

# President's Report

By Lorraine Zamora

We are now all aware that we are in a situation that will likely get worse before it gets better, and that is likely to continue for some time. In this situation, Three Parks has vital work to do. Our political activities must not stop: the next few months will be crucial, and the general election gets closer every day. Just as important, we need to be a focal point, a gathering place, and an information source for our club members, friends, and neighbors. Our job now is figuring out how we can best accomplish all of these goals.

Our recent online club meeting on Wednesday, March 11 provides a template we can follow. For that meeting, we had scheduled City Council Member Mark Levine, chair of the Council's Health Committee, to speak on how the city is dealing with the advent of the coronavirus. Right up until the day before, the plan was to hold the meeting at the Youth Hostel as usual. But suddenly, the indisputable gravity of the of the coronavirus outbreak started to hit home. On the very morning before the meeting, Jessica Haberstock, our recording secretary, had an idea: why not hold the meeting online? By 9:00 am, Daniele Gerard, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, who had initially invited Mark Levine to be our speaker, called Mark and asked if that was doable. After checking out the electronic capabilities, Mark agreed. Just five hours prior to the scheduled meeting, a series of eblasts went out, announcing that the on-site meeting was cancelled and an online forum would take its place. Three Parks was able to

turn on a dime and adapt to the new situation, using the latest technology available.

The online forum with Mark Levine provided valuable, first-hand information to all of us. The notes taken by Jessica can be read elsewhere in this issue. Nearly 70 callers, mostly club members but some family and friends too, joined the meeting through their computers, tablets or smartphones. Mark was even able to answer questions that were emailed in real time to Daniele.

Using this model, we are now working out the best way to put our forthcoming events online. Until further notice, future club meetings and board meetings will be conducted online. Board members are working on ideas for activities that club members can do from their homes. Watch for our eblasts and check our web site for updates. The work of Three Parks is now more important than ever, so I encourage you to join us in this effort.

See you at our April 1 club meeting—online!