

HUNTINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESENTS: ***THE BLUE NEWS***

Volume 2/ Issue 4

April 19, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 20, 7:00 p.m. Map the Vote training Zoom via Mobilize.

April 21, 7:00 pm Wells County Zoom & Politics

April 24 5:00-6:30, Wells Co Dems Baked Potato Sale

April 28, 7:00 pm Meet the State Chair Zoom

April 29, 6:00 pm Turn Left with Dana Black on Facebook featuring Christine and Xeryus.

April 30 6:30 Arbor Day tree planting (more info to come)

May 1, 9:00 am, Spring 200 West clean up.

May 1-30 Diaper and Wipe community service collection

May 7, First Fridays in Auburn

May 10, 6:30 HCDP Mtg,



HCDP DEMOCRATS OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Congratulations to Mary Ellen Neuenschwander and Joyce Bentz on each receiving a Democrat of the Year award for their outstanding contribution to the Democratic Party and to the integrity of the 2020 General election.



PAMPERED CHEF PARTY A HUGE SUCCESS!

Mary Ellen Neuenschwander, Deputy Chair of Fundraising, reported to the committee and the general membership on Monday, April 12 that the party has earned \$842.00 from our online Pampered Chef party. We will be having another online party in the fall to help our Dems do a bit of gift shopping for the holidays and our party benefits. Thank you to all who ordered.

APRIL COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT

Our community service event for April is collecting donations of personal hygiene items in order to give women some dignity. We have a new source of shopping if you are unable to get out to shop via Amazon. Please visit our Facebook Page for the link. If you have already done a bit of shopping, and need to drop off those donations, please contact Christine.

PC'S NEEDED HUNTINGTON 11, 11a, 12, JEFFERSON, SALAMONIE 1 (WARREN), SALMONIE 2 (WARREN) AND WAYNE

If you would like to represent one of these Precincts, please contact Christine to be appointed. We also need of Vice PC's in Huntington 1A, 2A, 3, 4, 5A, 6A, 7, 7A, 8, 10, 11, 11A, 12, 12A, Clear Creek 1 & 2, Dallas 1, Jackson 1, Jackson 4, Jefferson, Lancaster, Rock Creek, Salamonie 1 & 2, Warren (Bippus) and Wayne.

“Surround yourself with people who are only going to lift you higher.”

Contact Us

Huntington County Democratic Party

2915 E 630 N, Huntington, IN 46750
260-786-0701 (Christine Bohm, Chair)

huntingtondemchair@gmail.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HuntingtonDemocraticParty>

Twitter: @HuntingtonCoun1

Donation Link:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/huntingtoncounty>



SAVE YOUR PLASTIC LIDS PLEASE!

We are collecting lids to have them turned into a Buddy Bench. Please read the article below for the details. We are extremely excited about this project! UPDATE: We have already gathered 11 moving boxes of lids. PLEASE continue to collect them. The Bohm

house can be a storage area until we have enough to get our first bench.

<https://www.scearthconnection.org/bottle-caps-to-benches/>

HCDP WOMEN'S COUNCIL HELD THEIR FIRST MEETING ON APRIL 15

Many of the members of the HCDP Women's Council joined a zoom call on April 15 to officially begin the Council's work on the Outstanding Women of

Huntington County's award dinner. The council voted on October 2 as the date and they are currently working on a location, caterer, award design, floral arrangements, printed program design, advertiser list, guest lists, silent auction donations, and other pertinent items to have a successful event.

The council decided the award categories will be: Youth Mentorship, Volunteerism, Public Education, Nursing/Medical, Community Service, Bootstraps and Woman Owned business. It was also decided that the Scholarships will be given to women who are returning to college after a break from High School. The goal is for each of the 2 scholarships to be in the amount of \$1,000 each.

Based on that goal, they have set the dinner price at \$30.00 per ticket. A full page ad in the full-color program will be \$250, half page is \$150 and a quarter page is \$100. Friends and family make insert a 1-2 sentence congratulations statement for \$20. Each award winner will receive 2 tickets to the dinner.

More details to follow as the Council meets again on May 20 at 6:30 via Zoom. It is important that all appointed members of the HCWC attend these zoom meetings.

Lori Rice, Chair; Roxanna Lucas Murray, Vice Chair; Pamela Beckford, Treasurer; Erika Bruce, Amber Mellinger, Cynthia Wehr, Stephanie Tipton Martz, Joyce Bentz, Mary Ellen Neuenschwander, Sara Beaver and Carla MacDonald. We still need one of the appointed members to act as Secretary. All women of HCDP can be general members. Sorry guys, this one is for the members who identify as women only.

SUBCOMMITTEE'S STILL BEING FORMED:

As we continue to grow and reinvent our party, we would like to form a few additional committees to help lighten the burden for the Central Committee. We are looking for volunteers for an event planning committee, a fund-raising committee to be headed by Deputy Chair of Fund-raising, Mary Ellen Neuenschwander, and a candidate training and support committee. Briefly, we envision the committees to help in the following areas:

Event planning: parades, fireworks displays, candidate meet and greets, special monthly meetings, Blue Gala event, and other things of this sort.

