

The Boone County DEMOCRAT

A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE BOONECO. MULESKINNERS & DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

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Solidarity Moving Forward

By Mark Haim

In the future, the election of Donald Trump will likely be regarded as a watershed event in American history. Its significance, however, will not be known for some time. And what this period will look like to those regarding it decades hence depends, in large part, on what we, progressives and Democrats do in the weeks and months ahead.

Continue reading on the next page.



Women's March in Columbia on January 21. Photo courtesy of Steph Gerber

Solidarity Moving Forward, continued.

By Mark Haim

Within less than a week of the election, grassroots activists sprang into action, calling for resistance to Trump's agenda and opposition to the normalization of the incoming administration. Peaceworks members began an outreach effort recruiting diverse groups working on environment/climate, social and economic justice, civil rights, reproductive rights, peace, civil liberties and other progressive concerns.

An initial meeting was held on November 30 with 27 participants and out of this came a plan for a major Solidarity March and Rally to be held on January 21, the same day as, and in support of, the Women's March on Washington, as well as a companion MU campus event to be held the previous day, at the time of the inauguration.

While the holiday season and the long break at MU made outreach somewhat challenging, we found great interest in coming together to promote a more inclusive, compassionate and just vision for where this country is headed. And, by the time the event rolled around, fully 24 local organizations were co-sponsoring the Solidarity March and Rally.

Given the season, the initial plan called for a brief outdoor gathering, a march and an indoor rally with speakers. The facility secured at Stephens College accommodated nearly 400, with overflow rooms providing space for an additional 300, but, as the event drew near, it became apparent that more space was needed. Happily, the forecast was for a warm, sunny day, unseasonable but most appreciated. Thus, a last-minute decision was made to hold the rally at Courthouse Plaza.

As it turned out, even this space was inadequate to fully accommodate the crowd. One participant did a headcount on the march and counted 3,608 walking, making this event likely the largest local grassroots-organized demonstration in Columbia since the post-Kent State Vietnam War protests of 1970.

Moving ahead, many questions remain. Will the energy seen at the Solidarity March carry forward? Was this just a one-shot opportunity to "let off steam," or are participants serious about taking back our country? And, if significant numbers of people are motivated to move things forward, what strategies and tactics will they embrace; what agenda will they support?

Opposition to Trump's agenda is a starting point, but where do we go from here? Answering that question locally and around the country is up to us. The newly-formed Mid-Missouri Solidarity Network and the organizations that participated in this effort invite all progressives to offer their input. We appreciate the input and participation of Boone County Democrats in our work to date, and hope that local Dems will be interested in collaboration and mutual support moving forward.

Mark Haim is the Director of Peaceworks in downtown Columbia.



Columbian resident, Natalie Huenneke, traveled to Washington DC for the Women's March!

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 and tea option.

The public is welcome & encouraged to attend!

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

OFFICERS FOR 2017

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Leslie Clay
573-445-2588, leslieclay@hotmail.com

1st Vice President for Programming:

Bill Clark
573-474-4510



Friday Program Schedule

Feb. 3: Columbia African American Association (CAAA) Discussion on its role in our community

Feb. 10: Verna Laboy The role of the Worley Street Roundtable

Feb. 17: Nikki McGruder, Director of Diversity Awareness Program, Discussion about the program

Feb. 24: Rep. Kip Kendrick, 45th MO House Dist, Ethics & the MO General Assembly

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573-445-0642, pspring@socket.net



Missouri Symphony director Kirk Trevor and harpist Maria Duhova Trevor play at Muleskinners on January 27.

Candidate Interview

Q & A with a new Boone County Candidate

Michela Skelton for House District 50

by Homer Page



Newly elected Governor, Eric Greitens, chose Representative Caleb Jones to be his Deputy Chief of Staff, creating a vacancy in House District 50. While HD 50 sprawls over parts of four counties, Boone, Cole, Moniteau, and Cooper, Boone County makes up more than half of the

district. Unfortunately, we have not had a Democratic candidate challenge for the seat in the last several elections. However, this has now changed. A young, dynamic, progressive woman has stepped forward to run to fill the vacancy in HD 50. Michela Skelton is now the Democratic nominee to fill the seat.

Gov. Jay Nixon set the election for August 8, 2017. On Monday, January 16, at a special meeting of the HD 50 Democratic Committee, Michela received the Party's nomination. I interviewed her to give local Democrats a chance to become better acquainted with Ms. Skelton.

Michela is very bright, well qualified for the position, and deeply committed to serve the people of her district and the State of Missouri. She represents a growing number of young, exciting activists committed to bring change to our political community.

Here is what she had to say.

Q. Share with us a little of your background?

A. I come from a military family. Both my mother and father were in the Air Force. They met in Italy, married, and I was born there. When I was four, we moved to a small town just outside of Montgomery, Alabama. I attended school there during the elementary grades. My father retired from the Air Force, and we moved to Indiana, where I attended high school. I attended college at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville to be near my mother, who worked for a military contractor at Scott Air Force Base.

