In 2015, an individual descended a golden escalator in his eponymous building in New York City to announce his candidacy for President in 2016. Wyandotte County resident Beth Seberger was not okay with this spectacle and has been volunteering with the WyCo Democrats ever since. Her goal: get out the vote and keep a democrat in office. The outcome of that story is still impacting the country. An untold part of the story lives with the volunteers, like Beth, who work on the ground in Wyandotte County to try to change the narrative, one neighbor at a time.

As a precinct leader for WyCo's ward 9, district 3, 79-year-old Beth along with precinct committeeman Gary Bradley traverse the neighborhood of approximately 500 households to "get out the vote." They provide registration information, candidate information, polling location, sample ballots, and other resources to her neighbors to encourage them to exercise their voices in local, state, and national elections. Beth talks to people if they are home. If they are not, she leaves them information taped with blue painter's tape on their doors. She makes herself available to answer questions. She puts signs in her yard. She wants to do her part to make a difference.

Born to a farming couple in Nebraska, Beth is retired from working in social services agencies in Missouri and Kansas, most of which support peace and justice, refugees, immigrants, women and children. Her son lives in Illinois, and she likes to take the train to see him once a year. In the winter, she spends her time making blankets for Care Beyond the Boulevard.

A mission-critical goal for WyCo Dems is to get voters to the polls. This is why precinct leaders like Beth are so critical to turnout success. In the 2024 final election results for the county, overall voter turnout was **54**%. The national average turnout was **64**%. With more than 90,000 registered voters in the county, to make a difference in any election, more voters must exercise their voting rights. The majority of registered voters are democrats, with unaffiliated coming in second. Those unaffiliated voters tend to lean democratic in elections. Beth and the WyCo Dems Executive Board believe that Wyandotte County has an opportunity to be the political powerhouse it once was. But, the county cannot do it alone.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a precinct leader in your district, contact <u>Susan Martin</u>. You could have an opportunity to work in tandem with volunteers like Beth as WyCo takes back control of our collective futures by exercising our rights as citizens.