



www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting Date:

July 20th

(3rd Thursday of month)

7 pm - 9 pm

Dial-a Ride, Manistee

Meeting Agenda includes
Guest Speaker -

News from Lansing
and District 101

Officers

Chair- Gary Madden
genie42br@gmail.com

Vice Chair-
Laurel Mason
laurele52@charter.net

Secretary- Peg Raddatz
peg.raddatz@gmail.com

Treasurer-
Judy Cunningham
jpc4466@gmail.com

Why Did Michigan Turn Red?

*Project 83 to determine
why voters chose Trump
and to formulate a
winning message in 2018*



Blue-collar voters, who used to be the backbone of the Democratic Party, massively turned out for Trump in 2016, turning the whole rust belt red. Trump's anti-globalization, anti-immigrant, America First message was wildly popular with workers disenfranchised by NAFTA and their livable wage jobs moved overseas.

More than half of blue-collar workers stopped voting decades ago and Democrats have not found a way to appeal to these former union loyalists. Will Trump do enough to satisfy these former Democrats? How will they vote in 2018?

Essentially, what type of message can Democrats craft to win in 2018? Project 83 is a statewide nonpartisan voter survey whose purpose is to discover what voters want and how to win them over in 2018.

Project 83 Week-Ends of Action (one per month) are held in each of the 83 counties in Michigan. Every month a different list of voters are called to ask what is important to them.

The first *Weekend of Action* in Manistee County was held on June 24th at the Manistee Inn. We called a list of 160 people who voted in the Presidential Primary but not on November 8th. We pre-tested our script on a reliable Republican voter. She told us integrity was most important to her, but she couldn't vote for Trump because he was too wild. We will report the final results from our June calls in our next newsletter.

We need engagement from YOU: We will be holding *Weekends of Action* on the third Saturday of each month, 4:00pm (or the following Monday at 4pm) at the Manistee Inn lower level. We will be calling you to ask you to put in 2 hours for this important activity. There is no better way to resist the Trump agenda than to win in 2018. Michigan will play a pivotal role.

To let us know you want to be part of the solution, please email Peggy Raddatz at peg.raddatz@gmail.com.

Don Jennings
Award Dinner
September 9

To reserve tickets, EMAIL

donjenningsdinner@gmail.com

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR



Gary Madden

What We Must Do To Win

Thank you to all who attended the recent “meet the candidates” event at our home on June 15th. We hope everyone enjoyed hearing from two of our candidates who are running for Congress next year. We certainly enjoyed having everyone. Together, with candidates of this caliber, we can limit Bergman’s term to two years!

As much as we all enjoyed ourselves in June, let’s not mistake these kind of events for activism. The fact of the matter is we will not win elections by simply attending events and making a contribution to our candidate of choice. To be sure, these things are important in funding a campaign and keeping our collective morale up. However, if we are to campaign successfully in Manistee County, we must do much more.

The first thing we need to realize is the basic political truth that “all politics is local.” This means that our party must be perceived by the greater community as being involved with local issues and committed to improving the well being of everyone. A good example of this is our party’s recent passing of a resolution in support of the Oleson Property Redevelopment Project. Lee Trucks proposed this resolution at our May membership meeting and it was passed by those members in attendance. I communicated our position to the mayor and the city council in writing. This project now seems to be back on track for a successful completion, perhaps because we added our collective voices to others in support. In the coming year our entire membership needs to take up the challenge of identifying local issues and needs of the community, developing a party position, and suggesting ways of communicating that position to the greater community.

Secondly, our membership must begin assisting party leaders in finding ways to increase our visibility in the community. Since January, for example, our party has participated in three public demonstrations around the idea that good health is a basic human right. We’ve had press coverage of every event. This kind of activism makes us visible and communicates to the community what we stand for and that translates into support (votes) down the road. We need more members to show up for events like these because numbers do matter. Members are encouraged to bring their thoughts and ideas to our monthly meetings and be willing to share them. Don’t wait for others to suggest action, plan something yourself. Perhaps a discussion evening with a few friends to examine a particular issue or draft a position letter.

Finally, our members can become active agents of communication by submitting an article for our newsletter, post information on our website and on yours. In the coming year we will be marching in parades, calling fellow citizens, and knocking on doors. The more active we become, the more attention we will draw and the more excitement we will generate.

