

**MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY**

**Board Members Present:** Bentonne Snay, Linda Fernandez, Janet Nostro, Richard Thurer, Thomas “Mac” Hooton, Jane Moscowitz, Janet Stearns, Martha Schoolman, Rachel Stempler, Arun Ravindran

**Members and Friends Present :** Ellen Roth, Judy Rosenbaum, Carolyn Koslen, Fade zu Grau, Julie Samkoff, Esther DeVarona, Chaz Mena, Joan Silverlieb, Stacy Seis, Brian Olson, Monique Selman, Rob Piper, Joel Kasnetz, Lynn Wheeler, Barbara Zwick, Lynn Kislak, Jackie Kellogg, Ally Easley, Marjorie Wilkoff, Michael Greico, Adam Benna, Franzella Guido, Nan Imbesi, Leslie Rowe, Nancy Lawther, Larry Thorson, Ulrich Merten, Cindy Lerner, Nancy Billings, Madeline Shirley, Nancy Billings, Karen Moore and Tilky Lopez- Blanco

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.**

- I. **Welcome and Zoom Rules Review** President Bentonne Snay
- II. **Speaker Presentations and Q & A** Intros & Moderation by Janet Stearns & Martha Schoolman  
(because of a schedule change Robert Dempster spoke first)
  - **Miami-Dade Democratic Party Chair Robert Dempster**
    - From Kingston, Jamaica. Has been in Miami for thirty years.
    - Primary mandate is voter registration and voter education; also focused on defining the Democrat ideology in the community, candidate recruitment and retention
    - Discussed community outreach projects as a strategy for voter engagement (e.g., toy drives, community baby shower)
    - For congressional seats, the field of candidates who might be interested were holding off because of redistricting; says there will be more clarity within the next few weeks
    - Says Miami-Dade Dems has started a deep canvassing program – go into a neighborhood and talk to residents about the Democratic platform; offered to share the script for the deep canvassing program with the Club
    - Money donated to the DEC goes to basic overhead, digital content and organizing programs (main platform is NationBuilder)
    - Asked anyone interested in joining the campaign committee to reach out to him at [chair@miamidadedems.org](mailto:chair@miamidadedems.org)
    - When asked about messaging, said Florida Dem Party has created messaging and is filtering down to the counties. The County Party has just onboarded a communications chair. Stated the solution to our messaging problem is not to go on Spanish language radio and yell “I’m not a socialist.” The primary strategy is community engagement on a year-round basis.
    - Bentonne shared what the Dems Messaging Task Force has done and when asked if he and the communications committee that will be formed would be interested in what the Task Force has done, he indicated they would.
  - **State Committeeman William Byatt**
    - Showed an organizational chart showing how the Democratic party is organized on a national, state and local level

- Organizationally the state party was not in a good place after the 2020 election; there is significant hiring surge right now at the state level
- Maximizing impact through donations – William recommends donating directly to candidates
- Democratic Party is less centralized than the GOP, so proposed legislation comes from pressure groups rather than the equivalent of the GOP's ALEC

### III. CG Dems Business

#### a. Finance Committee & Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Richard Thurer

- Current Account Balance, Recent Revenues & Expenditures
  - \$4827.03 with no significant outstanding pending expenses
- 2022 Operating Budget in Process
  - Expect to have this completed in February
- Importance of Membership Revenues and Donations
  - A significant challenge is to increase membership

#### b. Communications Committee

Co-Chairs Arun Ravindran and Rachel Stempler

- Website and Social Media Engagement
  - Coral Gables Democrats Linktree (direct links to sign ups):  
<https://linktr.ee/CoralGablesDemocrats>
  - CG Dems website: <https://www.coralgablesdems.org/>
  - Instagram: @coralgablesdems
  - Twitter: @CGDemocrats
  - Facebook: CoralGablesDemocrats
- Extending our Reach via Posting w/Miami-Dade Dems and Florida Dem Party
  - We are working to place our Club's information through these organization's communication's platforms
- Seeking Constant Contact Creative Assistance/Graphic Designer
  - Fäde zu Grau expressed interest in helping

#### c. Membership Committee Update

Bentonne Snay for Chair Elizabeth Newman

- Membership Update and Recognition of 2017 Founder and 2018 Builder Members
  - 119 members. Our goal for this year is 200; renewals will come up on September 1, 2022
- Why Membership is Important
- It helps fund club activities aimed at getting out the vote
- Join/renew here for \$35: <https://www.coralgablesdems.org/membership-renewal>

#### d. Volunteer Committee

Co-chairs Jane Moscovitz, Janet Nostro & Janet Stearns

- New postcarding project to contact new DEMS and NPA voters in Coral Gables and Richmond Heights
- January 30<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm North Gables Canvass (sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/CoralGablesCanvassJan30CGDems>)
  - Janet is coordinating a canvass in the North Gables.

- All CDC protocols will be observed (Masks/Social Distancing)
  - Miami-Dade Dems Jan 18 Voter Registration (VR) and Vote by Mail (VBM) Training
    - In anticipation of the upcoming canvass, several Voter Registration and Vote by Mail trainings will be offered; more information to come about this in an upcoming email
  - Blue Wave Trainings Jan 24, 28 & 29: VR, VBM, Voter Engagement & MiniVAN
    - more information will follow in the eblast
  - Monthly 4th Sunday Canvasses Planned for February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22
    - Bentonne explained that Sunday afternoons are best as most people are home, relaxed and willing to talk to us
- e. **Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee** Co-Chairs Linda Fernandez & Louise Silverstein
- Volunteers Needed for Saturdays at Books and Books 10am-12 and 12-2pm  
Sign Up Email: [IFernandez44@hotmail.com](mailto:IFernandez44@hotmail.com)
  - Other Plans for Engaging Coral Gables residents at local venues
    - We will be meeting with Coral Gables congregational church soon; they are non-political but are aligned with progressive causes.

- IV. **Upcoming Meetings** (potential speakers) VP Jane Moscowitz
- February 8<sup>th</sup> – Val Demings, Ken Russell (US Senate) and Adam Benna (HD 114)
  - March 8<sup>th</sup> – Focus on Miami-Dade Transit/Environmental Impact
  - April 12<sup>th</sup> – Blue Wave Coalition Hispanic Outreach Team

- V. **Other Business** Bentonne Snay
- No other business was brought up

- VI. **Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

Meeting summary prepared by Secretary Arun Ravindran with edits/approval by President Bentonne Snay