**SOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

**President’s Letter**

**April 30, 2020**

To South County Democratic Club Members:

First, on behalf of our dedicated and hardworking Board, I want to express our hope that all of you are healthy, safe and sane. I assume that you are all practicing social distancing and I hope that COVID-19 has not yet made its way to our membership. If anyone has contracted the virus or if you’re having difficulties getting groceries because of the quarantine or even if you just need someone new to talk to, please let us know. Please email me at mike@southcountydemclub.org, and the Board will work to get you the assistance you need. (If you’re a veteran, you can also contact the chairman of our Veteran’s Committee, who has access to many resources for veterans. Email John Church at .jockochurch@aol.com).

To state the obvious, we simply don’t know when we can safely resume in person-meetings. Notwithstanding that there has been some “flattening of the curve” of new cases, the number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19 continue to grow. While we are all hopeful for a modest reopening of the economy in the coming weeks, it is highly unlikely that we will return to normal anytime soon. That said, the work of defending the Republic, dumping Trump and his Republican enablers in November and ensuring an enduring Democratic majority goes on. There are things that we can and must do—and many of these things we can do virtually.

First, **VOTE!** It is more important than ever that we all vote. We can do this by mail. Make sure you are registered and make sure that you request an absentee ballot. The Maryland primaries early voting has been moved to May 21-28. The primary is June 2 from 7am to 8pm. While it remains to be seen whether in-person voting will actually occur, if it does, it is likely to be limited. Everyone is eligible to vote by mail and our understanding is that every registered voter will receive an absentee ballot. For more info, go to the Maryland Board of elections website. The link is: <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html>. And remember, though we have a presumptive nominee for President, there is still an important election for Circuit Court judges. Please consider: Pamela Alban, Elizabeth Morris, Rob Thompson and Richard Trunnell. While the election is non-partisan, they have been endorsed by all major Democratic office-holders in the County.

Second, encourage others to vote. Our SoCo Dems Ambassador program will continue. For those who have registered as ambassadors, thank you. (And we have some swag for you—a polo shirt with SoCo Dem Ambassador embroidered on the front. Thanks, George!) If you have not registered, please send me an email, and I’ll add you to the list. For obvious reasons, this will primarily be a writing campaign. We are still working on details but our goal is to have as many members as possible volunteer to write brief personalized notes to voters in key swing states. The most effective way to get people to vote is person to person contact. Every postcard counts! We will be in touch soon with more info about this initiative.

Finally, we MISS YOU GUYS! We can’t be at Pirate’s Cove but that doesn’t mean we can’t meet. SO—

The Board is working on options for virtual meetings. We have been in touch with Senator Sarah Elfreth’s office and she has committed to an online Town Hall with our members. We hope to have a date nailed down in the next few days and we will send out an invite as soon as we have done so. We will provide instructions as to how to sign-up for this and in the event that there is limit to the number of participants, we will give preference to paid members.

The board has also discussed other ideas for virtual connections among our members. One idea is to have a series of virtual happy hours with a limit of approximately 20 people. These would be primarily listening sessions for the Board to get your ideas as to how to be most politically effective during this unsettled time.

Another idea is to have a monthly virtual book (or article) chat. For example, in his recent book *Un-Trumping America*, Dan Pfeiffer gives practical advice for how to defeat Trump in November. Don’t worry. If your house is chaotic and you can even think about reading a book, we’ll provide a “Cliff notes” version for you and a discussion leader will give an overview of the book.

We are also discussing options for outreach and support of our members the larger community and possible charity support.

These are just a few ideas that the Board has been discussing. Now we need your input. What activities do you think would be most beneficial during this quarantine period? Please complete the brief survey included here. Let us know if you are interested in participating in online club meetings or happy hours or book chats. We will program based upon your interests. In the meantime, if you have other ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any board member. You can reach me at mike@southcountydemclub.org.

Thanks for all you do to support Democrats.

Best,

Mike Spivey

PS If you have not joined for 2020, we need you more than ever. Our new website is now live. Please check it out and join!