

**DEMOCRATS OF NAPA VALLEY**  
**General Meeting**  
**Minutes, 04 15 2019**  
**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Napa Women's Club**  
**218 Franklin Street, Napa, CA**

**AGENDA 04 15 2019**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

5:35 p.m.

**II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Chris Benz; Seconded by Laura; Carried

**III. APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (03 18 2019)**

Moved by Chris Benz; Seconded by Diana Beere

**IV. TREASURER'S REPORT** (see end)

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Vote on bylaws Amendment

Changes to meet CA Democratic Party requirements that all regional bylaws have wording and definition of 'member in good standing' in order to qualify for voting participation in the CA Democratic Party pre-endorsement conference. Amendment was approved.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Meetings:

[Announcement presented by Mara Adelman] Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 5:30 p.m.— 8:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Shalom, 1455 Elm Street, Napa, CA. (For more information: [www.nctnapa.org](http://www.nctnapa.org)) Tickets available at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) \$35 per person

DONV ExCom Meeting May 6, 5:30 p.m. – NapaSport

May 8, 7 to 9 p.m. is a Medicare for All/Health Care for All information meeting at the United Methodist Church on the 600 block of Randolph Street.

May 9 is kick-off season for 2020. California Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry hosts at Marriott's.

May 14, Supervisor Ryan Gregory will hold is campaign kickoff located at Wine Train Station

Saturday, May 18, Meet the candidates running for the California State Party Chair. There are 7 candidates. Meet them at 6 p.m. at the Napa Valley College Little Theater.

This is a really important determination because it will help shape the future of the California Party for the next several years. The membership is strongly encouraged to attend the May 18 event, for information and to ask questions.

Monday, May 20, 5:30 p.m., DONV General Meeting at Napa Women's Club.  
Topic: Napa's 2040 General Plan;

Monday, June 17, 5:30 p.m., DONV General Meeting Napa Women's Club.  
Topic: Napa's Civic Center Project & Democrats of Napa Valley Officers Election.

Volunteer to Help Napa Valley Immigrants on their Path to Citizenship. To sign-up go to: <https://napavalleydems.org/take-action-events/>

**AB bill 1603 fund anti gun violence** Please help by signing petition slips.

Volunteer with the Democrats of Napa Valley for the 2020 Census. To sign up, **email:** [napavalleydems1.org](mailto:napavalleydems1.org)

Apply for a Census 2020 Job - <https://2020census.gov>

Apply for Napa County Committees and Commissions:  
<https://www.countyofnapa.org/1420/Committees-Commissions>

## **VII. PROGRAM: The Toll of Gun Violence...And Paths to Prevention**

**DONV Secretary Note on transcriptions: Mr.** Thibodeaux's comments are partly transcribed from digital recording, and partly reported. Emily Cantrell and Liz Russell are completely transcribed, with minor editing on repetitive or tangential comments. The original meaning is maintained. Items in brackets [ item ] are Secretary inserts.

These transcripts are included because of the nature of subject matter and the power and emotion of the speakers in describing their own experiences.

### **Speakers:**

Ilana Adelson, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America —Napa Valley Chapter Leader

Moderator; non-partisan issue on gun violence;

Not anti-2nd amendment

36,000 annually killed/ 100 daily; this means U.S. gun violence and deaths are ten times higher than any other developed country.

More deaths by February 2019 than many other entire country's annual deaths

Every year over 3,000 children are shot and killed with Black Children killed much more often than white children.

Women 16 times likely to be killed by a partner with a gun

Julius Thibodeaux Jr., Strategy Program Manager, Advance Peace Organization of Sacramento, funded in part by California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant (CAL VIP)

23 cents in California devoted to prevented; \$2.00 in Massachusetts

Office neighborhood Richmond, CA; Born and raised in Richmond but had no positive male role model. Witnessed his first stabbing when he was six or seven years old. Unfortunately, there was no one there to tell him that it "was going to be okay. How did this impact you? How did you feel?" No one to assure him he would survive the violence and have a good life. That it didn't have to be his way.

