



Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Happy Hour and Networking 6:00-6:30pm  
Meeting 6:30 to 8:00PM

**Members Present:** Bentonne Snay, Penny Thurer, Richard Thurer, Arun Ravindran, Iva Ravindran, Elizabeth Newman, Julie Samkoff, Linda Fernandez, Gaston Fernandez, Monique Selman, Victor Vazquez, Ruth Balestra, Madeline Shirley, Fade Zu Grau, Gladys Saenz, Martha Schoolman, Janet Stearns

**Non-members Present:** Mayra Hernandez, Robert Ascensio, Rod Petry, Ellen Garcia, Sammy Pollan, Victor Balestra

**Speakers:** Victor Vazquez, Kayla vanWieringen, Christopher Richmond, Andres Althave

**Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.**

## **MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA**

- I. **Welcome** President Bentonne Snay
  - Appreciation for Books and Books
  - Introduction to New Board Member Julie Samkoff – Julie made brief remarks
  - Victor Vasquez, running for District 6, County Commission - Running to stop one party rule; platform economic development and high paying jobs; pursuing a higher office because there is an opportunity to serve his constituents at a higher level
- II. **CG Dems Business**
  - a. **Finance Committee & Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Richard Thurer
    - [Skipped to accommodate Victor Vasquez remarks]
    - Current Account Balance, Recent Revenues & Expenditures
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 Financial Report
  - b. **Membership Committee** Chair Elizabeth Newman
    - [Skipped to accommodate Victor Vasquez remarks]
    - Update on Membership
    - Renewals begin July 1 for 2022-2023
    - Benefits and Importance of Membership
  - c. **Volunteer Committee** Co-chairs Janet Nostro, Janet Stearns & Martha Schoolman
    - The Importance of Canvassing in Getting Democrats Elected
    - Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2:30-5:00pm Canvass in HD 114 and SD 38
      - sign up on sign up genius; precinct 577 high Democrat low turnout area; we will be canvassing for Adam Benna and Janelle Perez
    - Show of Hands for Canvass Volunteers and Q & A re: Canvassing
    - June 26, July 24 and August 28 Sunday Canvasses from 4:00-7:00pm
    - Possible Twice Monthly September and October Canvassing

### III. **Upcoming Meetings** (potential speakers)

Bentonne Snay

- June and July Meetings via Zoom
- June 14<sup>th</sup> Candidate Panel for US House District 27 and FL AG Daniel Uhlfelder
  - We have three candidates scheduled for HD 27 (Eileen Higgins now Annette Taddeo, Ken Russell, Angel Montalvo)
- July 12<sup>th</sup> Women's Right to Choose Legislation and Steps Forward
  - A representative from Planned Parenthood
- Show of Hands for August and beyond Books and Books meetings on Mondays
  - most attendees indicated they could make it

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

Intros & Moderation by Janet Stearns  
and Martha Schoolman

- **Ruth's List Florida VP of Political and Programs Kayla vanWieringen**
  - Vice President Politics and Programs for Ruth's List –modelled after Emily's List, but Ruth's List is strictly focused on Florida state and local races;
  - Founded in 2008 by Alex Sink
  - In 2020 they endorsed over 100 candidates and had a 64% win rate
  - Focused solely on candidate support, not issue advocacy; offer candidate training and candidate bootcamps; one on one coaching (financing, comms, field work)
  - Races to watch: Governor (Nikki Fried, Annette Taddeo); Janelle Perez, Ashley Gantt
  - Believes that the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* will start a slippery slope, speculates that DeSantis will seek an all-out ban on abortion in June
  - For more information visit: [www.Ruthslistfl.org](http://www.Ruthslistfl.org)
- **Flamingo Democrats, Miami-Dade Democratic LGBTQ+ Caucus President Christopher Richmond**
  - There is a messaging war happening. The Don't Say Gay Bill is broadly unpopular; 50% of Florida voters do not support it; but most voters in Miami-Dade County do support the bill
  - The task is to fight back in Spanish language media where the support is the highest
  - The loci of support for LGBTQ+ is young people
  - For more information visit: [www.Miamidadedems.lgbt](http://www.Miamidadedems.lgbt)
- **HD 113 Candidate Andres Althave**  
7:50-8:00pm
  - Running for State House District 113
  - Started Edgewater Neighborhood Association
  - Has delivered results in terms of policing, traffic and environment
  - Priority issue: insurance rates

### V. **Adjourn** 8:00pm

Bentonne Snay

- Details to come in upcoming e-blast about participation in May pro-choice rally