journal of each annual awards banquet shall contain a section memorializing the life and accomplishments of Jamie Bloodworth, as it relates to Broward County human rights issues.

### UNQUOTE

The amendment was drafted by the Bylaws and Rules Committee, received its favorable report, and was recommended for adoption. The Board unanimously recommends approval, as well. At its July 13, 2005 meeting, the General Membership shall vote on the proposed amendment. For passage, a 2/3 vote is required, a quorum of 20% of the entire membership being present.

## SPECIAL ELECTION

Due to the resignation of Laurie Weiner on 6/28/05, there is an open board position.

A special election will be held at the GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING on JULY 13th, 2005 7:30 at the GLCC 1717 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311.

The election is open to all voting members, Nominations will be taken from the floor.

The Dolphin Democrats lost one of our most beloved members recently. BILL BEATON has been a joy to us for years and while his presence is sorely missed, the memory of his joie de vivre and his ever present smile will bless our hearts still in his absence. Our love and prayers go to Ted especially at this time and we are so grateful for all the blessings these wonderful mem have bestowed in our lives.