



The Boone County DEMOCRAT

A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE BOONE CO. MULESKINNERS & DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Boone County Democrat Newsletter is going digital!

The September issue will be the last MAILED newsletter. If you require a printed newsletter, please call 573-303-3080. To be sure your email is up to date, email scottcristal@boonecountydems.net.

Photo: Angie Wood, Facebook

THE 2016 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 2016 Democratic National Convention is likely to go down in American history as a pivotal one for the Democratic Party and for the nation. Hillary Clinton became the first woman nominated by a major political party to run for the highest office in the land. The platform of the party adopted at the convention placed the Democratic Party on record with a commitment to seriously confront the inequality in our nation, attack those forces that are destroying our environment, and challenge the powers that are corrupting our political democracy. It was a convention which for the first time really began to come to grips with the twenty-first century, even if at times in a rather stumbling way.

Boone County sent eight delegates to the national convention. This is a large number given our share of the Democratic population in the state. We had almost 10% of the delegation. This is a tribute to the strength of the Boone County Democratic Party. Those attending were Clinton Delegates, Nichole Galloway, Patricia Doss, and Ken Jacob. Five delegates supported Sen. Sanders. They were Laura Mikytuck, Eva Petakovic, Tao Weilundemo, Khesha Duncan, and Homer Page.

We have asked three of the delegates to share their experiences and impressions. We hope you, the reader, will feel just a little closer to the life and meaning of this most important Democratic gathering.

Events

Send your events to Central Committee Chairwoman Angie Wood, angelinewd@gmail.com.

BOONE COUNTY DEMOCRATS

Thu, Sep 1 6:00 - 8:00 pm Orr Street Studios 106 Orr St. Columbia	Stephen Webber for Missouri Senate Fundraiser Reception with Special Guest US Senator Claire McCaskill
Wed, Sep 7 6:00 - 8:00 pm 816 E. Broadway Columbia	MO Rural Crisis Center Crock Pot Project Come support access to local and healthy food for all Missourians! Broadway Brewery
Thu, Sep 8 7:00 pm 801 E. Walnut Columbia	Central Committee Meeting Roger Wilson Boone County Government Center
Mon, Sep 12 6:30 pm 6401 E Hwy 124 Hallsville	Hallsville - Meet the Candidates Forum A forum for local, countywide and statewide candidates Contact: Nancy Franklin, cathefrank@aol.com
Thu, Sep 15	Last day to apply for the Peg Miller Mizzou College Democrats Schol- arship Fund
Sun, Sep 18 1:00 - 4:00 pm Northern Boone County	Scavenger Hunt & Poker Run Fundraiser for Janet Thompson Purchase tickets at Democratic Headquarters on Walnut
Sun, Sep 25 4:00 - 6:00 pm 1615 Bus Loop 70 W, Columbia	Boone County Democrats Membership Drive: Ice Cream Social & Stump Speeches Dexheimer Pavilion at Cosmo Park

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AT BOONECOUNTYDEMS.ORG**

BOONE COUNTY MULESKINNERS

Fri, Sep 2	<i>No Muleskinners</i> Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Sep 9 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	44th House District Candidates: Tom Pauley (D), Cheri Reisch (R)
Fri, Sep 16 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	45th House District Candidates: Kip Kendrick (D), William Lee (I)
Fri, Sep 23 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	State Amendment 3, Missouri Cigarette Tax, Both Sides will present
Fri, Sep 30 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	House District Candidates: Martha Stevens (D), Don Water- man (R)
Fri, Oct 7	Northern and Southern Boone County Commissioners, Southern District, Brianna Lennon (D), Fred Parry (R), Northern District; Janet Thompson (D) Brennan Riddles (R)

Join the Muleskinners!

Support the Democratic social network in Boone County and keep Democrats informed and engaged in political dialogue throughout the year. Muleskinners meet Fridays at noon at the Columbia Country Club off Old Rt. 63 North at 2210 North Country Club Drive. An optional lunch buffet is available for purchase - as is a coffee/tea option. The public is welcome & encouraged to stop by.

