



Thursday – JULY 13, 2017

BEN DIAMOND

State Representative - District 68



Ben Diamond, elected this past November, completed his first session of the Florida Legislature on May 8th. Ben was scheduled to be our guest speaker June 8th but was called back to Tallahassee on June 7th for a three day special session to complete unfinished business. Ben is looking forward to sharing his thoughts regarding both sessions. He will also fill us in on the two bills he introduced and two that he co-introduced that were passed by both the House and Senate. It will be interesting to get this Freshman Legislator's take on our Florida Government.

Special thanks to County Commissioner **Charlie Justice** who graciously jumped in at the last minute and provided us with a very interesting program about our County Government. His presentation was extremely informative.

Hope you can attend our July 13th program. Please **RSVP ASAP** by calling Betty Morgenstein at **727-360-3971** or email your RSVP to GPDemocraticClub@aol.com.



CLUB OFFICERS

President-Mike Clifford
Vice Pres-Barbara Della Lucia
Secretary-Sharon Clifford
Treasurer-Janelle Quinn

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mary Lou Ambrose
Joe Barkley
Paul Drecchio
James Grayshaw
Susan Grayshaw
Betty Morgenstein
Dr. Arnett Smith

DUES

If you haven't paid your 2017 dues yet, please mail your check for **\$15** payable to **GPDC** to:
PO Box 11175
St Petersburg, FL 33733

Thank you. It's the best deal in town!

WHEN: **JULY 13, 2017**
SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 PM
DINNER: 6:30 PM

WHERE: **BANQUET MASTERS**
13355 49TH St N (One block south of Ulmerton)

MENU: Banquet Masters' Buffet

PRICE: \$18.00

RESERVATIONS: Betty Morgenstein 727-360-3971
Susan Sullivan 727-577-6359

NOTES FROM MICHAEL

Recently I read an interview with President Obama where he said one of his favorite quotes is from Justice Louis Brandeis. The Justice said that the most important political office is that of the private citizen. The president went on to say that what Justice Brandeis meant was that every citizen has the responsibility to maintain democracy, that unless citizens force their political leaders to do the right thing for the good of democracy, those leaders will always do the thing which is most politically expedient.

We can push our political leaders by voting but almost as importantly by letting them know how we feel about legislation that they will be voting on. I was at the June 22 St. Petersburg City Council meeting on the ordinances submitted by Council Chair Darden Rice to keep super PAC money out of the city's political campaigns, as each councilmember spoke they mentioned how much their vote was based on the number of calls and emails they had received from their constituents. That is just one example of how important it is to let our elected representatives know how we feel. If we want to keep our democracy alive and well, this is vitally important.



PHILIP HAWKO, NEW BOARD MEMBER, PASSES AWAY

Just four days after our last meeting on June 8th, which Phil and his wife attended, he suffered a heart attack and died. Phil was 66 and leaves behind his wife of one year, Anicita. Our sincere condolences go out to his family. Phil was elected to our Board in March and was very enthusiastic about Democratic politics and our club. He will be missed.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOME HELP WITH OUR WEBSITE

Our current website is in dire need of a makeover. We are looking to put together a very basic website with only a couple of pages. If you have the talent and inclination to tackle this project, please send an email to GPDemocraticClub@aol.com. Thank you. Barbara Della Lucia, Vice President and Communications Committee Chair.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

Club favorite, **ROB LOREI**, Managing Editor of Florida This Week at WEDU-TV and News/Public Affairs Director at WMNF 88.5 FM, will be our guest speaker on **Thursday, August 10th**.



UPCOMING ELECTIONS HEATING UP

St Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman is running for reelection this year. There are also a number of candidates and potential candidates lining up for races in 2018. The campaigns are already beginning. We need to get Democrats elected from top to bottom on the ballots. We need to fight our way out of the hole we are in. We need to get out the vote for Democrats. In the past, the non-presidential years do not bring out the vote but, with the mess in Washington and Tallahassee, we have a chance if we can get out the vote. If you can help in the coming campaigns, volunteer. Make phone calls, knock on doors, do what you can. It's time to win.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN PINELLAS COUNTY

August 29, 2017 - St Petersburg Primary Election will be held on this date. Offices up for election are Mayor and Council Seats 2,4,6,8. **Registration Deadline: 07/31/17.**

November 7, 2017 - St Petersburg Municipal General Election will be held on this date. On the ballot will be the offices of Mayor and Council Seats 2,4,6,8. There will also be a **Countywide Referendum for Re-Authorizing the Penny for Pinellas.**

2017 MEETINGS OF THE GPDC FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday - August 10, 2017

Thursday – October 12, 2017

Thursday – September 14, 2017

Thursday – November 9, 2017

Thursday – December 14, 2017

FLORIDA CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

Every 20 years the Commission is appointed to:

- . Examine the Florida Constitution
- . Hold public hearings throughout the state
- . Recommend changes to the Florida Constitution for voter consideration.

Anticipated Timeline of the 2017-2018 Constitution Revision Commission

February 2017: 2017-2018 Constitution Revision Commission named.

2017 Legislative Session: Appropriations for Commission's work.

March 2017: 2017-2018 Constitution Revision Commission begins work.

November 2018: Citizens vote on proposals.

<http://revisefl.com/index.php/resources/citizens-guide>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: greaterpinellasdems.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!--Greater Pinellas Democratic Club

Link to other Pinellas Democratic Clubs:

<http://www.pinellasdemocrats.org/about-us/democratic-clubs-and-caucuses/>