

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

Volume 2/ Issue 1

January 8, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan 18, National Day of
Action Humane Society Pet
supplies

Jan 18, 6:30 PM HCDP Zoom
Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84215803035?pwd=Nop5UXcvTllqOHZlbnUliN1c4YnNYdz09>

Jan 19, 5:00 p.m., Candlelight
vigil, 5:30 p.m. bell ringing
ceremony for lives lost to
Covid, Allen Co courthouse

Jan 20, Inauguration (Zoom
watch party?)

Jan 21, we breathe and sleep



*We have completed our new
logo!*

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION JANUARY 18 EVENT

President-Elect Joe Biden has asked that we participate in the National Day of Action on the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr, January 18. The INDems will help promote our activities. Since our January community action event is the local animal shelters, we will be collecting items for the Huntington County Humane Society. Some of the items on their wish list include: dry kitten food, small paper plates, wet cat food, kitty litter, Rescue One-Step Disinfectant, peanut butter (smooth), trash bags, training pads, toilet paper, toys, treats, paper towels, latex-free gloves. We will be collecting these items until noon on January 18, and then delivering them to the HuCo Humane Society. Please reach out to coordinate your donation for pick up or you may drop off at Christine's home.

FIRST ANNUAL 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS ONLINE AUCTION IN THE BOOKS!

Our Facebook auction netted the party a total of \$700!!! Thank you to everyone who bid and/or won items! Be sure to join our FB group to keep up on the daily events and posts from our members.

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

W.A.P. COAT DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thank you Scottie Thornsberry for helping the HCDP have a great coat drive. Yes, it was raining, cold and nasty on that Saturday morning, but that didn't stop our members from donating! We collected 43 coats and lots of hats, scarves and gloves and we were able to deliver them before Christmas to Place of Grace.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE HCDP "DEMOCRAT OF THE YEAR" AWARD EXPECTED IN MID-MARCH 2021: UPDATE

Holidays have delayed the arrival of the Awards. We are hoping to have them for our in-person March meeting. We will be honoring a Huntington County Democrat with an award. Criteria for this award will be volunteerism, spirit of the Democratic party, willingness to help when needed, and general participation within the HCDP activities.

*"Don't let the behavior of others destroy your
inner peace", Dalai Lama*

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](https://twitter.com/HuntingtonCoun1)

Donation Link:

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



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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST PRECINCT COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

Orion McCormack and Cynthia Hyde!

PRECINCT COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED! NOTE: THERE WILL BE A HIATUS ON APPOINTMENTS FROM FEBRUARY 4-MARCH 7. PLEASE BECOME A PC NOW SO YOU CAN VOTE ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS ON MARCH 6, 2021

Normally, Precinct Committee members are voted on in the Primary elections in 2022, but the Chair can appoint members to be PC's outside of the election window. We need additional PC's to help us represent all of the areas within Huntington County. The PC's are voting members of the Party and have the only votes for the election of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. PC's are asked to attend Caucus meetings to conduct these votes, be the "eyes and ears" of the precinct to keep us up-to-date on the needs of the community, and to assist voters when necessary. If you have any interest in becoming a PC, please contact Christine Bohm. The other party fights over being a Precinct Committee member, let's fill our full slate! Attached is the link to the INDEM website that gives a full description of the responsibilities and role of PC's. Keep in mind when reading that guide, we have a much smaller community that larger counties such as Allen, Marion and Lake and therefore, some of the information is irrelevant to our county.

<http://www.indems.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Indems-Precinct-Committeeperson-Handbook.pdf>

2021 YEARLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ALMOST COMPLETE

Brian Humphries, Vice Chair and Christine Bohm, Chair are working to create a yearly schedule of suggested events we can sponsor or support, along with a month-by-month calendar for fund-raising ideas. If you have any suggestions, please contact Christine at the above email, or Brian at huntingtondemvc@gmail.com. We are hoping to have this list finished and published by the February 1, 2021.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

Please consider joining this amazing group! <https://www.nfdw.com/membership>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR WRITERS NEEDED

A letter to the editor (LTE) is a good source of providing the entire community with an opposing point of view. We need people who would like to write LTE's and submit them to the local papers. Each LTE should be no more than 500 words, will need to have your name and city published. If you are an excellent writer, but are concerned with publishing under your name, please reach out to us and we will find a "volunteer" who will submit your letter under their own name. Please remember to use polite language, good grammar, and most importantly, get to the point. You can submit your LTE to The Tab at tabnewsroom@comcast.net and to the Herald Press at hpnews@h-online.com.

LOCAL COMMITTEES' AND BOARDS

Thank you to everyone who has applied to be on the numerous Boards and Committees within the County. The Central Committee wishes each and every one of you "Good Luck!" We begin with small appointments and we end with BIG elections. Stay involved in your community. Your voice is needed.

