

MINUTES FOR JULY 20, 2021 MEETING

The Zoom meeting started at 6:30 PM with a brief social period until about 6:35 PM. This is being recorded by Carol Ann as our Sec. was on vacation. I didn't record how many attended, possibly 8.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chapter has almost completed the recertification process that all the Democrat groups have to do. We do it in conjunction with our state caucus, DECF.

Action Needed: Please go to <https://beckerlegacy.com>. Read the info about the project Atlantic Fields, being built by Discovery Land on what is now part of the Becker Tree Farm in Hobe Sound. I will be sending my notes, thoughts and questions about some things I think may not be something we want to see in the development out to the caucus. We need to coordinate our opinions as it is coming before the LPA. If we want to make our comments known at their meeting and then the BOCC, **we need to coordinate soon. Please e-mail me your opinions so I can type them up and present them to the caucus.**

Please support in whatever way you can for EJ Bernier in his run for Mayor of Port St Lucie and Travis Walker for Council District 3. I posted their website and Facebook addresses in the chat. Maybe you can canvass with the Progressive group too.

EJ-website-<https://www.ejforpsl.com>, Facebook-<https://www.facebook.com/EJforPSLMayor>
Travis-website-<https://votetraviswalker.com>, Facebook-<https://www.facebook.com/votetraviswalker>

I sent the changes out to the caucus regarding our fundraiser, Pinot and Politics.

MINUTES

Hank Bonner suggested that in the future we make all the websites, etc. the whole link which includes the https and so on. It is more secure for links. I agreed and I will go back and do that in these minutes. He also noted two misspelled words that will be corrected.

There were no other corrections to the minutes and they were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hank talked about the funds in our account

SPEAKER lisa@sawgrassprogressives.com 951-316-6402 Lisa's info and the information for the Sawgrass Progressives was put in the chat on Zoom. I've added it to the minutes.
www.sawgrassprogressives.com, [facebook.com/sawgrassprogressives](https://www.facebook.com/sawgrassprogressives)-this is from their brochure.

Ms. Lisa Strahley, is the Executive Director for the Sawgrass Progressives.

Note: If you are interested in becoming a candidate that would focus on environmental issues (all other important issues too) and seek the endorsement of the MCDEC and DECF, contact Carol Ann Leonard, Chair at bonbinifromcal@aol.com.

Sawgrass Progressives meeting notes: I am putting things that we can do as a caucus in this part. Added some of what Sawgrass Progressives does to help candidates here. See more in the e-mail attachment I'm sending with the minutes 10/18/21.

Lisa said we can flip some voters. Do these things:

Work with a Community Organizer

Work with Precinct Captains- A Precinct Captain can do watch parties. **My Note:** our local Dems have done this.

Develop relationships with neighbors

Look for organizing activities- Have a book club, do an Everglades Excursion Hike

My note: I say create some events when possible. Covid is an issue for now. Attend rallies that we Dems put on.

Learn how to approach conversations with people, at events or elsewhere.

Where do people meet? Start conversations at these events, if possible, to inform about Democrats.

An example would be that Democrats hate “socialism”, want to protect the environment.

My note: give out the martincountydemocrats.org website. Easy to remember and a good source of info.

She said an example organization is the Foxbank Area Democrats with group chats.

Lobby Congress.

Help with special elections. **My note:** help with elections in general. Sign up to work inside at the polls, be a poll observer, outside with being a poll watcher, etc. Of course, help all candidates running to get their info out, donate time, money, etc., have them speak at our meetings, inform on issues such as the environment. Our caucus does this.

Run For Office: The majority of representatives are millionaires. Get more legislation to elect more representatives like us.

Donate to candidates.

Sawgrass Progressives help: Sawgrass Progressives helped ten state legislator candidates.

Helped them with hiring a campaign manager and VAN access.

Sawgrass Progressives help with training, local messaging, developing a comprehensive Campaign Plan, skills and comprehensive strategy that is updated with new tactics throughout the campaign.

They frequently check back with the candidates to get feedback.

Some things a state candidate might consider are: water issues, schools, open spaces, environment, legislation that impacts our day to day lives, etc.

The most popular issue last year (2019), was easing traffic on I-95.

Sawgrass Progressives provide them with Campaign Manager choices.

Advise on recruiting volunteers, managing data, reporting and everything else.

Direct voter contact.

Data reporting with no one sided communication,

Feed info back into VAN.

We (Sawgrass Progressives) can't make assumptions. We need to know if the program is working.

If not, we need to know how it can be more effective.

In 2022 they want to make more direct voter contact and have conversations with voters.

