



Tuesday, March 9, 2021
6:30PM to 8:00 PM
Via Zoom

ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Board Members Present: Bentonne Snay, Jane Moskowitz, Elizabeth Newman, Richard Thurer, Janet Nostro, Thomas “Mac” Hooten, John Wander, Marjorie Wilkoff, Carolina Camps, Rachel Stempler, Patricia Pino and Arun Ravindran

Members Present: Roman Lyskowski, Terence Connor, Martha Schoolman, Cindy Lerner, Jose Valdes-Fauli, Brian Olson, Raul Rodriguez, Marcelo Salup, Madeleine Shirley, Karen Dreyer, Marilyn Caputo, Julie Samkoff, Penny Thurer, Monique Selman, Diana Hooten, Ulrich Merten, Barbara Zwick, Roberta Neway, Maria Elena Lopez, Mari Gonzalez, Lisbeth Bustin and Janet Stearns

Guest: Julie Becker

I. Call to Order and Welcome

- President Bentonne Snay called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and went over the meeting rules.

II. Blue Wave Coalition Miami-Dade: 2020 Lessons Learned and Plan of Action for 2022 Presentation by Blue Wave Coalition Miami-Dade Chair Julie Becker

- Bentonne introduced Julie Becker, who co-founded voter registration organization 16+ Vote and chairs the Blue Wave Coalition Miami-Dade which brings together progressive groups to adopt precincts and execute a Get Out the Vote plan.
- The Blue Wave Coalition (BWC) started in St. John’s County, Florida in 2016.
- Currently 15 counties in Florida have Blue Wave Coalitions with various Dem and progressive group partners. Partners, including CG Dems, adopt priority precincts where many Dem voters have low turnout, and sign them up to vote by mail, proven to increase voter turnout.
- Although we did not reach our goal of 79% Dem voter turnout in 2020, we made some progress, likely hampered by the pandemic’s restrictions.
- BWC MD’s most significant accomplishment was helping elect Mayor Daniela Levine Cava.
- In 2020, BWC MD raised more than \$60,000 through events and donations.
- The 2021 BWC Miami-Dade Strategic Plan includes: 1) work as an efficient hub for strategy, action plans, training tools, promotion and motivation of partners; 2) strategically grow partnerships; 3) contact and engage voters- Dems and NPAs - to create connections prior to elections by utilizing post cards, texts, speaking engagements, phone calls, and survey voters’ concerns; and 4) raise funds to support these activities.
- Julie addressed a question from the floor regarding used of surveys and participant Marcelo Salup advised that he is a marketing expert and does surveys and data marketing.
- When asked about BWC MD’s efforts re: SB 90, Julie advised that BWC MD’s focus is on helping elect Dem candidates, not lobbying for or against legislation.

III. Election of 2021 Coral Gables Dems Club Board of Directors Nominating Committee Chair Elizabeth Newman

- a. Nominating Committee Chair Elizabeth Newman asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.



b. Presentation of the Slate of Board Members for 2021-2023

Officers: Bentonne Snay, President
Jane Moskowitz, Vice President
Arun Ravindran, Secretary
Richard Thurer, Treasurer

Members-at-Large: Carolina Camps, Thomas "Mac" Hooten, Elizabeth Newman, Janet Nostro, Patricia Pino, Rachel Stempler, Patricia Thaller and John Wander

c. Although offered, there was no discussion, and the slate was approved unanimously.

d. Self-Introductions by New Board Members

- **Rachel Stempler-** Rachael is the President of the UM Dems. Has been in Miami for 2.5 years. From NY. Hopes to bring younger perspective to our club and get younger members out in the community. Has been involved with CG Dems for one year.
- **Arun Ravindran-** He and his wife are both attorneys. They have three young children and live in the Gables. Public school parent. Affected by climate change. 2022 elections are pivotal and there is a lot of work to be done. Advocate for data security and helps clients win against big tech companies.
- **Patricia Pino-** lives in City of Miami and worked closely with Eileen Higgins' campaign. Husband is Coral Gables Asst. Director of Public Works. Cuban-American, Pedro Pan child. Was taught politics was dirty and corrupt. Thrilled to see what we can do to rid the Dems Party of the socialist label.
- **Carolina Camps-** Shares a lot of Patricia's outlook. Became politically engaged in the last 3-5 years. Background in big pharma- worked for Pfizer. Involved with the LGBT Community and suicide prevention. Has many friends who want to get involved but don't know what to do. Is excited to get direction and a more formalized approach, especially interested in canvassing and voter registration.

