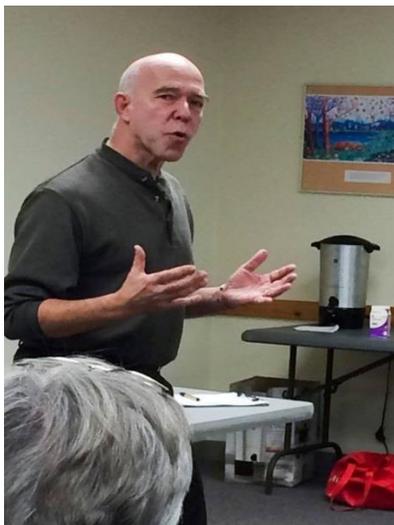




### **The Falmouth Democratic Town Committee Monthly Newsletter: January 20, 2016**

**Megan English Braga, Chair of the FDTC**, opened the meeting. She reminded us to pay our dues and noted that future meetings would include a state candidate forum, a meeting to vote in our officers, and a forum on poverty in the Falmouth area.

**Zelda MacGregor**, Campaign Manager for Matt Patrick, made announcements.



**Seth Rolbein from CIVIC**

**Seth Rolbein**, President of the Cape and Islands Voter Issues Coalition, (CIVIC) and senior advisor for **Dan Wolf**, presented information on this newly formed group. The group wants to bring a new focus directed at the values of the Democratic Party on the Cape, and to emphasize the issues which concern us here on the Cape. The group plans to hire a full time community organizer, backed by a Board of Directors, to build a focus on strategy, tactics and change, community by community. The goal is to get better candidates to run. There will be fund raising in order to hire someone for two years with a goal of raising \$200,000. Some examples of issues might be affordable housing on the Cape, preK opportunities, jobs, drug issues, gun control and climate change issues. The issues will be determined from the grass roots level up. A sign- up sheet was passed so that members of the audience could express interest.

**Megan** introduced the two campaign officials for the main event of the evening. **Martina Jackson** represented the Hillary Clinton campaign and **Paul Feeney** serves as the state director of Bernie Sanders' campaign.

**Martina Jackson** started the evening. She explained why she had worked for Hillary in New Hampshire and in New York State previously, and now helps coordinate volunteers traveling to New Hampshire and canvassing door to door. She described Hillary Clinton as an "artist" at reaching across the aisle. She listed Secretary Clinton's accomplishments in NY State. She emphasized that if Secretary Clinton is elected, her issues of concern, among others, will be the Supreme Court, initiatives on the economy,



**Martina Jackson**

dealing with the shadow banking problem, dealing with any continuing issues around same sex marriage and abortion, and recommitting to the Voting Rights Act.

**Paul Feeney** spoke of the “political revolution” Senator Bernie Sanders is calling for so that the disadvantaged of our society, the lower middle class, and the labor movement can regain their footing. His campaign is about principles and shared values. Sanders is the “backbone” the Democrats need, Feeney declared, in order to stand up with our shared values. Senator Sanders, among other issues, speaks about college debt, prison issues, a universal single payer health care plan, a minimum wage of \$15 an hour, and a voice for the working man.

Much time was then spent on questions from the audience. A sample of questions follows:



Paul Feeney

1. Why is Hillary not speaking about breaking up the big banks and whether there is a difference between breaking up the banks and breaking up the dark money side of the economy? Could both be done at once? Attitudes toward the Glass-Steagall Act were discussed. Some questioned how Bernie Sanders could actually get the money out of politics. Both Hillary and Bernie want to void Citizens United.
2. Some asked questions about how Bernie Sanders would deal with Republican opposition to his ideas since the Republicans control Congress. Some in the audience were concerned that if Senator Sanders were the candidate, conservative and right wing voters could vote in Trump or another right wing candidate. Several recalled previous elections in which a conservative was voted in because the Democrats were split in their support for their own candidate. One participant said she felt it was not right of the Sanders campaign to raise false hopes of success which might then weaken the Hillary campaign.
3. The audience asked questions about the candidates’ attitudes toward the use of fossil fuels and toward stopping gun violence in the country.
4. A number of people in the audience emphasized the importance of voter registration drives, stating that when drives succeed, Democrats will turn out to vote. Both candidates hope to get out the vote with young people.
5. Several young people in the audience asked that youth not be patronized and stated that the goals of the Occupy movement motivated them, particularly the \$15 an hour minimum wage issue.

In general, with the Hillary campaign there is an emphasis on proceeding step by step toward goals, and in the Bernie campaign an emphasis on values as well as sweeping change.

**Matt Patrick**, candidate for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Barnstable State Rep position spoke about his testimony at the State House for The Millionaire Tax or the Fair Share tax. Every dollar earned over \$1 million gets taxed 4% for education and infrastructure. He mentioned an upcoming event in his



Matt Patrick testifying at State House

campaign as listed below in the calendar.

**Michael Blanton**, also a candidate for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Barnstable State Rep position, spoke

Matt Patrick at FDTC

about his background on the Board of Selectmen in Bourne, on the Cape Cod Commission and Bourne Housing Commission. He also has an event listed in the calendar below.

**The Bernie Sanders campaign** announced its upcoming event as below in calendar.



**The Hillary's Falmouth Friends** group has a website, Facebook page, and will list upcoming events.

**CALENDAR: BERNIE EVENT** to watch his nation-wide address to his supporters at 6pm, Saturday , January 23 at Alchemy Farm. Arrive at 5:30pm.

After Bernie's address, please stick around for:

- informal discussion about Bernie's address and networking/socializing
- for any one interested: getting instruction and experience with phone banking (short script is provided)
- mostly meant to find out if people have decided whom they plan to vote for and to encourage to go to the polls - not meant to try convince them to change their vote)
- watch BIG SHORT movie on our tv screen(s)

**Michael Blanton Event:** January 29, 2016 from 5-7 p.m. at the Meza Luna Restaurant, Buzzards Bay.

**Matt Patrick Event:** Mardi Gras with Matt Patrick on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. sponsored by Dan Wolf, Mary Pat Flynn and others at 3 Circle Lane, Pocasset. RSVP to [Zelda@electmattpatrick.org](mailto:Zelda@electmattpatrick.org)

**Next FDTC monthly meeting:** February 17<sup>th</sup>, Gus Canty Center at 7 p.m. Topic will be poverty in the Falmouth area.

Submitted by **Kirstin Moritz**, Newsletter Editor and photos by **Emily Ferguson** and **Zelda MacGregor**.

















