

Torie Osborn Remarks – MWD Nov 19, 2023

First, WELCOME to the 66th meeting of MAKING WAVES FOR DEMOCRACY....The reason I say that every time is that I believe in celebrating our accomplishments and I'm SO PROUD that we've sustained this ALL VOLUNTEER group for nearly 7 years!

I've been thinking a lot what EFFECTIVE STRATEGY is for moving the needle our way. I have recently witnessed one positive and one negative example of this.

A couple of weeks ago, I attended an all-day convening in person – I won't mention the group – BUT I was SHOCKED at how bad it was. The meeting was poorly facilitated and unclear about the goals. One early speaker spoke for 35 BORING minutes (I bet he was given 5-10). Despite a great turnout, the meeting fell flat because ALL the RULES for good meetingdom were broken.

On the other hand, this week I met with the two founders of a new, youth-led, intergenerational, multiracial group bringing, in their words, QUOTE: “love, courage, and hope to face the climate crises” UNQUOTE. They center culture – Dance, music, meditation, performance – I told you a couple months ago about a really cool fashion show they did, put on by high

school students. I've been super impressed with their rate of growth, and their fresh, innovative approach. They call it "Culture Jamming". Check 'em out: FAMILIES4AFUTURE.

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Okay - today, I want to talk about the mainstream media and how they're totally fucked up on the 2024 election. They INSIST on a horse race. BUT, please "TALK ABOUT THE STAKES, not the race." Democracy is on the line in 2024. And the GOP is completely captured by its extremist Right; they've fallen in line behind that criminal, Trump.

AND, DID YOU HEAR THAT ORANGE FASCIST THIS WEEK? It's like his campaign slogan is: "I tried to end democracy last time; elect me and I'll finish the job!" He's a convicted sexual assaulter and financial fraudster who oversaw the ending of Roe and the Jan 6 violent insurrection. This week, he sounded like a Nazi, and risked losing the Latino/a vote forever. He talked about "rounding immigrants up" – setting up "camps" – and deporting millions. Not only is that morally WRONG, it would destroy the economy: 10-15 million jobs would evaporate immediately! He also talked about invoking the INSURRECTION ACT against American protesters. Full on NAZI PIG!

The MAGA noise machine is on full throttle, and the scariest thing that has happened recently is the takeover of UNIVISION by a Fox-like Rightwing

company. The OLIGARCHS are in taking over; some even think their goal is to completely destroy the independent media. Look at the lawsuit by billionaire white supremacist Elon Musk against Media Matters.

SO WHAT'S A DEMOCRAT TO DO???

DO NOT SIT AROUND AND STEW! REMEMBER our slogan:

ACTION IS THE ONLY ANTIDOTE to despair, or rage, or fear.....

So, take action:

1) don't watch the news all the time!

2) Support smart, independent writers. I daily read: Heather Cox Richardson, Simon Rosenberg, and, now, Gideon Levy in Ha'aretz, the Israeli daily. Check them out!

3) Get off your ass and CONTACT VOTERS. Get out in the field!

Yesterday, I went canvassing in Lancaster, and I was surprised by how little the Democrats I spoke to knew about their Congressperson, MAGA Mike Garcia, and how they welcomed the literature telling them about his extremist positions....And when the Antelope Valley votes, Dems win!

To end my remarks today, I want to quote a story from a talk I heard my friend Mary Fisher give recently. Mary is best known for the memorable speech on HIV/AIDS she gave at the 1992 Republican convention – yes, the

same convention that Pat Buchanan spoke at! – Mary is still HIV-positive, but now a *former* Republican. AND she’s never stopped doing good since then. She and I were close friends when I was in DC in the ‘90s, lost touch for decades, and have happily reconnected since she recently moved to LA to be near her sons and grandkids. Here are her words:

QUOTE: “There are moments in our liveswhen we grow weary of the work to which we’re called. The biggest challenge I’ve faced...isn’t the critics or the skeptics, ... or even that so many we’ve loved...have passed away. The greatest challenge ...is the need to keep making a difference as the years accumulate. It’s hard to KEEP making a difference. In such moments I remember a story told in Taylor Branch’s history of the Civil Rights struggles in the years of the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

‘Early in 1956, the Alabama bus boycott was failing,’ Taylor Branch writes... (AND I WANT TO REMIND people that that Montgomery bus boycott went on for OVER a year, from December, 1955 to December, 1956....)

Back to Branch - QUOTE: ‘No laws had been changed; no buses had been integrated. No one was suffering except those who walked.

“Then came a little-known hero from Montgomery’s African-American community, Mother Pollard. For untold decades, she had cared for the sick and raised the orphans, black and white alike. Now in her waning years,

Mother Pollard joined the boycott and walked. As the days stretched to weeks, and then months, she walked. When the winter weather worsened, and she began to slip and fall, and, against the advice of King and others, she would pick herself up, time after time, and walk.” UNQUOTE

Taylor Branch goes on:

“A meeting was called to consider ending the boycott and finding another means of protest. The crowd was divided ... until Mother Pollard rose to speak.

“I would rather crawl on my knees than ride on a bus,’ she told the hushed and now embarrassed crowd. She spoke of years of humiliation, of self-hatred, of injustice and shame. She noted that the outcome would have little to do with her own life, but much to do with the lives of her many children. And then she gave the entire civil rights movement one of its classic refrains when she concluded, ‘My feets is tired, but my soul is rested.’” END QUOTE

MY FEETS IS TIRED BUT MY SOUL IS RESTED!

That’s what action does. Keeps our SOULS alive and rested. And that’s how we win. We persist with our grassroots actions. WE ARE THE MAJORITY.

It’s still a democracy, so let’s keep it that way.

(BACK TO BARRIE....!)

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