I know from personal experience that the kind of activism I have been describing is time consuming, requires a level of self confidence that not everyone possesses. I also know that it can be very rewarding and satisfying. Just think about how good it felt to be surrounded by like minded people last June 15th. I have spent most of my life confined with strong liberal opinions and not doing much beyond voting. In recent years I have come to realize that our system of government is strongest when citizens actively participate. I look forward to the next election cycle with eager anticipation of working hard with our membership and reaping a strong Democratic victory.

Michigan's Beauty Could Be No More



The motto for the State of Michigan is, "When you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you." These words should resonate deeply for those who live in our state. However, we have a culprit among us and that is *plastic*. Our vision has become shattered by the massive amounts of plastic found in our forests, lakes and byways. This problem is not just in our state, but, worldwide.

According to the Natural Environment website, 60 to 100 million barrels of oil are required to manufacture a year's supply of *plastic* bags worldwide. *Plastic* degrades into smaller pieces, it is photodegradable. This means they are broken into smaller pieces by the action of ultraviolet rays emitted from sunlight. It takes plastic over 300 years to photodegrade, it will not biodegrade.

The United States Environment Protection Agency stated 500 billion plastic bags to 1 trillion are used worldwide yearly and 100 billion are squandered in the United States alone. *Plastic* bags were rarely found during the 1960's and 1970's. The widespread use of these bags became prevalent during the 1980's.

We have a "Plastic Bag Pollution," problem, as Sharon Jacobson titled her article. Over 100,000 marine animals die each year of *plastic* pollution. Animals, including birds, and sea creatures are hurt and killed everyday because of *plastic* bags. Many animals mistake *plastic* bags for food. The *plastic* clogs their intestines and leads to slow starvation. Others become entangled in *plastic* bags and drown.

The National Geographic News, Sept. 2, 2003, stated, "Plastic bags on land enter the woodlands of the country and threaten the natural progression of wildlife. One bag can kill 1 animal every 3 months." As these *plastic* bags, "Decompose, tiny toxic bits seep into soils, (beaches), lakes, rivers and oceans."

In 2005, my husband, Gary, my son, Philip, and I spent 5 weeks in Africa. On our safari, many miles away from the beaten path, we visited a Masai Village. We informed the head teacher of the village that we were educators and from Michigan. He gathered all the young children of the village into the dung built, dirt floor, one room schoolhouse. The children sat on risers. These beautiful, round faced, bright eyed, children, in this remote village, learning only by word of mouth from the head teacher, named all of the presidents of the United States. When he told the children we were from Michigan, they responded in chorus, "Mich-i-gan, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Mich-i-gan, Lake Erie, Lake Superior." Needless to say we were impressed. To have these children, living in the heart of Africa, connect Michigan with the Great Lakes brought a sense of pride to us.

The Plastic Bag Pollution epidemic is preventable. When we, as a species, change one minor habit, which is to stop using plastic bags, we can impact our environment at home and subsequently, worldwide.

On May 19, 2009, the Manistee County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution Encouraging The Use Of Cloth Shopping Bags. This year, the Manistee County Democrats are doing our part to encourage the use of cloth shopping bags. Members will receive their shopping bag with their membership. We support and applaud the Manistee County Board of Commissioners in their efforts to discourage the use of plastic bags and hope that the future will bring even more incentives towards this endeavor. Let us work together to keep our state the beautiful peninsula that it is.

Bad News for Health Care in Michigan

The U.S. Senate could hastily pass a healthcare bill that is frighteningly similar to the American Health Care Act (AHCA) that recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives.

This bill is so horrific, that the AARP published the name of every representative voting for the bill in their latest bulletin as a means of holding them accountable. Our Rep. Jack Bergman is on this shameful list. The AARP warns that this bill will drastically increase costs for those age 50-64, will discriminate against those with pre-existing conditions, cause millions to lose coverage and financially weaken Medicare.

Bergman's vote also jeopardizes Medicaid expansion, which has insured over 600,000 Michiganders and been a boost to our state economy. According to a University of Michigan analysis, the program will more than pay for itself and has created 30,000 jobs. These new jobs are generating approximately \$150 million in income and sales tax revenue annually.