Fund-raising: help plan and execute plans for different fund-raising opportunities. An example would be a baked potato sale, community garage sale, raffle ticketed events, etc. This is a wide-open field that we can have a lot of fun planning and hosting.

Candidate training and support: this could include helping candidates prepare for debates, helping craft messages that appeal to different demographics of the voting community, helping organize canvassing events, and other things necessary to insure a successful campaign.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these committees, please reach out to Christine.

BLUE ACRES

I think it is finally ok to put the snow shovel away and get busy. Planting season begins by month's end if the weather holds, all the equipment is getting serviced, seed has been bought, soon groundwork begins, and then planting Indiana's number one crop, corn. Per reporting from Morning AG Clips, "Indiana corn production in 2020 totaled 982 million bushels, 21 percent above 2019. Corn acreage harvested for grain totaled 5.25 million, up 9 percent from 2019. The average yield of 187 bushels per acre was 18 bushels above 2019." <https://www.morningagclips.com/indiana-annual-crop-summary-2/> There are 7,539 agriculture acres in Huntington County.

Those nice rows of towering corn come at a cost. The Estimated per Acre Crop Budgets for 2021 (Purdue Extension estimates) varies from 379.00 - 438.00 per acre from planting to selling. There are many other variables that affect the price; for the farmer there are the upfront costs. The equipment needed, fuel, maintenance routines, and repairs are a factor. Along with the cost of the seed, comes fertilizers, insect control, weed control, and fungicides. When the corn first comes up, it is time to side dress the corn, meaning fertilizer that is injected in between rows; two inches beside and two inches below the seed. Farmers may **apply** nitrogen shortly after (or even during) planting, to make sure that nitrogen is there for the plant as soon as those roots start to grow." Those white tanks, anhydrous ammonia; a good source of nitrogen, will soon be running thousands of miles hauling them all over the county to be used for side dressing corn. Anhydrous ammonia is a less expensive way to provide nitrogen but must be handled with care. The estimated harvest costs of corn must be included as well. Just a few costs are the propane and electricity to dry the corn, moisture affects the price, pushing it down for the farmer. The costs of the propane and electricity do not go down. Think how much out of pocket expense could be lowered as well as production costs, if farmers could go solar power without having their electric co-op, REMC, punish for using the farmer's own electricity. Back to corn production.

The equipment used to get a crop in the ground are massive and expensive. What was once accomplished by horse, is now done by a Deere, sorry, red is not an appropriate color for a Democratic publication. With green tractors, those can hide in the ditch until it is fixed. Whew, got bi-colorship in! No matter the color, it works. Equipment has evolved into monstrous implements that require massive amounts of horsepower to haul, even more so while working the ground. Today's implements can include chisel plows, discs, and rakes.

However, the rolling basket harrows is all in one piece, field cultivator, an ominous sight if you have not seen one before. This piece of equipment cuts costs as less fuel is needed, fewer passes over the ground means less ground compaction from heavy equipment driving all over it, and time, which is worth its weight in gold.



Chisel plows dig into the ground to break it up.

The disc cuts through the clods left by the plow.



The rake flattens out the remaining clods and last's years bean or corn stubble so the rolling harrow can chop them up.



There is also the planter. I have shown a 20 row. Each yellow bin seen is full of seed corn. The planter can either inject the seed with air pressure or direct placement in the ground. The planting depth can be set at a certain depth, typically 2" deep, so that each seed is uniformly planted in a row and the same depth. The planter on the left pictured below is the typical planter which basically makes a cut in the ground and places the seed at an exact depth. The one pictured on the right is an air planter. It uses forced air to inject the seed in the ground. Corn planters come in various sizes, 12 rows is the average but sizes vary from 16-24 row planters.



Getting corn in the ground is a process for sure. We use corn for so many various food products and non-food products. It feeds animals as well as us. Corn gives us cereal, cheaper gas, bourbon, taco shells, salad dressing, plastics, crayons, glue...it comes with a cost. For just 70 acres of corn, at the listed average prices above, Purdue Extension figures, it costs 26,530-30,660 dollars out of pocket for the farmer. Gives a different perspective on the knee high by 4th of July.

Joyce—

DISTRICT REORGANIZATION:

On March 13, the 3rd Congressional district held their reorganization caucus. Election results were: Christine Bohm, Chair, Xeryus Johnson, Vice Chair, Martha (Marty) Lemert, Secretary and Kristy Richardson, Treasurer. The new central committee of the 3rd District will be working closely with all 12 county committees in an effort to unite the district Democrats and start making some inroads towards replacing Jim Banks in Congress, along with Todd Young in the Senate in 2022. If you would like to be involved in the District, please reach out to Xeryus or Christine about opportunities for you to assist.

