

Jan 5, 2020. Opening remarks. Torie Osborn

WELCOME TO OUR 24th regular meeting of Team TO Resist & Rise!

How many of you are NEW? (about 20 of you!)

How many of you were here last month for our Holiday celebration with 29 folks from 15 sister groups? (about 50)

IT WAS SO ENERGIZING to feel the synergy and dynamism and momentum in one room.

WE FELT THE POWER OF THE BLUE WAVE!

Now, we at TTRR know the antidote to despair and rage is ACTION. And, we're proud of accomplishing amazing results by FOCUSing on TWO actions: CANVASSING in two Congressional Districts helping Katie Hill and Harley Rouda and GRASSROOTS FUNDRAISING.

For the 2018 midterm we doorknocked 41,000 times, and as of now we've produced FOUR \$50 events raising a total of \$560,000 – over half a million dollars at \$50 events! – and you'll hear about our March 22 event to help AZ candidate Mark Kelly flip the US Senate later....

But the thing we're proudest of is – sustaining The Work. The HEART -- over three long tough years.

HOW HAVE WE DONE IT? TWO parts of the secret sauce, one individual and one collective.

I. Self care comes first.

Take news vacays!

Find nature more! Nature revives the spirit.

Art! Music! Dance! Do it or visit it. The right brain regenerates you!

Not social media posting.

Not even protest can sustain the activism. Hitting the streets gives you a boost and a sense of collective power, but THE WORK is VOTER REGISTRATION AND CONTACT and RAISING MONEY. MONEY AND VOTERS. That's our POWER!

And, to sustain your activism over time, you MUST build up the spirit. The HOPE.

2. ALSO, we all need what Dr. King Jr called |BELOVED COMMUNITY". As Katie Hill said in her brilliant NYT piece last month: The bonds we forge together sustain us. Our connection to each other, our community keeps us from going insane in this crazy world.

The horrors of our world have closed in on us all the past 3 years. Australia Koala bears and kangaroos suffer and die while their prime minister continues to deny climate change.

Now #45 has declared war on Iran. IRAN! Doing the Saudi's and Putin's bidding...

It all wears on me. Yesterday I had to take a day totally off. I went on strike. I was in despair.

BUT TODAY I pick myself up and I'm back at it! I've learned to give myself permission to surrender to REST every so often. Whenever you need it, REST/RELAX/TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

And then come back, because WE NEED EACH OF YOU AT YOUR BRAVEST AND BEST. Because WHEN WE ORGANIZE, WE WIN! WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER, WE WIN!

That's what today is all about. Kicking off 2020 so we can mobilize our BELOVED COMMUNITY in service of WINNING. It's all hands on deck for Christy Smith in CA-25 for the primary so she can get 50% +1 and run as an incumbent in the general election. We'll be canvassing our hearts out for her!

**Holding the House seats we flipped in 2018.
Flipping the US Senate – Our part in that is ARIZONA!
Winning the Presidency and kicking that cruel tyrant out at last!**

The wolf is at the lair. We know what's at stake.

Onward!

**Torie Osborn
Jan 5, 2020**