CANDIDATE SPEECH

FOR

MARY CARVALHO

Hello everyone!! I’m Mary Carvalho and I want to thank each one of you for being here and for giving me the opportunity to speak to you and **with** you. California is a **biiiiig** state and all walks of life and interests are represented thanks to the amazing diversity of our voting delegates. Like the commercial that invites us all to “Visit California,” people may think we’re just a “bunch of Average Joes” living in our own bubbles but that’s far from true. We represent incredible, interesting, unique, exciting, progressive young people in a modern, tuned in, fast paced, hip, and sunny cultur… don’t forget sunny! Yes people, we represent the state of Disney and dreams, Apple and hi tech schemes, we are **COOLIFORNIA**!! The traffic may be challenging… let’s face it, I’m sure the quickest part of most commutes to school is the ride down the driveway (**Wait for the laugh**), but show of hands…. how many of you have friends that suffered through winter in any place other than California??? Yes, no matter what… the weather… (**Do a slow determined clap…. clap…. clap…**).

Yes, this is California, a colorful, vibrant, active, sunny state and each one of its student delegates has a really golden opportunity to represent…. to share… and to maintain and promote our points of view to government. Kid Cudi once said, “Some people just don’t want to see change, but thankfully there are a lot of people more optimistic for something new…” I want to remind all of you that we, as young adults, are that “something new,” and it is our responsibility to play an active part in determining the policies and programs that will govern our communities. And we really need to participate in a cooperative, meaningful, and productive way.

As representatives of the involved youth of the state of California, we form a network… yes… kind of like Netflix… and when I think of my own history of service, I can see parallels in my progress as being inspired by the network that started small and is slowly but surely reflecting many aspects of our lives…streaming content, ideas, and concepts to larger audiences. I see each of my four years of high school as seasons… I remember my first year as a freshman…. my first conference… I was new… raw… green… kind of like a fresh DVD shipped to that conference in that red and white envelope with the return pack… ahhhhh… it seems so long ago and so primitive!!! I remember thinking… “This is a big deal… are the state officers famous??” And then after the conference I packed myself up in the return pouch and kept my eyes and ears open to learn more about the responsibilities I eagerly accepted. In my second- sophomore year…there were Career Development events… impromptu horse judging… I remember realizing that, as I got more familiar with my duties I developed my public speaking skills and all along, I learned priceless life lessons…. kind of like when Netflix began exploring the possibility of developing their own series… I was observing, researching, and developing my own tools for leadership. In my junior year I became a section officer, traveled across the country to places like Washington DC and Louisville for conferences, and like Netflix I was developing my own metrics to identify the issues and solutions to propose and discuss with people of influence. My fourth season… my senior year of High School, I was Region Officer and took over the capital fighting for agriculture legislation.

The world has changed a lot in the past five years. So has Netflix and so have I. We now have the chance to fast forward through the slow parts so we can get to the “meat.” And with our involvement in this program we can do the same thing. You know how for some people their greatest talent is binge watching five years of a series in one week? Imagine how all of that input can influence how we serve on our committees? We can use our Netflix world to learn to creatively problem solve… Think about it. What if we adapt our body clocks to Netflix streaming time…. and we had fifteen seconds between episodes… or research or homework time… but the refrigerator was twenty seconds away??? Well I would have to figure it out!! Thanks to Netflix I can imagine life in different ways and that influences my service. …For instance… instead of the “old” way of watching an episode a week, now we can watch nine hours straight of the same show. The characters become our friends. We are immersed in their lives… We miss them by the time we finish the last episode. … We **care**…and then we don’t know what to do with our lives… until the next new series starts!

We should all be relieved that one slogan captured our imagination… I mean really… Where would we be if “YouTube and Panic” or Hulu and Stress Out” were more popular? (**Wait for the laugh**). Netflix has trained us in many ways…. by giving us choices… by keeping us interested… and by providing fifteen seconds between episodes to decide what the next moves you make will be…You all now have fifteen seconds…. or actually a little more if you **really** need it… to determine what you want your organization to look like for the coming year. So I invite you to hit the pause button and vote for me!! With your support, when I’m elected for my next term as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I will be happy to represent you and your visions of the future! I am excited to come up with new ways to represent you, to share our voice throughout our network, and to make a difference as we spread our word of involvement in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you all!