



211 S Prospect Suite 9; Bloomington, Illinois

McLean County Republicans

June, 2023

## Regan Deering Announces Run for 88<sup>TH</sup> Illinois House District Seat

### In this issue:

Regan Deering	1
Precinct Adoptions	2
Memorial Day Parade	3
Featured Recipe	3
PolitiBits	4
Upcoming Events	4

### McLean County Republican Central Committee Executive Board

#### Chairman

Dennis Grundler

#### First Vice Chair

John Parrott

#### Treasurer

Carl Haney

#### Secretary

Bruce Hany

#### Program Manager

Joanne Kipmeyer

#### Division Chairs

Matt Steinkoenig, Blm North  
Jim Snyder, Blm South  
David Blumenshine, Normal  
George Wendt, County West  
Adam Reeves, County East

#### At Large

Brandon Hepner

#### Pillar Managers

Chelsie Leffelman, Community  
Outreach  
Carl Wenning, Communications  
David Paul Blumenshine, Fundraising  
Kim Miller, Elections

Regan Deering of Decatur announced her bid for the 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois House District seat on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the McLean County Republicans HQ in Bloomington. She hopes to follow state Rep. Dan Caulkins (R-Decatur), who will be stepping down from that position at the expiration of his term, honoring a commitment to serve up to three terms in that capacity. Rep. Caulkins introduced Mrs. Deering to about 30 attendees and endorsed her candidacy. He noted she would be “the best candidate to promote our conservative values.” He also described her as very effective and someone who would energize the Republican base of the 88<sup>th</sup> District.



Rep. Dan Caulkins introducing Regan Deering at the MCGOP headquarters on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

While announcing her candidacy, Mrs. Deering stated that her motivation for running was her “concern about the future of my family.” She serves on her local Mount Zion school board. She espouses the values of “freedom, responsibility, hard work, and compassion for the underprivileged.” She promised to fight for conservative “values, interests and causes” to benefit all her constituents.

She said, “I’m a mom, an educator, and a small-business owner,” referring to her former business, where she had 100 part-time employees. She believes, “We can no longer sit on the sidelines when the culture war is a problem, and parents are losing rights,” and insisted “our rights and values must be protected.” Mrs. Deering willingly took questions from the audience, and one of the attendees asked about her stance on the Second Amendment, and Mrs. Deering noted that she is a “strong defender” of Second Amendment rights.

The 88th Illinois House District consists of portions of McLean, Macon, DeWitt, and Piatt counties. The urban cores of Bloomington-Normal and Decatur are not part of the district, though the outlying regions of those towns are included.

To learn more about Regan Deering’s candidacy and positions on the issues, visit her website at <https://www.reganforillinois.com/>.

## **McLean County Republicans are seeking liberty-loving men and women to serve as Precinct Committeemen**

In an excerpt, Charles Swindoll writes, “George Bernard Shaw’s statement frequently flashes through my mind: “Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.” Those words bite and sting in a day of passing the buck with merely a shrug. It’s one thing to sing and dance to liberty’s tunes, but it’s something else entirely to bear the responsibility for paying the band.

The precinct committeeperson (PC) has been called “the most powerful office in the world” because the PC is the closest structured political officeholder to the registered voter. PCs are the backbone of the local party. PCs are elected by the people of the precinct in which they reside. Only Precinct Committeepersons can vote on the internal Party policy. A PC elects the county, district, and state party officers, delegates to the Presidential convention, and RNC members. PCs sent to the Presidential Convention also vote on the policies the party platform will advocate in the next two years.

Across the nation, over 400,000 PC positions are available in the Republican Party. Only about 200,000 of these positions are filled. With only about 50% of these important positions filled, our party is running at half-strength. McLean County Republican Party is no different from the national average. We want to fill open PC positions with people who love liberty and are willing to get involved to see positive change in McLean County.

If your precinct does not have a person serving as the Republican PC and you are interested, there is a straightforward application process to complete. At this time, an interested person can be appointed as a PC by the Republican County Chair. You must be a registered voter in your precinct and 18 years of age.

For more information about serving as a PC, email Kim Miller at [millerkim617@gmail.com](mailto:millerkim617@gmail.com) or call 217-254-8193.





## Memorial Day Parade

We had a small but enthusiastic representation at this year's Memorial Day parade in Bloomington. About two dozen walkers and riders attended our car-drawn float during the parade. The special guest of honor was Senator Tom Bennett, a great friend of McLean County Republicans. Also present was Dennis Grundler, Chair of McLean County Republicans. MCGOP Board members Jim Snyder, Jim Fisher, and Brandon Hepner were also present. Part of the group was Jerry Klinkner, along with spouses and children. Some 400 American flags were passed out along the parade route that stretched from downtown Bloomington to Miller Park. Below is a panoply of images from that day.