The general philosophy was to "man up". Mr. Thibodeaux heard that a lot as a youth.

Offering a disclaimer about not wanting to be too religious in his presentation, he heard later on in life that "God made us with tear ducts; that it was okay to cry."

Unfortunately, "when you grow up in the inner city, and you see so many things, and you have a single mom ... I think sometimes they overcompensate for not having a man in the home ... so they tell you things like 'don't cry; Wipe those tears; Hold your head up. You're going to get through this ... but man up.'"

"Hey! I'm three; I'm four; I'm five years old. What do you mean, 'Man up!'" So all of these feelings are suppressed. We don't know how to emote in a healthy manner. You look around, you hear the music, you see the scene, you see the gangsters in the neighborhood ... and THEY don't know how to emote. So what happens is, the only emotion that allowed to get out is anger.

Someone does you wrong, your first emotion should be something like hurt; and then maybe comes embarrassment. But no role model leads to skipping those and goes to anger. And you say, that's once, you don't do it again or I'm going to hurt you. But I thought we were buds. Not when you experience embarrassment in the neighborhood.

For most of us, we get a model from a father, or older brother, or grandfather ... but I never had that ... so I was taught the opposite ... that anger was the only response.

So when I'm working with children, with a young man and I see their parents or parent, I teach this way of emotion and getting whole, I know the hurdle is higher because then he goes home and his parent(s) teaches him the opposite of what I am trying to teach him.

And my journey, unfortunately, took me to prison for 23 years. Prison is a society within a society, a subculture with its own rules. There are help services available,

but it's against the subculture rules to use them. So I'm not going to take anger management. I'm not angry. YOU need to stop bothering me.

No, anger management is needed. Need to break away from the negative friends and influences. Need to take advantage of those services.

Mr. Thibodeaux found a mentor in prison who helped him get through it, and out of it; who helped change the direction of his life. He just got off of parole a couple of months ago [applause] and, he said, it was a great feeling.

One of the things you learn on his side of it all is, there are no band-aid; there are no quick fixes to this; you HAVE to build the relationships. We ... I ... we become neighborhood change associates ... agents for change. But we can't use the word "agent" anymore ... there's enough "agents" in this world that it doesn't bring trust into the relationship ... and trust is absolute crucial. Trust you enough to call you at two o'clock in the morning and tell you, I've had a bad day and I really want to go out and hurt someone. When they do make that phone call, they really don't want to go out and do that. They're calling to say, really, Come on, talk me down off that ledge. And for them to make that call, they and you really have to have broken down those walls for them to allow you to come in to a place that is full of distrust.

They've been taught ALL the wrong things about what it means to be a man: I have to be tough; I have to be macho; I have to be quick to resort to violence. It's really the opposite. It really takes a lot of strength just to tell that person that hey hurt you, or that you hurt them. We have to teach them that women are not property; that you don't own her. That you have to take a step back and see her as an individual human being, and maybe you say I'd love to partner with you; but if she's not interested, you just go on and go your separate ways.

But if viewed as a possession, and she walks away, as a possession you get angry and are willing to resort to violence, even murder, to not let a possession walk away. She has become a prisoner. And unfortunately, sometimes this is all a woman may know and becomes accustomed to this. Then they have a warped definition of what it means to be loved and "...if you don't pull a weapon on me, you aren't that passionate about me. My last boyfriend was passionate. He shot my car up, and he did this and that. He was passionate." So it gets all screwed up with these monstrous definitions of what it means to be loved and to be loved. There is so much work to be done, to redefine these things ... and they have to TRUST us in order to do that.

We have three areas in Sacramento most vulnerable to gun violence: Del Passo Heights to the north; Old Park Central [?]; and the south area.

Trust crucial. We have two change associates in each of these areas and what we try to do is go into these areas and try to identify those most likely to be shot, or to shoot.

