

# 2024 Summit – Surviving, Thriving & Winning in 2024

Facilitator: Nicole Zambrando

Leader Panelists

1. Jordan Hiller, SD Portland+
2. Maureen Sheehan, SD South Bay
3. Laura Durkin, SD Greater Chicago

## Goals

- Explore strategies and tactics to build a strong, sustainable volunteer base in 2024 by centering the accomplishments/impact of Democratic state legislature victories, building community, and organizing sustainably.

## Pillar 1: Sustainability in Organizing

- Defining Sustainability
  - Setting ourselves up for present and *future* success
- Practicing Sustainability
  - Sustainability is hard, *but we don't need to do it all at once and we don't need to do it alone.*

## Pillar 2: The Importance of Building Community

- Our work is more fun when we do it together!
- By being mindful of the importance of community, we can be proactive about generating it!

## Leader Panel

- How are we feeling?
  - Laura: Anxious, but hopeful. Hearing about the *opportunity* for state legislatures makes her helpful about what is to come in 2024!
  - Jordan: Resolute, focused!
  - Maureen: Optimistic – simply inspired by everyone she works with at SDP!
- What motivates you to keep going in this work that we do?
  - Laura: The strong belief that we make an impact
  - Jordan: Focusing on what keeps him going, I do my part so I can sleep at night know that there are so many folks doing the same for the common end goal.
  - Maureen: The volunteers she gets to work with & lead, and big Sister District staff! Celebrating every success!

- Are there any things that you do to help stay optimistic, even when things get hard?
  - Laura: She drops her political activism in the off-cycle, and moves toward local volunteering – this winter, spending time with a local food bank.
  - Jordan: Resting is key!
  - Maureen: Spending time with friends and family post-cycle, and spending time planning trips & visits during the cycle!
- How have you found success building your Sister District community?
  - Laura: Maximizing connection during phonebanks, especially through the chat! Being intentional with direct messages, too, letting folks know that they are so appreciated.
  - Jordan: Understanding that we, as leaders, set the tone for the community! Going above and beyond to have the sense of community trickle down to every single volunteer and participant.
  - Maureen: Taking the time to get to know one another (baby shower!), facilitating meaningful connection that transcends set two-hour phonebanks!
- How do we make big, lofty goals more accessible?
  - Jordan: We break these big goals into small, attainable stepping stones. Instilling the belief that everything everyone contributes truly makes a difference.
  - Maureen: Empathy is key! Commiserating, but motivating them for the next go-around. Also, meeting individuals where they are – going above and beyond bring them into the fold
- How do you maximize collaboration, creating sustainability amongst your leaders?
  - Maureen: Putting systems in place to ensure that no one is on their own.
  - Jordan: Asking for help! You won't receive help if you do not ask. Also, delegation!
  - Laura: Easing into leadership by being a co-leader.