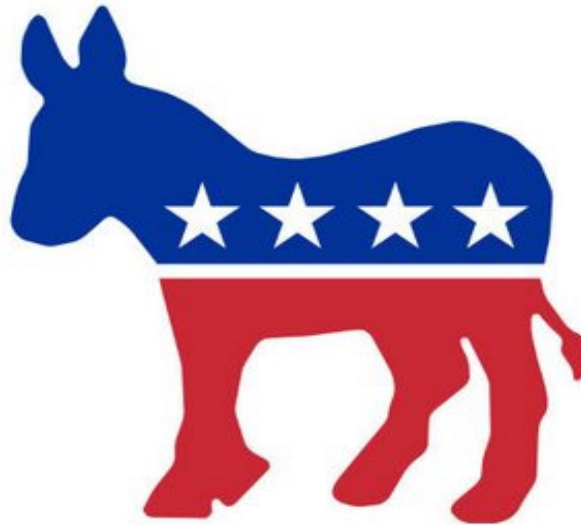


**NEWAYGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2009**

Produced and edited by
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Newaygo County Democratic Party

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On the web at newaygodems.com!

Upcoming Events

County Convention: 3:00pm, February 7th
Campaign Office, 65 W State Rd, Newaygo, MI

General Meeting: 7:00pm, February 11th
White Cloud Eagles, 461 N. Evergreen Dr. (M-37)
Arrive at 6:00 and order dinner off the menu!

State Convention: February 21st
Cobo Hall, Detroit

Equestrians Honor our Country



The Newaygo County Democratic Party proudly donated \$100 to help the men,

women, and horses of the Michigan Multi Jurisdictional Mounted Police Drill Team and Color Guard attend the inauguration, and march in the 2009 Presidential Inaugural Parade. They were one of just two organizations representing Michigan that were selected to march in the parade (the only one from West Michigan). They also appeared in the 1993 Presidential Inaugural Parade when Bill Clinton was sworn in for the first time. Way to go and thank you for embodying the spirit of Michigan in such an honorable way!

Attention, Thinkers and Writers!
If we're not piquing your interest with our information, give us an idea or write an article. We'd love to hear your bright ideas! Article and idea submissions are unpaid, however you will get a byline for any articles that are accepted and credit due for good ideas! Please send submissions to sarahusa2@gmail.com.

Grace us with your presence!!

At our General Meetings, we discuss and debate such things as how to further our Party's interests (i.e., finding and supporting Democrats to run for elected office, attracting new members and volunteers to our common cause).

Following President Obama's example of transparency, we openly review the business of the Party—expenditures, donations, committee activities, etc.

In an effort to increase attendance at our general meetings, we are asking our readers for the following input:



What day of week and time of day would you be most likely to attend a meeting?

What topics are you interested in hearing about?

What activities might persuade you to attend?

Are there things, beyond what we are asking, that would encourage you to attend?

Our General Membership meetings are currently held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm.

At present, we do not have a permanent place to gather, however, our February meeting is being held at the White Cloud Eagles.

Please join us!



My Experience as an Obama Field Organizer

Page 4

*By Will Zigler**

March 18th, 2008 was the day my path was set, although I didn't realize it yet. It was that morning



that I woke up and watched Barack Obama give his speech on race at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia. I was already planning to vote for whomever came out of the Democratic primary, but it took that speech to show me what an exceptional person and candidate that Obama was.

So when the Obama Organizing Fellowship was announced, I jumped at the opportunity to help out on the campaign. The fellowship was advertised as an unpaid thirty hour per week gig coordinating voter registration drives. Thirty hours turned out to be far less time than the job actually required, as I found myself in the office until at least 10 PM every night. The only exceptions were the two days per week I spent working at my paying job.

Once the fellowship was over in late July, I got a call offering me a full time position as a Field Organizer for the campaign. One stipulation, I had to be willing to move to somewhere else in Michigan. This was tough to hear because I had developed strong bonds with my col-

leagues and my volunteers. I would have to move away from my hometown and start from scratch somewhere else. In the end though, it was an easy decision. Despite all that I was giving up, it mattered more to me to do everything I could to get Obama elected.

So I ended up being responsible for Lake County and Newaygo County. I was overwhelmed at first by the sheer land area. However, I got down to business same as before, making phone calls, meeting with people, asking, and in some cases begging people to make phone calls or knock on doors with me.

One of my favorite memories from Newaygo County was one of my first canvasses in the city of Newaygo. At one of the houses on my canvass list a woman was getting out of her car, and I walked up to speak with her. I told her who I was, and who I was with, and then asked her if she had chosen a presidential candidate for the upcoming election. She responded that she had been leaning toward Obama, but that now she wasn't sure. When I inquired further, I found out that she had gotten one of those smear emails that were everywhere at that time.

I asked her to forward me the email and I would look into it for her. It turned out that someone had emailed her that Obama had mocked bible passages and had chopped up some of his video clips to make it seem so. When I responded, I let her know that the videos were out of context and in fact, one of the passages in question had been singled out by Obama in the past as his very favorite bible verse. Her response, "Thank you,

I'll tell all my friends."

Reaching out person to person really does work. That is why the phone calling, canvassing, and voter registration is so important. People respond to their neighbors differently than they do to a television ad. There is a reason why Obama won the Cities of Newaygo and White Cloud, and came within 150 votes in Fremont. That reason is because of all of the hard work that volunteers put in, from walking in the rain, to the long hours on the telephone.

So to all the volunteers (you know who you are), enjoy this victory, it is because of you. Know that if you took the time to make calls, knock on doors, or register voters, you have my unending gratitude. If you weren't able to this time, thank you for your vote, and please consider volunteering some time at the next opportunity. Ask someone who did, it really is a lot of fun.

****Will Zigler is writing as an individual and not as a representative of the campaign, transition team, or administration.***

February election in Barton Township

Barton Township voters residing in the Reed City School District will have the opportunity to vote on four vacant school board positions on February 24th. The voting location will be at the Green Township Hall in Osceola County and the polls will be open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM. More information on this election can be found at countyofnewaygo.com under the County Clerk section or at greentownship.org.

Looking to run for office?

Page 7

Newaygo County residents wishing to run for school board in the May 5th election will need to file with the County Clerk by 4:00 PM on February 10th. Besides school boards, the election will also include some millages and one position for Montcalm Community College Trustee (Croton and Ensley Townships). More information can be found at countyofnewaygo.com under the County Clerk section.



Check It Out!

We will be holding our County Convention at 3:00pm on February 7th at our old campaign office in Newaygo (the vacant storefront at 65 W. State Rd.). We are looking forward to electing members to the State Convention Committees. We will also discuss resolutions to forward to the State Convention Resolutions Committee. If you would like to vote at the County Convention and are not a Precinct Delegate, it is **REQUIRED** that you become a member of the Michigan Democratic Party at or before the Convention. Rest assured, this is a relatively easy thing to do. You can become a member of the MDP at michigandems.com, or fill out a membership form provided for your convenience at the Convention. Precinct Delegates will automatically have the right to vote at the Convention (provided they are MDP members) but vacant Delegate positions can be temporarily appointed. Keeping in mind the significance of your voice contributing to your Party, we strongly encourage all Party members to attend this Convention.