From there, as we build a relationship, we do some trips ... transformation travel

It a maze they live in; a dangerous maze that they wander around in on a daily basis. Getting them out of the maze helps begin to change their perspective.

We try to get them to do a life map. Very simple goals: don't fight with my girlfriend so often; limit arguments with parents. Simple goals, but we stick with them,

Limit arguments; don't get. It's very difficult to give services to someone who "doesn't need" services ... but it's working. The Cal grant has allowed me to work with 25 young people from ages 12 to 17. But for the first time, we had no teen murders in 2018 in Sacramento[applause]. In 2017, there were NINE teen murders. But last year there were teen murders in the County.

Young people have so much pressure to be hard, like the older guys they see in the street. They will do anything to impress these guys.

We are hoping to get more grants from Cal VIP. Right now, we can only do so much ... if you spread yourself to thin, you stop being effective.

*[Applause]*

Moderator Ilana Adelson notes that so far, the discussion has focus on state level activity, and is turning now to the national, or federal, level. She introduces Maira Ayala, District Representative for Congressman Mike Thompson.

Congressman Mike Thompson was appointed as the chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force after Sandyhook [December 14, 2012] and has been focused on that ever since.

More than 3,700+ people have been killed already using a gun. this year

HRA passed the house

Last year nearly forty thousand people died as a result of gun violence ... the highest in 50 years. There were 340 mass shootings last year, including eighteen school shootings.

There have been 52 'moments of silence' on the House floor memorializing the victims of mass shootings.

In the states that require comprehensive background checks, there are 47% fewer women were murdered by their intimate partners. Forty-seven percent... that's a HUGE number.

In states that require background checks, 47% fewer suicides occur by guns.

In states that require background checks, 53% fewer law enforcement officers are killed by gun violence.

Different states have different versions of background checks, but those states that take it seriously, as the statistics show, background checks HAVE helped!

HR-8

Sponsor:

[Rep. Thompson, Mike \[D-CA-5\]](#) (Introduced 01/08/2019)

Committees:

House - Judiciary

Committee Reports:

[H. Rept. 116-11](#)

Latest Action:

Senate - 03/04/2019 Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 29. ([All Actions](#))

Roll Call Votes:

There have been [4 roll call votes](#)

*[Applause]*

Emily Cantrell is a Foundation Board Member of the Alliance for Gun Responsibility [<https://foundation.gunresponsibility.org/board-of-directors/>] [<https://foundation.gunresponsibility.org>].

A former TV News Regional Emmy winner, Cantrell is currently the director of World Trade Center Seattle.

Emily Cantrell has come from Seattle to share her experience as a Survivor of the Las Vegas mass shooting, the deadliest in history. **Fifty-eight people were killed and more than 850 were wounded or injured.**

Cantrell began by asking how many of the 100+/- General Meeting attendees had experienced gun violence in some form, or knew someone who had ... at least 2/3 to 3/4 raised their hands.

She clarifies that she is speaking only from her personal experience, although she admits to always having fear of guns.

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"My freshman year of college ... I went to a small private school south of Seattle ... my friend's dad was shot and killed on campus. He was a professor and a random stranger came on campus and killed him one day.

"The next year I was on vacation; at a gas station in Arkansas, I was held at gunpoint.

"And then, as a news person, I covered far too many stories about gun violence. I remember Halloween in the year 2009 I was in the newsroom, and Officer Bettinski was training a brand new partner, and someone shot him point blank.

"The next month, in a city called Lakewood, four officers were sitting with their laptops out and a gunman came in and killed all four of them.

"The next month another police officer was killed in the line of duty.

"I produced all three of these fallen hero's memorials and the next year I decided to get out of TV.

"Unfortunately, you can change your career but you can't escape gun violence; gun violence does not discriminate. It can happen anytime, anywhere.