I majored in political science, and when I finished my B. A., I took a job as a manager of an Office Depot store. I continued my education, enrolling in a master's program at SIU in public administration and policy analysis. I left Office Depot to take a job with the Social Security Administration in St. Louis. However, I soon realized I could not create positive change as a low level bureaucrat, so I applied for law school and was accepted into the Washington University Law School – St. Louis. I wanted to be involved in formulating public policy, so when I graduated and passed the Bar Exam, I joined the Senate staff in Jefferson City, working on doing research and drafting legislation for the State Senators on both sides of the aisle. I worked in this position for two and a half years, focusing on transportation, insurance, and housing. It became apparent to me that most of my work was done for the lobbyists. They brought legislation, and I had to work with them to make it fit into the state legal code. I worked with lobbyists to make sure the bills introduced by the Senators said what the lobbyists wanted. Once again, I realized I wanted a more activists career, one to which I could feel better about committing myself. So, I left my job to become a community activist and prepare to seek a position in elective office. My husband and I moved to Columbia several years ago, looking for a good place to raise our two small children. We live in HD 50, so when the seat became vacant, we saw it as a wonderful opportunity for me to pursue my goals for public service.



Q. Skelton is a well-known name in mid Missouri. Are you related to Congressman Ike Skelton?

A. We are distant cousins. My father and I went to Washington to meet with the Congressman. We were on a genealogical trip, and the Congressman met with us in his office. A number of generations ago, a man in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia had seven sons. One of them fathered the line from which Congressman Skelton descended, and another one is the ancestor of my father. Ike was very generous with his time and very friendly with us. The element of his public service that I truly admire most and hope to share is he was always open and accessible to those he represented. It is my desire to follow in his path in this important area.



Michela walks in the Women's March in Columbia on Jan. 21 (left) and visits the Islamic Center of Columbia in solidarity against the recent travel ban (above).

Q. HD 50 has been in Republican hands since it was created. Why have you chosen to run in such a hard to win district?

A. First, I think it is a winnable seat. It has a 46% Democratic performance, and in this special election, there will be few who vote. We will identify our voters and get them out, so I believe I can win.

There is a second reason, however, which I believe is even more important. We can never win back control of the Missouri General Assembly, if we don't run in these red districts. We need to go to the voters with a strong message of economic and social justice that communicates a real platform for change. We need to regain a spirit of hope and trust in the voters. I want to bring that message to other people who can run in these mid-Missouri red districts. We need to begin with a solid belief that we can turn these red districts blue. In addition, my campaign will use some new technology, and we will use a lot of volunteers on the ground to offset the Republican money that will pour into the race. I want to share our spirit of hope and our technology and campaign strategy with others. Our campaign can be a beginning in mid-Missouri that can spread. This is the way we can reform state government.

Q. You were very active in the Bernie Sanders campaign, and you refer to yourself as a progressive. What does it mean to you to be a progressive?

A. I am concerned with economic equity and social justice. I believe our economy is more unequal now than it has been since the Great Depression. While the stock market and the GNP are doing just fine, too many people are struggling just to get by. The test of a good economy is not national statistics, it is how well is your neighbor doing, and too many are not doing well. I am a progressive, because I want everyone to have adequate health care, appropriate education for their children, good jobs, and economic security. I am opposed to tax cuts for the rich, while ordinary citizens see their taxes go up. Fifteen years ago, corporate taxes in Missouri made up about 10% of state revenue, but now it is barely 2%. Our schools and roads have suffered, and to the extent the difference has been made up, local school districts and city and county governments have been forced to raise taxes on middle and working class people. The Republican legislators project higher revenues, because they argue that corporate tax cuts will stimulate the economy, creating more revenue for the state, but this never happens. The money needed to fully fund the budget never materializes, and funds must be held back from vital services. Our health care system in the state and our infrastructure are collapsing. Large numbers of people in HD 50 are having a hard time. Many children are receiving subsidized meals at school. I am a progressive, because I will fight this inequality and social injustice.

Q. How can people help?

A. Please go to my web site, michelaskelton.com, to learn more about me. There is a place to sign up to volunteer, and if you can, there is a place to contribute. We learned from the Sanders' campaign that small contributions can fund a campaign. Many \$27 donations allowed Bernie to compete against large donors, and I think we can raise enough money through small contributions to successfully compete against the special interest and corporate money. We need lots of help, and with great volunteers, I know we can win.

Q. Are there issues that are especially important to you?

A. I am concerned about funding for our transportation system. The gas tax in Missouri is far below the national average, and our roads are not receiving the attention they need. The legislature is floating the idea of turning state roads back to the counties to maintain, and the counties just don't have the money to take over the roads. I am truly worried about health care in the state. If the ACA is repealed, what will the insurance companies do? I am also deeply concerned about K-12 and higher education. We cannot be a successful community if we abandon the education of our children. So many of our problems are rooted in the successful efforts of wealthy individuals and groups to get special privileges, including tax breaks. Missouri will not make progress unless we change the power dynamic in Jefferson City. HD 50 is a great place to begin.

Purchase Tickets Now!

Tickets \$20 each, available for purchase at Party Headquarters on 912 E Walnut St.



