

**February 11, 2020 CG Dems Club
Books & Books, 265 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Bentonne Snay, Jane Moscovitz, Richard Thurer, Marjorie Wilkoff, Allan Marks, Elizabeth Newman, John Wander, Pat Thaller, Thomas “Mac” Hooten and Albert Clark

Members Present: Irene Secada, Penny Thurer, Marilyn Caputo, Roman Lyskowski, Susan Scholz-Rubin, Joyce Eldridge, Gladys Saenz, Diana Hooton, Janet Stearns, Maria Gonzalez, Julie Samkoff and Martha Schoolman

Guests Present: Gaston Fernandez, Linda Fernandez, Louise Valdes-Fauli, Irma May, Matt Bauer, Susan Toepfer, Sharon Socol, Peggy Austen and Shelley Wolfberg

- I. **Club Business-** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Bentonne Snay; CG Dems January 14, 2020 **Meeting Minutes** were approved unanimously; and **Treasurer’s Report** stated CG Dems account balance is now \$2,236.00; the Executive Committee is preparing a 2020 Operating Budget and there are 16 new members since January.

- II. **CG Dems Engagement Survey -** Completed surveys for planning upcoming meetings, events, canvasses, postcard writing, CG Dems merchandise, etc. were requested by 2/14/20 (deadline was later extended to 2/28/20)

- III. **CG Dems Committee Chair Updates**
 - a. **Membership Committee- Chair Elizabeth Newman –** CG Dems has brochures for distribution; recruitment efforts are proceeding, especially to attract younger members, and the ability to accept credit cards for membership dues is helping.

 - b. **Blue Wave Coalition Miami-Dade Canvassing- Canvass Manager Jane Moscovitz –** Requested sign-ups for upcoming April 19th Overtown Canvass Party #2 once entered in Sign Up Genius and making plans for a second precinct.

 - c. **Miami-Dade Dems/Coral Gables VR/VBM- Coordinator Allan Marks -** details regarding the canvass of Precinct 636 in Coral Gables on March 1 were provided and a canvass of Precinct 640 is being planned for late March.

 - d. **Meeting Speakers/Candidate Presentations- Jane Moskowitz -** suggestions and connections to prospective presenters, including Dems candidates for local and state office was requested

- e. **Communications & Social Media Committee- Chair Marjorie Wilkoff** – new website and Facebook page will help communicate and publicize activities and events; additional committee members are needed, especially to provide social media assistance
- f. **Fundraising/Development Committee- Chair Richard Thurer** - donations are needed to help fund an estimated \$1,000 in each canvass party cost; fundraising events and activities are being planned

IV. Presentation by Carlos Martinez, Miami-Dade Public Defender - spoke about Amendment 4 and the process involved in restoring voters' rights and the challenges they face. Explained that people can call or e-mail his office and they will obtain the clerk records and review the debt owed. The case will be assigned to a pro-bono attorney as his office is not allowed to get involved except for obtaining and providing information. They are working with the State Attorneys' Office in doing everything they can.

Although Amendment 4 was passed in July of 2019 and 150,000 former felons qualify to have their rights restored, only 500 have applied. Many people who qualify think they must pay restitution and/or fines to vote although judges can often modify felons' original sentences to eliminate fines. Sadly, there is insufficient capacity to process all claims if all eligible were to apply to have their voting rights restored. Martinez spoke about the Supreme Court's decision that made it harder to expedite this process, the Florida Rights Restoration; and that many felons didn't understand what happened during their trials. Much work needs to be done to improve voting rights restoration for Florida's returning citizens.

Minutes recorded and written by Secretary Marjorie Wilkoff as approved by President Bentonne Snay