



Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
6:30 to 8:00PM Books & Books Coral Gables

## MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

**Members Present:** Bentonne Snay, Elizabeth Newman, Arun Ravindran, Janet Stearns, Elaine Buza, Fäde Zu Grau, William Beitz, Karen Moore, Lia Mussie, Riley Simon, Betsy Mullins, Frantz Blanc, Carolina Camps, Monique Selman, Mac Hooton, Diana Hooton, Margy Wilkoff, Julie Samkoff, Penny Thurer, Richard Thurer, Gladys Saenz, Maria Elena López, Cindy Lerner, Janet Nostro and Adam Benna

**Non-Members Present:** Angelica Afanador, Ben Tyler, Gianna Trocino-Bonner, Diana Garcia, Millie Herrera, Sammy Polloun, Brian Callahan, Louise Stickel, Alina Pacheco, Lisa King, George David and Adam Benna Sr.

**Speakers/Candidates:** Florida Representative Michael Grieco (SD36), Janelle Perez (SD38), Adam Benna (HD114) and AJ D'Amico (HD113)

### Meeting called to order at 6:30

#### I. Welcome

President Bentonne Snay welcomed everyone and thanked Mitchell Kaplan and the Books and Books staff for allowing us to conduct our meeting in their courtyard.

#### II. CG Dems Business

##### a. Finance Committee & Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Richard Thurer

Current Account Balance is \$5245.47 with no outstanding payments due.

We have merchandise for sale (shirts \$25 for members, mugs, and visors \$15 for members)

##### b. Membership Committee

Chair Elizabeth Newman

We currently have 120 dues-paying members. The 2022-2023 membership year begins on Sept. 1, 2022. New memberships and renewals received starting July 1, 2022 will be considered dues payment for the Sept. 1, 2022-Aug. 31, 2022 year.

##### c. Volunteer Committee

Co-chairs Janet Nostro & Janet Stearns

We will have canvasses every month between now and October

Next canvass is April 16, 9:30 am. We will be partnering with the Democratic Women's Club of Miami Gardens for a lit drop. Please sign up via the link in the Constant Contact eblast

We will be canvassing the Fourth Sunday of each month in June, July, August, September, and October

#### III. Upcoming Meeting Topics

Bentonne Snay



May 10- Legislation and Steps Forward. Speaker will be Christopher Richmond from Miami-Dade LGBTQ Democratic Caucus

June 14<sup>th</sup> Candidates TBD

July 12<sup>th</sup> Women's Right to Choose Legislation and Steps Forward

#### **IV. Candidate Presentations and Q & A**

Intros & Moderation by Janet Stearns

##### **▪ State Senate District 36 Michael Grieco**

- Issues – affordable housing and public safety
- Winnability – we have a messaging issue, we need to speak plainly to NPA voters
- His state senate seat covers Central Miami-Dade County; individual candidates need to take responsibility for their own races rather than depending on a ticket-wide strategy
- Questions: What is your messaging strategy? Running as a law and order moderate
- Will proactively message to the Hispanic community
- Inflation – We need to turn this back on the Republicans
- 305-968-9403 (Michael's cell phone – feel free to call)
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##### **▪ State Senate District 38 Janelle Perez**

- Issues: health care access, housing affordability, education, environment
- Biggest obstacle – the messaging is too complex,
- Fundraising strategy – there is traction outside of Florida to raise money by previewing that what is happening here is going to be national
- Question: how do you convince voters that won't vote for you because you are gay: I won't try and win them over, but it is important to be visible
- Question: how do you counter the socialism narrative? I talk about how capitalism has benefited me personally
- Question: Reactions to don't say gay? This is an overly broad bill
- Question: How do you address that you used to be a Republican? Life transforms people.

##### **• State House District 114 Adam Benna**

- Issues: Affordable housing, rising energy costs, and property insurance
- What can you do in Tallahassee to help? Things will get done as Democrats get elected
- Major issue: fixing the insurance industry by limiting lawsuits
- Running an independent campaign
- Question: is tort reform the way to fix the insurance problem? The problem is field adjusters
- Question: how do you connect with younger people? Affordable housing. The State Legislature keeps raiding the affordable housing fund.
- You can get involved by visiting [adambenna.com](http://adambenna.com)



- **State House District 113 AJ D'Amico**

- Issues: Health Care, Climate Change, Affordable Housing
- Wants to advocate for a climate change infrastructure package
- Biggest challenge: organizing at the grassroots level
- Question: access to Solar: we need to phase out net metering
- Question: What can be done to make housing more affordable: municipal grant program which would encourage municipalities
- Question: What do you think is the best way to message on climate change? Climate change is non partisan
- How to get involved: sign petition to get him on the ballot; volunteer to canvas

**V. Closing**

Bentonne Snay

Get involved in the messaging effort through Words that Win

Meeting adjourned at 7:59.

Meeting Summary completed by Secretary Arun Ravindran with edits and approval by Board member Elizabeth Newman