**MONDAY,
FEBRUARY
27TH**

**DOORS OPEN
5:00 PM
FOOD: 5:30**

FOOD, CASH BAR, AWARDS & FUN

» A BOONE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC TRADITION «



TICKET \$20

ELK'S CLUB

Purchase tickets at the door
or in advance at Muleskinners,
or the Party Headquarters at
912 E. Walnut Street

4747 E. Elks Park Drive
Columbia, MO 65201

Featuring State Auditor Nicole Galloway

Paid for by the Boone County Democratic Party Central Committee, Jenn Henderson, Treasurer. Printed In-House, Labor Donated

Events

What's Happening in February?

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

Connect with our
Google calendar at
BooneCountyDems.org

February 2 7:00 - 8:30 pm Refreshments 6:30	Town Meeting With State Legislators Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Columbia/Boone County Columbia Public Library, Friends Room
February 16 6:00 - 8:00 pm	The Social Hour - Eat, drink and talk politics with left-minded Mid-Missourians at DogMaster Distillery 210 Saint James St.
February 20	President's Day
February 27 5:00	Annual Chili Supper Tickets \$20 Cash Bar Elk's Club 4747 E. Elks Park Drive

What's the Central Committee?

The Boone County Democratic Central Committee represents the Missouri Democratic Party in Boone County and performs such functions required by the laws of the State of Missouri, the Charter and By-Laws of the Democratic Party of the United States, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Missouri Democratic Party.

Central Committee Officers

Chair - Angie Wood

☎ 573-446-0441 ✉ angelinewd@gmail.com

Vice-Chair - Darren Hellwege

☎ 573-999-7857 ✉ dmhellwege@gmail.com

Secretary - Greg Ahrens

☎ 573-886-9786 ✉ gregahrens@aol.com

Treasurer - Jenn Henderson

☎ 314-805-9273 ✉ jennhenderson195@gmail.com

How to Join

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.

Vacant Committee Seats

Ashland Ward 1 - Committeeman, Committeewoman

Ashland Ward 2 - Committeeman, Committeewoman

Ashland Ward 3 - Committeeman, Committeewoman

Cedar Township - Committeewoman

Centralia Ward 1 - Committeeman, Committeewoman

Centralia Ward 2 - Committeeman, Committeewoman

Centralia Ward 3 - Committeeman, Committeewoman

Columbia Ward 2 - Committeewoman

Columbia Ward 6 - Committeeman

Columbia Township - Committeeman, Committeewoman

Hallsville Ward 1 - Committeeman, Committeewoman

Hallsville Ward 2 - Committeeman, Committeewoman

Katy Township - Committeewoman

Perche Township - Committeewoman

Rocheport Ward 1 - Committeeman, Committeewoman

Rocheport Ward 2 - Committeeman, Committeewoman

Rock Bridge Township - Committeeman

Rocky Fork Township - Committeeman

Three Creeks Township - Committeeman

The Boone County DEMOCRAT

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for joining the fight for 2017 and beyond!

Become a card-carrying member of the Boone County Democratic Party. Receive your official membership card after you renew your membership or become a new member.

Because of our joint option to pay both the Party and Muleskinners, the stars are more than embellishments. A blue star indicates Party membership and the silver indicates Muleskinners membership.

If you have questions about your membership card, contact Jade Govero, jadegovero@gmail.com.



I want a card! How do I become a member?

Become a member by returning the completed form and payment (cash and check) to Party Headquarters in person at 912 Walnut St. or send by mail: P.O. Box 1294 Columbia, MO 65205; or email: the form to Treasurer Jenn Henderson and make an online 'donation' to the Boone County Democrats ActBlue account here: <https://goo.gl/PaOhYG>.

DONATE / RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW FOR 2017

The Boone County Democratic Party is a full-time, year-in, year-out, year-round organization—that means we need your continued involvement. Please renew your membership for 2017 Your annual membership helps to provide the resources necessary. NOW with a joint option to **pay both the Party and Muleskinners dues with one check.**

Name: _____ City: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

Required for Donations over \$100: Occupation _____ Employer _____



Add me to the email listserv
 (notifies you of all upcoming events)

Send me the newsletter
 By mail By email

Paid By: Check _____ Cash _____ or ActBlue __ (one time __, monthly __)

Please Circle Your Membership Level

<u>Membership Level:</u>	Individual			Household		
	BCDP Only	M'Skinners Only	Joint	BCDP Only	M'Skinners Only	Joint
Populist Member	\$40	\$25	\$65/yr	\$75	\$45	\$120/yr
Supporting Member	\$80	\$25	\$105/yr	\$150	\$45	\$195/yr
Sustaining Member	\$130	\$25	\$155/yr	\$240	\$45	\$285/yr
Building Member	\$255	\$25	\$280/yr	\$475	\$45	\$520/yr
Student	\$10					

You may use ActBlue for one-time or ongoing monthly contributions online. Go to: www.boonecountydems.org, Then click on "Contribute" & select the Membership Fund.

And, send us this completed form so we know how to direct your donation.

**Please Make Checks Payable to BCDP & Mail to:
Boone County Democrats, P.O. Box 1294, Columbia, MO 65205**