



Wheeler Road School 1913

- **Vote/Cope**
- **Election Analysis**
- **CITA Mentoring**
- **Holiday Greetings**

CIRTA Meetings:

March 22nd

All Meetings are at the
NYSUT offices at Citibank
office building, 150 Motor
Parkway, Hauppauge NY at
10 AM.

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The CIRTAion

Central Islip Retired Teachers Association

January February 2016

President's Message by Irene Spero

Happy New Year 2017! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season in the company of family and friends. Hopefully, this year will be a happy and healthy one for each of us. Now that January is here, it is time to think about our CIRTA elections in June. The positions to be filled are president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The terms are for three years from 2017–2020. In March, a nominating committee will be formed. The chairperson will report back at the April 20 meeting. At this meeting, nominations from the floor will be heard. If you are interested in a position, a short bio of yourself will be sent with the ballot to our members. Ballots will be counted after our June 15 meeting.

I want to thank all CIRTA members who contributed to Vote Cope. With your help, Vote Cope continues to work on addressing our retiree concerns.

Our next meeting is March 22, 2017. All members are welcome to join us at 10AM at the Hauppauge NYSUT office (150 Motor Parkway). It would be nice to see you then.

Jim Nohe just notified us that the long time chairman of the CITA Negotiating Committee, Seymour Ginsburg, has passed away. We want to offer our condolences to his family, remember him affectionately and thank him for all our contracts that he negotiated.

What happened to Hillary Clinton on the way to the White House? By Phil Griffith

If you read my CIRTa article during the Democratic primary, you know that I supported Bernie Sanders. I'm disappointed that Secretary Hillary Clinton lost and very angry that Donald Trump won. Hillary Clinton raised 700 million to Trump's 400 million dollars. Eleven hundred elite moneymen and women collected hundred and 113 million. She was endorsed by every major newspaper and some which never endorsed a Democrat. Former presidential candidate Mitt Romney made many remarks about Trump. "Dishonesty is Trump's hallmark." "His is not the temperament of a stable, thoughtful leader." "Think of Donald Trump's personal qualities, the bullying, the greed, the showing-off, the misogyny, the absurd third-grade theatrics." "Trump is a con man and a fake." "Here's what I know, Donald Trump is a phony, or fraud." How could Hillary Clinton lose to Donald Trump?

Something is rotten within the Democratic National Committee. In the 2008 and 2012 elections, the Rust Belt states voted for President Barack Obama and so did I. However in the last 6 Years, democrats hold 11 fewer U.S. Senate seats, 60 fewer house seats, 14 fewer governorships and 900 fewer state legislative seats. The Democrats control the governor and the state legislature in only four states. This poor record carried over into the 2016 presidential race. In the Democratic primary, Hillary Clinton barely beat an unknown Vermont socialist senator 2205 to 1846 in the popular vote. The undemocratic democratic national committee appointed 570 super delegates who voted for Clinton. The DNC effectively ignored Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren completely.

In the general election, Secretary Clinton won the overall popular vote and yet was defeated 306 to 232 in the Electoral College. Prior to the election, polls showed her to be a favorite to win. The first female major party presidential candidate with 30 years governmental experience was opposed by a trash talking, no experience, one percenter who had little support from his own party, spent his own money, and was crucified by the major media. How could Hillary lose? All that remained before the coronation was the size of her victory. What happened on the way to the White House? The Democratic Party, insiders will do their postmortem. The following is my laundry list of possible explanations for our devastating defeat:

1. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders have been warning democrats that they are losing their base of middle class and working class blue collar voters. Reagan democrats if you will.
2. As candidates Bernie and Elizabeth were ignored by the rigged democratic national committee and self appointed elite 600 super delegates. They failed to recognize the anger and frustration within the Democratic base.
3. The DNC chose Hillary Clinton who was a flawed candidate with baggage such as Benghazi, 32 thousand destroyed e-mails, Wall Street paid speeches, open borders and open market, collecting foreign donations for suspect Clinton foundation, pay for play accusations, FBI investigations and a basic distrust within the Democratic voters. The volume of WikiLeaks demonstrated a hypocritical Clinton private and public policy, corrupt DNC with Debbie Wasserman Schultz biased leadership, use of paid provocateurs, and trashing Sanders.
4. Hillary Clinton's advocacy of eliminating coal mining, oil industry and gas producing jobs, mostly union, spoke volumes to those families.

