

# The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, McCamie Patterson, Treasurer

September 2024

## **CHAIR'S CORNER**



Chairwoman Mari Lee

If you're like me, you still feel energized by the Democratic National Convention. I wasn't there, but I watched and followed the commentary and fast-moving conversations on social media. Whether the speakers were elected officials, celebrities, leaders, or everyday Americans who've experienced devastating losses, the DNC organized and appeared to execute a caring, fun, thoughtful, and inspiring event.

Last month, I mentioned that we were moving into our new headquarters. We've done that and have been working toward getting situated. We still have more work to do, but we've made significant headway. We are pleased to invite you to join us for our grand opening this Saturday, 7 September, at 8 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Frederick. We plan to have a small ceremony at 5 PM, but you can stop anytime between 5 and 7 PM to see our new space, pick up campaign materials and signs, socialize, or do all the above.

On Sunday, 8 September, our HQ will be open from 9 AM – 2 PM, and then starting Tuesday, 10 September, our office will be open every day of the week, except Mondays until the election. Our hours will be Tuesday – Friday, 10 AM – 8:30 PM, and Saturday & Sunday, 10:30 AM – 8 PM.

Last Monday, we held our second "Plow-Fish" event of the year with Special Guest Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller at the home of District 3 Delegate Kris Fair and Dominick Fair. Thank you to all who joined us. It was a well-attended event, held in their beautiful backyard, with delectable food. We hope to set a date for our final event soon.

During the convention, former First Lady Michelle Obama challenged Democrats (and those like-minded in this historic election) to "do something" (link) to help Kamala Harris get elected. Our #TeamMaryland Coordinated Campaign volunteers have been doing exactly that. For the last four+ weekends, they have been knocking doors around the county for Angela Alsobrooks (U.S. Senate) and April Delaney (Congress). I don't have all the photos, but you will see a sample elsewhere in this newsletter.

We now have 64 days and a "wake up" (as Governor Moore would put it) until the general election on Tuesday, 5 November. We invite you to heed the call to DO SOMETHING. Starting Tuesday, 10 September, you can join us for phone banking at HQ during designated phone banking hours, and/or help knock doors, which is being increased to every day except Mondays. I'll send a follow up notice

soon with more details and the Mobilize links to sign up for one or both activities. If you want to help but need or want to make calls from home, you can go ahead and sign up here.

Once again, we have a hectic month ahead with several community events on our calendar. Join us at "First Saturday" on Saturday, 7 September, in front of Middletown Valley Bank, 9 N. Market Street, from 2:30-4:45. We'll also be at the Great Frederick Fair. Friday, 13 September - Saturday, 21 September, (all day, every day) and "In the Streets" on Saturday, 14 September, from 11 AM - 5 PM. There is one more event that we hope to attend. If our vendor application is approved, we will add that to our calendar and be there on the last Saturday. We hope you'll stop by our table to say hello, pick up candidates or Party literature, sign up to volunteer, or all the above! We also welcome you to help us staff our table. Click here to view available shifts and sign up for your preferred event(s) and shift(s).

Are you interested in helping people to register to vote? The Frederick County Board of Elections is offering a class on Friday, 13 September, at 1 PM. Voter Registration Volunteers must be 18 years old. Seating is limited to 45 people, so please sign up as soon as possible. The Board of Elections is also still looking for election judges. If interested, you can learn more here or call 301.600.VOTE (8683).





