Greater Winter Haven Democratic Club

June 23, 2020 – 7 PM

Attendance: Polly Burkhart, Lee Burkhart, Phil Grinker, Greg Burnett, John DeBonis, Lynn Mawhinney, Paul Anderson, Priscilla Miller, Janet Anderson, Sandi Grinker, Rebecca Skipper, Jim Para, Diana Glockner, Maw, Felicia Hutchinson, Terrie Rizzo, Elizabeth Martin, George Little, Jared West, Jennifer Nanek, Colette McKie, Fred Brochu, Barbara Brochu,Sue Soriano, Daniel Jones, Velsel Dokur, Karen Welzel, Kathie Sutherland, Bryan Ott, Joan Dick

1. 7:00 Call to Order, Paul Grinker
	1. Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence (Social Injustice)
	2. Approval of Agenda, Polly move, Becky 2nd, approved
2. Guest Speaker, Terri Rizzo, Florida Democratic Party Chair
	1. Dems registered to vote by mail 1500 in one week!
	2. Republicans beat us in last vote, have now passed them for VBM
	3. Most important election since the Civil War…maybe since the first election!
	4. Trump destroying country, cannot take 4 more years
	5. Florida…our 29 electoral votes will win the White House!
	6. Must elect Democrats up and down the ballot
	7. Crisis in Florida-pandemic, unemployment crisis
	8. To get us over the brink…
		1. Record turnout in 2018
			1. won Nikki Fried
			2. 2 Congressional Seats
			3. Picked up state house seat
			4. (lost Gillum and Nelson ☹)
		2. Plans to increase VBM (see the results!!)
		3. Focus on voter registration (not since Obama)-rebuilt electorate
			1. Increased our numbers and our margin
			2. Passed 5 million democrats in February!
			3. Added 300,000 since end of 2017
		4. Voter Protection
			1. Started sooner than the summer before an election
			2. 2nd state in country to have full time director, 1st to have a voter protection program
			3. Brandon Peters voter protection director
			4. Preventing voter suppression
			5. Trying to prevent problems before election day
			6. Legal teams in every county (goal)
			7. Checking ballots to make sure that they are not confusing
		5. Infrastructure
			1. Over 225 staff, largest state party in the country (field organizers, digital organizers....)
			2. 2,000 volunteers in 2016, now almost 20,000!!!
			3. Volunteer base made over a million phone calls and texts this past month
		6. Full slate of Democratic candidates in almost all state seats!! (119/120)
			1. Generating votes for their own seat and the top of the ballot
			2. Forcing republicans to go on the defense
			3. Republicans did not challenge for 23 seats…Democrats retained seats
			4. 11 seats with only Democrats running
		7. Keep fighting as if we are behind…never believe the polls!
		8. 133 days to election day, voting starts in September for the general election (overseas ballots)
		9. Questions:
			1. Jim Para: enthusiasm renewed by reading Terrie Rizzo’s weekly newsletter (email Rachel@Floridadems.org to get on the email list for Terrie’s weekly newsletter)
				1. Voter registration for returning citizens (Amendment 4)-still in a bit of a holding pattern as it works its way through the legal system, hoping for a good determination by the courts
				2. New movers into Florida is low hanging fruit for additional registration
				3. People with a 2nd home can declare themselves a Florida resident and vote here instead of the state of their other location
				4. Sponsor a precinct program-Kathie Sutherland has gotten money for this program would appreciate any help
			2. Fund raisers through FDP to benefit various program-Sunday, 2:00, Adam Shiff will be on ($50 up!!) For VBM)-some supervisor of elections are automatically mailing requests to VBM, party will send out in counties where the supervisor of elections is not doing it
			3. Becky Skipper
				1. Concern about Covid 19-how to unite everyone-need to work together (not Trump rhetoric)
				2. Trying to pressure Florida legislature to meet and DO SOMETHING
				3. Governor is Trump’s “mini-me”
				4. People realizing how incompetent our leadership is
				5. Concern that people who are hungry and can’t pay bills may not be as concerned about voting
			4. EVEN in Sumpter County (The Villages) Dems are running neck in neck with Rs! Out registering 2 to 1 😊
		10. KEEP PRESSING AHEAD…must do everything we can!
3. Candidates Comments- Each candidate on zoom conference to get 3 minutes
	1. Jared West-HD District 41
		1. From northern Indiana-where Pence passed law that gay people could be refused service (Jared is only openly gay man from that town)
		2. Huge increase in registered Dems in District 41
		3. This seat CAN BE FLIPPED!
		4. Polk County is a make or break for Trump
		5. Must make LOTS of phone calls, cannot go door to door
4. FL Dems Polk County Field Organizers
	1. Mark Haver
	2. Daniel Jones
		1. Many phone calls for VBM
		2. Polk County native, Santa Fe Catholic, Warner University, now USF
		3. Politically involved from young age
		4. Worked with Bob Doyel campaigns
		5. Involved in Young Dems and Polk Progressives
		6. This election super important, battle for the soul of the nation
		7. This week is “Week of Action” for incentive grant to get money…make calls for VBM
			1. 863-585-8558
			2. djones@floridadems.org
			3. <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/280294/>
5. Approval of May Minutes-Becky Skipper moved, Lynn Mawhinney 2nd, approved
6. Treasurer’s report -Priscilla Miller
	1. $100 (checking)
	2. $668.48 (savings)
7. Club Activities- Phone & Text Banks, Neighbor to Neighbor Program, fundraising
	1. Go to mobilize.us and put in zip code to find ways to volunteer
8. Polk County Democratic Offices have items for sale:
	1. Offices are now open, items below are for sale in offices
	2. Joe Biden yard signs, “Vote” face masks,” Make America Sane Again” Bumper Stickers
	3. Polkdemocrats.org to see hours
9. College McKie
	1. Turn Polk County Blue Challenge between the clubs
	2. All of the things that you purchase go toward the challenge
		1. Post cards
		2. Written notices, etc.
	3. Match of $500 if club raises money (DEC match for every club/caucus)
10. 7:52 Adjournment Lynn Mawhinney move, Sue Soriano 2nd, Approved