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- 5. Failure to hold press conferences, vote for the Iraq war, support for partial birth abortion, black lives matter, Affordable Healthcare, wars in Libya and Syria, regime change policy, and disagreements with Israel lost votes with moderates.**
- 6. At the convention, mothers of African Americans killed by police however no relatives of police officers murdered in the line of duty. All lives matter. Hillary lost law and order argument.**
- 7. Bill Clinton's record of assaulting women. Hillary's attack of victims. This background neutralized Trump's behavior.**
- 8. Support for President Obama who advocated for common core, using test scores to evaluate teachers, and supporting charter schools. He delivered for Wall Street, banks, insurance companies, and 1% but not for the good paying jobs, jobs, jobs.**
- 9. lack of emphasis on the union movement and its support for Democrats. No disparagement of testing and charter schools.**
- 10. The Muslim mother and father of a soldier killed in action was admirable, however where was the mothers and fathers of Catholic, Jewish and Protestant soldiers killed in action?**
- 12. The discovery that the DNC member and CNN pundit Donna Brazile fed debate questions to Hillary. She was subsequently fired by CNN for cheating. A disconnect between the union leadership and the feelings of rank and file members who voted for Trump, because they felt abandoned by their own party. They lost jobs, cars repossessed, pensions vanished, homes gone and family suffering. Motion picture producer, Michael Moore expressed this eloquently when he predicted Hillary Clinton would lose the Democratic base and the election.**
- 13. 5 million fewer Democratic voters and thousands more who voted but ignored both presidential candidates or voted for libertarian and green party.**
- 14. Overestimating support from African-Americans, Hispanics, and women.**
- 15. Hillary's support for sanctuary cities which has put stress on communities with no federal financial support**
- 16. An utter lack of enthusiasm to vote for Clinton to represent the status quo of failed policies for middle class and working poor.**

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17. Ignored Bill Clinton's admonition, "It's the economy, stupid." (Democrats squandered 2008-2010 control of the Senate and House.)
18. Support for globalization over nationalism. America First sold big!
19. Support for environment and climate change in exchange for good paying union jobs.
20. Brexit in Britain was fueled by same blue collar non college educated workers and should have sent a loud message to DNC.
21. Motion picture producer, Michael Moore's assessment of the rust belt was ignored. He was booed by Democrats.
22. Clinton's 30 years of status quo versus change. It worked for Obama in 2008.
23. Only once in the last 65 years was the same party elected for three consecutive terms.
24. Iran nuclear agreement opposed by Israel and supported by Clinton. Billions for Iran. Zero for industrial infrastructure in the U.S. and six trillion dollars spent on middle east wars.
25. The large premium increases in the health insurance for Affordable Health Care subscribers and the loss of their doctors as promised by Democratic president and party.
26. Adverse comments on twitter, Instagram, Google, Facebook and blogs about Clinton, democrats, DNC, and media hacking of DNC and John Podesta e-mails.
27. Lack of support from evangelicals and catholics due to the advocacy for gay marriage, late term abortion, separate bathrooms for transsexuals, and for challenging religious civil rights.
28. Protest demonstration fires, language, destruction of private property, police attacks, assaults, etc.
29. Attacking traditional cultural values as perceived by senior citizens.
30. Foreign policy disasters in Libya, Syria, and Iraq.
31. Unemployment, drugs, crime, poor education, family breakups, and murders in the inner cities controlled by Democratic administrations for years.
32. Clintons' disparaging Trump supporters as "deplorable" and "angry white men."
33. Twenty-four hour cable news and talk radio especially bashing/smearing by Limbaugh, Hannity,

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Savage, O'Reilly, Simone etc. Books and motion pictures exposing Clinton's likability due to history of scandals and investigations of both Bill and Hillary Clinton spiked during presidential election campaign. The Clinton gave propaganda mills volumes of venom.

34. Trump's blunt, blustery, simple, frank opinions versus Clinton's bland, sensible, lengthy examination of complex problems and issues.

35. Anthony Weiner's computer containing Huma Abedin's emails and Comey's reopening investigation of Clinton.

36. Failure to energize youthful voters who supported Sanders.

37. Slogan "stronger together" should have been "Rebuild America" to support jobs, jobs, jobs.

38. The inclusion of multiculturalism appeared to exclude 80% white population. Emphasis on African-Americans, Muslims, Hispanics divided country.

39. Trump's messages on jobs, taxes, trade, tariffs, terrorism, ISIS, immigration, law and order resonated with democrats as well as republicans.

40. The label "limousine liberal" played well in rural and blue collar working class America. The DNC demonstrated a snobbery and smugness towards these traditional democrats and it backfired especially in Florida, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

41. The DNC and Hillary expected a historically overwhelming vote from women. They failed to understand that women vote based upon quality of the candidate, policy decisions, level of education, self-interest, similar to husband, party affiliation, and religious values not simply on gender. Clinton fell short of women's support for Obama. 53% of white women voted for Trump.