Tom Slater, Frederick County Democratic Central Committee / Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

The Rest of the Story — A Delegate's Diary

I thought it might be interesting to give Banner readers a day-by-day account of what it's like to be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. This was my fourteenth Democratic convention. My first was in 1972 (in Miami Beach when George McGovern was nominated) and my Young Democratic friend, Frederick Alderman Ron Young, who was an alternate to the convention, pledged to McGovern, and my fraternity brother, Gene Counihan (who later served in the Maryland House of Delegates) and I drove straight through to Miami Beach to attend the convention. Neither Gene nor I had any official position. I was a 27-year-old high school history teacher with a passion for politics. I remember sitting in a small hospitality room with Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel, who was holding a pipe in one hand and a bourbon & water in the other and telling political stories. This was a political junkie's dream, and I vowed never to miss another Democratic convention, and so far, I have not. You do not have to be a delegate or alternate to experience a Democratic convention – I have been co-chair of the Maryland arrangements committee (all volunteers), a volunteer, a bartender in the hospitality room, four times, and a delegate (1980, 2012, 2020 and 2024), and a member of the Rules

Committee (2008). Before the MDP expanded its staff, most of the work at the convention was done by volunteers. Now party staff and Rice Consulting do all of the work that volunteers used to do. If you are attending the convention and from Maryland but not a part of the official delegation; you can be a part of the Maryland group by paying a fee (\$500, this convention) which allows you to attend Maryland events, including bus transportation, with the good possibility that you will get into the convention hall at least one night.

Maryland had 125 delegates and alternates to the convention this year including 63 elected at the congressional district level, 22 automatic party leaders and elected officials (Governor, Senators, MDP chair, etc.), 11 PLEOs (Pledged party leaders and elected officials), 21 At-Large delegates, and 8 At-Large alternates. The PLEOs and At-Large delegates and alternates are chosen by the Maryland Democratic State Central Committee members. In addition, the Maryland delegation includes three members on each of the standing committees: Credentials, Platform, and Rules) and four pages.

Official members of the Maryland delegation from Frederick County included Jessica Fitzwater, Karen Lewis Young, and me (elected at the congressional district level), Bob Kresslein (Maryland DNC member), and Ken Kerr (Alternate).

Day One (Sunday, August 18): I traveled to the convention with my good friend Bob Kresslein (attending his 10<sup>th</sup> convention, starting in 1988), and my son Stephen (attending his 7<sup>th</sup> convention). Once we got to Chicago, we generally hung out with veteran convention goers John Willis, Greg Pecoraro, Corynn Corpus, Meredith Bowman, and Myrna Whitworth. Waiting to board the plane we chatted with Mark Feinrock (chair of the Maryland Biden campaign), Vinny DeMarco (Maryland Health Care for

All), Jay Guzzone (assistant to party chair Ken Ulman), Justin Roth (former member of the Maryland House of Delegates and now a lobbyist in Annapolis), Susan Smith (former aide to Governor Glendening), and Samantha who was attending her first convention. A wonderful thing about attending the convention is that you get to catch up with old political friends and make new ones. I had priority boarding on our Southwest flight and, as I was walking onto the plane, I heard applause, sat in the second row, and in walked Governor and Mrs. Moore, who sat on the row behind me. Governor Moore was kind enough to take a selfie with me. For those of you who have been to my office, you know that I like pictures.

Once settling into our nice (but expensive) Sheraton hotel (delegates and attendees pay all of their expenses to attend the convention), we ubered to an Italian American Democratic event at an exclusive restaurant (Tri Dete). A few of us had invitations although most did not, but we all got in. Maryland State Senator Jim Rosapepe was in charge, and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro was the featured speaker. The wine was free but unfortunately, I ordered a beer for Bob and me and paid \$30+ for the two beers - a lesson learned. We then ubered to an AAPI event that we were urged to attend by Maryland Democratic Committeewoman Bel Leong-Hong. After returning to our hotel, I got a call from a French-Canadian journalist who wanted to interview me because of the number of conventions that I had attended. We met in the lobby of the hotel for a 20minute recorded interview. Bob and I then headed for the Navy Pier for a welcoming party for delegates. Once we got off the bus, it was a bit of a walk to the party, and it was loud and crowded. After we talked to Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater, who had just arrived in Chicago, we headed back to the hotel. From 10 P.M.

