



www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting Date:

February 25th

(4th Thursday of month)

7 pm - 9 pm

Dial-a Ride, Manistee

Meeting Agenda includes
Guest Speaker -

News from Lansing
and District 101

Officers

Chair- Dave Berns
dberns46@gmail.com

Vice Chair-
Jeanne Butterfield
jbutterfield2@gmail.com

Secretary- Lisa Hamilton
lisamichelle77@yahoo.com

Treasurer-
Judy Cunningham
jpc4466@gmail.com

Join the Manistee
Dems

and help elect

Democratic

Candidates

Stobie ends bid for 101st House Seat

Throws support behind Dan Scripps



It is with a heavy heart that Tom Stobie ends his 2016 campaign for the State House. He started his run for this seat in 2013, missing out winning in the 2014 election by a slim 321 votes. This year, in a presidential election cycle, Stobie had aspirations of winning.

Unfortunately, he is experiencing multiple health issues that would make a run this year difficult. He has been working on resolving them, but to date there hasn't been any improvement. He knows the toll an election of this kind takes on his energy and body, so, at this time, he has decided to drop out of the race for the Michigan State 101st House seat.

"A Democrat needs to win this seat," Stobie exclaims, and strongly urges his supporters to back Dan Scripps, who is also running on the Democratic side. "Dan has the experience and know how to run a successful campaign",

Both Tom Stobie and his wife, Marcia, want to thank supporters for their outstanding help in 2014 and during this cycle.



COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

HOPE vs FEAR

From my experience, Democrats are eternal optimists. We see opportunities to make the world better and work hard to make them real. We have hope that our efforts will be successful.

Republican leaders, especially this year, seem to be pessimistic about nearly everything. They fear that the world is out to get them and they work hard to destroy the threats whether real or unreal. Even when there is an element of danger, their fear drives their reaction way out of proportion.

Our Democratic leaders and candidates have a vision of progress, equality, fairness, health, social justice and prosperity. As a result, Democrats place more emphasis on positive steps we can take to assure success. We have hope that we can find solutions that do not require others to lose in order for us to win.

As evidenced in the Republican debates, their candidates fear that everyone is out to get them: Immigrants will take our jobs so build a wall to keep them out. Muslims want to kill us so kill them first. Obama wants to take our guns, so make it easy to stock up on assault rifles. Women may make choices that we do not support so deprive them of basic health care and of their right to choose. Blacks may be dangerous so lock huge numbers of young black men in prison.



Of course there are real dangers in the world. The biggest difference between Democratic and Republican leaders is how we choose to address those dangers. Do we choose to strike out in fear and destroy those with different views? Or do we want to build a community, a nation and a world that is safe and prosperous for all of us? This year, more than ever, the choice is clear.

Your Candidates for the 1st Congressional District

WHO'S ON YOUR SIDE?

Based on my conversations with people across the District, I'm convinced that "politics as usual" has run its course and staking out extreme positions hasn't helped one bit. The solutions are in the middle, where willingness to compromise can get things moving. People are frustrated with the "all or nothing" posturing and with what "dark money" has done to our political process. Public servants must serve people, not an ideology.

Voters want honesty, integrity and a commitment to people; a record of accomplishments and leadership. You don't just want tough talk...you want it straight, you want your Representative to do what he said he was going to do. You want to know that your concerns are considered when votes are cast in Washington. D.C.



This race is one of the most competitive in the nation. Our **Campaign for Change** is ramping up. Now, more than ever before, Michigan and our District need public servants...not career politicians. I'm not beholden to anyone; I promise this vote to nobody but the people of this District. I will answer to you and I will speak for you!

Who's on your side? I am...always have been, always will be.

Thank you
Jerry Cannon

HELP MOVE MICHIGAN FORWARD

Work hard. Play by the rules. Never give up. These are the values I learned growing up in a family with five generations of Northern Michigan history. Now I will take those values to Congress to: (1) rebuild our government to become as hard-

MANISTEE COUNTY DEMOCRATS
SPRING 2016

working and honest as the people who pay for it, (2) keep Northern Michigan both beautiful and profitable and, (3) create a Northern Michigan where our families can stay and succeed.

We can do this by investing in and protecting our three greatest resources: our people, our land and our Great Lakes. We will be talking about ideas like bringing back passenger rail service to the U.P. and Northern Michigan and how to expand broadband service and mobile phone coverage everywhere. We will be exploring how to position ourselves as the world's thought leader on the use and protection of fresh water. This begins with shutting down the Line 5 pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac until it is independently inspected and confirmed to be 100% safe.

Our campaign is off to a great start. We are accelerating our organizing efforts on all fronts.

Please join with us to help move Northern Michigan forward and visit LonJohnson.com or ShutDownLine5.com for more information.

Lon Johnson

Blue Tigers

By Al Frye, Manistee County Blue Tigers Chair



The Manistee Blue Tigers are sponsoring an essay contest in the Manistee County schools. The contest begins on March 1st with all entries due by April 15th. The theme of the contest is “Why my vote matters...” The contest is open to all students who will be 18 by Election Day. The over-all goal is to raise awareness about the November elections and to get more young people registered and out to vote. We are looking for volunteers to go into classrooms to build awareness about the project. The winner-take-all prize is a \$1000 scholarship and will be awarded at the winner’s school during their annual awards presentation prior to graduation. We currently have \$600 in our budget for the prize. All donations to The Blue Tigers for this project and our scholarship program would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be sent to Manistee DEMS, P.O. Box 65, Manistee, MI, 49660.