"One of my favorite escapes in life has always been music and I love going to concerts and music festivals, and one of them in particular is a country music festival in Las Vegas. It's a three-day festival and the year 2017 was our third year attending, with my then fiancé, now husband, Kyle, and we were attending with his best friend Josh, who lives in California, with his wife. Country music ... everyone is just so happy ... there's no drugs or violence ... We'd lay by the pool by day, and attend he concert at night.

"Unfortunately October 1, the third night was cut short. At about 10:05 p.m., when Jason Aldean was on stage, and we heard firecrackers go off, and my fiancé said, 'Who's the A\*\*\*\*\* who brings firecrackers to a concert?' And, right after he said that, a second round [of shots] went off and the woman right to the right of us dropped, and her legs were covered in blood and that's when we realized these weren't firecrackers. These were gunshots. Little did we know our country's worst mass shooting was unfolding, and we were sitting ducks with nowhere to hide and no way to fight back.

"I have heard it's like being on a battlefield with no way to fight back.

"We learned that as many rounds were fired in ten seconds. Take a minute to digest that. That many rounds in just ten seconds. [Secretary Note: more than 1,100 rounds were fired in ten minutes. 58 people were shot to death; 422 more wounded by bullets; 429 more injured as a result of chaos and panic.]

"So with each round [of shots] we would just dive; there were piles of bodies and we would jump on each other. As soon as each round [of shots] stopped we would run. So it was run, dive; run dive. We finally got over and hid behind a metal structure ...and we now know that structure was the production center. The structure was metal and there were bullets hitting the structure, and ricocheting and flying overhead. There was also a helicopter flying overhead, and we thought maybe the bullets were coming from the helicopter.

"With the echo of the noise they made, we shot there were multiple shooters.

"My feeling at the time ... I was in shock ... but I remember getting over the shock and getting overwhelmed with a feeling of hatred for someone who could do this thing.

"We hid behind that structure for a couple more rounds [of shots] and I was right next to his best friend Josh, and Kyle told us to run ... and I said I'm not leaving you ... and he told me to run now. So I figured our best chance of survival was to listen to him because he had gotten us that far. And so Josh and I ran; and I fell; and I thought I was shot. I felt a bullet go through my hair, but I didn't see any blood, so I got up and I ran ... and there was a fence that people were lifting up to crawl through. I later learned this was the airport perimeter [*McCarran International Airport*] and once I got through that fence, I lost Josh, and I just kept running. I hate to say but I just felt like giving up. And someone behind me said [*unclear on recording*] ... and he counted to three and we ran. We hid in a shed for about 45 minutes. There was a couple dozen victims in there ... two gunshot victims ... and then we were finally able to get into an airplane hangar with anywhere from a hundred to two hundred other people.

"It was a really surreal time. I had former news colleagues in Seattle who were based now in Las Vegas ... and we were getting conflicting messages on social media. Some said there was a lone shooter who was dead; others said there were multiple shooters and it's not safe; stay there.

"So going through this not know what was happening was horrific.

"I think it was about ninety minutes after the shooting started that police confirmed that the shooter was dead ... but we didn't really know that ... so about three hours after the shooting started [garbled] we were taken back to the hotel and reunited with Kyle and his best friend's wife.

"And it was at that time that we discovered we had gone through very very different situations ... Kyle had ran and had stopped to help people and bodies were piled up behind police cars ... he was wearing his Sunday Funday shirt that I got him and he had taken it off to try to put on women's bullet wounds; his shorts were covered in blood; and he was trying to help a young man named Austen who was fading in an out of consciousness ... he was shot in the collar bone ... Kyle was able to flag down a truck and get him off to the hospital ... to this day we are still unsure whatever happened to him, which is very painful.

"I think the most difficult thing is that we get back to the hotel; messages are starting to come in – we're so glad you're okay; we're so glad you're safe. But we did not feel okay. I don't care if he's dead; I don't feel safe.

