

SwingLeft
Virtual Letter Writing
Saturday, May 16, 2020

Disclaimer: This transcription provides a meaning-for-meaning summary to facilitate communication access. It is the ultimate responsibility of the client to verify the accuracy of the information provided. Thank you.

Jenny Eis: Welcome! Hello there!

My name is Jenny Eis. I am with SwingLeft. We are very excited to welcome you all here today.

As you can see, we have interpreters available for those who need an ASL interpreter. I'll show you how to access the transcript in just a moment.

I am Jenny Eis. I'm the organizing director for the allied states that are allied to help defeat Trump and flip the Senate.

Colleen McCarthy is also here with us. She works with us at SwingLeft, and is the allied states program director.

We'll start with a welcome and then I will run through the tips working with the interpreters and the transcript. We will do introductions and then talk about writing letters and answer your questions.

These are tough times to organize in. But when I host these events each week and I see you all step up to flip the White House and Senate, it gives me energy to keep going.

If you have trouble accessing anything today in the stream, please let me know in the chat.

Here are a few Zoom tips that you will find helpful.

First, to make it easier to see the interpreters while I share, there's an upper icon in the upper hand of the Zoom screen. It looks like a smaller box in a larger box. You toggle that and you can make the interpreter larger than the slideshow. I will also pin the current interpreter. Let Colleen or I know if that's not working.

Please keep your Zoom on mute. That's to minimize the background noise. It interferes with the audio for those using the audio feed.

There's a chat at the bottom to introduce yourself. If you have questions, type those into the chat. Colleen will answer those or caption them for the question and answer. If you need to raise your hand, this is the feature that allows you to do that. It's under Participants. In that Dialogue box, the more option with the three dots let's you raise your hand. This is at the bottom of the screen.

Using an iPad or iPhone, it will look different. You might just want to tune in with us on your laptop.

We have a TypeWell transcript feed. Make sure you can access it. This is the URL. Colleen will put

that in the chat. You will enter that into a separate browser. If you are streaming the TypeWell transcription, you should enter that into a different window so you can minimize it and reshape it and move it to a different part of your screen. Or you can even use your iPhone for it.

The transcript will also be available after the event.

Introductions! In the chat, I would love to have your name, city and whether or not this is your first time writing letters!

Let's take a moment and add and introduce ourselves. Hi Jenny from Oakland!

And Colleen!

It takes a moment for it to come through. I will wait for everyone to introduce themselves.

Yay, Amy and Peggy, and Stephanie. Hey, JR, I think we just chatted! Jean!

Fantastic. I'm so glad you are all here. It gives me so much energy.

A quick question; is anyone waiting from vote forward to get their letters? Please privately or to the regular chat, Colleen will put you through and approve you. When we go through the teaching how, then into writing the letters we will make sure you can print.

So, what have you gotten yourselves into today?! SwingLeft is a grassroots organization. We have been here since 2017. Our specialty is connecting volunteers to campaigns to elect Democrats. We want to do the best tactics at the best time.

We'll ask others to explain the urgency and need to take action. I want to play this video for you; the captions are on as well.

[Captions on shared screen.]

So, now you can say you wrote letters this weekend with Lin Manuel Miranda. [Laughing.] That's just how we roll.

You can see there's 12 super states where we can have the highest impact on flipping the White House and Senate and key legislatures. In concentrating on these we can hopefully flip all the houses. This has added importance due to the Census. In the states with the blue stripes we believe we have a good shot at flipping one or both the chambers of the legislatures.

That means the states have the opportunity to overturn these unfair maps for the states legislature districts.

Put in the chat if you want me to review one state that's particular or near and dear to you, inspiring you to work. I'll show you about that state later if you would like.

Letter Writing. This is a non-partisan letter. There's an official form letter. You will see that in a few minutes. We personalize those. You don't have to write the whole thing, but you personalize it with a note from you. We bank them, then mail them close to the election in November.

We write these letters to target the voters less likely to vote. We need to create unprecedented turnout this yet. These are likely democratic voters to remember to vote.

We need to write at least 2 million letters. That's a lot. We do testing. Each of these campaigns is an experiment. But it shows the average turn out time is 2-3 more people. That means close races are decided by turnout tactics like these.