Al Frye has declared his candidacy for Manistee County Commissioners for the 4th District which includes Filer, Stronach and East Lake Townships. Al has over 35 years of business management experience in the hospitality industry, having managed a 500 seat restaurant with 8 million dollars of yearly sales and a staff of 150. He also owned his own restaurant outside of his hometown of Washington DC. After moving to Manistee fulltime in 2010, Al worked as the C.O.O. and member of the Board of the Manistee Community Kitchen and was instrumental in helping to launch its Iron Works Café project. He now sits on the Board of Directors of Northern Michigan Recovery Residences, the DDA of Filer Township and the

Executive Committee of the Manistee County Democratic Party. He is a member of the Manistee Rotary Club and volunteers with a variety of other initiatives in the community, such as the weekly community meals hosted at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. He received the Manistee Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award for 2013-2014. Please let us know if you are available to assist in his campaign.

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2016

March 3 deadline to request absentee ballot*

March 8 Presidential Primary

April 4 last day to register for May 3 election

April 30 deadline to request absentee ballot*

**May 3 Election of District Library Board
and City Positions**

July 5 last day to register for State Primary

July 30 deadline to request absentee ballot*

August 2 State Primary

October 11 last day to register for General Election

November 5 deadline to request absentee ballot*

November 8 Presidential General Election

& State General Election

*once registered, you are registered for all subsequent elections.

Manistee County Democrats
FIRED UP! READY TO GO

David
Berns
Chair

February, 2016

Dear Friend,

Jeanne
Butterfield
Vice Chair

January 1st began a new year for the Manistee County Democrats and we are looking forward to much hard work locally in this calendar year.

Lisa
Hamilton
Secretary

As the party of the people, the Manistee Democratic Party is your voice in the 2016 local and state elections. Our strength is in your grass roots support so your continued participation and membership is essential. Our membership is on an upward swing and we are depending on each of you to keep that momentum going.

Judy
Cunningham
Treasurer

We all feel the impact of the state Republican majority on our personal lives as well as on our society in general as reflected in

- our crumbling roads,
- loss of voting privileges,
- less transparency in official work and decisions,
- the emphasis on the business model bottom line while ignoring the personal impacts as evidenced in the Flint water situation,
- limiting information about the need for funding our schools and municipalities.

Ellen
Somsel
Membership
Chair

What can **you** do to get involved and support the Manistee County Dems?

- ❖ Send in your membership
- ❖ Attend the monthly business meetings featuring guest speakers on *the fourth Thursday of each month at 7pm, at the Dial A Ride Building on Memorial Drive, Manistee*
- ❖ Learn about and participate in community service efforts of our Blue Tiger Dems
- ❖ Stay informed and share your ideas to make the Democrats a relevant voice in our county
- ❖ Consider running for any of the available local offices. The Manistee Dems can assist you with training and funding.

Laurel
Mason
Communications
Chair

Lee Trucks
Social Media
Chair

Al Frye
Blue Tigers
Chair

This year, your dues will be used to pay for banners and signs, newsletters, parades, office space and support to recruit and train candidates for local offices. A STRONG Democratic party in Manistee County can have an impact and make a difference only with your help. Please fill out and send the enclosed membership form today.

Thank you,



Ellen Somsel
Membership Chair
231-392-6679

2016 Manistee DEMS Membership Year

January – December 2016

How you benefit from being a member of the Manistee County DEMS?

- ★ Influence local policy and candidates
- ★ Receive email, phone, and newsletter notifications about upcoming **Democratic** events
- ★ Attend the monthly business meeting featuring Guest Speakers (Fourth Thursday of each month at 7 pm, at the Dial A Ride Building)
- ★ Volunteer opportunities for specific events such as Parades, County Fair and Blue Tigers

Share your ideas to make the Democrats a relevant voice in our County
Join our discussion group by signing up on our website
Go to our WEBSITE at manisteecountydemocrats.us
Join us on FACEBOOK [facebook.com/groups/21048470915534](https://www.facebook.com/groups/21048470915534)
Or on TWITTER <https://twitter.com/manisteedems>

-----CUT & SEND BACK BOTTOM PORTION-----

Please join today and send in a separate membership form for each member of your household

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

Other joining members in same household _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

E-mail _____

2016 Membership Levels **Per Individual**

(MEMBERSHIP/CAMPAIGN)
100 Club - \$100.00 (\$25/\$75) or specify the split
Gold Club - \$50.00 (\$25/\$25) or specify the split
Silver Club - \$25.00 (\$10/\$15)
Supporter - \$10.00 (\$10/\$0)

_____ Additional Donation to Elect Candidates

_____ Amount of Enclosed Check

Please make checks payable to
Manistee County Democratic Party

Send this completed form along
with your check to:
Manistee County Dems
P.O. Box 65
Manistee, MI 49660

What Democrats Value

- We are for capitalism, but against its abuse.
- We are for religion, but against its use as a political tool.
- We are for democracy, but against the manipulation of the democratic process by corporate forces.
- We are for the American Dream - the opportunity for every citizen to prosper.
- We believe democracy flourishes when we strengthen the middle class, not provide entitlements and tax havens for the top 1%.
- We believe government is best when it serves the public good- free public education, universal health care, good paying jobs and a well-maintained public infrastructure.
- We believe in a social safety net to help those who can't help themselves - It's humane and it strengthens democracy.
- We don't believe Corporations are People.

