



[www.manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us)

## Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting Date:

October 27th

(4th Thursday of month)

7 pm - 9 pm

Campaign

Headquarters

324 River St, Manistee

Meeting Agenda includes

Guest Speaker -

News from Lansing  
and District 101

## Officers

Chair- Dave Berns  
dberns46@gmail.com

Vice Chair-  
Jeanne Butterfield  
jbutterfield2@gmail.com

Secretary- Lisa Hamilton  
lisamichelle77@yahoo.com

Treasurer-  
Judy Cunningham  
jpc4466@gmail.com

## Get Out The Vote

Finally. Election Day. There have been months and months of coffees, fundraisers, meet and greet events, knocking on doors and doors and more doors. For months candidates and volunteers have been educating and persuading voters. The final task on the road to victory will be to get people to the polls and actually vote.

Get Out The Vote (GOTV) is a 4-day mega-effort by volunteers that ends on Election Day. There are several parts. Nothing is left to chance. Everything we do is based on solid voter responses we have gathered from our previous months of work.

GOTV focuses on voters who are supporting Democratic candidates at the polling place on Election Day. We don't waste time on unregistered and non-voters. We don't waste time on people who have already cast an Absentee Ballot. GOTV is a very targeted effort that focuses only on people who are voting for our Democratic candidates.

Saturday, Sunday, and/or Monday we drop off a slate card that identifies our candidates and is a reminder of polling day, time, and location. No knocking on doors. No conversations. Just leaving the reminder at their door. It is fast and easy with plenty of walking that is great exercise!

Phone banking is our alternate reminder for people in rural areas that we cannot cover with walks. Volunteer callers have a script that is fast and efficient. Most of the time our message is left on an answering machine, but sometimes we have a friendly conversation with people who already support our candidates.

Poll watchers volunteer on Election Day. They have 2 responsibilities. 1) Report any questionable, and extremely rare, activity at the polling place. 2) The really important part of this job is to record who has voted on our list of supporters. Any supporters who haven't voted earlier in the day will get a reminder call from our phone bank.

Sign up for specific jobs and times at the Manistee County Democratic Party campaign office at 342 River St in Manistee or email Rick Schrock ([wildlone@gmail.com](mailto:wildlone@gmail.com)) or Peggy Raddatz ([peg.raddatz@gmail.com](mailto:peg.raddatz@gmail.com))

We are so close to victory. Races can be very competitive. Tom Stobie, our 2014 State Rep candidate, lost by only 4 votes per precinct. Your final effort will put us over the top. We take nothing for granted until the last vote is counted. Please volunteer to be part of our victory team.

# COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR



## GET EXCITED ABOUT HILLARY

By David Berns

I recently attended a rally in Traverse City where Chelsea Clinton reminded us of the issues her mother has fought for all of her life. Human rights, equality, economic and social justice, education, jobs and the whole list of values that drive us to the Democratic Party. I returned energized and excited about our candidate. I am proud to vote for Hillary Clinton and want everyone to know what a great president she will be.

Unfortunately, the media has cast this election as choosing the lesser of two evils. This myth could not be further from the truth. We have one candidate who is with us on almost every issue. President Obama notes that she is the most uniquely qualified candidate ever to run for the office. The other candidate is entirely unqualified for the job. He disrespects others, focuses entirely on himself, and favors policies to benefit the richest one percent of the population. His temperament and behavior present a danger to the entire world.

Democratic voters who buy into the myth may stay home and not vote at all. It is hard to get motivated if others have convinced us that neither candidate is very good.

It is up to us to show how proud we are of Hillary Clinton. Stop being apologetic about her alleged flaws and stress her great policies and accomplishments. It is up to us to set the record straight and to show our enthusiasm for Hillary.

Your excitement will be infectious. Your strong, visible support will help get out the Democratic vote. Remember, one third of the voters only come to the polls for the presidential election. And when they vote for Hillary, they likely will strengthen the Democratic cause up and down the ticket.





## Ken Falk for Sheriff

For over 24 years, I have been employed with the Manistee County Sheriff's Office. I have experience in most of the positions within the Sheriff's Office. For the past eight years, I have been the Manistee County Emergency Manager.

I have written and have been involved with numerous grants, bringing over \$100,000 to Manistee County for public safety. I brought the Wireless Emergency Notification System (WENS) to Manistee County.

