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**DOLPHIN DEMOCRATS
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

May 11, 2022

7:00pm - 8:00pm

1. **Welcome/Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm
2. **Attendance/Quorum:** Secretary Tina Jaramillo determined that quorum was met (38/24).
 - a. Determination of Quorum
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Michale Albetta led the group in the pledge of allegiance.
 - a. **Last Membership Meeting Minutes:** [April 13, 2022](#)
 - b. The minutes were approved without amendment.
4. **Elected Officials, Candidates, Leaders**
 - a. President Alfredo Olvera welcomed candidates, elected officials, and asked them to introduce themselves.
5. **Reports:**
 - a. **President:** Alfredo Olvera
 - i. President Alfredo Olvera spoke about endorsements and noted that we do local endorsements but not congressional or state endorsements, but we can vote on as part of the democratic LGBTQ caucus members.
 1. We can't do endorsements until after the filing deadline.
 - ii. Pride Breakfast: Saturday, Jun 18, 2022 at 10:00am
 - iii. Wilton Manors Stonewall Pride Festival: 06/18/2022 - We will be marching
 - iv. President Alfredo Olvera discussed the 40th Anniversary Gala Tickets and Sponsorship that are for sale now.
 1. He explained that the Gala will be honoring LGBTQ activists and those doing the work in the community.
 2. He also explained that the money from the Gala will help us create palm cards for district 100 (House seat).
 3. 21 sponsors on board & 150+ attendees confirmed
 4. Honorees
 5. [Early Bird Admission](#) ends this week
 6. [Sponsorships](#)
 - v. T-Shirts are now for Sale \$20 each: [CLICK HERE TO BUY](#)
 - b. **Vice President:** Schaffer Zaret
 - c. **Treasurer:** Hillary Dougherty Treasurer Hillary Dougherty was absent, so President Alfredo Olvera gave the Treasurer's Report.
 - i. **Bank Balance:** 41,133.46
 - ii. For the full report, click [HERE](#)
 - d. **Committees:**
 - i. Membership: Nicky Vasquez - 243 Members - 4 new members
 1. President Alfredo Olvera gave the membership report as Membership Chair Nicky Vasquez was absent.
 2. He presented the folks who donated at the various sponsorship levels

- ii. Campaign & Elections Committee: Mark McKenzie
 - 1. Questionnaires will be emailed first week in June
 - 2. Endorsements will start in July

6. New Business:

- a. Guest Speakers: President Alfredo introduced the speakers.
 - i. Ben Sorensen for U.S. Congress
 - 1. Candidate Sorensen spoke about why he's running for Ted Deutch's seat.
 - 2. He discussed his family background and his military experience.
 - 3. He discussed his father's founding of the Johns Hopkins AIDS institute and how LGBTQ rights are important to him.
 - 4. Candidate Sorensen answered questions about climate change and national security and his ability to reach across the aisle.
 - ii. Allen Ellison for U.S. Senate
 - 1. Spoke about how he's on the United for Florida Listening Tour.
 - 2. He wanted to come to listen and learn and offered his background and what it meant to be in the service of others (a public servant); he spoke about his sponsorship of women in Africa and hopes to provide microgrants across the country to help them start businesses.
 - 3. He also answered questions about expanding SCOTUS
 - iii. Jason Pizzo for State Senate
 - 1. Senator Pizzo spoke about his work and his campaign and his background as a homicide prosecutor in Miami. He said that the most important thing for him is to reach across the aisle to work with republicans. He said that no one is entitled to seats and said that there are few folks who lay the record and he said that he will work to protect the LGBTQ community.
 - 2. A member spoke about Senator Pizzo's wonderful treatment of the children who came to speak about their LGBTQ experience.
 - iv. Candidates for State House D101
 - 1. Clay Miller
 - a. Clay Miller spoke about his experience and his working class background and why he's running for District 101. He spoke about building community power in our neighborhoods and putting democrats on advisory boards and condo boards and more. He spoke about his experience and being present in the community.
 - 2. Hillary Cassel
 - a. Hillary Cassel spoke about her law background and why she's running for District 101. She spoke about being engaged in her community. She's spoke about fighting for homeowners' against rising property insurance.
 - b. She spoke about her nonprofit, Namaste the Stigma Away, that addresses and fights against mental health stigmas.
 - c. She also answered questions regarding medicaid and insurance companies to provide mental health treatment;
 - 3. Todd Delmay
 - a. Todd Delmay spoke about his background and why he's running for District 101 in travel and tourism and spoke about his long term relationship with his partner. He spoke about marriage equality.
 - 4. Barbara Sharief
 - a. Spoke about being Broward County Commissioner of District 8. She spoke about District 35 that she's running for and why she's running. She spoke about her work with LGBTQ small businesses and her progressive ordinance of human rights. She also spoke about her work in the healthcare industry.
 - 5. Nora Rupert
 - a. She thanked the members for electing Sarah Leonardi to the Broward

County School Board.

b. She spoke about why she's running again and how she wants to be a part of the rebuilding for public education in Broward.

6. Linda Thompson Gonzalez

a. Spoke about flipping district 100 and offered her experience and why She's running.

7. Old Business:

8. For the Good of the Party:

a. Avani from the Pride Center stated that on May 26th the Pride Center will host a panel addressing the tenants bill of rights and affordable housing crisis.

9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.