From the data, the letters are 3-4 times more effective than postcards to getting voters to the polls. We don't have enough data on postcards though, and we would like to see that. But we do know that letters are effective and we have the data for it. And outside the super states and for those volunteers inside the super states it's worth it.

The blank spots have these blue circles. Find the recipient and return address at the bottom of the letter. Each is unique. The names and addresses are different.

Don't mention candidates or political parties by name. The data tells us not to do this. You can talk about things near and dear to you, but realize that not everyone in every region faces the same challenges. So think about things that apply to many regions. But a heartfelt personal message is best.

People like to mention civic responsibility and how hard fought the right to vote has been. You can talk about going to the polls with your kids for example.

Refer to voting as an identity or an experience. "We expect a high turnout this year. Be a part of it!" for example.

Use a blue pen for the letter in the envelope so it doesn't look like it was pre-printed.

And wait to mail it. Set a reminder in your phone and calendar for this. The reason it's important to wait is that these messages fade with time. The best time to send is for it to arrive between 5-7 days from the election. That's when it works best as a reminder to vote.

What will you write in your letters?

Non-partisan messages work the best. They increase credibility and trust. Don't mention the candidates. It is better to seem non-partisan and just encourage voting instead of speaking to a particular candidate.

Use positive messages. We want a society that rewards everyone and not just the wealthy few.

Write legibly. Cursive or printing, it doesn't matter. Just be sure to make it clear.

Keep it short. The more you write these, the more you will believe me! [Laughing.] The shorter the message, the easier it is on your hands.

Write in English! Don't make an assumption that if someone has a Hispanic surname that they don't speak English. So don't make any assumptions.

This is what you get! [On shared screen.] You get a packet with the cover sheet on the left. It has a list of all in the packet that you will write letters to. Then in the top is the return address.

Please use the cover sheet for the return address. That's easier for me to read. But please look at the bottom of each letter. Each is unique. Write to the correct voter, the person actually on the letter at the bottom. The bottom piece is important! Don't tear it off!

Some ask me if they should tear off the bottom 1/3? No! Send that information to the voter!

The list is useful to check off if you have written all the letters. I like to use it as a checklist. As I said, the return address is easier to find from here. Sometimes because the printing is small on the letter itself you can mix up the return address and the actual address. Do what works for you, but this is a place where it's easy to make a mistake.

We'll talk about examples of messages. This is a fantastic list of some of the messages we have seen. In a moment we will ask you to share your messages as well. That sounds like something we all love to hear. Every time I hear people's messages I am inspired. I stole the message I use from someone else!

So I will read some of these.

“In America, we value our democracy and that's why I exercise my right to vote!”

[Reading the list on the shared screen.]

“I vote because together our voices can be louder than dark money.”

“I vote because when all our voices are heard, we can find solutions to our country's problems.”

There are lots of great messages people use. When I send you this slide deck you can click on the URL for the link for the research on why some messages work better than others. It also has the research around why nonpartisan language works the best.

So take a few minutes. Please use the chat to share your "why I vote" message. If you are like Jenny and you are already writing, please share the message you are using!

I'll type mine into the chat now while you do that!

Alright. Now we will switch to a new ASL interpreter while there's a natural pause. Colleen, who will we switch too? Post that in the chat.

Oh, I love these messages!

[Switching transcribers.]

Stacy will now be interpreting for us. Her video is now pinned. I love, love, LOVE these messages. Thank you for sharing them. This will be part of the recording you get. You can hold onto these. These are great.

You're going to write your letters today. But what happens then? After the party, check to make sure your letter is addressed the voter at the bottom of the letter and matches the address on the envelope.

Seal and stamp your envelopes and mark your letters prepared in Vote Forward. That's on the website.

Then hold your letters until the Vote Forward campaign mail date. It will almost certainly be October 27th. Do not mail them ahead of time.

Store them in a safe place, and put a reminder in your calendar the day before that day. We assume that will be October 26th. Note where your letters are stored in your reminders.

We've heard stories where people have lost their letters. Be careful to remember where you put them. That's the story.