I'm running for the office of Sheriff because I feel I know Manistee County's strengths and weaknesses, when dealing with public safety issues. I will continue the professionalism the Manistee County Sheriff's Office gives to our community. I have lived in Manistee County almost my entire life and want to keep this community as safe and prepared as possible.

### Important Dates

- October 6 - LWV Local Candidates Forum, Farr Center Onekema 7 pm
- October 9 -- Join us at Headquarters for 2<sup>nd</sup> Presidential Debate, 8:30pm
- October 11 - Last day to REGISTER TO VOTE for General Election
- October 15 - DON JENNINGS DINNER, 6pm, Little River Resort & Casino
- October 19 - Join us for Final Presidential Debate, 8:30 pm
- November 5 - Deadline to request absentee ballot
- November 8 - General Election, 7AM - 8PM**

## THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE - UNSIMPLIFIED

By Frank Greco

As the 35-hour a day cable news networks constantly remind us, the President is chosen not by popular vote, but by the Electoral College, with 270 votes needed to win. Each state gets a number of electoral votes equal to the total number of its Senators and House of Representatives members. [Plus the District of Columbia gets 3 electoral votes even though it has no Senators and only a (sort of) non-voting delegate to the House.] All states except Maine and Nebraska award all of their electoral votes on a winner-take-all basis; those two states give two votes to the state-wide winner and one to the winner of each congressional district. The electors vote separately for President and Vice-President.

But the Electoral College votes are actually cast by individual electors, generally chosen by the political parties or the campaign organizations of the candidates. These individuals are generally free to vote for anyone, regardless of the result of the popular election – the person does not even have to have been a candidate on the ballot. There are a number of forces that make it very unusual that an elector votes contrary to the result in the state. The individuals are chosen for their proven loyalty; and more than half the states have penalties of one sort or another for voting contrary to outcome of the popular vote. Nevertheless, well over a hundred electoral votes have been cast for persons other than the state winner (a fair portion of these occurred when the candidate had died before the electors voted). These folks are typically referred to as “faithless electors”. A comprehensive review of those instances can be found at [http://www.fairvote.org/faithless\\_electors](http://www.fairvote.org/faithless_electors).

These deviations have never affected the outcome of the election, but there is another feature of the process that raises all sorts of interesting possibilities. If no candidate receives a majority of the electoral votes, the House of Representatives chooses the President. This has happened twice, in 1800 and 1824. The process is currently governed by the 12<sup>th</sup> amendment, which was ratified in 1804 after problems arose under the original formulation found in Art II, § 1, Clause 3 of the Constitution. If there is a tie (i.e., 269 to 269) or if more than 2 receive votes with no one achieving a majority (e.g., Clinton 265, Trump 260, Johnson 13), the House chooses the President from among the three persons with the most electoral votes (or two if only two received votes).

The other strange feature of the procedure is that each state’s House delegation gets one vote regardless of the number of members that delegation has. So the 53 California representatives take a vote, which presumably goes for the Democratic candidate, and California casts one vote for Clinton for President. Same for the 36 Texas Representatives, who presumably cast one vote for Trump for President. Meanwhile, the representatives from the 7 states that have only one member of the House, each get to cast a vote with as much weight as California’s or Texas’. And of course there could be a tie among a state’s delegation – 5 states have two House members and 5 have four (plus several others have even larger numbers). If a state delegation can’t come to some agreement, the state presumably can’t cast a vote.

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## MANISTEE COUNTY DEMOCRATS

If for one reason or other the House cannot muster 26 votes for a candidate (the 12<sup>th</sup> amendment says “a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice”) the Vice-President becomes President. If the Electoral College has chosen a Vice-President, that person is selected. If it failed to do so (because of the same tie or split voting possibility as for President) the Senate picks the Vice-President from the top two in electoral votes (each Senator gets a vote).

So, here is how we get President Mike Pence. The Electoral College vote is really close between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump – if all electors vote the way their state (or district in Maine and Nebraska) voted, it would be Trump 270 and Clinton 268. But one Texas elector just can't abide Trump, and votes for Ted Cruz. So, with no one getting to 270, the election moves to the House. Say 20 states have Democratic majorities and cast a vote each for Clinton. But now, emboldened by the Lone Ranger Elector, there is a resurgence of the “Never Trump” movement, and 6 state House delegations vote for Cruz. That leaves Trump with only 24 votes (well, 25 if the Wash DC delegate was allowed to participate and was one of the Clinton votes) – not enough to be elected. But the faithless Texas elector had no problem with Mike Pence, and voted for him as Vice President. So Pence wins the Vice Presidency 270 to 268 over Tim Kaine, and with the House unable to select the President, Pence moves into the White House.

