



**Tuesday, October 13, 2020 6:30-8:00pm**  
**MONTHLY MEETING via Zoom**  
**SUMMARY AND PLAN OF ACTION**

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

**Members Present:** Madeline Shirley, Dianne Hooten, Kerry Gruson, Julio Ayala, Karen Dryer, Mari Gonzalez, Julie Samkoff, Renee Rossi, Monique Selman, Janet Stearns, Penny Thurer, Susan Scholtz Rubin, Victor Balestra and wife, Ally Easley, Julie Siegfried, Jill Berman

**Guests Present:** Shelley Payne

*The plan of action for all Coral Gables Dems is connoted with italicized information below.*

- I. Call to Order and Welcome at 6:30 p.m.** President Bentonne Snay
- a. Bentonne reviewed the rules of the meeting. Requested that all questions be put in the chat box.
  - b. According to Sabato’s Crystal Ball Prediction, Democrats are expected to win the White House, keep the US House and have a net gain of 5 in the Senate. If so, they will hold a 52-48 majority!

**II. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

- a. Ballot Chase Board Member Pat Thaller
- Pat is chairing the volunteer Ballot Chase effort making calls to encourage people voting by mail to send in their ballots ASAP. Currently has 62 volunteers but needs more. *To volunteer, Pat advised to send her a message in the chat box. Her e-mail is [patthaller66@gmail.com](mailto:patthaller66@gmail.com)*
  - Thus far, 62 volunteers have reached out to 2,000 VBM voters in our adopted precincts that have not yet had their ballots counted
  - On October 17<sup>th</sup>, volunteers will make calls to VBM voters who have not voted advising that it is too late to mail in ballots and to drop them off at an early voting or SOE site. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, volunteers will call VBM voters who have still not voted to encourage them to drop off their ballots or live vote at an early voting site. On November 1<sup>st</sup> volunteers will make final calls to advise re: the last day for early voting and to inform voters about options and details for November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Bentonne showed the attendees the website for volunteers and explained that it is not challenging to make calls since we are only calling Democrats

who signed up to vote by mail.

- *Bentonne will be providing details regarding free and safe bus transportation to the voting sites which the volunteer callers can share with voters. Busses will be available on October 24, 31 and on November 3.*
- *To check if your ballot was received and counted, see [govotemiami.org](http://govotemiami.org)*

### III. CG Dems Business

- a. **Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Richard Thurer
- We currently have \$3,408.22 in our account
  - Since September 1, 2020 we have received \$500 in contributions.
  - Major expenditures this month have included \$1,000 to Go Vote Miami 2020 Media Campaign, Books and Books gift cards worth \$250 donated to the Blue Wave Coalition Miami-Dade Silent Auction, \$500 in contributions to Democratic candidates and \$147.75 in gift cards to UM Dems, including mileage reimbursement.
  - *Biden Signs: from Jeannett Slesnick, free for pickup or \$5 for delivery. See [www.coralgablesdems.org](http://www.coralgablesdems.org), under "get involved", "yard signs"*
- b. **Membership Committee Update** Board Member Elizabeth Newman
- We currently have 117 members.
  - Elizabeth detailed ways members can get involved including helping to cure ballots, live lit drops, helping in low voter turnout areas.
  - Members receive discounts on CG Dems merchandise and will be invited to the Members Only Holiday Party.
- c. **2020 Go Vote Miami Media Campaign Update** Bentonne Snay
- Bentonne advised that a few necessary changes have been made after the first event on October 10<sup>th</sup> with Papa Keith at Gwen Cherry Park in Liberty City.
  - Activities will run through November 1<sup>st</sup> every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Central, South and North Miami-Dade. They will feature music trucks with videos and sound plus music by local artists, celebrities and sports figures with messages about the importance of voting.
  - Activities are focused in 30 of the 50 Blue Wave Coalition Priority Precincts, including some where CG Dems have "canvassed" live and remotely since January 2020 to increase low voter turnout to 79% voter turnout.
  - \$20,000 has been raised to date although additional funds are needed due to plan changes. Awaiting grant from Miami-Dade Dems; we requested \$4,000.

#### IV. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bentonne Snay

##### a. Slate Packets

- *Volunteers are needed to help October 17<sup>th</sup> with putting together 1,000 slate packets at Janet Nostro's home in the Gables. The packets will contain slate cards with recommendations for candidates, judges, referendum and amendments as well as information regarding transportation to the polls.*

##### b. Early Voting Presence

- *More volunteers are needed at the Shenandoah Library early voting site. To volunteer, please e-mail [patthaller66@gmail.com](mailto:patthaller66@gmail.com).*
- *We will be 150 feet from the entrance of the polling site.*
- *Volunteers will sit at a table with slate cards.*
- *CG Dems will also be volunteering at Coral Gables Library Early Voting.*

##### c. No Contact Lit Drops

Bentonne Snay

- *Bentonne mentioned that in coordination with Blue Wave Coalition, we are hosting no-knock lit drops of the slate packets in southern priority precincts to those VBM voters not yet voted. Requested people sign up at link provided in eBlast.*

##### d. Poll Watching

VP Jane Moscowitz

- *It is too late to sign up for **inside** poll watching during early voting as the deadline to sign up and be approved was October 5, 2020.*
- *Must sign up by October 16<sup>th</sup> to be credentialed as poll watchers for election day.*
- *To assist with poll watching, e-mail Jane at [jmoscowitz@moscowitz.com](mailto:jmoscowitz@moscowitz.com)*

##### e. Ballot Curing

Jane Moscowitz

- *Volunteers are needed to help with ballot curing.*
- *This project is being run by the Biden campaign. Mostly involves phone banking but volunteers will be needed to go to people's homes to help voters complete an affidavit to cure their rejected ballot.*
- *So far, 1,400 Democratic ballots have been returned, mostly because of signature mismatches.*
- *To assist with ballot curing, e-mail Jane at [jmoscowitz@moscowitz.com](mailto:jmoscowitz@moscowitz.com)*

#### V. Other Business

Bentonne Snay

Janet Stearns was acknowledged for coordinating CG Dems' efforts with President Rachel Stempler of the University of Miami Democratic Club (UM Dems). Bentonne will meet with Rachel on Thursday, October 14, 2020 re: UM Dems being given gift certificates to assist with slate distribution and poll watching at early voting sites. Our CG Library early voting site is the third most popular site out of the 33 early voting locations and needs many volunteers.

#### V. Adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Bentonne Snay

Summary recorded and written by Secretary Marjorie Wilkoff with edits and approval by President Bentonne Snay.