



MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present: Bentonne Snay, Jane Moscovitz, Janet Nostro, Julie Samkoff, Elaine Buza, Ali Easley, Linda Fernandez, Alexander Fornino, Fade Zu Grau, Cindy Lerner, Kim Moore, Carl Muller, Brian Olson, Esther Perez, Barbara Zwick, Margy Wilkoff, Rachel Stempler, Martha Schoolman, Norman Moscovitz, Sheryl Gold, Mac and Diana Hooten

Non-Members Adrian Delgado, Alexander Cobas, Angelica Afanador, Anne Hemingway Feuer, Carlos Prio-Touzet, Carolyn Koslen, Cecilia Tavera-Webman, Charlene Butler, Cristina Albright, David Guzman, David McNeil, Francis Morra, Gabrielle Bogert, Gordon Fales, Jacqueline Gross Kellogg, Jamie Friend, Janice Coakley, Jennifer Brooks, Joanne Erde, Jorge Aleman, Josh Rosenbaum, Karen Dreyer, Liam May, Larry Apple, Luis Dominguez, Mario Ulloa, Max Martinez, Morgan Gianola, Nancy Houghton, Nancy Sittig, Natalia Carvajal, Nikola Patterson-Molina, Sabina Cova, Stephanie Hernandez, Steven Wetstein, Teresa Guzman, Thomas Kennedy, Trent Blare, Vanessa Garcia, Vicky Ruiz, Xavier Lopez, Millie Herrera, Ted Grant, Christopher Richmond, Raissa Fernandez, Jamie Friend, Billy Corben, Jordan Ellenbogen, Rob Piper, Robin Castellano, Dawson McNamara and Ivanna Dalencon

Speakers/Candidates: Florida Attorney General Candidate Daniel Uhlfelder, Miami Commissioner and US Representative District 27 Candidate Ken Russell, US Representative District 27 Candidate Angel Montalvo, State Senator and US Representative District 27 Candidate Annette Taddeo.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

I. Welcome

President Bentonne Snay welcomed everyone and thanked our coordinating partner organizations: NE Miami Democrats, Bluewave Coalition of Miami Dade and The Flamingo Democrats She then described the Zoom guidelines for the meeting.

II. CG Dems Business

a. Finance Committee & Treasurer's Report

- Bentonne provided the Treasurer's report due to Richard's absence.
- Current Account Balance is \$6,064.73. \$50 is outstanding for Zoom large meeting charge (will cover June and July meetings).
- We have merchandise for sale (shirts \$25 for members, mugs and visors \$15 for members) Contributions are always welcome.

b. Membership Committee

- Chair Elizabeth Newman reported we currently have 126 dues paying members in good standing. Our goal is 200 members. The 2022-2023 membership year begins September 1, 2022.
- New memberships received as of May 1, 2022 and renewals received as of July 1, 2022 will be considered dues payment for the 2022-2023 year (September 1, 2022 -August 31, 2022). Annual membership dues are \$35

c. **Volunteer Committee**

- Co-chairs Janet Nostro & Janet Stearns reported the next canvass will be held on June 26th. It will be held in the afternoon in the West Grove in Precinct 584 using the hot blocks concept. The Volunteer Committee will be meeting on the 16th to finalize all details.
- Attendees were reminded that canvasses will be held on the 4th Sunday of each month though August and then the 2nd and 4th Sundays in September and October. Sign-up information will be sent out shortly. All members were encouraged to participate.
- The Volunteer Committee is also preparing for our next post carding project. Jane provided updates. We will be welcoming new Dems and NPAs in priority precincts and Coral Gables. The next postcards will be sent to people whose VBM registrations failed and need to be cured. Please contact Jane to sign up for either project.