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to midnight there was a Maryland party at an Irish bar next to the hotel where we talked to many including Congressman Kweisi Mfume (we compared our convention experiences; his first was in 1980) and Lilly Rose, a Young Democrat and recent college graduate from Garrett County, who was thrilled to attend her first convention as an At-Large delegate and to be one of the few delegates ever from Garrett County.

Day 2 (Monday, August 19): Breakfast at 7:30 sponsored by Maryland Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller (sleep is limited at the convention if you go to the after-convention parties and the morning breakfasts). New York Senator Chuck Shumer walked in, uninvited, and started talking about how important it is to elect Angela Alsobrooks. The featured speaker at the breakfast was Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland. I got pictures in the hotel lobby with New York Congressman Jerry Nadler and New York Governor Kathy Hochul. Credentials were picked up daily at the Maryland office in the hotel after breakfast. Bob took the bus to the DNC headquarters to see if, as a DNC member, he could get some more passes, and he obtained 3 hall passes which he was able to trade for better passes for Stephen and Myrna (not floor passes but better seating in the arena). The bargaining and search for passes is a big deal for those who are not part of the official Maryland convention delegation, but most manage to get a seat in the arena at least one night. The MDP hosted a pleasant convention watch party at the hotel with TVs., open bar, and snacks for those who could not get passes.

Getting to the convention the first night was a hassle; the bus took over two hours to get there, and the mob scene getting through security and into the arena was awful. After the first night, the logistics were much better. Once onto the floor of the convention, I found everything great, especially after discovering that the Maryland

delegation was up front with a direct line of sight to the podium. Congressman Steny Hoyer was announced as the Parliamentarian for the convention and gave me a thumbs up as I sat down. As with every place we went in Chicago, food in the convention hotel was very expensive. I was especially impressed by the speeches of Maryland's own Jamie Raskin, AOC, Hillary Clinton, Senator Warnock, the Bidens' daughter, Jill and Joe Biden, and the surprise appearance of Vice President Harris. From our seats we could see the teleprompter fail briefly in the middle of Jamie's speech. Jesse Jackson's appearance in a wheelchair with Rev. Al Sharpton was moving. As the evening went on, the aisles became more crowded, especially with photographers, which was somewhat annoying. Also, my seat was at the end of the aisle, so I was up and down often. Once when I was standing, I spotted Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm walking past the nearby California delegation and as I fumbled with my phone to take a picture, she grabbed my phone and took the selfie herself. As I have often said, Joe Biden spoke too long, and I left before he finished speaking to try to get an early start with the buses back to the hotel. I rushed to put the signs in my room that I had been given to hold up in the hall as some speakers spoke and then rushed to get to the Maryland delegation bus for the afterparty. I didn't get to the after party until 12:30 am, and the first person I saw standing outside the venue was Gene Ransom, former president of the Maryland Y.D.s and county commissioner in Queen Anne's County who is now the CEO of the Maryland State Medical Society and a good friend of my son Stephen. This event was sponsored by Governor Moore, was heavily attended and at an interesting venue, The Game Room, on Michigan Avenue. I said hello to State Senator Guy Guzzone, Molly Byron (Congresswoman Byron's granddaughter and senior advisor to Governor Moore), Congressman Raskin and his wife, and Judy Carbone,

chair of the Garrett County Democratic State Central Committee. I left the party at 2:30, was up at 6:30 for the 7:30 breakfast. This is the hectic pace of a convention. Thank goodness I could take a nap after having breakfast before getting on the bus at 3:00 pm to head for the convention hall).

