

Multi-lingual Action Team Report Xiomara Flores-Holguin

First, I wanted to share a quick story from our "canvassing" breakout group: We had a very animated and engaging group at my table.

There were many highlights but one of our takeaways was the "Fishstory" shared by Nancy. The summary of the "Fishstory":

"One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die." Son, the man said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said..."I made a difference for that one. The canvassing experience is having the opportunity to speak to voters one by one. ❤️

- Spanish-speaking meeting: Xiomara met with a few members of the Spanish Speakers Action Team (Barrie, Caryn, Joan, Lynn, Natalie, and Simone). Members practiced and role-played utilizing their translated and customized CA-27 Spanish canvassing scripts (the differences between the candidates: Whitesides vs. Garcia) and CADEM's CA-27 canvassing script.
- Multi-lingual Speakers Action Team: Xiomara shared a canvassing story about a Spanish-speaking voter who had recently lost her adult son, a US Vet to cancer because it's important to recognize "who" we are as Democrats and canvassers since we don't know what people are experiencing and need - that day, Xiomara listened to the mother's story about her son, her life in the U. S. and the privilege she had of being a citizen and a voter. Xiomara spent time with her and offered her assistance and the assistance of the AVDC (Felipe G.) Her canvassing partner Deborah continued to knock on doors. All-around teamwork!
- Xiomara reported that for over a month she's been conducting weekly Spanish practice/coaching classes with a group of ten MWD bilingual members. The classes are held on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. The group meets on Zoom to prepare for canvassing experiences in CA-27, and to talk about the candidates specifically Congressional Candidate George Whitesides, and discuss current political updates. Additionally, Xiomara has created with the assistance of Westside Democrats two "Spanish buttons/pins" for the fluent Spanish speaker: "Hablo Español, and for the limited Spanish speaker: "Hablo poquito español". It's great to wear one while canvassing, working the polls, etc...If you're interested in purchasing a button/s, please check out the buttons/pins (tab 6) and other buttons/pins - here's the link: <https://bit.ly/WDHQ2020> (free shipping).
- All are invited and welcome to join the class. An important reminder that you don't need to be a fluent Spanish speaker. Please join us - you will make new MWD friends and you'll start making connections in CA-27 and CA-47. If you're interested in joining the classes, please email Xiomara at xiomarafloresholguin@gmail.com.

Muchas gracias!