"We thought the best thing to do was to get back to our normal life and the next day we booked an early flight home. And so that night we went over to a friend's house and we watched Monday night football. And it was then when I look down and saw my knees bloodied and scraped, and beer in hand, I just started crying. And that's when I had my first real vision that I was struggling with survivor's guilt. I didn't know why I was there and the others were going to be able to with their families.



"And I always question that; and people say, 'You're so lucky,' But the others were unlucky? And others say, 'It wasn't your time to go.' So, it was their time to go? That's not fair, either.

"So for me it was [garbled] and that's the only reason we're alive.

"So immediately following the shooting I became terrified of the dark. ... Now when the sun goes down I start to panic. I would sleep in my clothes with my shoes next to my bed in case I needed to run. Every time I walk through a room I look for an exit ... I'd have an exit strategy in case a gunman comes in.

"I remember the day my knees began to heal; the wounds were closing, and you'd think I'd be excited about this ... but I started to cry because I realized the physical wounds were now gone ... and I was left with invisible pain ... and his is a pain other people don't understand ... they can't understand ... I want to wear a sign around my neck that says 'Be kind. You don't know what I went through.'

"I think emotional pain can be even more injurious than physical pain. Finding a therapist was extremely difficult. I took me almost a month. I was really grateful that I wasn't suicidal .

"I kept finding therapists that said, "I'm sorry, I can't bill to that Code ... and I kept hearing that over and over again. There are a lot of therapists out here that help with marriage counseling or with depression, or with trauma ... but finding someone who deals with PTSD is very very difficult. It's something our country needs to work on; get more people trained.

"I did find one therapist ... he was a combat veteran ... he taught me coping mechanisms. He taught me how to get through the day.

"... But still to this day I have trouble concentrating at work. I'll stop talking in the middle of a sentence, not knowing where I am. I knew that healing would not truly begin until I took the next step, which was preventing these mass shootings from happening. I joined Washington D.C. [*Fire???*], A small non-profit, 35 years old. Through that I met our state Senator David Brock and he invited me to testify at our state capitol.

"We need to stop offering 'thoughts and prayers'; we need to take action!

"Again, my story is only one of 22 thousand at the Route 1 Concert in Las Vegas that came out that one day from one mass shooter. My hope is that one day No One will have a new story to tell about gun violence."

[*Applause.*]

Moderator Ilana Adelson thanked Emily Cantrell for her story; her courage in telling the story; and her willingness to talk about her fears generated out of an enduring PTSD experience.

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**March 8, 2018**

**Yountville Veterans Home – Pathway House**

**5 killed** [including unborn child & the killer]

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Liz Russel

"Thank you for that introduction; and thank you everybody for showing up to hear from this panel.

"I guess just about everybody here is here because they are either a victim of gun violence, or knows someone who is. You never thought you would be here ... and all of a sudden you are."

[At least half the audience group raise their hands.]

"Twenty years ago, the shootings at Columbine happened and I was in high school at that time and I remember thinking how terrifying that was ... and yet, here we are twenty years later and more horrific mass shootings have happened.

"It's hard to comprehend; that's just one small piece of gun violence in America. I think sometimes it gets the most coverage; the most play, because the media does a lot in covering these issues ... but they fade from the public consciousness quickly. Think of the stories we never hear about.

"So I appreciate being included on this panel; there are multiple voices represented.

"So some of you may be wondering why you haven't heard my name in connection with the murders at the Pathway Home. That's because this is the first time I have publicly spoken about this. There is a number of you in the audience I know ... thank you for being here. But, you know, I can feel my heart pumping out of my chest right now. I haven't done this before, so bear with me ...

"In February 2018 I had made the difficult decision to leave my job after only one year. It was my first job back after several years as a stay-at-home mom ... we'd been in Napa for a couple of years. My husband was commuting out of town, to Oakland, and with small twins at home it was just getting more challenging and difficult to give my all to everything ... so in February I made the decision to quit ... and March 9th was supposed to be my last day ... mine and another co-worker who had made the decision to take a position in The City ... and so a joint going away party was planned for us.