I'd love to hear any questions that you have about how to write letters or about why we write letters. If anyone had a particular state they wanted me to tell more detail about, this is a great moment to let me know.

Colleen, are there any questions?

Colleen McCarthy: How does Vote by Mail impact this timing of sending the letters?

Jenny Eis: This campaign is to help people to remember to go vote in person, but it will also serve to remind people to send in any vote from home ballot they have. We will also have another campaign from Vote Forward that will help people vote by mail as well.

But the states have not largely settled on what their rules will be. There are a lot of court cases that are changing day by day what the vote from home landscape looks like. It's too early right now to spin up a full-blown campaign for that.

Instead, Vote Forward is going to wait. When they have settled what their rules will be, we'll start campaigns to those states then.

Vote Forward has run pilots to see what works best. They should have the results in a month or so. Don't worry, these letters that you're writing today will continue to be useful.

Just Swing Left has almost two million letters to write! That's a lot. We need to write all of these letters. Vote Forward has a goal to send 10 million letters for the election.

I hope that answers the question of how that impacts vote by mail. Any other questions, Colleen?

Colleen McCarthy: I'm answering a technical question which we probably don't think we need to address there. There was a request to hear more about Texas. Someone is writing letters to Texas.

Jenny Eis: I don't blame them. [Laughter] Texas needs our love.

Let me share a slide. Texas! Texas is a lot bluer than people think. The demographics are changing rapidly, and that makes a difference for the Electoral College votes that people get.

The Senate is a very dangerous place right now in Texas. John Cornyn is very close with Mitch McConnell. We can all say "boo" for Mitch right now. [Laughter.]

And Cornyn is close to President Trump, which could make him vulnerable. That's a much more important Senate race than I think people realize.

The Texas GOP has racially gerrymandered the state district maps. That makes the state legislature fight there incredibly important. We have targeted the most vulnerable seats there.

Among other important issues in Texas that are at risk right now are reproductive rights and healthcare. That only gets more important every day that the pandemic continues.

We have four state senate seats that have to flip to control the state senate. We have nine state house seats to flip. And there is a federal senate state. We need to flip four United States Senate seats to gain control.

Parts of that Texas battle are winnable.

Colleen McCarthy: There was a request to hear about Michigan.

Jenny Eis: Michigan is so close. It barely went to Trump in 2016. I have a colleague who worked on the field program for Hillary Clinton in Michigan while I was working for Hillary Clinton in California.

She is still traumatized by how close that vote was. Very frustrated to this day. But it's close and the scales are tipping in our favor.

The Michigan voters actually went to the voters themselves to put a ballot measure to put nonpartisan redistricting in place to make voting maps. But the Republicans in Michigan filed a lawsuit against the commission.

Obviously there are a lot of voters who want fair maps, and the GOP, we hope, is fighting a losing battle to suppress the vote.

In Michigan, the environment has been a longstanding devastating problem with lead in the water for so many people. And education, this is the home of the DeVos family, the Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos is from this state. Her family runs very powerful interests against public education.

We just need four state house seats to flip control of one of the chambers of the legislature in Michigan. It has 16 Electoral College votes. We really want those here at Swing Left. We want those 16 votes. We want payback this time.

Any other questions?

Colleen McCarthy: I don't see any right now. I was just waiting a second. There are none at this time.

Jenny Eis: I love talking about the specific targets. I'd love to see in the chat what states you're writing to. We have the state we're most angry at at the moment.

I have personally been writing to Florida. [Laughter]

Arizona. Jeanne wants me to talk about Florida. I love talking about Florida!

Poor, Florida. They have the worst state government money can buy. This was another incredibly close state in 2016. They were just 1.2%. It's winnable.

Given the popularity of Joe Biden, who is the presumptive Democratic nominee, it's winnable. That's 20 Electoral College votes.

A lot of smart folks are saying we don't win the White House without Florida. It's a great target for your letters to turn out voters.

The partisan gerrymandering in Florida was overturned by the Supreme Court. They ordered the maps to be redrawn. But they still don't look like a sane person drew them. More work needs to be done.

We have the ability to veto unfair maps if presented by the Republicans.

Florida has worked so hard to disenfranchise returning students, people who have been incarcerated but need their voting rights back. A lot of work has been done in Florida to restore voting rights. There are a lot of things at stake in Florida.