Questions? Contact Scott Cristal at 573-999-3871
Programs suggestions? Bill Clark 573-474-4510

Muleskinners Officers

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Secretary/Historian:	Leslie Clay, leslieclay@hotmail.com , 573-445-2588

A Convention Diary

By Homer Page

When my wife, Angie, and I reached Philadelphia on Sunday evening, we immediately sensed an anxious tone in the air. This was my second Democratic National Convention. I attended the 1988 convention in Atlanta, which nominated Michael Dukakis. The 1988 gathering was high on entertainment and low on drama. Great speakers, such as Jessie Jackson and Ann Richards, entertained and inspired us. The convention went smoothly and Dukakis received the unified support of the delegates. On Sunday evening, July 24, 2016, we hoped, but we were far from certain that Hillary Clinton would have the unified support of the delegates at this convention.

I was a delegate for Bernie Sanders, and I had followed closely his negotiations with the Clinton campaign to shape a progressive platform and receive a prominent role at the convention and in the fall campaign. Bernie believed he had achieved most of his goals and was fully on board to support a unified Democratic Party behind the candidacy of Hillary Clinton. However, the release of the hacked emails of the Democratic National Committee created yet another reason for distrust among the Sanders' delegates. Bernie held a meeting of all Sanders' delegates on Monday afternoon, before the convention convened, and when he stated his support for Hillary Clinton, the gathering of almost 1,900 delegates erupted in boos. The tension and hostility in that meeting was intense, and the chances for a unified convention seemed very far from certain.

As the convention proceedings got under way on Monday evening, the arena at the Wells Fargo Center was filled with shouts of "Bernie, Bernie, Bernie" whenever Hillary Clinton's name was mentioned. Efforts to praise her from the platform were met with shouts of indignation from the floor. The evening was not off to a good start. In the arena Clinton and Sanders' delegates exchanged hostile words and gestures, and even many Sanders' delegates were offended by the disruption being created. Meanwhile, a lively argument among Bernie supporters raged on the Sanders' Facebook page. Finally, Bernie posted a message requesting, as a personal favor to him, his delegates cease behavior meant to be disruptive. This appeal was heeded by most delegates out of respect for Bernie. Soon Michelle Obama spoke. Her eloquence and soaring dignity won over everyone. Then, Elizabeth Warren made her presentation, and after her, Bernie addressed the delegates. The evening ended on a high note. The delegates left the arena more relaxed, and most of us felt we had dodged a bullet.



Senator Claire McCaskill with Homer Page and Angie Wood
Photo: Angie Wood, Facebook

Each morning the Missouri delegation met in our hotel for breakfast and to pick up our credentials for the day. During breakfast a list of top flight speakers addressed us. Sen. Sanders spoke to us and stressed the importance of unity. Tim Kane came the last day. Al Franken and our own, Claire McCaskill brought perspectives from the U. S. Senate, and Emanuel Cleaver brought tears to our eyes with a personal account of his family's journey from slavery to leadership in the U. S. House of Representatives. Claire held a private meeting with the Missouri Sanders' delegates, where opinions were honestly exchanged and both sides saw their respect for one another rise. Sen. McCaskill acknowledged that some of her comments about Sen. Sanders had been harsher than she wished, and she agreed to take a harder look at the TPP, while delegates gained some understanding about why farmers in northern Missouri wanted to increase exports of agricultural products. Everyone agreed the discussion benefited all of us.

While the convention was never without its protesters, as it moved forward, a greater sense of unity became evident. Vice President Biden excited the audience, and President Obama gave a magnificent speech. When our nominee finally came to the platform to accept the nomination, she was widely applauded. Most of the delegates understood that defeating Donald Trump was not just a Democratic Party necessity, but it is of the utmost importance for our nation. Nothing brought us together more than the reality of what a Trump Presidency would mean for America and the world. Nothing demonstrated this reality more than the regular appearance of Donald Trump on video speaking in his own words. Donald Trump's ignorance of the most basic facts of foreign policy and government operations combined with his insensitivity to the needs of the American people unified our Democratic National Convention and brought almost all of us together behind Hillary. The historic significance of nominating a woman as our nominee was not lost on the delegates.

A Teachable Moment

by Patricia Doss

Recently, I was a participant in a great moment in American history. I had the tremendous honor of being a Delegate for Hillary Clinton to the Democratic National Convention. To be part of that moment, to be part of the reason it happened, when we Democrats became the first major Party to nominate a woman for the office of President of the United States, was a profound moment of joy and pride only second to giving birth to my 3 children. That's how meaningful it was to me. I wept, I screamed, I hugged my fellow Hillary delegates the moment we made that happen. I will never, ever forget it.