PARTY SUB-COMMITTEES BEING FORMED: CAN YOU VOLUNTEER? WOMEN'S COUNCIL ADDED TO THE LIST!

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, Joyce Bentz, 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.

Women's Council: to promote women's issues and celebrate the accomplishments of Outstanding Women throughout our community. To have a yearly Awards dinner in which 5 different areas of accomplishment are recognized and to provide 2, \$500 scholarships to local High School Seniors. This will be designed to be a NON-PARTISAN event. I need people on this Council who are looking for ways to lift other women up!

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

HUNTINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RE-ORGANIZATION IS SET FOR MARCH 6, 2021

Due to COVID, our County Central Committee elections will be held on March 6, 2021 at Noon via a Drive-thru voting procedure. Due to INDem's rules, these elections must be made by secret ballot. Since the safest way to conduct this election during the age of COVID, is to have no-contact, the easiest solution will be for people to drop their ballots in a box on the day of voting. We will NOT be able to do this virtually as we did in the special election on July 1, 2020. More details will be forthcoming. Please remember, that only Precinct Committee people and Deputy Chairs will have the option to vote on the Central Committee. General members are not voting members in this election. To become a PC, please contact Christine Bohm. We WANT people to put in their "Intent for Candidacy". Our complaint in the local elections are that there isn't a choice. Step up to be either Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or Treasurer and give the

Huntington County Democrats a choice on leadership! An “Intent for Candidacy” letter should simply include your contact information and the position within the Central Committee for which you seek to be a candidate. ALL INTENT FOR CANDIDACY LETTERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 24, 2021. You must submit this in writing to Pat McCloskey at pat46mccloskey@gmail.com , or to Christine Bohm at huntingtondemchair@gmail.com. Deadlines and election dates and times are not arbitrary and are regulated by the Indiana Democratic Party.

AG NEWS:

Our newest contribution to our party is the introduction of the Agriculture section, fittingly called: Blue Acres. It is time for us to help our members understand more about the importance of our agricultural roots and how each decision made at the Federal level, in addition to any state or local regulations, affects our entire community. Thank you Joyce Bentz for agreeing to help our members better understand this subject. Hint: meat doesn't come in plastic wrap!

BLUE ACRES

Welcome to the farm! This first edition comes as introduction to Blue Acres. Contributors will be bringing you agriculture news both rural and urban. We hope to educate and advocate for practices and policies that serve our farming community. Farming is more than amber waves of grain, and fields of grazing bovine. Our urban communities are becoming more aware of the benefits of having fresh food readily available. If COVID has taught us anything, it is to be prepared. Urban farms can supply those in food deserts with fresh food and protein on a regular basis.

Blue Acres will cover such topics as taxes, costs, subsidies, climate control, pesticides, weed control, organic farming, effects of trade wars, pricing and markets, what is a “small” farm, what is a corporate farm, government agencies focused on farming, and, but not limited to, family life of farmers. Farming is not confined to huge fields or livestock barns. With the increase in urban farms comes rules and regulations. How is an urban farm set up? What materials are needed? Is it a big garden or a working farm?

I want to hear from you. What questions do you want answered about agriculture? Blue Acres is open to suggestions and in-put. Feel free to contact me, jbentz6300@msn.com. I want to hear from you. I am no expert, keep me informed of your knowledge as well. Farms are an important part of Huntington County. Without property taxes, the county lacks. With no grocery stores south of the railroad tracks all the way to southern most parts of the county, it is glaringly obvious urban farms would be a huge asset for those living within the city limits. I look forward to learning along with you. My wish through Blue Acres is for readers to gain understanding of the workings of agriculture and how it affects all of us in some way.

CONGRATULATIONS MARY ELLEN NUENSCHWANDER!

We are pleased to announce that MaryEllen has agreed to be our Deputy Chair of Fundraising! Congratulations and welcome to the team of Democrats that are going to change our community to work for ALL Huntington residents!

HCDP FACEBOOK MARKETPLACE GROUP IS FUN!

We have raised about \$25 through this program. You can find and join the group here:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1141758402924145>

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR:

So I took a few days off to be with my family and to regroup a bit mentally and spiritually. And then I turned on the news. It is much easier to keep our heads in the sand and to shut out the bad things happening in our Country, but when you do that, you also miss the amazing things happening!

John Ossoff and Rev. Warnock have won both Senate seats in Georgia. Democrats from Georgia. The literal heart of the confederacy a mere 160 years ago. And you know what: you helped! You wrote postcards to voters. You called. You texted. Our party donated to Fair Fight. WE DID THIS!