Day 3 (Tuesday, August 20): At the 7:30 delegation breakfast Congressman Mfume gave a fiery and energetic speech. Steny Hoyer, fully recovered from the stroke he had last week, spoke brilliantly, but a bit too long, and the breakfast ended with Maryland's own, Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Bob, Stephen, Meredith, and I had lunch at a nearby British Pub, and as we arrived back at the hotel, and talked briefly with Senator Ben Cardin, who was off to an event for Senators. Bob and I gave up our floor credentials to Stephen and Myrna so that they could have the opportunity to get on the floor of the convention. Bob and I watched the exciting and entertaining role call as well as the speeches by Angela Alsobrooks, Michelle Obama, Barak Obama, and Doug Emhoff at the hotel watch party. The after-party was sponsored by Congressman Jamie Raskin and was held at Harry Carey's tavern at the Navy Pier, which was filled with baseball memorabilia. Special guests at Jamie's party were Harry Dunn and Michael Cohen. Tyler Oyler from Frederick was there, and I had a long talk about the strategy associated with Biden's withdrawal and Harris' ascendency with State Senator Jim Rosapepe, a leader in the Maryland Biden campaign.

Day 4 (Wednesday, August 21): The breakfast was sponsored by Maryland Democratic congressional candidates Delaney, Elfreth, and Olszewski. The special guest was Colorado Congressman Joe Neguse, who was on one of the impeachment committees. Neguse was excellent and demonstrated a welcome knowledge of the Maryland political scene. I had a

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chance to talk to Senator Van Hollen about the luncheon for the Frederick County Democratic trustees that we will be holding in the fall. After breakfast, the members of the Maryland group were treated to an architectural boat tour of Chicago. One group went on the tour in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Transportation to the convention hall was much improved from the Monday experience. As everyone has commented, the enthusiasm in the hall was infectious and encouraging. You could hear a pin drop when the parents of the hostage held by Hamas spoke. Haken Jefferies, Maryland Governor Moore, Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro, Oprah Winfrey, and Tim Walz were excellent, and seeing John Legend up close was cool. At the after-party, I had long chats with MDP Vice-Chair Charlene Dukes and Chair Ken Ulman. I discovered that the first year I was elected to the Democratic State Central Committee, 1974, was the year Ken was born!

Day 5 (Thursday, August 22): Delegation breakfast was sponsored by Angela Alsobrooks. Special guest was the dynamic Rev. Senator Rafael Warnock. He was wonderful, just as he was when he spoke to the convention. At one time he was a preacher in Baltimore. Bob and I got to the convention hall early. eat jockeying was in full bloom (the front row of the Maryland delegation section was occupied by the same people for all four days of the convention.) I was interviewed at length by a New York journalist and had my picture taken by a New York Times photographer. I doubt if I will ever see either the picture or the story. By the last day of the convention the MDP had printed signs with each delegate's name on it to tape on the back of the seats so that we could all have a seat. For a while security would not let people leave the floor of the convention, even to go to the bathroom. Rumors were circulating that Taylor Swift's plane had landed in Chicago and that she was on her way to perform at the convention. The

convention hall was so packed that Myrna and Stephen, who had hall but not floor passes and ended up so far back in the convention hall that they had to squint to see anything, left early from the convention hall and went back to watch from the hotel convention party, where they could get a better view. Kamala's speech was perfect, the after party at a pizza place was crowded, the food was good, the beer was cold, and we all were exhausted. The next day Bob, Stephen, and I flew home on Southwest and were glad to get home to get some much needed rest.

The convention has given Democrats the inspiration to win in November, and we need to leave no stone unturned in that cause. It was a privilege to represent Maryland 6<sup>th</sup> District Democrats at the Democratic National Convention.



New York Governor Kathy Hochul and Tom Slater



County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, Democratic Candidate for U.S. Senate



# UNITED DEMOCRATS OF FREDERICK COUNTY

Dear UDFC Members and Friends,

We held our annual picnic on July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Ballenger Creek Community Center. There were 60+ attendees who enjoyed the supper, and the company, as well as our guest speakers! Our summer picnic is held in lieu of the July monthly meeting.

The August meeting was held at the C. Burr Artz Library, and we had a Post Card writing session guided by Vice President Melanie Galloway. The effort was organized to reach out to voters in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Arizona, North Carolina and Georgia- ahead of their approaching primaries.