I wore a suffragist costume on Tuesday night to commemorate the event. We were, after all, standing on the shoulders of giants such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It took 96 years after winning the right to vote for a woman to break this particular glass ceiling. The moment was marked at the convention by a slide show of all 44 Presidents, all male, ending with a shattering of the last image to reveal Hillary Clinton in a room full of children, addressing the crowd and the moment. My fellow Hillary supporters, and in particular the 3 women I sat with, and spent night after night at the convention with, lost ourselves in screams of pure joy. For us, it was very personal.

Knowing that I was representing thousands of voters for Hillary, I was in attendance for every floor vote, and was present for almost every speech. Being a Delegate requires long hours of sitting, very little sleep, and near constant clapping and cheering. Because some things were decided by voice vote, I lost my voice after the first day! But I kept on screaming as best I could all 4 days. I wanted to show all speakers the respect they deserved, by being present. As our Missouri delegation wouldn't fill up each night until well after the convention started each day, it was obvious not everyone felt this same obligation. This should be addressed in 4 years when we select new Delegates. I would suggest that we determine who will commit to being present for gavel to gavel speeches. The people who are more interested in partying and who feel they can't sit for 8 to 10 hours need not apply.

And speaking of showing respect for speakers, I would like to say a few things about what happened in some of our worst moments at the convention. It wasn't all sweetness and light. When John Lewis got up to speak,



Announcement of 2016 Democratic Nominee Hilliary Clinton. Photo: Angie Wood, Facebook

he was booed continuously throughout his speech by Sanders supporters. Including those Sanders supporters in the Missouri delegation. Think about that, John Lewis, booed at a Democratic National Convention. I was horrified. I was ashamed. I was sitting next to an African American delegate, Yvonne Reeves, who sat in stony silence with steam coming out of her ears. I kept repeating, "Oh my God, they're booing John Lewis..." Let's review why this was so heinous...

John Lewis is a true American Hero. He is a giant of the civil rights movement. In 1960 he was one of the 13 original Freedom Riders, who rode a racially integrated bus together from Washington D.C. to Montgomery, AL to protest laws that prohibited white and black people from sitting together on public transportation. He participated in the famous Selma to Montgomery marches for voter registration. He was arrested and jailed over 40 times, had his skull cracked on "Bloody Sunday" and was beaten repeatedly during his long struggle to desegregate the south. He was the youngest, and first speaker at the rally where Martin Luther King gave his "I have a dream" speech. This article can't take up the space to give his biography justice, but if you are not familiar with it, or still feel that booing John Lewis just because he supported someone other than Bernie Sanders was acceptable, then you should read more about him. Booing John Lewis for any reason, is completely unacceptable behavior, period. And then there was Lilly Ledbetter... the Sanders supporters also booed her. I will review why this is also unacceptable behavior.

Lilly Ledbetter is the woman for whom the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is named. It was the very first act that President Barack Obama signed into law as President. It addressed the rights of women to sue their employers for pay discrimination. You can look it up. Lilly Ledbetter continues to work for women

and minorities' civil rights. She is a powerful symbol for women wanting to achieve pay equity in the workforce. Unless you are really against equal pay for women doing equal work, you probably shouldn't be booing Lilly Ledbetter. Of course, if you are really against equal pay for women, you should probably join the Republican Party. Now let's talk about how a wounded veteran was treated.

Florent Groberg sustained serious injuries after he tackled a suicide bomber. He is a Medal of Honor winner for this heroic act, in which he risked his own life to save others. He was booed and heckled continuously during his speech by Sanders supporters. Now, I am no jingoistic pro-war nut. I have participated in anti-war demonstrations myself. But there is a time and place for everything, and booing a brave individual soldier during a speech, who risked his life and had a large part of his left leg blown off, is not acceptable behavior. It just isn't. If you truly think you have the right to do this, join the Peace Corps or the United Nations peace keeping forces first. Put yourself into the most dangerous places on Earth for the cause of peace. Be willing to risk your own life, and have parts of your body blown off for the cause of peace, be more than an armchair pacifist. Then, and only then, will you have earned standing equal to a wounded American soldier. Maybe then you will have the moral justification to boo and chant 'no more war' while a wounded soldier is speaking, but it would still be rude.