Have a campaign to engage communities.

Voters won't subliminally go to vote. If someone looks you in your eyes, telling you they will vote, they probably will.

What both Sawgrass Progressives and our caucus can do:

Ask the voter what issues matter to them.

Have a real conversation

Hope!

Do phone banking for a candidate. Leave a voice mail, they might listen. My note: when I do it at headquarters for our local Democrat group, I say I'm a "volunteer". They may listen better.

Organizational Organizing:

Some building blocks of organizing are talking to friends, etc. Reaching people where they are at. Keep the "asks" bite sized.

One can quintuple their impact by **canvassing**. **My Note**-our local Dems said this was very helpful Social Media-organizing a platform.

Digital fundraising helped Senate Democrats

The harder you work on organizing your community, getting out the vote and have more space to engage in peaceful conversations with friends and others it will be helpfull. **My note:** Hopefully a reduction in Covid will enable us to do a lot of the canvassing, events and face to face conversations.

My Note: Please read the e-mail attachment for more of Lisa's presentation.

Questions/Comments-see the attachment.

Rivers Coalition-I sent out to the caucus that the next meeting is this Thurs., July 22 at 11 AM at Stuart City Hall if you want to attend. I will be there for us.

I also sent out that the RC wanted us to write to the Army Corp of Engineers to say we supported Plan CC for LOSOM. Lake O Systems Operating Manual. I'm happy to say the Corp chose that one. The RC wanted to have parts of AA with CC. The Corp is still tweaking the plan as I understand.

We also added our names to a signed petition from the Friends of the Everglades asking for the same Plan CC with some additions.

DECF The DECF has finished their new bylaws and sent them in to the FDP (Florida Democratic Party) for their final approval. Some minor changes were made by FDP. We are sending our final chapter bylaws and minutes of the meeting and the board approval to the Pres. of the DECF so she can add it to our Recertification Packet that she is compiling for us to remain a chapter.

They will be using Turning Point, an audience response system to record votes for the DECF. The voting will be on Aug. 1 only for those members of our caucus who have paid the DECF dues and have been a member for 45 days. The FDP uses Turning Point as well. It will make the election secure I was told.

Old Business:

Please be working on a list of 18-year-old voters and older that you know that would be willing to post pro Democrat info on their social media sites. We will be having a Board meeting after the monthly meeting. **The Board will come up with the script that we would like to see posted.** Once we have the script, members will be notified so they can give it to the list of people they have compiled. This will be even more important with the elections in 2022 coming up. Many Democrats have said they want to engage the young voters more. Social media would be a good way to do this. I propose just Facebook and Twitter. What do you all suggest? The Board will decide.

I asked last month if people would be interested in a letter writing campaign. Suggestions on what to write could be LNG (Liquified Natural Gas), pesticides (and more) that we want to ban and other

environmental issues. To whom would we send them? Suggestions are welcome. We can possibly meet at headquarters. We could meet via Zoom. **Please e-mail me if you want to participate and/or suggest a topic/ideas.**

I'd like to start working on this in August.

We are still in need of a member from our caucus, to be a designated member who would want to attend training through the DECF to register voters for the Democrats. Most of our Democrat registrations have been done at pre Covid outdoor events. They will be done that way again in the future. Democrats have a stand under a canopy at such events and we can have our DECF person there to register voters and hand out some literature for our caucus too, that I have and a sign-up sheet to get on our caucus e-mail list.

New Business:

A member, Carol Quackenbos, has given me information on how to set up our own **petition**. Please consider the most important issue you would like to see on a petition that we can send out for signatures to start with.

One of my suggestions would be the LNG. There are other important issues as well. I think many groups have been doing a lot on LOSOM and the Lake O issues already. Of course, it's still a huge issue.

Please send your choices to me. Then I will make a list to send out to the caucus to choose the one we want the most. Majority rules.

I'd like to start working on this in August.

If you would like to attend candidate training locally here is the info:

Candidate and campaign staff training.

Keven Winchell of Democracy Strategies is the trainer.

Event is Sat., July 31 from 10 AM to 4.

Cost is \$20. That covers coffee, snacks, lunch and materials. Contact Mary Higgins at 772-519-3820.

I will send this out to the caucus in case some members didn't get the Democrat newsletter with the info.

Member Comments

Hank, did you want to say something regarding the Manatees?

Would you participate in some type of LNG protest?

My note: I don't have any info as to whether Hank spoke or not. No info on whether anyone would participate in a LNG protest. I'm not sure if I had time to ask this. I apologize.

Adjourn I didn't note the time. I don't think we were too over the hour!

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Ann Leonard

President