

Opening Remarks by Torie Osborn, September 6, 2020

Welcome to the 31st meeting of Team TO Resist and

Rise....

I especially want to welcome back those of you who came with us to Vegas in 2016 to doorknock for Hillary – some of you even came there with me in 2012 and 2008 for Barack Obama!

Things are really heating up.....after today we have 57 days till E-Day!

Now I hope you don't mind me taking a few minutes to talk a bit personally.... There's an old song from the 70s by my friend Cris Williamson called SONG OF THE SOUL that's been banging around in my head, especially this line: COME TO YOUR LIFE LIKE A WARRIOR, NOTHING WILL BORE YER.... (But I want to sing the rest of the stanza.....! Why

not?)

**YOU CAN BE HAPPY....THAT AND THE LIGHT, IT WILL HEAL
YOU, AND YOU WILL FEEL YOU --SING OUT A SONG OF
THE SOUL, AND WE'LL SING THIS SONG, WHY DON'T YOU
SING ALONG AND WE WILL SING FOR A LONG LONG
TIME....**

**Why have I found it so hard to COME TO MY LIFE LIKE
A WARRIOR...**

**.....And why have I been rustling around in my old record/CD
collection for songs that filled my heart with hope and
reminded me of moments of collective energy and the power
of community -- The truth is that that my own behavior
recently has NOT been normal – I'm on edge, have A.D.D,
been yelling at strangers and even at my friends....**

**Well, today's *NYTimes* had an Op Ed piece by Kate
Murphy – (online Sept 1) that said it all, and explained so**

much -- although the title was a bit odd: “We’re All Socially Awkward Now....”

In it she talked about a body of research on those who have spent extended periods of time in social isolation such as prisoners, hermits, astronauts, polar explorers.

Here’s the finding: “Our social skills atrophy from lack of use. We’re more socially awkward, impulsive, intolerant, anxious. We are subtly but inexorably losing our facility and agility in social situations, whether we’re aware of it or not.

The signs are everywhere: people oversharing on Zoom, overreacting or misconstruing others’ behaviors, longing for and then not really enjoying contact with others. It’s an odd social malaise. ... Daily interaction gives you a sense of belonging and security. Social isolation slashes that.... When we’re cut off from each other, our brains interpret it as a mortal threat. The privation sends our brains into survival

mode. We become **HYPERVIGILANT** and oversensitive--
tightly coiled for fight or flight. “

I've been **TIGHTLY COILED FOR FIGHT OR FLIGHT** for a
while now....

So. We have 57 days. We **MUST COME TO OUR LIVES LIKE
WARRIORS.** We must try try try to be our best selves – which
means, Keep your social skills as nimble as possible. Have
PATIENCE. Connect with others via notes/letters, texts, calls,
Zoom.

57 days, folks.

Come to your life like a warrior. Nothing will bore yer....

The future is being decided BY US, by each of us -- call by
call, text by text, postcard by postcard, \$5 donation by \$5
donation. WE ARE MAKING IT HAPPEN. Think how happy
we'll be on Jan 20, 2021 when Kamala Harris and Joe Biden
are sworn in

OKAY, now: this meeting we'll dive into the theme that will animate next meeting as well: How to advance RACIAL JUSTICE through the ballot box....

It goes without saying that voting Republican these days is a vote for RACISM. In order to BEGIN to deal with the systemic racism that is so deep-rooted in our country, we MUST turn every elected body BLUE.

But here in California, thanks to an incredible network of organizations that have grown in influence the past couple decades, we have an amazing opportunity in November to vote for RACIAL EQUITY through several ballot measures.

NEXT MEETING – September 27, we'll review ALL the state ballot initiatives and Measure J – the County ballot measure put on in the wake of the recent Black Lives Matter

protest....but today we begin to dive in, and you'll hear about the 3 major ones: Prop 15, 16, 17 – Commercial Property Tax

**Reform; reversing 1994's anti-affirmative action Prop 209;
and FREE THE VOTE, reenfranchising ex-offenders.**

**COME TO YOUR LIFE LIKE A WARRIOR--armed with
truth and facts.**

**Welcome to our third to last meeting before the most
important election of our lifetimes!**

30-30-30