

WDSC August Newsletter



Monday August 20th Meeting

Guest speaker is Terry Schanz,
President of the Democratic Party of Sacramento County.

Terry will provide a post-mortem on the June Primary and review lessons learned from the Voter's Choice Act so that our club can better prepare for the November General Election.

We will once again be at California Stage, 2509 R Street

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HBzOi8vbWFwcy5nb29nbGUuY29tLz9xPTI1MDkrUitTdHJIZXQmZW50cnk9Z21haWwmc291cmNIPWcNCi0tLQ) in mid-town Sacramento from 6 - 8 pm.

RSVP

(<https://shoutout.wix.com/so/7MlfaiR/click?w=LS0tDQpmMWM3Mzk3OC1INzZmLTQ5YzAtMTkzOC0wNjVkMWFmYjA2ZTgNCmh0dHA6Ly93d3cud2l4LmNvbQ0KLS0t>)

Why I Support Senator Feinstein

By Kate Van Buren

Our democracy is hanging by a thread. Every day, our rights and freedoms are being chipped away, with a strategic plan in place to give more power to the executive branch. The judicial branch is being filled with hundreds of conservative appointments. Our current Congressional branch is majority Republican, and with few exceptions, are complicit in treasonous behavior.



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When we flip the house in November, we need Democrats we can trust to right this ship and start impeachment proceedings. Representative Nancy Pelosi must be elected Speaker. She has been extraordinarily effective in keeping the Democratic caucus together, and that is why Republicans fear her. She is experienced, strong and courageous, and even though she may not be as vocal about impeachment as many of us would like, she has reasons for maintaining her measured position.

The House will not be able to successfully impeach if we do not have votes in the Senate for it. Senator Feinstein is one of the most senior officials in Congress. She has the respect of both Democrats and Republicans, and she will need to convince her Republican colleagues that it is time to hold this administration accountable for human rights violations, abuse of journalists and the First Amendment, cronyism, ethics violations, and conspiracy with a foreign power to interfere in our elections. The only people I trust to get us out of this mess are the women who have served through multiple administrations and know how to guide us back to the light.

As a patriot, a mother, a business woman and a community volunteer, I urge you to support Senator Feinstein. This is not the right time to vote out the incumbent. We need her wisdom and steady hand now, because our lives depend on it.



WDSC Ice Cream Social Recap

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The Women Democrats of Sacramento County held their annual Ice Cream Social on Monday July 16, 2018 and a good time was had by all. Almost 100 people joined WDSC at Rick's Dessert Diner to enjoy ice cream and other goodies, bid on the silent auction, and just catch up with old and new friends. The event raised over \$5,000 dollars. All funds raised at this fun event will support Democratic candidates as we enter this very important election period.

This event would not have been possible without our wonderful sponsors and members.



Meet our Ice Cream Social Sponsor Jackie Smith

By Susan Holbrook

Jackie Smith, 61, is a vibrant woman Democrat with a vision of California's future. Her two major concerns are: "affordable housing for those who make less than \$50,000 a year and supporting

seniors with comprehensive health care, Medicare expansion, and bringing drug prices down. We also need to support young people by boosting college completion rates and making sure every student has access," Smith says.

Smith is currently running for office in District 6 which covers an area from the edge of Carmichael, east to Cameron Park and north to Lincoln. She is running against one-term incumbent Kevin Kiley(R). Smith, who lives in Rocklin, says, "It is time to give back."

The cards are stacked against her in this district with 45% registered Republicans, 28% Democrats, and 22% with no party preference. Smith needs all the help she can get from all of us who would like to see another woman Democrat in the CA State Assembly, the same Assembly who currently is only 14% female. <http://www.smith4assembly.com/>
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Smith was a sponsor for the Women Democrats of Sacramento County Ice Cream Social, which raised nearly five thousand dollars for candidates running for office. “This money will be disbursed to candidates with the Women Democrats of Sacramento endorsement, based on the decision of the Executive Board and a vote by our members,” according to Tracie Stafford, WDSC President.

Raised in San Carlos, CA, her father worked as a milkman who was proud of his Union ties, and a mother who worked as a Secretary. Smith, herself, has worked as a manager for a Fortune 500 company, Realtor, Investor, and small business woman. In 2008, Smith married her partner (she is openly gay and a proud member of the Stonewall Democrats). She has experience with the legislature on several bills. Her mentors in politics include Fiona Ma, current candidate for CA State Treasurer and Eleni Kounalakis, candidate for Lieutenant Governor of California.

Smith and her wife have “adopted” a 97 year old man who is alone in this busy world. They bring him groceries and make sure he makes his doctor appointments. She is the kind of person who would bring business acumen, political knowledge, and heart to our California Assembly.

Glenna Sansone, WDSC member, says of Jackie, “She has an interest and connection to the district that Kiley (current Assembly member) does not demonstrate. She cares about constituents and demonstrates that by reaching out to them. She visits schools, senior centers, and business organizations. She’s INVOLVED locally.”

How Should We Fight Back?

By Pat Lynch

Michael Avenatti, whom most of us know as Stormy Weather’s articulate attorney (and now possible presidential contender), recently made a speech urging Democrats to toughen up and fight back. In a departure from the ‘When they go

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low, we go high,' approach advocated by Michelle Obama, Avenatti told a beguiled Iowa crowd, "When they go low, I say hit back harder."