STATE PARTY REORGANIZATION:

The Indiana Democratic Party reorganization meeting was held on March 20, 2021. Mike Schmuhl was elected Chairman, Myla Eldridge Vice Chair. Henry Fernandez remains as Treasurer. Rick Sutton remains as Secretary

THE BOOK WORM

If you are an avid reader, or come across a book you just love, feel free to send your recommendation to Christine to include in this list. We are thrilled that Pamela Beckford has given us this list. Pamela is an avid reader and we thank her for this contribution to our party!

The Cult of Trump by Steve Hassan

I thought this would feed me all the reasons that Trump has commandeered the people who follow him. There was some of that, but Hassan goes into cults in general. As a former Moonie, Hassan speaks with a voice of authority and details various cults and cult behaviors and then ties it up with a nice, neat bow on how Trump preys on his followers and grooms them. Is it a cult? Disclaimer: This book is a little older and a lot has happened since it was published, but then, that could just be a week in the life of Trump's White House.



Women, Race and Class by Angela Davis

In honor of International Women's Day, I read something a little out of the mainstream. This was actually a fascinating history of how feminism and racism interacted through the years. Not the most exciting book you will read, but very educational. We could all stand to learn something new.

Beautiful Things by Hunter Biden

With all the Hunter Biden hype, I was really looking forward to reading this book. And it did not disappoint. It chronicles his addiction struggles, his life with Beau, only a little about Joe and Jill. But what it did show with his parents was their bottomless love and support. It was raw and emotional (I cried through many sections). It shows how addictions can hit anyone and that they are not just something you make up your mind to escape. It was a quick read and I really recommend this for everyone.

HCDP GARAGE SALE:

The Brookfield Estates annual garage sale is scheduled for June 4, 5, & 6. Christine and Thomas will be having a yard sale, and since their driveway is 140 ft long, it is perfect to line the drive with tables and tents. If you would like to participate and sell your own items, you may do so with a donation of \$10 for the table space. If you have items that you are willing to donate to the party, please contact Christine or Mary Ellen and we can pick those items up. All items given to us will be sold and the profits will be given to the HCDP general fund. If there are items left at the end of the 3 days, the HCDP will donate any good, usable items to a local Huntington charity.

HCDP DAWGS GUN CLUB OFFICIALLY FORMS:

The HCDP DAWGS (Democrats Always Working on Gun Safety) Club officially began meeting on April 15. The purpose of the club is two-fold. 1) promote education, training and safety for all residents of Huntington County, 2) to take away the narrative from the Republicans that all Democrats want to take away their guns and abolish the 2nd Amendment.

Participation in the DAWGS and all training or meetings is open to anyone and no one is obligated to attend if they are not comfortable with firearms. We do however, recommend that everyone come to the safety and educational meetings. Even those of us who have owned firearms for many years can always use a refresher course on safety issues. The DAWGS plan on holding target shooting classes at Roush Range, having guest speakers in from different law enforcement agencies, and giving away FREE gun locks to the community at least once per year. Membership is free, but donations towards the cost of range fees and the purchase of locks is greatly appreciated.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR:

Ok, you got me! I am super late on this issue. I have tons of excuses, but the only one that matters is that I really wanted to be able to announce the Democrat of the Year award winners, the first meeting of the Womens Council and the first meeting of the DAWGS. Yes, it has been a super busy month and it looks like that will continue for quite awhile!

Our community service projects are getting some attention. On Sunday, April 18, Mark Gevaart of My Labor Radio released the interview I did with him on Friday. He was so kind with his generous words of encouragement about our community service work, our outreach programs, our Dem of the Year awards, etc. But we aren't finished yet! We have so many cool things planned for the rest of the year, I don't want to overwhelm you. We are going to have a BBQ, Cornhole and Fishing meeting at our home in June, our Outstanding Women's awards in October, we have yard sales, and flea markets, and farmers markets, and just a ton of fun and worthwhile activities planned. But we can't do it without you. We are steadily growing our circle of Democrats, but we always have room for more. Please consider bringing a friend with you to the next meeting!

I am getting ready to release a list of all of the seats that will be on the ballot in 2022. Seriously start considering putting your name on the ballot. You may not win, but at least you tried. It is time we start having discussions with people about how they vote and WHY. You see, most people believe in the Democratic values we hold dear. The problem is they have been told it's not ok to believe in equality, human rights, fair wages, insurance coverage for all, common sense gun reform, funding public education. Now is the time for us to step up and show our neighbors through our actions, that having a successful community means that ALL are successful, not just a few. If we are all prospering individually, we are all prospering collectively.

If you haven't already joined our private Facebook group "Huntington County Dems", please do so. Our members share some awesome and pertinent information. If I tried to keep all of you abreast of every single bill, event or issue being discussed, I would bombard your email daily and I wouldn't get anything else accomplished.

As you can, please start sharing the American Jobs Plan from President Biden to your social media. If this plan goes through, Indiana will be a large beneficiary. We need those funds, the infrastructure, the jobs, the hope and the future. It is in all of our best interests to convince our family, friends and neighbors that this is a GOOD thing for Huntington.

As always, it is an honor to be your Chair, but most importantly, to call you friends,

Christine