EMPOWERED VOICES

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

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Editor's Corner

We have a renewed sense of urgency to continue fighting for democracy and implementing our mission to advance political social change to make a grand impact within Sacramento County. We are moving onward and forward with integrity and will unapologetically pursue advocacy and implement training methodologies for our endorsed candidates and all who endeavor to run for elected office.

By promoting engaging programs and resources, and encouraging our membership, volunteers and partners to assist with our fund development strategies, we are hopeful for successful political leadership between now and within the next four years. – Debbie Richardson

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Women Democrats of Sacramento County

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Message FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ms. Sandra Hazel

Reflections of 2024

As the end of 2024 draws near, we are experiencing emotions and realities that we had not expected. Our heartache and grief are real. Our fears are valid. I want to offer you three pieces of advice:

First, acknowledge your feelings and allow yourself time to work through those feelings. While you are doing that, take care of yourself physically by making healthy choices and maintaining life balance. Protect your mental and emotional wellbeing. That might mean turning off the TV, not reading every news article on your phone apps and not engaging in lengthy conversations that will trigger your emotions and feelings. Seek out new experiences that take you outside of your norm.

Second, after sufficient rest and rejuvenation, get back in the ring and prepare for the next round. Figure out where we need to improve and develop a plan and start an intense training program in preparation for a massive comeback.

Third and most importantly, don't let the negative outcomes over shadow our positive successes. Express gratitude for the wins we have gained, the great people we have the honor and privilege of knowing and the accomplishments that we have achieved. Continued on page 4.

(Pictured below: Sandra Hazel (on right) receiving completion certificate from Christy Smith, Executive Director of Emerge CA.)

Written by Annette Emery

Going to Reno, NV before the election to see Kamala Harris speak was a last-minute decision that I am glad that I made. Gail, Robin, and I took off before 8am from Sacramento to drive 2.5 hours to Reno. Unfortunately, there was snow on Donner Pass and a jackknifed big rig that left us stranded in the snow for over an hour. The road was finally clear and we reached the Reno Convention Center around noon. The line into the center was around the block and we had to wait for the secret service to finish "sweeping" the room.

Once the doors opened, there was a steady stream of excited attendees--mainly Nevadans with some Californians and others mixed in. It was quite interesting talking to people from Nevada about what it is like living in a swing state. Democrats in Nevada actually met national candidates. Elizabeth, who has lived in quite a few different states, told me that she has met Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Warren, and Tim Walz since living in Nevada!

We were let inside around 2pm and the speakers started after 4pm. The Mayor of Reno, Hillary Schieve, has never been affiliated with a political party. She said that in her 12 years as Mayor, she has met with officials from the Obama administration and the Biden/Harris administration has been very generous of their time with mayors. She also said that she never heard one word from the Trump administration, when she was the head of the National Council of Mayors. She gave her wholehearted support for Vice President Harris as our next President.

The head of the Democratic National Convention, Jaime Harrison, was full of energy and pumped up the crowd. He was followed by a union official (a registered Republican, voting for Harris), Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto, and a few others before Vice President Kamala Harris took the stage. The crowd came to their feet and did not sit down again—standing in eager expectation and excitement.

The Vice President was in Arizona earlier that morning but she came onto the stage with energy and focus. She talked about being the President for all. She called our support for women making their own choices and the importance of climate change. During her speech, protestors started chanting from various places in the building. I could not make out what they were saying but read later that they were protesting the conditions in Gaza.

It took a while for the secret service to round up the protestors scattered among a crowd of 7000. It was hard to hear Vice President Harris but she stopped to address the protestors stating that all voices needed to be heard.

I left the rally feeling excited, hopeful, and energized. While walking back to our car, we talked to others who attended the rally. I talked briefly with one man who had sadness in his eyes. He said that his family recently moved back to Nevada from another state. He showed me a photo of his daughter and granddaughter. His daughter had been raped and became pregnant but she could not get an abortion where they were living. He was voting for Kamala Harris because of her pro-choice position. He thanked us for supporting Kamala Harris.

I wish that the enthusiasm and excitement had translated into a victory for Kamala Harris. The man with the sad eyes and all of us deserved a different outcome.