The Democrats now control the White House, the Congress and the Senate. Seems like a good thing. Seems like we should get things done easier. But let's delve into what it means to have all 3 in our control.

- 1) the Affordable Care Act, ie: ACA, ie: Obamacare, can now be "fixed" and further strengthened to help ALL citizens. We can hopefully put measures in place that will make it "untouchable" by future administrations, thus, granting healthcare as a basic human right to all Americans, forever.*
- 2) Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico may gain statehood. This gives the Senate and the House of Representatives more members. Yes, DC will likely produce 2 additional Democratic Senators and Democratic Congressmen/Women. PR, may in fact, split their ticket, or elect more conservative representatives. So, despite the arguments from the right, it is not a "death sentence" to the GOP if these 2 regions get Statehood.*
- 3) ALL of the 600+ bills that have been sitting on Mitch McConnell's desk might just get to see debate, discussion and possible implementation in the Senate.*
- 4) We will have Senate confirmed Secretaries in all of the important positions within our government. No more "acting secretaries", no more cronies of Trumps or big donors buying big titles. Actual Patriots who want to serve the people of this Nation, who are dutifully confirmed by the Senate.*
- 5) No more daily "WTH did he do now?" or hourly "breaking news" that makes you cringe.*
- 6) No more 24 hour, wall to wall coverage, of an unstable administration.*
- 7) Our Allies around the World will begin to respect us again. We will no longer have to explain to our family in foreign lands what is wrong with him. Yes, we have this conversation in our home weekly when Thomas calls his family in Germany.*
- 8) The Covid-19 Vaccine will be put into arms and not into warehouses. We will defeat this pandemic. We will be able to meet in person and hug our family members and have cookouts with friends.*
- 9) We will begin to put people back to work in good paying jobs. Jobs in the renewable energy sector. Union jobs.*
- 10) With a Biden administration and with the full support of the House and Senate, Iran will stop enriching uranium for nuclear weapons. Our adversaries will no longer laugh at us and think we are a joke. We will rejoin the Paris Climate Accord. We will start to heal the Nation and the planet.*

Yes, having all 3 is a big deal. But, it comes at a cost. It means we have to work extra hard to maintain those elected officials and we have to work every single day to get rid of Reps like Banks, and Senators Young and Braun, and replace them with people who want to govern a WHOLE and HEALED Nation. Not people who benefit from the division.

Yesterday was something I had never even considered could happen in America. A mob entered our beloved Capital in an attempted Coup d'etat. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the definition of a coup, according to Websters, it is described as “: a sudden decisive exercise of force in politics especially : the violent overthrow or alteration of an existing government by a small group, a military coup d'état of the dictator”. So, the President of the United State of America called these people to action and used them for his own gain. However, as I write this, it may not have turned out the way he had planned. He is now being rebuked by his own party. Lindsey Graham, whom I have lost all respect for, last night on the Senate floor, said “enough is enough”. I agree with Sen. Graham. Enough is enough.

The next 12 days could see more insurrection. More violence in our streets and our Nation's capital. It could see more citizens turning on each other is physical displays of frustration and anger. Anyone who has ever watched a snake in its final moments understands the phrase “death throw”. Stay strong. This is almost over. But, in that same sense, I am not delusional enough to believe all bad things stop on January 20, 2021. We have a deeply wounded Nation. We have some deeply troubled citizens who are just now beginning to see they have been conned for 4 years. We have people who will deny the truth and spew conspiracy theories possibly for the rest of their lives. It is not our job to convince them otherwise. It is our job to stick to the truth. Do not spread lies or conspiracies or twist things to meet our narrative. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are going to make mistakes. Here is where we come in. We admit when they are wrong. We discuss how a situation or a bill or a policy could be made better. We do not blindly follow just because of a letter behind their names. This is one thing we have learned over the last 4 years. On that same note, we cannot allow ourselves to put other Democrats through a purity test. No one is perfect. No one is going to be the perfect candidate. We just have to decide if the flaws are minor or if they are truly against our core beliefs. Nothing more. Nothing less.

I would ask you one more thing. We need to stop referring to candidates who win as “leaders”. I don't need a leader. We need “representatives”. “Elected officials”. “Our voice in Washington”, “Our chosen employee”. When we stop looking to these fellow humans as better than us simply because of the terminology we use in referencing them, we also stop demanding perfection from them. Democrats need to learn to accept each other. No circular firing squads. No purity tests. Are the people on the ballot capable of doing the job we hired them to do? This is the one and only question.

We will overcome this tumultuous time in our history. We will be proud of our Nation once again. Keep the faith. Keep calm. The end of this nightmare is coming.

As always, it is an honor to be your Chair and an even bigger honor to call you friends,

Christine