The September meeting will be held on the second Monday, 9/9/2024, at Café 611, due to the holiday over the Labor Day weekend. Our guests at the meeting will be special invitees who attended the Democratic National Convention, who will share with us their experiences at the convention.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, our UDFC Communications Director, Brandon Duck, was able to attend a very special rally in Largo Maryland at Prince George's Community College. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris appeared together and both spoke at the event! Their photos are included with this article. Many thanks to Brandon for the pictures!

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#### REMINDER TO ALL UDFC MEMBERS:

The Great Frederick Fair is coming September 13-21 at the Frederick Fairgrounds. (September 19 is UDFC day.) Volunteers are always needed at this event, and the sign-up link is included here:

#### Here is the Great Frederick Fair link: https://frederickdems.ivolunteer.c om/freddems\_gff\_2024.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

- Maureen Grayzeck President, UDFC



Vice President Kamala Harris, Presidential Candidate



President Joe Biden





# **WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OF FREDERICK** COUNTY

For the last two months, the Women's Democratic League of Frederick (WDL) has been focusing our GOTV efforts on postcards at our monthly meetings. We have been able to write 1,890 postcards led by Melanie Galloway, to encourage voting by less active Democratic voters in the critical battleground states of PA and NC! We have had several new women who have come out to join us in our efforts.

In September, we will have two events. The WDL will be co-hosting a joint meeting with UDFC on Monday, September 9 at Café 611 in Frederick. Several of our local Democrat National Convention delegates will be sharing their experiences. If you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at the conventions, then this is the event for you!

In lieu of our September Meeting, we will be celebrating WDL Day at the Great Frederick Fair on Wednesday, September 18. WDL members are encouraged to volunteer for a shift at the Democratic tent. Please click here for available shifts. If you are not available on the 18th, please volunteer for another day.

I hope you will be able to join for one or both of these events.

Shelly Beaird-Francois, President, WDL



# Volunteers Needed!



We are looking for volunteers, to help us staff our Democrat booth at various events, canvassing, and our Get Out the Vote efforts. Please click on the link below for more information and to sign up.

**Volunteer Today** 



Don't forget to check the calendar on our website to keep up with Democratic meetings, candidate events, and more!

http://www.frederickdemocrats.or g/events/calendar



Join CLUBBLUE! Our sustainers are activists and everyday people who contribute a monthly monetary donation to help the Party sustain its competitiveness in current and future local and statewide elections.

Click <a href="here">here</a> for more details. Donate as little as \$5 a month and let the Frederick County Democrats do all the work!





#### **Editor's Corner**

Gmail users – Our mail server may cause *The Banner* to be delivered to your email "Promotions" tab instead of your inbox. If you do not receive your monthly edition, please check for it in that tab. If it isn't there, please send me an email and I'll check your subscription. You may also view *The Banner* on our website by clicking here.

#### **Banner Newsletter Ideas?**

Send me an email with your ideas, materials, or feedback for consideration.

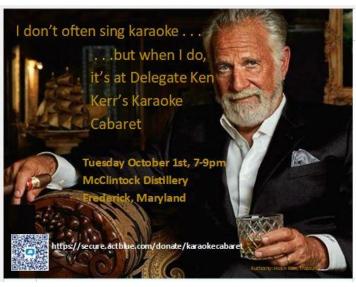
Hope you enjoyed reading!

