THE INFORMED DEMOCRAT OF SWFL
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LEE COUNTY
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Volunteer of the Month: Debbie Rooney



Not everything volunteers do is visible to the public—or even to others in the DEC. There's a great deal of work that goes on behind the scenes that is vital to our success but often unheralded. Debbie Rooney is one of those behind-the-scenes volunteers doing all the quiet things that make the Party work.

She joined the Data Team in 2023, before retiring from her job with the Federal Government. She relocated here permanently in 9/2022 (just before Ian, what an initiation). Since eventually retiring in Fall 2024 she has taken on even more roles.

Debbie provides data support for Zone 3 (and other Zones until they are fully up and running). For Zone 3, she pulls lists and exports for Precinct Leaders, creates mail merge lists so they can send their monthly emails, meets with new Precinct leaders in her home and helps them get set up digitally and get past their fears of dealing with our technology. She is incredibly patient and goes above and beyond for anyone that is willing to try and helps them succeed. Paula says, "Debbie is always calm, patient and efficient. She pulls complicated searches, shadows Renard to learn programming, and trains precinct and zone leaders on how to use technology." Debbie also pulls post card lists from VAT for Nancy.

For the Data Team, Debbie pulls the lists for texting and works with Renard on all sorts of technical stuff. She also works with Dave on budgeting, searches, and as Dave says, "Debbie is the kind of volunteer who, if you ask her to do something, she not only does it, but does it on time and does it well. While that's largely been data related, she also staffed a table at volunteer events and guided people to tables at the Soiree. For the Data Director Council, she's helped with the data analysis in the Special Elections, especially the weekly analysis during the SD-11 experiment."

Renard agrees. "Debbie has learned how to run the monthly update of VAT. This is a process that takes nearly three hours overall and includes:

- Receiving and process the raw data from the FDOE
- Updating VBM enrollments and VAN related data
- Updating the VR Charts, VRM reports, and VoterScope data files.
- Notifying county admins and VRM interested parties of the update.

She has done this on her own for the last two cycles. It is a big task and takes a real load off of me."

Debbie does so much that no one sees but it is all vital to our mission.