"Rather than a fond farewell, it was planned I come back and assist with specific pieces of my job until they hired my replacement. My and my family's lives were marred by gun violence that day.

"Little did I experience the sense of security and safety ... they are ripped away from you in an instant ... and even to this day I don't have ... I don't have what I feel are adequate words to describe [that day].

"You know, no gun was pointed directly at me in those moments. I didn't hear gun shots. I wasn't shot. But I will never forget the image of the gunman walking in strapped to an assault rifle. I can't imagine how I would ever begin to forget that, and the impact that it had on my life.

"Beyond the direct trauma I believed I would never see my children or my husband again ... for the brief few minutes ... we have a bit of a secondary trauma because one of the individuals who was killed was Jennifer Gonzales Shushereba who was long-time family friend of my husband ... and I ... [struggles with words and emotions] ... being asked to leave that room ... I wasn't really asked ... I was told that I could leave ... you would think that you would feel really good about that ... like, Oh Thank God I get to get out of here but I was looking directly at my friend, know that he had not said her name ... she wasn't allowed to leave, as well as my other colleague who were not told that they could leave.

"And for a second you think, 'What am I supposed to do?' Your body just gets up to go but your mind is going, 'You can't leave your friend in here.' Another colleague in the hall said to me, 'You have small children at home ... you need to go.' At that moment I don't know what I thought I could possibly do ... but I looked at my colleague and said, 'What do we do? What do we do?' Meaning, 'How do we help them? How do we help them?'

"She was really and important person to our family. She was the first one to watch my twins when they were babies who was not a family member, although she was like a family member.

"The sadness of her not being able to have the choice of leaving that room ... that is a challenge I still struggle with today ... and that is one of the challenges I wanted to share with you today. I'm not sure that it's quite survivor's guilt but it is overwhelming sadness and anguish over what happened. My trauma was magnified by the loss of my friend, and my family's trauma was magnified because they realized they could have lost me, too ... and that is something we've had to deal with for the last year.

"There are other difficulties, some which echo those of Emily. For a long time I couldn't sleep through the night. I had a hard time falling asleep. Every unexplainable noise was anxiety producing for me. I stopped taking my children to school ... to preschool every morning because I found the idea of exchanging pleasantries with other parents unbearable. I could not bring myself to say, 'Oh, Good Morning! How are you?' 'I'm fine, how're you?'

"I mean, it sounds innocuous and you probably say it tons of times when you're not having the best day ... but you get through it. I found myself UNABLE to say it. It felt

like the most unbelievable lie. I'm sure they would have understood, but I couldn't begin to try to explain about this broken person inside.

"When I would go out, I would let other people do the talking for me if I had to interact with strangers or acquaintances ... It was rare in the first few months that I would go out anywhere alone.

"I once pulled up and parked at Whole Foods in Belaire Plaza, and someone pulled up next to me and parked and it startled me so bad I just back out and left ... because I was shaking and I couldn't figure out how to get out of the car and go grocery shopping.

"All of my post-employment plans were derailed for a time. I wasn't sure what it was I wanted to, exactly, but I knew I wanted to get back into Yoga; I wanted to start volunteering; until I figured out what the next job would be, something part-time, or if my husband started working in town, I could start looking at what other opportunities there could be.

"It took me five months before I could feel safe going to a Yoga class where I would be surrounded by strangers...

"The volunteering I had planned to do I put off for months and months ... I couldn't see the point..

"I couldn't figure out how to be involved in something....

"Therapy and Workers' Comp! Boy...It was not built for incidents like this.

"I haven't heard anyone else's story ... I know only my own ... and I can only imagine what it was like for those who had physical wounds from gun violence d... But it was a nightmare. I had to sit down and take a four-hour Scantron test to see whether I qualified for trauma therapy. I don't think the therapists had any question about that. I don't think anyone had any question about that. But there was no way around this. I had to do this [Scantron testing] in order to get Workers' Comp to pay for trauma therapy.