Shelly Beaird - Francois,

shelly@frederickdemocrats.org

or

Central Committee - info@frederickdemocrats.org





The Banner



#### SAVE THE DATE

Please join the Frederick County Democratic Party at a special event to honor our 2024 Beverly B. Byron Award recipient -Emerge Maryland



Monday, 2 December 2024 6 PM - 8 PM

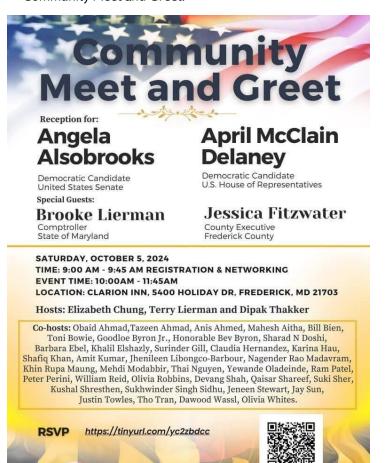
Frederick Elks Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Dr, Frederick Heavy Hors d'oeuvres / Cash Bar

Sponsorship and ticket information will be announced soon.

Authority ECDCC McComin Pottogon Tonorosa

MONTGOMERY

Please click <u>here</u> to register for this Community Meet and Greet.





Register for the Democrats Rally & Day of Action <u>here</u>.

Frederick County Democratic Central Committee

Saturday

September 7

# September 2024 At-a-Glance



Special Meeting of the United Democrats of Frederick Co. (UDFC), co-hosted by the Women's Democratic League of Frederick County (WDL), and Frederick County Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC)

Monday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. Café 611, 611 North Market Street, Frederick

North Frederick Co. Dems (NFCD) Monthly Meet-Up Saturday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd, Thurmont (Please bring a non-perishable item for the area food bank.)

Frederick County Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) Monthly
Meeting

Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. HQ, 8 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Frederick

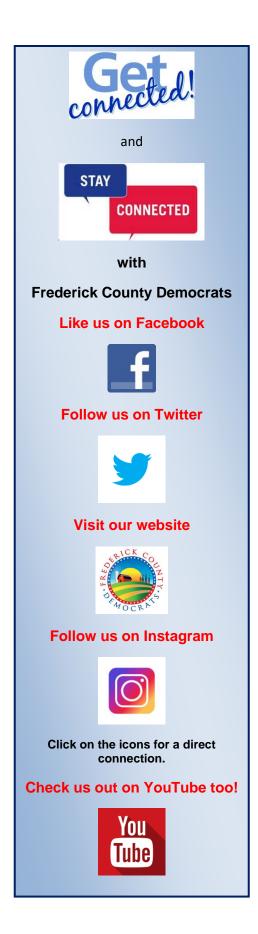
Young Democrats of Frederick County (YDFC) Monthly Meeting Thursday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m.

C. Burr Artz Library, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick

South Frederick Co. Dems (SFCD) Monthly Meet-Up
No Meeting

Bar-T Mountainside, 2914 Roderick Rd, Frederick

Join the Central Committee, WDL, and UDFC at the Democratic tent at the Great Frederick Fair, Friday, September 13 – Saturday, September 21. View shifts and sign up <a href="https://example.com/here-to-september2">here-to-september 21</a>. View shifts and sign up <a href="https://example.com/here-to-september2">here-to-september2</a>.



#### A LOOK BACK AT FREDERICK DEMS IN THE COMMUNITY IN AUGUST 2024.

National Night Out - Tuesday, August 6, 2024





Moving in New Democratic Office
- Saturday, August 11, 2024



Black Frederick Festival – Saturday, August 24, 2024





Democratic National Convention Monday, August 19 - Thursday, August 22, 2024





Mountain City Elks Lodge #382 Parade - Sunday, August 25, 2024



#TeamMaryland Coordinated Campaign Volunteer Canvassers – various weekends late July and August 2024



Plow-Fish – Monday, August 26, 2024













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## **EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

Vice President Kamala Harris and Tim Walz - Website

# DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR THE 2024 ELECTION

## **U.S. SENATE**

Angela Alsobrooks - Website

# U.S. CONGRESS, DISTRICT 6

April McClain Delaney - Website



#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION, FREDERICK COUNTY**

Choose three from this recommended list.

Josh Bokee – <u>Website</u> Veronica Lowe - <u>Website</u> Janier Monier – <u>Website</u> Chad King Wilson, Sr. - <u>Website</u>

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