

Torie's OPENING REMARKS – MWD September 10, 2023

I'm Torie Osborn, and I want to WELCOME you to the 64th meeting of MAKING WAVES FOR DEMOCRACY. We're the ONLY surviving ALL-VOLUNTEER group of many that sprang up in 2016 to fight Trumpism. We've survived for 7 years because we have kickass, participatory meetings, and because we believe ACTION is the ONLY ANTIDOTE to DESPAIR, ANGER or FEAR -- Our focus is on TWO actions: grassroots fundraising and canvassing. (CANVASSING is in our DNA; we grew out of groups I took to Vegas to canvass for Obama in '08 and '12, and for Hillary in 2016.)

Let me crow for a sec: Since 2017, we've raised more than \$2 million at a bunch of \$50 events and knocked on over 100,000 doors. We believe in ORGANIZING, and always work with in-district partners. Later you'll hear more about opportunities to sign up today to help HOLD CA 47, that beautiful Orange County coastal district we helped flip in 2017, FINALLY getting rid of that nutty Rightist Dana Rohrabacher after 30 years.

AND, we're hellbent on flipping that last LA County RED House seat up north, CA 27. Representative MAGA Mike Garcia is WAY too extreme for a district that voted by 12% for Biden/Harris in 2020! Please welcome our partner the *Antelope Valley Dems for Change*, and be sure to visit the YOUTH TO THE BOOTH table!

****** (PAUSE)**

Today, we here are on the leading edge of the worldwide struggle for DEMOCRACY against FASCISM. I've been active for over 50 years and I never thought I'd see the complete descent into Right wing madness of the Republican Party.

I just got back from vacation in Norway and Denmark where I learned a lot about the Nazi Occupation in World War II. Ordinary citizens rose up to resist them – skiers and 300,000 housewives in Norway, fishermen and school children in Denmark. (In Denmark, by the way, in one week, where the largest Jewish population lived, they smuggled 7000 (of 7500) Danish Jews on fishing boats to safety in Sweden.)

What I took away most of all is this: It's up to us, folks, to stop the march of tyranny led by the Republicans here in the US. Until we do, we cannot advance our agenda of progress; they are hellbent in reversing all we've built over the past decades. I KNOW that the US CAN live up to its ideals and become the world first great multiracial democracy, with economic opportunity and liberty and justice for ALL.

But first things first. In 2024, we MUST take back the House, and hold the Senate and White House.

More about that later.... Right now you're in for a treat... Let me introduce Manuel....