Colleen, you may have answered about how to choose a new campaign in Vote Forward. If not, can you put those instructions in the chat?

All right, team. Thank you for those great questions. Let's write some letters. I am going to put on some dancing by Misty Copeland, the beautiful woman in this picture here.

You can write undisturbed. If you need our attention, please recall that you can raise your Zoom hand. I'll show it real quick.

I'm just going to remind you how to raise your hand in Zoom. Go to the bottom of your screen. There is a control bar that says Participants. Click on that and then go to the dialogue box to the right that shows you how to raise your hand.

All right, team, let's get some letters done. Let us know who you're writing your letters to in the chat. I will put on the first of my Misty Copeland videos. She's such an interesting person. She says neat things.

[🎵 Music 🎵]

Jenny Eis: JR, I can see that you have your hand up. We're chatting you and we don't seem to be able to get your attention. Do you know how to use your chat? It's at the bottom of your screen.

We're talking to you there. Back to Misty.

[🎵 Music 🎵]

JR: Hi, guys. Can you hear me?

Jenny Eis: We can hear you. It helps if I turn the Nutcracker off.

JR: Do I download the letter that you were speaking about?

Jenny Eis: Yes. Colleen can send you instructions. Are you able to see your chat?

JR: Yes.

Jenny Eis: Colleen can send you instructions and approve you. I talked to you just before this event. If you signed up at Vote Forward, send Colleen your email and she'll go into Vote Forward and approve you right now. Then you can download the letters.

That's a good question. Other people may have that same question. I'm glad you asked it.

JR: Thanks.

Jenny Eis: Bruce, you're welcome to unmute and talk. The Nutcracker might interfere with that.

Bruce: Honestly, the music doesn't sound great. It's hard to focus. It might be better to find out who people are and where they're from.

Jenny Eis: This is a deaf and hard of hearing friendly event. We wanted to make sure there are entertainment for everyone. But there are plenty of interpreters.

Bruce: I didn't realize there was a focus for people who were hard of hearing.

Jenny Eis: There are also interpreters for people who are hard of hearing today. I welcome you to introduce yourself.

I will need to tell you a quick story about the Nutcracker. I used to work in a performing arts center. Starting on December 1st, there was nonstop Nutcracker playing over the speakers.

There were rehearsals and performances. And it never stopped being about that music until December. I am programmed to hear that music and feel it's appropriate.

Bruce: Do you feel like it's December now?

Jenny Eis: The Nutcracker is the first ballet my father took me to. It's a very pleasant memory. But I had colleagues in the building who didn't find it as enjoyable. Bruce, tell us where you're calling in from.

Bruce: I'm Bruce [redacted]. I'm in the bay area with Swing Left Peninsula. I got involved about three years ago. I got involved in the leadership there.

[Switching Transcribers]

I don't know what else to say. I have two pretty active kids. One is graduating from College.

Jenny Eis: Exciting! Are you watching President Obama give the commencement speech?

Bruce: Maybe another time. But they are graduating Monday.

Jenny Eis: Congratulations. Peggy, where are you calling in from?

Speaker: Charleston, South Carolina.

Jenny Eis: Thank you for joining us.

Speaker: I feel strongly we need to turn things around in our leadership. I was so committed to going door to door and canvassing in the coming months, but that might not be possible. So I needed an outlet for my energy and to not neglect it. I don't want the Marmalade In Charge to be reelected.

Jenny Eis: I haven't heard that one yet! Very funny! I thought I had heard them all. "Marmalade In Charge."

Speaker: Do we put our name on the letter?

Jenny Eis: Good question. I regret we didn't answer that in the feature. I always put my first and last name. I think it's weird to get something from first name only, but it's not specifically recommended. Just do what you feel is right.

Speaker: I feel it's right to put my last name.

Jenny Eis: But people should just do what they are comfortable with.

We'll switch back to David as our interpreter. Thank you so much, Stacie.

So, let's see here! I am going to go to my Gallery View. I would love to hear from Jenny [redacted.] Can you tell us where you are calling in from?