42. The piling on Trump by the mainstream print and television media created an underdog for which Americans sympathize. Trump got tremendous coverage mostly negative and he manipulated an anger against the elite pundits. Journalism lost its objectivity and in some instances were an extension the DNC.

43. When Trump warned the Ford Motor Company executives if you move your plant to Mexico, I'll slap at 35% tariff on every car brought back into the United States. No Democrat or Republican said that. It resonated with the Rust Belt.

44. At the fundraiser in New York, Hillary Clinton said, "To just be grossly generalistic, you can put half of Trump supporters into what I call the basket of deplorable's. Right? Racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic Islamophobic you name it." Such hate speech against Americans who disagree politically was a major

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mistake. It Inflamed and solidified Trump supporters and anti Hillary voters. These voters - many democrats and republicans voted for Obama in 2008 against Hillary and again in 2012. It was again reinforcing an elite, snobbish, moral superiority which was highly insulted.

45. Sixteen experienced and well-financed republicans challenged Trump and lost. The DNC underestimated Trump and took too much for granted. They believed the polls.

46 The selection of Senator Tim Kane over Senator Bernie Sanders was crucial in the loss of young voters 18 to 30 and the Rust Belt blue collar workers. Majority of African American young voters under 30 favored Sanders in the democratic primary.

47. The Democratic campaigns lack of emphasizing traditional values namely family, hard work, religious faith (except Muslim), respect for law and order, love of country, and ethnic pride.

48. Clinton's failure to release transcripts of 51 paid speeches worth 11 million dollars to Goldman Sachs and other Wall Street banks.

49. Advocated open borders but failure to emphasize national security, vetting, and refusal to use the term Islamic terrorists.

50. Clinton did not mention trade deficits with Mexico, Canada, and China.

51. Bill Clinton's repeal of Glass Steagall act and Hillary Clinton's omission of strong support for the Dodd-Frank which regulated banks. Clinton support for establishing full relations with Cuba and loss of Miami's voters.

The defeat was devastating. We lost the presidency, the Senate, the house, and soon-to-be supreme court. The single loss will have adverse effect for years to come. My list of my reasons for losing so badly is subject to disagreement and more discussion. There must be analysis of the chosen candidate, Democratic National Committee, and the national union leadership. Were our tactics, strategies, and policies correct? I'm certain experts will examine the poor democratic record in the past six years. It is of little consequence that Clinton won the popular vote. Sour losing demonstrations will not help democrats. Symbolic safety pins will contribute little to the future success. It's time to begin rebuilding traditional democratic coalitions and working much harder on political grassroots action.

As trade unionists, we must maintain our advocacy for:

1. Good paying jobs with proper working conditions and

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- fringe benefits.
2. Stronger union solidarity, openness and democracy.
 3. Equal pay for equal work.
 4. Affordable healthcare for all.
 5. A humane and fair immigration policy.
 6. A fair trade policy which doesn't undercut labor and jobs.
 7. Greater opportunity and support for the least amongst us especially rural areas and inner cities.
 8. Reverence, for religious differences.
 9. High quality education for all.
 10. Respect for LGBT community.
 12. Support for veterans especially the wounded.
 13. Protect the environment and jobs.
 14. Civil discussion of political differences and compromise for the benefit of our country.
 15. Appreciate work of private sector and public employees.
 16. Protect, Social Security and Medicare.
 17. The list goes on but not here.

We active and retired teachers enjoy a good life due CITA's advocacy on our behalf. However we are a segment of the labor movement and must continue to assist others to obtain a decent living standard. The election is over. The struggle goes on, "Keep the faith!" As labor hero Joe Hill said, "Don't mourn, organize."

Thank You Phil Griffith by Brian Roethgen

I started work in CI in 1970. I was intern at Adelphi Suffolk University (Dowling). Phil Griffith was my clinic teacher and then chairman of the Professional Rights and Responsibilities Committee. (Grievance Committee) He mentored the Adelphi interns and

Thank You Phil Griffith by Brian Roethgen

pre-interns (student teachers). He later became Vice President and then President of CITA. He mentored all the union members for 26 years. You saw in Frank Genovese's eulogy how he learned by the watching the example our union leaders.

None was more influential on my moral and ethical development than Phil. He was our Albert Shanker. Under his leadership our union flourished and like Parcels he trained union leaders.

His articles show a brilliant understanding that few union leaders can grasp. He is surpassed by none. If he were president of AFT we would be in a better off today. Thank you Phil for your enlightening evaluation of the democratic mess they called election 2016. Thank you Phil, without your example I wouldn't be what I am today.



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM US TO
YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES**