



CORAL GABLES DEMOCRATIC CLUB
MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING
Tuesday, July 14, 2020
6:30 to 8:00 PM Via Zoom

Board Members Present: Bentonne Snay, Pat Thaller, Jane Moscowitz, Richard Thurer, Janet Nostro, Marjorie Wilkoff

Members: Julie Samkoff, Julie Becker, Midge Blumberg-Krams, Marilyn Caputo, Barbara Zwick, Maria Elena Lopez, Norman Moscowitz, Linda Marraccini, Madeleine Shirley, Maria Elena Lopez, Sheryl Gold, Kerry Gruson, Roman Lyskowski, Susan Sholtz Rubin, Penny Thurer, Janet Stearns, Victor Balestra, Ally Easley, Monique Sellman, Cindy Lerner, Marilyn Gold Levy, Richard Fetcher, Irene Secada

Non-Members: Gordon Fales, Lynn Wheeler

Guest Speakers: James Grippando, Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez, Tomas Alcala (with Senator Rodriguez)

NOTE: Action items and links are italicized below

I. CG Dems Business

- a. **Call to Order & Welcome** Pres. Bentonne Snay
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Bentonne Snay.
Bentonne reviewed the House Rules for the meeting.
- b. **Treasurer's Report & Merchandise for Sale** Treas Richard Thurer
[Link To Swag Page](#)
- Current account balance \$5,998.13
 - Announced swag items for sale
 - Thanks to generous donors and new members we have doubled our income. As of Jan. 1, 2020 we had 57 members. Currently we have 102 members!
- c. **VBM Postcards Update & Request for Volunteers** VP Jane Moskowitz
Pat Thaller
- Pat Thaller announced that we currently have 80 volunteers.

- To date, 11,030 postcards have been sent to volunteers for preparing. Of those, 7,769 postcards have been written and mailed. The recipients were also texted prior to or after being sent the postcards.
- Candace Borgia and 24 volunteers from Pinecrest have also been assisting with postcards.
- Our most recent project was sending cards to sign people up to vote by mail in the 23rd and 25th congressional districts.
- We are in the process of deciding next steps

d. **Pre-Primary Voter Texting & Request for Volunteers** Bentonne Snay

- *We will be looking for help with texting in partnership with the Blue Wave.*
- 15 people including Jane and Bentonne attended text training with the Blue Wave. In one week or less 65,000 texts went out.
- With the texting program being used, texters can use their PC, laptop or phone. Four different texts are being sent between now and the primary. Not currently planning to follow up texts with phone calls.
- Irene Secada, outreach specialist for Donna Shalala, advised that they are setting up an office on Miracle Mile for making phone calls.
- Cindy Lerner will be holding virtual meet and greets over the next 13 weeks. To volunteer to assist Cindy in her campaign, see www.cindylerner.com

e. **Recognition of Volunteers** Bentonne Snay

- Bentonne showed a slide recognizing our volunteers, many of whom have been sending out postcards, making phone calls and texting.
- *We will soon add texting and phone banking to our volunteer activities.*
- *Volunteers will be needed to work on individual candidate's campaigns. Due to our by-laws, we cannot endorse candidates in the primaries. But members can choose on their own to support the candidates they prefer, of course. And we will provide information on volunteer activities.*
- *Visit our website to see how you can help. www.coralqablesdems.org*
- *Cindy Lerner is running for Commissioner in District 7. We need to determine if we can endorse her since she was endorsed by the DEC.*

II. **Presentations**

a. **Florida Senator District 37 Jose Javier Rodriguez**

- Pandemic in Florida is hitting its highest numbers, no plan, no mask order, no tracing plan, nothing positive to say. Economy started to improve a little and people started to get benefits but system is still

broken. Will be taking part in a press conference on July 15th.

- Figure out how to put pressure on all fronts.
- Rodriguez's opponent is a Republican who is the co-founder of Republicans for Trump. There will also be a third party candidate.
- *To sign up to help with volunteer activities including phone banking and to help Senator Rodriguez get elected, see: www.jjr.vote or www.coralgablesdems.org.*
- *Senator Rodriguez suggested we write to our Governor to take a leadership role. E-mail the Governor at: GovernorRon.DeSantis@eoq.myflorida.com*

b. Bestselling Author James Grippando

- James Grippando showed a very interesting and informative power point and discussed his newest and very relevant novel: *The Big Lie*.
- *While the book deals with a constitutional issue, it is also a fascinating novel!*
- *To purchase The Big Lie, visit www.booksandbooks.com*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Summary recorded and written by Secretary Marjorie Wilkoff as proofed by Member Julie Samkoff and edited and approved by Vice President Jane Moskowitz.