Speaker: Oakland, California. I wrote letters with Colleen last Saturday for SwingLeft Day. That was before the pandemic hit and I was hosting parties and had 100s of letters. My parties are virtual now and I'm doing them all myself, the letter writing. I have filled a whole box so far.

Jenny Eis: Fantastic. Thank you for that.

Speaker: I got my sister turned on to writing letters. Her adult sons wanted me to send some. So they wrote 100 letters to her for Mothers day and showed her them on a Zoom call.

Jenny Eis: Wonderful! I wish my kids had done something like that!

I heard the two of you talk about doing things in person, and not wanting to knock doors, but we can't do that now. So I love your transition to letter writing. That's building power to influence voters in November.

Speaker: Sadly I was supposed to be in Arizona this weekend with SwingLeft.

Jenny Eis: So many things we are missing out on. Does anyone else want to tell us where they are

writing from? Barbara?

Speaker: Hi. I'm from Mill Valley in Marin County, California. I wrote a few letters a few weeks ago, but this is the first time on the call! It's really nice to be able to hear and see others are doing this as well. Thank you for organizing.

Jenny Eis: Well, you can thank us and you are welcome, but Barbara you are doing the volunteer time! It's impressive right? How many different places and people are represented here. It's so cool.

Any one else want to introduce themselves?

Speaker: Hi. I'm Jean. I'm in Brooklyn New York. I have had the opportunity to volunteer with SwingLeft. That was for the midterms in 2016 and knocking on doors in swing districts in Jersey. I worked over the winter with SwingLeft and vote forward on voter registration. It was nice having that experience, and knowing that in the pandemic you can still do work without knocking on doors. I am curious as to the others about what knocking on doors will turn into, will it still be a thing? I look forward to what else you dream up!

Jenny Eis: No pressure! Thank you Jean for doing that and thank you for all your work in the past. Those were great victories in 2018 in flipping the houses in Jersey and New York.

Speaker: I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Stephanie from Delaware. I recently participated in letter writing for the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The Democrats flipped so that win was nice, despite all the attempted tricks.

Jenny Eis: That might have helped though, those tricks. What happened in Wisconsin, it's hard to get people to vote outside the general election. I think the Republicans did themselves a disservice. So I am appreciative of your work! It was nice to have a win finally. We will have lots of wins in November.

Speaker: What part of Delaware?

Speaker: I live in Middletown.

Speaker: Oh! That's where I was born! Well, it's where my parents first lived. I grew up in Pennsylvania close to Delaware.

Speaker: For this coming election, and we will see how it goes, but we have several groups here in Delaware. We plan to help in Pennsylvania too. That's if we get to go door to door. We will see.

Speaker: I live in California. My mother is still in Pennsylvania. But I got to know a local candidate, Antoine Andrews. He's running for a seat in the senate. I'm trying to get him financial support. He's a great guy. That's across the border from you, in Chester County.

Speaker: Everything is across from me! New Jersey. Maryland. Pennsylvania.

Jenny Eis: Delaware is a state like that. No question.

Well I hope we can canvas this Fall. If not, that's phone banking going into Pennsylvania. That's what

I will be calling "Virtual Canvassing." I can at least try it!

Any other introductions? JR? Where are you calling in from, sir?

Speaker: Just a sec.

Jenny Eis: Yes jean, I am trying to flex my creative muscles. I'm working on what phone banking will look like. I'm asking for our marketing department to change the name from Phone Banking to something appealing! [Group laughing.]

Hi JR! Are you ready? Oops. No. You muted yourself.

Speaker: What is an appealing name for phone banking?

Jenny Eis: Virtual Canvassing? I have heard "canvas from your couch" but that belongs to someone else. That's with a group in Arizona.

Speaker: Virtual Canvassing? I don't warm up to that.

Jenny Eis: Bruce! You hurt me!

Speaker: Politics is vicious. I think people don't understand what the term "virtual" means.

Jenny Eis: With an [redacted] email, you might be more likely to understand the implications.

Speaker: You have that from my email! Shoot!

Jenny Eis: I used to live three miles from [redacted].

Speaker: Shoot. I don't want my workplace associated with this! But for those who don't know --

Jenny Eis: I was hoping that [redacted] was on the side of light.