"You know, it felt like a slap in the face because one whole section of that test had to do with how you were treated by your boss ... and my boss had just been killed. The anger inside me when I got to that section ... it was all my husband could do to keep me from berating the poor woman who worked at [garbled] ... it wasn't her fault, but you just don't think about...

"My husband ended up quitting his job so he could help take care of our kiddos because I found myself just having the hardest time being emotionally attached to anybody. I know that probably sounds crazy as a mother. It sounds crazy to me. I didn't want tons of hugs from my children. I didn't want tons of hugs from anybody. I just kind of wanted to be ALONE ... all the time.

"When sat down a month later and figured it was time for one or both of us to rejoin the work force, you know, we had to deal with the uncomfortable question about why there was a gap in the resume.

"I finally got the courage to apply for another job ... that was back in December and it was a long and arduous process. There was a lot of back and forth, and I ultimately did not get the job ... and I'm okay with that. I don't know if I'm ready for a high intensity job. One of the individuals in this room will serve as a reference for me, I've said to him, 'I don't know if I can do this' .

"I have had a lot of anger about the situation in which I found myself, and I've tried to figure out what to do with that ... and in November when the Napa District Attorney released the officer-involved shooting reports ... there were some details in that that were new to me ... and I think my anger just well over and I needed to find something to channel that into. But I still wasn't ready to be out speaking and talking with people and joining Moms Demand and figuring out how to contribute to that so that this doesn't happen to other people.

"I don't even remember what it was that I Googled, but I found this gun violence restraining law in California ... some of you may have heard of these types of laws ... they're sometimes called Red Flag Laws ... in other states they're called extreme risk protection orders.

"I stared reading this article and I didn't know about this law ... I didn't know about these types of laws prior to March 9, or the day before. I didn't know until months after the shooting...

"It was about the one year anniversary ... it was around the Parkland Shooting anniversary ... they happened about within two weeks of each other ... and I remember being in awe of these kids getting out almost right away and started advocating against gun violence ... I couldn't do that right away ... but research again ... I researched Moms Demand ... I didn't know if there was one in Napa ... I met Ilana ... and they were actually going to start working on GVRO.

"I hate to say that it was serendipitous that they were starting to work on this and it was the only thing I wanted to work on

But [*garbled*]. But if there is a way to help stop these kinds of things in the future, it simply has to be done. And it has to be me, then I'm okay with that. And if it has to be anyone else in this room then we welcome your help.

"California's gun violence restraining order [*GVRO*] was enacted in 2014 ... it was partly in response to the shooting in Isla Vista ... it went into effect in 2016 ... and basically California's GVRO allows family members, household members and law enforcement to get a court to temporarily remove guns and prevent the purchase of new guns by individuals who pose significant risk to themselves or others ... it is a Civil procedure, not a criminal one.

"The goal is to empower family members and law enforcement to insure safety of an individual and persons around that individual if they are expressing, you know, threats of violence or suicidal alienation or erratic behavior with their guns.

"The order can last anywhere from 21 days to one year renewable period after a court hearing ... just out of curiosity, how many of you knew California had a GVRO law ...? About a third ...

"So I didn't know about it, and I can't say that it would have helped with what happened at Pathway Home; I don't have all the information about what was going on with the shooter or aware that he owned guns. I can't say that it would have helped there ... I don't know ... but it WILL help someone and that's why I want to work on it. With Moms Demand what we are working on is to ask for the opportunity to present what GVRO is and if here is anyone in the audience who belongs to other groups, who are willing to have me/us come to talk about what the GVRO law is ... we're trying to raise public awareness about it ... so that hopefully, it will keep people from having to experience something like this."

*[Vigorous applause]*

A short period for questions was included.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday, May 20, 5:30 p.m., Napa Women's Club, 218 Franklin Street**

**7:20 PM.**