The list of patient advocacy groups, and associations of doctors, nurses and hospitals who oppose the AHCA is overwhelming. The American Cancer Society, American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association are some examples. Instead of listening to these groups, Republicans are proceeding to take healthcare away from millions in order to give a huge tax cut to the wealthiest Americans.

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) was historic, because for the first time in this country, patients were given rights and meaningful protections. It brought morality to a system that had previously valued profit and greed over human life. It genuinely protects people with pre-existing conditions, stops insurers from canceling policies of sick people, guarantees preventative care, allows those under age 26 to stay on their parents' plans, eliminates lifetime and annual caps and mandates essential benefits so that consumers are no longer scammed by worthless policies.

Those receiving employer based insurance, should pay attention. You could also lose these guaranteed protections. Don't be lulled into a false sense of security because you have employer coverage.

The public record shows that about 100 open meetings and hearings preceded the passage of Obamacare. By contrast, the Senate bill is being written in secret, and will be hastily voted on, because it is as indefensible and unpopular as the House version. They don't want to give the public a fair chance to react.

During the Trump campaign we were promised there would be no cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. Republicans are slashing these programs as never before with Trump's blessing. They are stripping away patient protections for everyone including those with private and employer-based insurance.

This is not the promised "insurance for everybody" or "great healthcare at a fraction of the cost" that people voted for. If the Senate manages to quickly pass a bill it will go back to the House of Representatives for another fast vote. If you care about the security of your healthcare call Rep. Bergman now to express your opposition to this inhumane legislation.

Norma Stewart

Get Engaged: Call Bergman's office at 202-225-4735 to express your opposition to Trumpcare.

The 14th Annual Don Jennings Award Nomination Form



Please Print:

I nominate:

Because:

(if you need more space, please continue on another sheet)

My Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please mail completed nomination by **July 15, 2017** to:

Manistee DEMS/DJN -- P.O. Box 65 - Manistee, MI 49660

Left at the Madden's home after June 15 Membership Party:

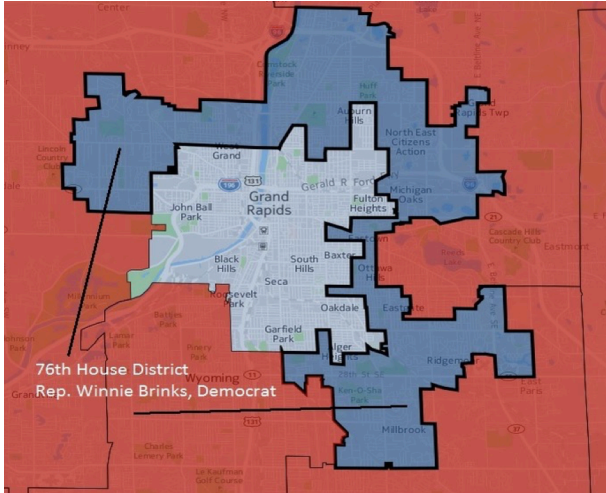
Deep Blue wine glass inside a four-compartment burgundy wine tote bag.

Cheese knife with a smiling snowman on top adorned with a red scarf. A green and clear glass bead under the snowman. The word Joy is written on the knife.

These items will be at our next membership meeting.

If you did not receive your membership cloth grocery bag loaded with "goodies" please attend the next membership meeting. Your bag is waiting for you!

We all Lose When Gerrymandered Districts Lead to Lopsided Representation



The following editorial was published in the June 27 edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch:

(TNS) Much of the deadlock and partisan hostility in Congress results from voting districts drawn to cut down on the number of swing districts and increase the number of landslide districts in favor of the party drawing the boundaries.

Political parties compete in swing districts, but not in landslide districts. That encourages candidates in landslide districts to move to extremes to satisfy people who are passionate about specific issues and vote in the primaries.

This makes for increasingly lopsided politics and is bad for participatory democracy. The prospect of party entrenchment increases with each voting cycle. Partisan extremes inevitably contribute to greater polarization and diluted voter power for the minority party. A Pew Research Center study says the 113th Congress was second only to the 112th in being the least productive in modern history. The main reason? Gerrymandered districts created after the 2010 census tied Congress in knots.

The Supreme Court has never imposed limits on the practice of drawing partisan legislative districts, although it has struck down voting districts as racial gerrymanders. In several cases concerning legislative maps, the justices have said that packing black voters into a few districts dilutes their voting power in violation of the Constitution.