## Featured Recipe – Pioneer Woman's Apple Dumplings

(Serves 4-6, prep time 15 minutes, bake time 40-45 minutes)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 large apple {I used a Fuji - any apple will do; tart is better}
- 1 can Pillsbury Crescent dough
- 1/2 cup butter
- 3/4 cup or 6 oz. of 7-Up or equivalent
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease an 8"x8" baking dish. Cut each apple into 8-10 wedges. Slice the apple skin off as well and set aside. Separate the crescent roll dough into triangles. Fold each apple wedge in crescent roll dough, starting at the wide end. Pinch to seal and cover the apples and place them in the baking dish. (It is easier to pat the apple wedge dry, then wrap dough around it.)

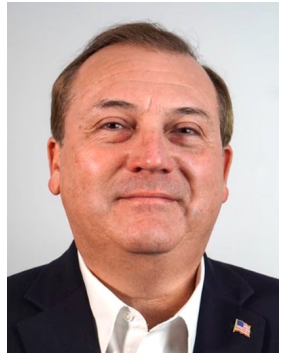
Melt butter in a small saucepan and stir in the sugar and cinnamon. Heat, whisking to combine. The mixture will slowly combine and thicken. When it's thickened, remove it from the heat and add vanilla. Pour the cinnamon mixture over the apple dumplings. Pour soda over the dumplings. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes in the preheated oven or until golden brown.



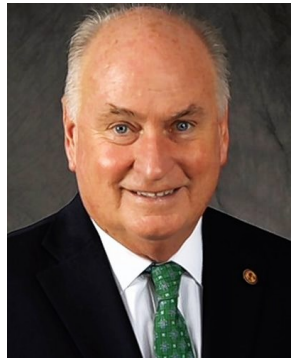
## PolitiBits

*PolitiBits are bits of worthwhile political information too small to merit a separate article. They are compiled here for their interest. (Please note that announcements of candidacies do not constitute endorsements.)*

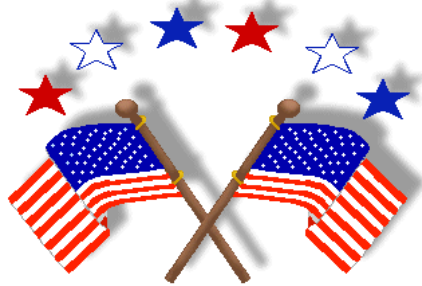
- ★ On June 14<sup>th</sup>, **Reagan Deering** announced her candidacy for the 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois House District at an MCGOP luncheon.
- ★ **Rafael "Ray" Estrada**, a businessman-philanthropist from Galesburg, has announced his bid for the 17<sup>th</sup> US House District from Illinois. to challenge freshman Sorensen. A Nicaraguan refugee, Mr. Estrada pledges to support families. The MCGOP has agreed to serve as a "co-host" for the Ray Estrada event in Peoria on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- ★ After serving as a Representative in the Illinois House for more than 20 years, **former Rep. Dan Brady** is exploring a run for Congress in the 17<sup>th</sup> House District.



**Rafael "Ray" Estrada**



**Former State Rep. Dan Brady**



## Upcoming Events

The MCGOP leadership is now making plans for an array of events. The best way to keep informed about these events is to watch upcoming issues of this [newsletter](#), watch for posts on the McLean County Republicans' [Facebook page](#), keep an eye on our [MCGOP website](#), and watch for emails to our subscribers. If you want to be added to our email database, please email us at [info@mcleancountyrepublicans.org](mailto:info@mcleancountyrepublicans.org).

- ★ There will be a training session for **Precinct Committeepersons** on Wednesday, June 21, at the MCGOP Headquarters. The session begins at 6:30 PM and runs until 8:00 PM. If you are a PC and wish to attend, RSVP through this [link](#).
- ★ The MCGOP plans to march on **July 4<sup>th</sup> parades** in Towanda, Downs, and Chenoa this year. Keep your eye open for our team of marchers, and feel free to join them. Watch our [Facebook page](#) for our call for volunteers to participate in these patriotic events. Walkers are needed to distribute free materials to attendees.
- ★ Join us for our monthly small-group tête-à-tête to discuss politics over a pint of your favorite brew at [Barrel House of Bloomington](#) (9 Brickyard Drive - (309) 590-3396), on Friday, July 14, from 5 - 7 PM. We typically have discussions around several tables, with many fast and varied topics. There is no Pints & Politics gathering this year during June.
- ★ MCGOP has tentatively scheduled its **summer picnic** for August 13<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7 PM. The venue will be the Hesed House near Heyworth. Rep. Darren LaHood will likely be the featured speaker. Reservations will be required. Put this date into your schedule and watch the July issue of this newsletter for details.
- ★ Every year, the MCGOP hosts the **Lincoln-Reagan Dinner**. This event features a significant political figure and serves as our annual fundraiser. While this event is usually held during the spring, this year, the event will be held during late summer or early autumn.