

DEC Monthly Meeting March 15,2021 @ 7pm via Zoom

Mary Higgins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7pm and verified the quorum. The group then cited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dave Dew moved to accept the agenda, Liz Grossman seconded. Minutes stand as read as no corrections or changes were needed.

Mary introduced the guests:

Trisha Mischler, Legal Aide to State Rep. Omari Hardy. Trisha spoke about HB1 and other important bills in this legislative session.

Corinna Robinson, Former Candidate for Florida Senate, District 25, PSL, FL introduced herself. Lorenzo Jefferson, Region 6 Chair for SCC (Small County Coalition). Lorenzo introduced himself and spoke of his work for this new position.

Opened nominations for Treasurer. Dave Cross nominated Bill Smithson and Liz Grossman seconded. Bill accepts nomination. No more nominations from the floor. Bill Smithson is elected Treasurer by acclamation.

New committee under the DEC is the Finance Committee and Liz Grossman will head that up. Bill Smithson motioned to accept and Dave Dew seconded, majority agreed, no opposition.

Bill Smithson, Treasurer-Treasurer report, Beginning balance \$27,755.03-Income, \$0 - Expenses, \$1,673.52-Ending balance, \$26,081.51.

State Committeeman, Dave Dew-Went to a 4-hour meeting on Sunday. The new Chair, Manny Diaz Sr., is working hard to turn the Party around.

Trisha Mischler, Legislative Aide to Omari Hardy-HB1 hurts Florida by allowing Tallahassee control over local by overruling local decisions. The change also puts more people in jail. Creating new language for incredible overreach. Tallahassee intrusion gives governor power to rewrite local budgets. Local governments can't approve permits for demonstrations. Tricia also discussed the HB1 bill. Questions and answers session. For more information contact patriciagarciaking@aol.com.

Democratic Club, Kat Kehoe-Discussed survey results and was pleased with the high response. Club meetings are the first Tuesday of the month. This coming month, Oz Vazquez will be the speaker.

Democratic Woman's Club, Carol Schram-The first meeting was this past Saturday. Trying to reactivate old members and engage in new current activities.

Environmental Caucus, Carol Ann Leonard-Had their special election in March. Officers were all elected by acclamation on March 3rd. Officers are as follows: Chair, Carol Ann Leonard-Vice Chair, Ben Lovelace-Secretary, Barbara Buckles-Treasurer, Han Bonner-Director, Sam Hay-Director, Bridgit Kirouac. Barbara stepped up to be secretary, Ben for VC and Bridgit for Director. Sam, Hank and Carol remained in their positions and there were no other nominations of candidates.

Progressive Caucus, Jami Duckson-No report

Oz Vazquez, Hispanic Caucus-Next meeting is March 25th. Chapter to include St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee and Indian River Counties. Provides room to grow the Hispanic voter.

Margaret Cox, Vice Chair-Has had a great learning experience and has met the DCCA Chair in Okeechobee Demetri Riles. Also had the opportunity to vote for statewide president. Learning the VAN from Dave Cross.

Mary Higgins, Chair-Discussed the new lease on the office and association dues and will submit the budget for approval at the April meeting. The office is now staffed 12-3 daily Monday thru Friday. May start doing a hybrid meeting soon. Precinct leaders can get precinct information from Dave Cross. The lease for the office was renewed. Association dues were paid. Developing a budget and will be presented at the April meeting for approval. Recertification with the FDP. Hank Bonner has volunteered to work on the website. Dennis Fruitt has taken on the task of sustaining fundraising. If anyone is interested in VAN training, please contact Dave Cross.

Old Business-None

New Business-Dave Dew reminded members of the protest at Brian Mast's office on Sunday, March 21st at 1pm. Trisha Mischler will speak to us again in April as the legislative group will still be in session. State Representative, Anna Eskamani will speak at the May meeting. We may have a possible time change allotted for speakers. Docktails has been set at the Dolphin Bar and Shrimp House for October 2021.

Liz Grossman made a motion to adjourn and Paula Albright seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.