

# A different election in a different world

By Sharon J. Arkin



Well, the mid-terms elections are over and Trump has declared a victory for himself and the what-used-to-be-Republican party and which is now the degraded, racist and cruel Party of Trump. Trump has already declared war on the now-Democratic House and, no doubt, will fulfill that promise, over and over again. And his firing of Jeff Sessions is just the first shot across the bows.

And yet. While the state and national elections weren't all we hoped they would be, the results were still pretty astounding.

More women elected; more people of color elected, more religious diversity in Congress, more hope.

We live in a far more apocalyptic world than any of us can remember. More mass shootings, more anger, more hate – or at least more freely-expressed anger and hate. I suspect it was there all along, but was suppressed because it used to be unacceptable. But Trump changed all that, too.

And yet. There are still kindnesses done every day – sometimes even between people of adverse political viewpoints.

And while the white nationalists and hate-brokers are more vocal, their actual numbers remain small. Most Americans are still kind, polite people, but are people who have been brainwashed by fear. That, too, means there is hope.

Thankfully, the election within our own organization is much more rational. We say goodbye to our “Gentleman President,” Lee Harris, whose calm, thoughtful and effective leadership brought us another year of success. And we welcome our new president, Mike Arias, whose enthusiastic outreach and relationship-building will keep our organization on its successful path.

And as Lee and Mike both acknowledge in their President's Messages in this edition, the core strength of our organization comes from our amazing staff (which is such an unassuming word for a remarkable team of brilliant, dedicated and charming people) and our amazing members. Our members and the leaders who rise through our membership are not only bright, but innovative, brave and undaunted. They come up with creative ways to make our organization ever-better and our staff (there's that deficient word, again) makes it happen.

As Jared Polis, the first-ever openly gay governor just elected in Colorado said: “We dream, we dare and we do....” That sentiment also epitomizes CAOC and I am proud to have been part of this great organization and to fight with each of you in bringing justice to our clients. ■

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