III. **Upcoming Meetings**

- **July 12th (Zoom)** - County Commission District 6 Candidate Victor Vasquez and Voter Committee Chair Wayne Brody; possibly SD 36 Candidate Rachel Pacheco
- **August 9th (Zoom)** – FL Attorney General Candidate Aramis Ayala and Others TBD

IV. **Candidate Presentations and Q & A** Intros & Moderation by Jane Moscovitz & Janet Stearns

Florida Attorney General Candidate Daniel Uhlfelder

- He served as a judicial clerk to the Hon. Donald Middlebrooks; two years at Colson Hicks law firm; now lives in Santa Rosa, Florida where has a general practice of 23 years
- Second generation Floridian, worked with Lawton Chiles, Bob Graham, Janet Reno; married with 2 children
- Key issues – rate increases for utilities and insurance; stop attacks on democracy by restrictive legislation on voting and education; minimum wage and marijuana legalization
- As AG will not prosecute people and medical professionals who elect to have or perform abortions
- Wants court reporters at cabinet meetings; will issue subpoenas re: DeSantis' agenda
- Wants to reclaim the narrative in the Jewish Community from DeSantis – speak the truth about the fact that he is autocratic and a fascist
- Ways to donate and connect:
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/danieluhlfelder?refcode=coralgables>
Website: <https://danielforag.com/> Daniel's email: uhlfelder@danielforag.com

Miami Commissioner and US Representative District 27 Candidate Ken Russell

- City of Miami Commissioner; was a yo-yo demonstrator and kite surfer; owns a watersports sales business; 3 children; became community activist for clean parks
- Issues – affordable housing and environmental protection, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, fair housing, development
- Maria Salazar has raised 2.5M, what is your path to raising funds – has raised 1.4M and is confident will be competitive after the primary; will not take money from the sugar lobby, energy, FPL
- Maria Salazar has voted no on build back better, price gouging on gas, baby formula, women's rights
- How to build a stronger Democratic party in Miami: need to build consensus on critical issues; climate, finance for infrastructure

- Recently passed a gun buyback program where guns would be sent to Ukraine
- The Socialism Question: we must be very vocal about what we stand for rather than getting defensive; response to people focused on the price of gas – it's a global issue, but expects wages going up due to an emerging strong labor union movement
- What he has done as a Miami City Commissioner – passed the \$400M Miami Forever Bond; created a community redevelopment agency in West Coconut Grove which can distribute \$500M in affordable housing funds; wrote strong environmental ordinance, passed an environmental crimes ordinance; Police oversight – equivalent increases for civilian oversight as the police budget.
- Support for the embargo in Cuba – the embargo alone is not the solution.
- Contact: <https://kenrussellforflorida.com/>

US Representative District 27 Candidate Angel Montalvo

- Acknowledged that land was taken from Indigenous people and the history of slavery
- Personal background – born and raised in Miami, 29 years old; “a poor person fighting for poor people”
- Issues: housing; healthcare; gun violence; environment
- Funding: no corporate money whatsoever; focus on grassroots donations
- Criticism of Salazar: she's a standard Republican; her rhetoric is unhinged
- How to rebut the socialist label: be authentic and talk about solutions; the Democratic Party is very unpopular even though the policies are among the most supported; Joe Manchin and Kristen Sinema are what is wrong with the party
- Contact him at: <https://www.Montalvoforcongress.com>
- Email: angel@montalvoforcongress.com Instagram & Twitter: @MontalvoFL27

State Senator and US Representative District 27 Candidate Annette Taddeo

- Dropped out of the governor's race because she could not raise sufficient funds during the legislative session because of ethics rules prohibiting fundraising during session
- Fundraising: was selected for the Red to Blue list; has not taken money from private prisons
- Winning Republican votes: can get Republican women onboard and build a coalition with independents; has won twice in a district where Donald Trump won twice
- Messaging against the incumbent: call her out on her lies. She says she was born in Miami and came here with “five dollars in her pocket;” she promised not to draw a salary, but has; votes against our community against lowering the price of insulin and against controls on the price of gas
- Cuba Embargo: willing to speak up against the President; supports family reunification; the embargo should only end if political prisoners are freed, there are free elections and there is freedom of speech and press
- Would not know what to say if the President or Vice President offered to help her campaign because she doesn't know if it would be helpful
- Contact: <https://annettetaddeo.com> or email volunteer@annettetaddeo.com

V. Closing

Bentonne Snay

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00pm.

Meeting summary prepared by Board Members Elizabeth Newman and Julie Samkoff with edits and approval by President Bentonne Snay