Speaker: I don't represent them. That should be my yahoo address.

Jenny Eis: I'm sorry. I have nothing to say about this.

Speaker: I need to strip that email from the system somehow.

Jenny Eis: I or Colleen can show you. It's in account settings in Zoom. Do you have a better email?

Speaker: Yeah, I have a yahoo address I usually use.

Jenny Eis: And you have a better name for "virtual canvassing?"

Speaker: I think "virtual" is meaningless to people.

Jenny Eis: It's better than phone banking though.

Speaker: No doubt.

Jenny Eis: JR, do you want our attention?

JR: Yes! Can you hear me? Excellent.

Yeah, I'm in Lavone [sp?] TX just northeast of Dallas. On the thing that was given, with the town/city or state, there's no street addresses. Is that important?

Jenny Eis: oh no. That's a glitch. It should be on the bottom. There's no street address?

JR: I don't see any street addresses.

Jenny Eis: Download a different batch and then Colleen will get the information to you. Can I get your assessment on the state of the races in Texas?

JR: It was spot on. We have a good chance to flip one seat. Cruz came close to losing his seat. But the Republicans tried that voter suppression and so Beto couldn't get it. But I would agree with you.

There's lots of hanky panky going on.

Jenny Eis: I don't take credit for the analysis. That's our great political team, but I like that you can back it up.

JR: Cornyn, [sp?] had been against the ACA. He knows he might not be reelected. He's the type of person that will say one thing and then once elected, he will gut it. He was the attorney general too here for awhile. He was just a lap dog and did whatever people told him to.

But I think we have a good chance to make the state purple and turn it over.

Jenny Eis I would love to see it blue again. Peggy I saw your hand raised?

Speaker: You were talking about virtual canvassing, what about "save democracy from your home?"

Jenny Eis: I like that! I'm writing it down.

Speaker: And I wanted to say, JR was asking about why couldn't he see the street addresses? For me too, those came up in boxes. When I downloaded the letter, the name was printed at the bottom. But I couldn't get that list you spoke of, Jenny. I spoke with Colleen about it.

Speaker: The cover sheet didn't download.

Speaker: I couldn't download the PDFs. It took too much time.

Jenny Eis: Colleen is great for tech support. Sometimes if you try to download more than 20 at a time, it gets difficult. So I will let Colleen get back to you.

Betty, I thought I saw you on video? Did you want to introduce yourself.

Speaker: I'm Betty. I don't have a printer. So I can't get the letter. Maybe at a point I will get a copy from my friend Peggy. She's in my town.

Jenny Eis: [Laughing.] There's a connection here!

Speaker: I'll get them and then do it by hand.

Jenny Eis: They are meant to be done by hand.

Speaker: Maybe she can get an extra list when she figures it out. I'm not good with computers anyway. So I don't mind writing a few at a time.

It feels good to be able to do something.

Jenny Eis: It does doesn't it? Is that your Masks?

Speaker: Yes! Its a table napkin held together with hair ties.

Jenny Eis: How clever! And it's a pretty color.

Speaker: And safety pins!

Jenny Eis: We make do!

I'm so glad you were at least able to join us for company. I hope Peggy gets you hooked up soon though.

Speaker: If she's available.

Speaker: Then all I have to do is print! This is a good deal.

Jenny Eis: if they supply people, then others get the hand cramps from writing. [Laughing.] It's worth it!

My aunt before the pandemic was running weekly letter writing parties at her house in a local retirement community. She first told me she had shortened her message. I didn't understand what she meant, but it was because her hand hurt. Then I sat down to write my letters, and I was writing a small civics essay. About the 5th letter that was the end of that! Then I went to my 2 line message.

It was a good idea! She was right, writing a long message is painful!

If any have more messages, or Betty, would you share what you are going to write? I would love for everyone to see it. Everyone will see the chat after the event so you can have your message shared with others. Don't hesitate!

Sorry -

Bruce: This is Bruce again, but I have a question for the group.

I have a bit of an ulterior motive. I put the newsletter together for SwingLeft. So I'm always trying to

motivate people to join these letter writing parties. I'm curious about why people sign up for it!