There was a lot of booing, and people do have the right to boo, but some things are just beyond the pale. That is why I feel it is important to talk about this. The Republican Party has coddled racists, hate speech and horrible behavior from right wing media for decades, and Donald Trump is the result. We can't let that happen in our Party. It is important that we call bad behavior out, and explain why we cannot, and will not tolerate it. Being rude and disrespectful isn't justified out of passion. Passion never justifies bad behavior. I do not want to win so badly that I am willing to stand by silently while fellow Democrats boo John Lewis, Lilly Ledbetter and wounded veterans, just because they chose a different candidate. Winning isn't everything. I would rather we kept our soul. It is my hope that any Sanders supporters who read this will now understand why booing those individuals was wrong. If they still feel justified, I would rather they join another Party, my Party doesn't boo people like John Lewis. ♦

A Convention Diary by Homer Page, continued from page 3.

The progressive quality of the platform, and the reform measures that will restructure the National Democratic Committee and the next selection of the Party's nominee made this convention truly pivotal in the history of the Party and the Nation. I came away from the experience of attending the 2016 convention with gratitude for my opportunity to participate in it and with a greater sense of hope for the American future. Most of us realize the danger we face, but also the promise that opens before us. It is a time to work hard, support one another, and build our strength. This is almost certainly the last convention I will attend. Thus, I am very happy this convention has such powerful implications for America and the world. ♦

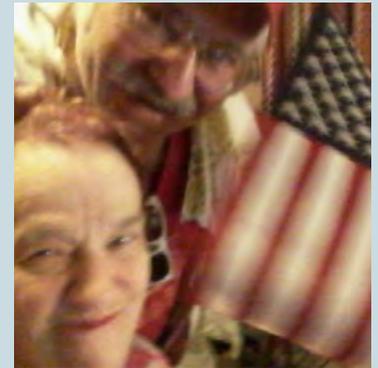
Be social and share your photos with the Boone County Dems!

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'We Treasure You!' Judy Baker wins Democratic primary for State Treasurer.



Greg Ahrens and Kathleen Goff Weinschenk score an American flag from the convention.



Primary watch party at Cafe Berlin. Martha Stevens wins 46th district and Brianna Lennon goes on to compete for Southern Boone County Commissioner.

A Bernie Delegate's Perspective

by Tao Weilundemo

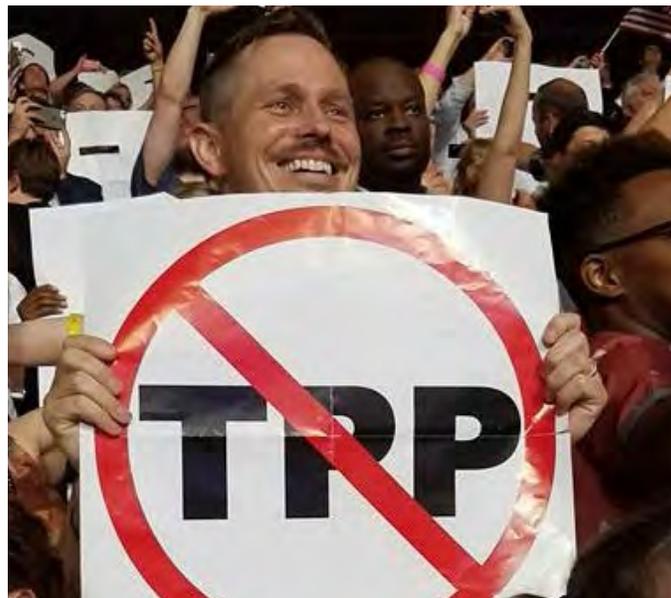
We were cruising through Ohio on our way to the DNC when another batch of Wikileaks DNC e-mails was released. Eva Petakovic and myself were on our way to Philadelphia to represent Bernie Sanders as national delegates from Missouri, and my fiancée, Persephone Dakopolos, was going as a newly-elected DNC member. We had decided to carpool to the convention to save money and see some of the country.

By the time we were descending through the Allegheny Mountains of western Pennsylvania, Debbie Wasserman-Schultz had removed herself from the convention. It was no secret that there was little love lost between Debbie and Bernie's supporters, and the news energized us with the possibilities of more surprises to come. Arriving in downtown Philly the scene at City Hall was electric. Despite the heat wave, roughly 5,000 activists from around the country and the world had gathered with signs and props to march, demanding strong action be taken to address climate change.

The scene inside the Kimmel Center Welcoming Party for delegations was a stark contrast to the hot sweaty impassioned parade that had passed by hours before. Performers dressed as trees slowly danced through the crowds, while an amazing array of hors d'oeuvres and alcohol were dispersed liberally. Still the Bernie and Hillary delegates were clearly identifiable by the level of formality in their attire, with Bernie's delegates being decidedly more casual. The feeling that we were crashing a party was palpable and would remain so for the entirety of the convention.

