

CORAL GABLES DEMOCRATIC CLUB
MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:30-8:30pm

Board Members Present: Bentonne Snay, Pat Thaller, Jane Moskowitz, Richard Thurer, Elizabeth Newman, Thomas “Mac” Hooten, Janet Nostro, Marjorie Wilkoff

Members and Non-Member attendees: Roman Lyskowski, Janet Stearns, Monique Selman, Patricia Pino, Deisy Hernandez, Jason Warshofsky, Yenisbel Vilorio, Diana Hooten, Christian Ulvert, Barbara Zwick, Mary Eakins, Alma Suarez, Victor Balestra, Susan Schultz-Rubin, Jacqueline Pineda, Howard Rosen, Linda Marraccini, Maria Gonzalez, Julie Becker, Etta Gold, Penny Thurer, Mary Smith, Lynn Wheeler, Jacqueline Pineda, Brian Olson, Patricia Pino, Irene Secada, Cristina Albright, Vicki Siegal, Adam Benna, Norman Moskowitz, Ryan Rosen, Raul Martinez, Gordon Fales, Gary Gromet, Annette Perez and Vicki Siegel

NOTE: Action items are italicized below

I. CG Dems Business

- a. **Call to Order & Urgent Actions Needed** President Bentonne Snay
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Bentonne Snay. Bentonne gave info & requested *everyone call Congress to tell them not to divert payroll taxes that fund the Social Security Administration and to stop Trump from destroying the U.S. Postal Service. **Central Phone for All Congresspeople: 202-224-3121***
- b. **Approval of April 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes & New Minutes Process** Secy Marjorie Wilkoff
The minutes from the April 14, 2020 meeting were approved.
Going forward, minutes will be a summary of current and future actions.
- c. **Treasurer’s Report & Merchandise for Sale** Treas Richard Thurer
- Current Account Balance \$5,720
 - 2020 CG Dems Operating Budget Total \$7,761 (Avl upon request)
 - Total Board & Individual Contributions to Date \$5,200
 - Total Contributions since May 2nd Email Appeal \$3,000
 - *Requested members buy items for sale on website: Biden yard signs, Biden bumper stickers and CG Dems mugs and t-shirts*
 - CG Dems asked to support Books & Books www.booksandbooks.com
- d. **SOE VBM Mailing & CG Dems Activities** VP Jane Moscowitz
1. Thanks in part to CG Dems’ emails, the Miami-Dade County Commission recently voted to provide funds so the Supervisor of Elections will send every household

where there is at least one person not registered to vote-by- mail a registration form to vote- by -mail along with a return postage paid envelope. This should occur in mid-May. *The CG Dems VR/VBM Committee will soon decide whether we should keep writing/sending postcards or focus on calling and texting. Contact Pat Thaller at Patthaller66@gmail.com*

2. Pat Thaller announced that we have 58 volunteers working on 4,188 postcards, 3,336 of which have been sent to-date.

II. Presentations

a. Incumbent Candidate for Miami-Dade State Attorney (SA) Kathy Fernandez Rundle

Kathy Fernandez Rundle discussed how COVID-19 has impacted SAO operations and how they are collaborating with other departments and jurisdictions. Highlights:

- Police using alternative methods for arrests to avoid transporting individuals and alternative interventions to avoid incarcerations
- Closed two jail facilities; there are 1,000 less inmates than a year ago.
- Since 2007, the inmate population has been cut in half to 3,200.
- *Domestic violence arrests down 16%, important to spread awareness that shelters have current openings and safe places are available. With so many people stuck at home, domestic violence will increase. She will keep us updated on any hotlines, links/information to assist with domestic violence issues. See Kathy2020.com.*
- Awaiting Judge Hinkle's ruling on Amendment 4; expect fines owed will not stand in the way of felons voting rights.

b. Candidate for Florida Senate and Florida Representative Javier Fernandez

- Update on new bills passed prior to COVID-19, including passage of a budget that included State of Florida employee raises, more affordable housing and teacher pay increases. Unsure of impact of COVID-19.
- Senate summer session will include revision of priorities to include more focus on healthcare, expected to require more than \$1 billion. COVID-19 testing and contract tracing are essential.
- Coral Gables Senator Rodriguez sponsored bill on impact of climate change and coastal construction projects that passed.
- *40,000 Florida unemployment claims were filed but only 44% of claimants received even partial payment; requests citizen action to change this.*
- *Javier's race is going well. Fundraising on hold. Needs volunteers and voter*

outreach. Visit: javierforflorida.com.

- State's tourism industry is in jeopardy unless we can assure tourists it is safe to come here.

a. **Mayoral Candidate and Commissioner Daniella Levine-Cava**

- First to qualify by petition and, if elected, will be first Miami-Dade woman mayor. Endorsed by Emily's List, Ruth's List and Sierra Club.
- She is the only Commissioner challenging the mayor, especially about the need to increase COVID-19 testing/contact tracing.
- Briefed attendees on vote by mail effort, status of our jails, eviction moratorium (not a rent moratorium) and paid leave policy for contract workers.
- *Although she has raised \$2+ million, with 8 other mayoral candidates, Daniella requests campaign assistance at 1 of 2 offices opening soon. See **Daniella.vote**.*

b. **Candidate for Florida House District 114 JP Bado** – featured speaker for June 9th Mtg

- Running for Javier Fernandez' current Florida House position.
- Priorities include health, feeding the hungry and the economic crisis.
- *Needs volunteers to help make phone calls. See **VoteBado.com**.*

c. **Update on Joe Biden Campaign from South Florida Field Organizer Jon Hurst**

- Biden hyper-focused on our current crises; strong stand on illegally funneling stimulus money and providing an experienced leader to get the US out of the developing recession. See joebiden.com
- Current Biden campaign efforts include calling voters and frontline workers, holding virtual rallies and local events several times a week and having virtual "rope lines" to connect with voters and amplifying messages on social media.
- CG Dems is posting these virtual events on our website and selling Biden yard sign and bumper stickers we printed with the Blue Wave Coalition Miami-Dade. Go to [Link To Swag Page](#)

III. Adjourn 8:40 p.m.

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

