

THE INFORMED DEMOCRAT OF SWFL



Meet the DEC Leadership Team January 1, 2025

The Lee County DEC selected its leadership at meetings in December. The team includes Chair James Rosinus, Vice-Chair Karyn Edison, Treasurer Viri Ryan, and Executive Secretary David Waks. The position of Recording Secretary is still open.

Chair



Jim Rosinus was born in the middle of the 20th Century when Truman was President, Churchill Prime Minister, and Stalin General Secretary. He grew up in New England reading stories of the Retreat of the West and hiding under desks in preparation for atomic annihilation.

He writes, "The world of the future in which we live is immeasurably better than that world thanks to the struggles of those who came before and, after a lifetime of designing and publishing games and selling books, and with a degree in Political Science in hand, he has come to realize that the struggle never ends and is its own reward. Victory is not necessary and may not be possible. The point is to be on the right side of history in the long run."

So, when he moved to Lee County to help care for his aging mother, he joined the Democratic Party of Lee County and began actively volunteering, which led to becoming a Precinct Committee Person, then Vice Chair, and now Chair.

Vice-Chair



Karyn Edison is a teacher at heart, retired as the founding director and academic principal of a private international school, whose model inspired several Olympic schools. She brings her teaching and casting director experience to her work as Vice Chair, where she enjoys matching volunteers' talents and interests with Party initiatives. She loves hosting Blue Shirt Gatherings and building training, GOTV, communications, and candidate support teams, and collaborates with many Democratic Club and Caucuses.

As in her career, she looks for innovative approaches in her role as Vice Chair and aims to bring out the best of talents and efficiency in whatever she does.

Treasurer



Viri Ryan is a proud native of Southwest Florida, a mother of five, and an accounting manager deeply committed to promoting voter engagement in our community.

Since 2022, she has had the honor of serving as the treasurer of the Lee County Democratic Executive Committee. In this role, she organized events to engage voters, led fundraising efforts, drove grassroots canvassing initiatives, and chaired the finance committee. She has found this experience to be extremely rewarding and is proud to have earned the trust of her colleagues by being re-elected as treasurer.

The support she receives from her fellow officers and members inspires her passion for making a real difference in our community. She says, "Together, we have the power to create meaningful change. I look forward to continuing to build momentum, forge meaningful partnerships, and work alongside the dedicated members of the Democratic Party of Lee County."

Executive Secretary



Dave Waks started working with IT at 17. When living in NJ 20 years ago, he started applying his IT skills to helping elect Democrats. He has been working with the Lee Dems since moving to Sanibel full time in 2013. He has been the Lee Dems Data Director since 2017 and has led the Data Team as it developed skills in using phone banking, texting, robocalls, and email to get voters enrolled in Vote by Mail and getting them to cast their ballots. As Executive Secretary, he's delighted to join Jim, Karyn and Viri in the leadership of the local Party as we encourage more Dems to run for office and help them get elected.