One last caveat. The 20<sup>th</sup> amendment potentially raises some additional questions about how long President Pence would serve. This of course has never been tested, and hopefully we never have to face the issue. But as you can see, while our system has by and large worked reasonably well, it is potentially very complicated, and it might have been simpler to just stick with the monarchy – “The King is dead; long live the King.”



### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO VOTE

Recently while at the doctor's office I was asked if I was planning to vote in November, 2004. When someone asks me about voting, I often wonder why there should be a need for this question. The saddest and most upsetting question that so many people ask is, “Why should I vote?” This shows not how far this “free” nation has come, but how much further we need to go in educating people in our society.

I get very upset when people do not take voting seriously. Why should someone be begged into helping make his or her home a better and safer place to live? I feel so strongly about this issue that everywhere I go I seem to speak out passionately. I was taught that we must practice what we preach. I do this by offering my services to those who do not have transportation to the polls and on occasion I have even provided childcare. I you can assist someone in getting to the polls to vote don't you have a duty to do so? There is so much truth in the statement, “Voting is a privilege, a right, and a responsibility.”

One day I asked my niece if she was a registered voter. She admitted that she was but the next words out of her mouth were, “Will my one vote even matter?” Instead of being angry, I told her to think about everyone that she had heard ask that same question and then add up all those votes. She looked at me as if she had just realized what that meant. I cannot believe people still don't understand the power of voting. As a low income, African-American woman there are a lot of things I cannot change, but when it comes down to votes, mine carries just as much power as the wealthiest person in the world.

There are so many of our young men and women dying at war that we cannot afford to be a divided people. If you never do anything else, help decide who should govern our country. ---- Lorita Broyles

## THE MANISTEE COUNTY DEMOCRATS HAVE THREE MAIN PRESENCES ON THE INTERNET.

1. **A Google Group named *Manistee Dems*.** This group is an email communication list. When messages are set to the Group, it goes to all the members. This makes it a cheap and quick way to communicate with our wonderful Democratic citizens. There are two ways to join the group. One is to contact [ltrucks@jackpine.com](mailto:ltrucks@jackpine.com) and request that he set up your mail address. The second is to join the group yourself. See following instructions:
  - a. Navigate to [www.googlegroups.com](http://www.googlegroups.com).
  - b. Search for the group *Manistee Dems*.
  - c. Click on *Join the Group* button and follow the instructions on the screen.

This List is interactive; which means that all messages sent to the group go to all members and that if you reply to a message, it goes to all the members. Please keep this in mind if you want to send a message to one individual.

2. A website that can be accessed by typing [www.manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us) or [www.manisteedems.org](http://www.manisteedems.org). This website is intended to provide more permanent information and in addition to events and news, it has information on current democratic office holders, county party officers, and current candidates in an election year. There is also information on other democratic organization, local, state and national. There is also a list of newspapers and instruction on how to write a letter to the editor. A calendar of events for the year is available under the events tab. ([www.manisteecountydemocrats.us/calendar.htm](http://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us/calendar.htm)). If you have events or pictures or articles that you would like published, send them to [ltrucks@jackpine.com](mailto:ltrucks@jackpine.com).
3. We also have a facebook page. If you already have a facebook account, you can just do a search for *Manistee Dems*, and then click on *Join*. Once you have done this, all event notices and most posts will go to your account. If you don't have a facebook account, you can join by navigating to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and following the instructions to join. Once you have done that, you can do the search for *Manistee Dems* and join the group. You will then be able to post to the group and share pictures and videos. Just like downtown.

All of this may seem overwhelming to you, but just remember, everyone of the items that I listed above is designed to be easy for a average, non-technical person to handle and that there are literally hundreds of millions of people who do these things every day.

I might add that from a Democratic Party perspective, the ability to quickly and cheaply communicate with our members electronically is an asset of incalculable value. Not only that, but we are dealing with a younger population that increasingly eschews land lines so they are difficult to reach via the old fashioned phone tree. Digital communications are virtually free to us as opposed to the cost of sending a letter which will cost at least \$1.00 each. So I encourage you to use the tools that are available for free and come into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

If you have any questions about this or would like help, I can be reached at [ltrucks@jackpine.com](mailto:ltrucks@jackpine.com)