IV. Coral Gables Candidate Endorsements

by Miami-Dade Democratic Party Vice Chair Maria Elena Lopez

- Chaired the Endorsement Committee, which included 4 Miami-Dade Dems and 4 CG Dems members (Bentonne, Jane M, Janet N and Martha Schoolman).
- Coral Gables has 34,000 registered Dem voters and GOP has 36,000.
- Need to turn out voters to win election for Dem candidates and build our base.
- Explained the importance of endorsements, even in a non-partisan race.
- CG candidates were sent questionnaires to complete and provided their platforms. Were interviewed and asked difficult questions re: the hot topic of development, especially Pat Keon. Explained the endorsement process rating system.
- Endorsements decided upon are Pat Keon for Mayor and Jose Valdes-Fauli for Group II Commission.
- Could not endorse any Group III commission candidate but believes Baños is the best candidate.
- *Bentonne stressed the importance of voting Democratic even in non-partisan races because elected officials make values-based decisions. She encouraged all to join in virtual phone banking to Coral Gables Dem voters as coordinated by Miami-Dade Dems. Stated user friendly system and interested voters make this a very fulfilling experience for phone bankers. Will continue Saturdays through April 10th (see other business).*



V. CG Dems Business

a. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Richard Thurer

- Current Account Balance & Recent Expenses. Richard advised that the current account balance is \$3,158.48. We have made donations to numerous non-profit groups, including several food banks and Go Vote Miami.
- 2020 Budget Totals and Plan for 2021 Budget Development
Income for 2020 was \$12,873 (mostly from member dues and donations)
Expenditures for 2020 were \$12,251 for a net income of \$622.

b. CG Dems Membership Update

Membership Chair Elizabeth Newman

- Members in Good Standing and Renewals. Elizabeth advised that we have 122 members in good standing and 12 people whose membership expired in February.
- *Members were encouraged to recommend friends to join the club.*
- *To serve on the Membership Committee, contact Elizabeth Newman*

c. Volunteer Engagement

Bentonne Snay for Pat Thaller

- Bentonne advised that volunteers are needed for Gables Candidate Phone Banking beginning Saturday, March 13.
- In the future, we will be going into disenfranchised communities to register Dems to vote. Will partner with other organizations and Miami Dade Dems.
- Plans for Community Service/Voter Registration w/Nonprofit Partners.
Bentonne finally receive contact details for potential non-profit partners, including Florida Rising (formerly New Florida Majority), We Count, and Florida Immigrants for Justice.

VI. Upcoming Events and CG Dems Monthly Meetings

VP Jane Moskowicz

- If anyone is interested in suggesting speakers for upcoming meetings, contact Jane Moskowicz.*
- March 10 Townhall w/Mayor Daniella via Zoom 6:00-7:00pm
- March 11 Gables Chamber Candidate Forum via Zoom from 6:00-9:00pm
- April 13 CG Dems Monthly Meeting: Florida Legislation via Zoom 6:30-8:00 pm

VII. Other Business

- Board Will Conduct Strategic Planning in April, date to be determined now that new board has been elected.
- Secretary Marjorie Wilkoff was acknowledged and applauded for serving as Secretary this past year.
- Every Saturday through April 10 from 11 am-1 pm, volunteers are needed for Miami-Dade Dems Virtual Phone Banking. Volunteers are needed to all Gables residents about VBM requests and Gables Candidates' endorsements. Training is provided. See <https://www.mobilize.us/miamidadedems/event/378018/?referring>*

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by President Bentonne Snay.

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