What's a good sentence or two to put in the next newsletter, and give people a great reason why they should sign up to do it?

Speaker: Where do you want that? In the chat?

Bruce: Out loud is great.

Speaker: If you chat it, or if you say it then it's in the transcript too.

Jenny, did you have a question?

Speaker: Is it the lean left motto from the podcast? I was so depressed with what's going on with Barr, I mean I couldn't even get off the couch. I wallowed in it for a while and then I wrote 40 letters. Then I felt sooo much better.

The tagline is --

Speaker: Action is the answer to anxiety.

Speaker: Action is the antidote to despair. I have heard that one. Barbara, what gets you to join these parties?

[Switching transcribers.]

Barbara: The same as what she just said. I am so frustrated and despairing about what's happening that I feel I have to do something. This makes me feel better to be able to make an effort to make a difference.

Bruce: You can do that at home, period, though. You didn't have to get on this party. Why did you come to this party?

Barbara: I wrote a few letters earlier a few weeks ago. When I got the message about the Zoom call, I've been on a lot of Zoom calls lately. I felt this would be a good way to connect with other people who feel the same way and maybe motivate me even more.

I also asked other people to join.

Jenny Eis: I'm going to pause you for just a moment. We're going to switch over to Stacy now. Thank you, David.

Barbara, what I'm hearing is that you are exhausted and it's nice to have people who think the same way.

Barbara: Yes. And people who are willing to make an effort to do something about it. A lot of people just complain and get frustrated and angry, but that doesn't make a difference. This can help make a difference.

Jenny Eis: Action is our secret weapon. It's what keeps me going. I'll say what I said earlier in this event. Seeing all of you is what keeps me going.

When you show up for these events, you don't know what it means to us. It's so reassuring that people found a way to put one foot in front of the other to keep fighting no matter how tough it's been getting out there.

We see you and appreciate you more than we could possibly say. I'm glad you all are here.

We're going to wrap up. Speaking of keeping each other company, we've had a lovely hour-and-some together. We'll write for a few more minutes together and then we'll let you go.

I see Amy working very hard. Amy, where are you calling in from?

Amy: I'm calling in from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, near Providence. But I'm moving to Dallas, Texas. I'm learning what I can about the region.

Jenny Eis: Are you moving to the Houston area?

Amy: North Dallas.

Jenny Eis: We welcome another Texas voter on this call. Or soon-to-be Texas voter. Good choice! We should all move to states where we can make a difference! [Laughter]

Thanks for being with us today. Has everyone had a chance to introduce themselves today? Does anyone else want to answer Bruce's question about what gets you to join these events so he can help attract people to his events in Northern California?

Bruce: Not just our events. I push these national calls as well.

Jenny Eis: I appreciate that, Bruce, very much. We appreciate that. On Tuesday night, we have movie stars. Is that what you're doing, Bruce? Will you have Kyra Sedgewick join you?

Bruce: An email went out an hour ago that specifically calls out that event.

Jenny Eis: We're pretty fancy here. I am one degree from Kevin Bacon, if that helps anybody.

Peggy added that her desire to be here today was motivated to get some questions answered because she's brand new to it. I hope she found the company delightful. That's why she stayed once she got the answers to her questions, of course.

It's interesting that you can write letters faster. Peggy, we feel such an obligation to keep up social interaction at the party, given that you assume it has a party feel.

I have been chastened and castigated and told that it's too distracted. "I'm making mistakes!" I got told by a three-generation team working together that all of the chatter was causing them to make errors.

[Laughter] It's real! It's true. It's a difficult balance to hit. My colleague, Matt, has quiet rooms where people can just write together quietly.

As an extrovert, I can imagine that's nice for people, but I can't imagine doing so myself.

With that, I will bid you all a great weekend. I appreciate you all so much. I have asked the interpreter team to stay on after everyone else leaves. I will say goodbye.

You will have to say goodbye to everyone. Bye, folks. Have a wonderful, wonderful weekend. Stay safe. And thank you for Writing Left.

[Everyone saying goodbye.]

[End of event.]

Disclaimer: This transcription provides a meaning-for-meaning summary to facilitate communication access. It is the ultimate responsibility of the client to verify the accuracy of the information provided. Thank you.