Each morning at 8am the Missouri delegation would meet to pick up our daily credentials, eat breakfast and listen to an array of impressive speakers such as Claire McCaskill, Al Franken, Emmanuel Cleaver, Sly James, and even Bernie Sanders made a surprise appearance.

After breakfast there were any number of caucuses, meetings, and presentations on a wide variety of political issues. Then we would make our way several miles to the convention center by bus or subway and then navigate the labyrinthine security process. As the 4pm gavel time approached we would make our way to our state delegation's assigned seats. Within the



Sanders Delegate Tao Weilundemo holds an anti-TPP sign during the convention sparking conversation among delegates. Photo: Billy Moffett, Facebook

delegation section the Hillary and Bernie delegates segregated themselves naturally.

As the convention was being gavelled in on opening night, all of Bernie's delegates received text messages from his campaign asking us to refrain from booing or disrupting the speakers. The request was largely followed except for a significant portion of California's delegation. They did not represent the vast majority of Bernie's delegates, yet they certainly received the media's attention and unjustly painted us all as disrespectful.

In phone calls with the campaign, Bernie delegates had been told to prepare for a floor fight, first on the platform and later on rules regarding the super delegate system. As a whip for our delegation I was charged with passing on directives from the campaign, and when none came I began asking what the plans were. I was told there were none and that Bernie was apparently satisfied with the compromises on the platform and on the super-delegate system, which would force 2/3 of super delegates to vote in proportion to their state's popular vote in future elections. Based on my experience at our own state convention I believe his threats to bring the fight to the floor gave him significant leverage in reaching those compromises. However, as one of my delegate friends from Iowa said, "Bernie fed us Mountain Dew and then told us to go to bed". The delegates needed something to fight for, and that fight became raising awareness of issues that had been left out of the platform such as opposition to the TPP and fracking.

The Anti-TPP signs made especially prominent appearances during speeches by candidates who had expressed support for the trade deal that Bernie and many progressives believe puts corporate profits above national sovereignty. The signs sparked significant discussion even within the convention hall with a number of Clinton delegates asking us what the TPP was.

Despite the activism, the feeling of simply being a spectator rather than an elected representative will stick with me. I was hoping for motions, discussions, and votes, but what I got was more political theatre than democracy. The roll call was a prime example. Super delegate and pledged delegate votes were tallied together, which did not accurately reflect the close outcome of the popular vote. Secondly, Vermont was plucked from the alphabetical order to cast its votes last, setting the stage for Bernie's finale. As he motioned to release his delegates and called to nominate Hillary by acclamation, I couldn't help wondering how long they had been planning this scene.

Still, after the roll call vote I resolved to make purposeful attempts to engage Clinton delegates and have meaningful conversations. I needed to humanize and separate them from my feelings towards the DNC itself. What I found was that the conversations were often very rewarding, and I felt some form of unity was clearly possible, but those kinds of bonding interactions were not facilitated by the organization or structure of the convention. Instead we were handed placards saying "Stronger Together", as if the work of uniting the party was already a mission accomplished.

Bernie supporters and Americans in general are increasingly seeing through the artificial facades put up by modern politicians and political parties. Bernie was real with us, and that was largely his appeal. It is my firm belief that this election will mark the beginning of the end for identity politics in this country. Younger generations care less about the gender or race of their representatives, and more about their willingness to stand up for them and their ideals.

Ultimately, I left the convention drained of energy and emotion, but resolved to keep fighting for the ideals I share with so many. I believe that the party can unite, but only if we do not pretend that the divides do not exist. We all must step outside of our comfort zones and make sincere efforts to understand one another's perspective. Only then will we truly be stronger together. ♦



A packed room at the August Central Committee meeting.

NEW!

2016-17 CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICERS

New officers were voted in at the Central Committee Meeting on August 7. The Committee meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Boone County Government Center on Walnut Street. All are welcome.

Chair	Angie Wood angelinewd@gmail.com 573.446.0441
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Treasurer	Kay Callison kaycallison@centurytel.net 573.449.7075
Secretary	Greg Ahrens gregahrens@aol.com 573.886.9786

For a complete list of current Central Committee members and vacancies visit, www.boonecountydems.net.

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