The court will consider in the fall whether partisan gerrymandering violates the Constitution in an appeal of a decision that struck down the legislative map for Wisconsin, drawn by the state assembly after Republicans gained control of state government in 2010.

New voting maps are drawn every decade, following the census. The public might think mapmakers aim for even population distribution when drawing districts, but that's not how it's done. In the Wisconsin case before the Supreme Court, the math manipulation and formulas used to figure out how Republicans could capture 60 percent of the Legislature's 99 seats, while getting less than half the statewide vote, looks like an equation in quantum mechanics.

A three-judge federal panel struck down the map and agreed with the plaintiffs' allegation that the Republican mapmakers had engaged in "cracking" and "packing" the districts. Cracking means to divide a party's supporters among multiple districts so that they fall short of a majority in each one, and packing means to concentrate a party's backers in a few districts that they win by overwhelming margins.

Regardless of which side emerges dominant when voting districts are gerrymandered, the gridlock crippling Congress and diluted voter representation only helps diminish public confidence in our democracy. When that happens, everyone loses.

NOTE: *Want to know what is happening in Michigan? Go to "Voters not Politicians".*

2017 Manistee DEMS Membership Year

January - December 2017

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
(Third Thursday of each month at 7 pm, at the Dial A Ride Building
JAN, FEB, MAR Manistee ISD Meeting Room)
- ★ 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 _____ Send my newsletter by email

2017 Membership Levels Per Individual

- 100 Club - \$100.00
- Gold Club - \$50.00
- Silver Club - \$25.00
- Supporter - \$10.00
- Grassroot Supporter - Count me In - No Charge _____

_____ 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



MICHIGAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(For mailing label; after affixing label, please complete remainder of information)

**APPLY AND RENEW ONLINE
SECURELY AT MICHIGANDEMS.COM**

(Faxed applications will not be accepted)

(Please Circle One): Miss / Ms. / Mr. / Mrs. / Dr.

First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone:(_____) _____ Cell Phone:(_____) _____

Mail to my: (check one) Home Office // I am Registered to Vote in Michigan: Yes No

Email Address: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Gender: _____
mm dd yyyy

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Work Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone:(_____) _____ FAX:(_____) _____

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS VALID FOR ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE POSTMARK DATE ON YOUR RETURN ENVELOPE

All memberships are for an individual (Couples Membership Exempt) Party Membership is open to all legal Michigan residents age 16 and older
Please make all checks payable to the Michigan Democratic Party. Mail to 606 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933

STANDARD

Voting rights at all meetings and conventions, membership card, invitations to local trainings, community engagement events with MDP staff, regional townhalls, bi-monthly newsletters, weekly press clips, and updates on Party activities.

LEVEL

- Other
- Grassroots
- Activist

PRICE

\$10 annually
\$25 annually

DELUXE

Standard benefits plus choice MDP swag (bumper stickers, magnets, badges), periodic strategy memos from the chair, invitations to member only events, personal meet and greets with Chair Dillon, COO Lavora Barnes, and Democratic elected officials.

- Organizer
- Partners*

\$48 annually/ \$4 monthly
\$72 annually/ \$6 monthly

- Names: _____
- Ally

\$120 annually/ \$10 monthly

PREMIUM

Deluxe benefits, invitations to Premium Member Reception, tickets to Spring Event and Fall Event.

- o Leader: 1 Spring ticket
- o Director: 2 Spring tickets, 1 Fall ticket
- o Executive: 4 Spring tickets, 2 Fall tickets
- o Trustee: 1 Spring Table, 5 Fall tickets

- Leader
- Director
- Executive
- Trustee

\$360 annually/ \$30 monthly
\$720 annually/ \$60 monthly
\$1,200 annually/ \$100 monthly
\$3,000 annually/ \$250 monthly

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

- I am enclosing dues for a two(2) year membership
- Please accept my additional donation of \$_____ to help elect Democrats

Please charge my card: \$ _____ Full Amount Monthly (Credit Card Only)

#: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____ Signature: X.....

Contributions are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.
Your contribution could be used in connection with federal elections and is subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Elections Campaign Act. Paid for by the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee/ Michigan Democratic State Central Committee Federal Account, 606 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933, 517-371-5410, and not authorized by any federal candidate or candidate's committee. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.