The question is, can we "hit back harder" without becoming like the vulgar, hateful and comically stupid Trump? Avenatti thinks we can and so does Princeton history professor Julian Zelizer. "Avenatti is right," Zelizer says. "With two critical elections on the horizon—2018 and 2020—Democrats need to wake up from their civil slumber and understand that turning back the modern Republican Party...will necessitate engaging directly in the hard hitting, media-centered political combat zone within which elections are now determined."

Can we enter that zone without tweeting absurd insults and lies? I remember a saying scrawled on the wall when I was a political/hippie kid living in a commune: "Beware when you go to slay dragons that you do not become one." Avenatti and Zelizer don't want us to nominate a presidential candidate who has no stomach for a brawl. They think polite, correct and dull doesn't stand a chance against Trump. Maybe they're right, but I think they may not have given full consideration to the phenomenon known as "Trump fatigue syndrome." We'll see what happens in November, but right now things generally look good for Democrats, and we haven't had to come up with a Trump of our own.

Still, the next two months will surely tell us how to proceed, and maybe with whom. Zelizer recalls the not so distant past. "In 1992 Bill Clinton...sick and tired of the losing Democratic candidates who treated Reagan and George H. W. Bush with kid gloves...established his war room." Clinton's war room, run by James Carville, responded immediately and vigorously to every attack from the Bush team. They hit back fast and hard. But they also had Clinton's folksy charm and his unswerving focus on the economy. The Democratic team didn't become like the opposition—they found their own voice and learned how to raise it.

"Democrats need to accept the nature of the political fight they face," Zelizer says. They "need to find a set of principles that inspire and excite their votes." Here he and I differ. We Democrats have our set of principles and know what they are. We don't need to "find" them. (Ironically, our principles include saving SSI, Food Stamps, and Medicare, programs that greatly benefit Trump's base and are threatened by his corporate axe.) And I like to remember that 2016 was not a

massive repudiation of decency. Why? Because Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by almost three million and Trump had foreign help to squeak through the Electoral College.

Still, Avenatti and Zelizer make good points. We have to fight fiercely, and the Clinton rapid-response war room is a good model. But I hope we rise to the occasion, not sink to the Trumpian swamp.



OUR MEMBERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF WDSC

Gail Hensley, Membership Committee Chair

If you ever doubted the power of one, look no further than the results of our fundraising efforts over the past year.

In 2017, with just 50 members and only one event, we added \$800 to our coffers. This year, with our roster tripled at 150 members, we hosted two events and saw close to a 1000% increase in our income. Or more simply put, our war chest grew to nearly \$8,000.

That tremendous increase would not have been possible without the hard work of our member volunteers, the backbone of WDSC. We have no paid staff.

You may have noticed that I used the words war chest and backbone. That was no accident because make no mistake, we are in a war!

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Not only our values under attack daily but the soul of our country is at risk. And that means we must stiffen our collective backbone to fight like our very way of life depends on it. Because it does.

Okay, by now, I can hear you saying "Preaching to choir, sister." And that brings me to the point of this message - We have a new Choir Director!.

I am excited to announce that one of our members, Karen Grace-Kaho, has stepped up to become WDSC's Volunteer Coordinator.

Karen's first project will be to recruit volunteers to help with our upcoming 65th Anniversary Event. Tasks range from soliciting sponsors and silent auction items to day-of logistics.

But if working on a special event isn't where you want to put your volunteer energies, there are plenty of other ways you can help as we have standing committees that run the gamut of political action including:

Boards and commissions

Communications, promotions, and social media

Community outreach

Fundraising

Hospitality

Membership recruitment/services

Political affairs (including candidate, ballot initiatives, and legislation endorsements)

Special events

Voter registration and get-out-the vote

Youth engagement

Something for everybody, right?

To get involved requires just one simple action on your part. Send an email to sacramentowomendems@gmail.com (<https://shoutout.wix.com/so/7MlfauIR/click?w=LS0tDQphN2VhMGlwYi01ODRhLTQyYzgtMGJjNS1hMGY3ZDhhZDIwOWENCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnNhY3JhbWVudG93b21lbmRlbXMub3JnL3ZvbHVudGVlcj91dG1fY2FtcGFp>

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Z249NzJjNGQxOGQtNzIzYS00YTgzLTlkYzctZGYzNjE1MGIwN2EwJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9c28NCi0tLQ) and I will put you in touch with Karen and/or the Committee Chairs of your choice.

I'll close with this. Have you heard the term Political Slacktivist? That's someone who may cut the occasional check, or who shows up at a march or rally, maybe even has gone so far as to carry a sign, then goes home feeling like she's actually done something and waits for the next gathering. In today's political reality, that simply isn't enough. Imagine what we could accomplish if each of our 150 members gave just one hour a month to fight this war.

I urge you to take another look at that list of committees above. If you aren't already an active club member, send that email right now and put an end to your political slacktivism today!



GIRL POWER has returned from summer break to finalize priorities for the back to school season. Strategies for recruitment include establishing GIRL POWER clubs at individual high schools, participating in club rush, collaborating with in school academies and community outreach. GIRL POWER hosted a table at the South Land Park Neighborhood's National Night Out, will host a table at APAPA's 2018 Voter Forum and will consider other opportunities. Negotiating with the League of Women Voters, and seeking guidelines from high school administrations, GIRL POWER's goal is to train and engage their peers in voter registration and pre registration that is accessible in high schools. Promoting youth voter turnout in the fall elections is a secondary goal for GIRL POWER.

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Vice President - Annette Emery

Treasurer - Julie Chapman

Secretary - Debbie Brewster

Membership Chair- Gail Hensley

Communications - Mariana Corona Sabeniano

Outreach Chair - Tamika L'Ecluse

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