Impact of Deportation of Immigrants on California

Written by Teresa Hernandez

California has approximately 1.5 to 1.8 million undocumented immigrants which is about seven percent of the workforce, according to *CalMatters.org*. Mass deportation was an action item on President-Elect Trump's platform. However, when asked, neither he nor his incoming Vice President JD Vance could explain the logistics and cost in implementing this policy of deportation. Nevertheless, the nation is bracing for this real possibility.

California is one of the states that would be impacted, primarily financially. According to *Cable News Network, (CNN) Business*, if the undocumented are deported, it would:

- Cause a shortage of workers in the agriculture, construction and service sectors.
- Force companies to offer higher wages to attract workers to replace deported laborers.
- Cause consumers to foot the bill if companies' productivity slows, or paychecks increase.
- Increase inflation.
- Decrease consumer spending, which could lead to layoffs and an increase in the unemployment rate.
- Cause funding problems for federal programs like Social Security and Medicare, not to mention federal taxes, since immigrants contribute to these programs from their paychecks.

What can be done to help immigrant families remain in the United States? According to an article in the *Desert Sun*, local jurisdictions like Los Angeles, adopted a sanctuary city ordinance prohibiting federal immigration enforcement agencies to access city facilities and resources to obtain information on the undocumented.

"Hundreds of cities have adopted sanctuary policies in California." This would prevent federal officials from identifying and targeting undocumented individuals for deportation. What is not yet known is how effective those policies will be with the incoming Trump administration.

Immigrants seeking to become citizens should contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This office offers informational seminars on the process; and study materials for the U.S. Citizenship Test. Immigrants may also inquire at their local adult schools to see if they offer English as a Second Language, and Citizenship classes.

In regard to the human impact, for many, it will jeopardize the safety of millions of immigrants nation-wide, who will be forced to return to live in their countries of origin. Lastly, due to forced separation of deported immigrants from their families and friends, all will suffer personally due to their absence, with a grim possibility of return.

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For more information regarding immigration, contact the following organizations for assistance:

https://www.uscis.gov

https://www.aclunc.org/issue/immigrants-rights

https://ca.cair.com/sacval/what-we-do/legal-services/immigration-cases/

https://www.norcalresist.org/programs.html

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

ACLU Northern California

CAIR CALIFORNIA

NorCal Resist

President's Message

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We learn through our experiences and that knowledge is ours to keep for a lifetime. I am especially grateful to the members of the Women Democrats of Sacramento County for your acts of kindness, your hard work and dedication and for always giving your all to support our activities. I am grateful for an executive team that has really banded together to accomplish a vast amount of work all year long. Our calendar was filled with community outreach, candidate endorsements and support, collaborative efforts in fundraising for candidates and much more.

Congratulations to Maggy Krell, Barbara Leary, Dr. Colette Harris Matthews, Tami Nelson, Kelly Wilkerson and Roger Dickinson for winning their races. And to Jessica Morse, Dr. Flo Cofer, Porsche Middleton, Rehana Rehman, and Martin Ross – we salute you for your vision and determination to bring attention to the need for change in your communities. You are champions in your own right, demonstrating the courage to fight for a better future. We wish you well in your future endeavors.

In closing, my Christmas prayer is for peace and unity for our Nation, for individual rights to be restored, and for love to triumph over hate. I wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. ❖

Thank you for your continuous support of and donations to the Women Democrats of Sacramento County! Your financial support goes towards endorsed candidates' campaigns, our community activities and events, and will help increase our advancement strategies and mission to impact social change.

We ask of you to donate $25 each month via Act Blue at https://secure.actblue.com/donate/25in2025. Your donations will assist in making the Women Democrats more effective with our initiatives in the near future. We kindly thank you in advance!

Welcome new 2025 Executive Board Officers to the Women Democrats of Sacramento County Executive Committee!

Officers - Sandra Hazel (President), Debbie Richardson (Vice-President), Julie Chapman (Treasurer), Dawn Basciano (Secretary), Sue Litsey (Membership), Brenda Borge (Political Affairs) Ariane Lyons-Tamayo (Fundraising), Linda Reed and Delores Roberts (Members at Large)

Newsletter Committee
Debbie Richardson (Editor-in-Chief),
Sandra Hazel (President)

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