



www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting Date:

May 17

(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 I'm Voting for Kathy Wiejaczka For the 101st District

By

Peggy Raddatz

peg.raddatz@gmail.com

I am voting for Kathy Wiejaczka for State Representative in Michigan's 101st District because the people of Northwest Michigan deserve better than what they've been getting from state government. Unfortunately, over the last several years our state government has been more focused on balance sheets than on the people they were elected to serve. From the water crisis in Flint to crumbling roads and infrastructure to the disappearance of Michigan's once-strong middle class, it's clear that the Republicans in Lansing are more focused on ideological agendas and special interests than in putting people first.

That's what Kathy promises to do - Put People First. By putting people first, we can strengthen our middle class, develop, attract, and retain a talented workforce, create good jobs in growing industries, and expand opportunity so all of us benefit from a growing economy. We can equip our young people for the opportunities of the future by supporting local schools, expanding early learning opportunities, providing greater opportunities for students to go to college, and tackling the burdens of student debt. We can protect our Great Outdoors, stop water diversions from our Great Lakes, shut down Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline through the Straits, and make Michigan a leader in addressing global climate change.

After years of one-party Republican rule, there is a lot of work to be done to rebuild Michigan. I'm voting for Kathy Wiejaczka because she will put people first. I hope you will too. Together, we can win in November and ensure state government again puts people first!

Join Kathy as she kicks off her Campaign in Manistee County

Sunday, May 6

4 p.m.

Ramsdell Inn Lobby

399 River Street, Manistee

Save the Date

September 8

Don Jennings

Award Dinner

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR



Gary Madden

Recently Shirley and I, along with Rick Schrock, attended the 2018 State Democratic Party Endorsement Convention in Detroit. It was my first convention experience and I must say I found it exciting. There were 6,700 people in attendance compared to only 700 in 2010 when democrats lost so badly across the country. The energy level and excitement were incredible with everyone talking about a “blue wave” coming this year. Of course, there were many speeches by many politicians including Debbie Stabenow, Gary Peters, Carl and Sander Levin, and a number of democratic

candidates running for various offices this year. They were all very motivating.

When it came to endorsing candidates, delegates voted only to endorse a candidate for Attorney General. There were two candidates for one position. Pat Miles and Dana Nessel were both competing for the Attorney General position. In a very close vote, the convention endorsed Dana Nessel for Attorney General. Candidates for regents and trustees for MSU and U of M, and Secretary of State all received automatic endorsements since there were no competing candidates for those offices. In the various caucuses we heard from all the candidates and I must say I was very impressed with all of them. In November, make sure to vote for these candidates. These offices, especially, regents and trustees, are often overlooked on the ballot by voters. I was very impressed by the quality of the candidates the Democratic Party is putting forward this year.

Our county party submitted three resolutions to the state party this year, and I am pleased to report that all three made it into the resolutions adopted at the convention. They were: increasing protections for the great lakes watershed and environment, a ban on assault rifles, bump stocks and high capacity magazines, and the decommissioning of Line 5 pipeline. These issues will now become part of our state party’s platform.

The Manistee County Democratic Party will be opening an office on River Street beginning in June. We will be hosting candidate forums, distributing literature, fundraising, showing films, telephoning and other activities in support of candidates. We will be looking for volunteers to assist in all of these activities, so please be generous with your time, and treasure this year. We all hope to make the “blue wave” a tall and mighty one.

Finally, our local party has taken preliminary steps to organize a Young Democrat’s Caucus. The purpose of this caucus will be to provide an opportunity for young people to voice their concerns about government and issues of particular concern to them and to groom participants for future leadership in the Democratic Party both locally and at the State level. Please encourage anyone you know in the approximate age range of 18 to 30 to join the caucus. Our local party needs new generations to step up to the political challenges of our time. Organizing details will follow.

Be Informed – Get Involved – Follow Rogan’s List

By Laurel Mason laurele52@charter.net

“Rogan’s List is a daily, thoroughly vetted action list for people wanting to fight back against the Trump administration.” Rogan’s List partners with RISE STRONGER to bring local, state, and national calls to action to your attention. Rogan’s list was started by Susan G. Rogan, former librarian, from Traverse City, Michigan.

The “List” begins with information on contacting Federal Government Officials including Fax numbers for members of congress and also White House contact information.

Senator’s contact information: <https://goo.gl/RLiotu>

Representatives contact information: <https://goo.gl/5i7SXC>

FAX legislators for free: Reps: https://faxzero.com/fax_congress.php

Senate: https://faxzero.com/flax_senate.php

White House contact: <https://usa.gov/federal-agencies/white-house>

The “List” continues with a number of statements(from the 4/30/18 issue): 1. This week in Congress-legislators are on recess. Let’s attend a town hall if we can 2. Information on the Farm Bill. 3. Information on sending a thank you to Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives and recently fired by Paul Ryan 4. News about the National Park Service and H.R. 3144 which would lead to the extinction of wild salmon in the Columbia and Snake rivers 5. PAC’s and the dysfunctional Federal Election Commission 6. Education Savings Accounts for Military Families proposal H.R. 5199 7. Campaign funds being used for childcare 8. Environmental Justice Right to Know Act. 9. Information on the congressional black caucus 10. Scott Pruitt and the EPA. There were 17 points of interest in this section. Lots of information and contact information in a condensed form.

The next section **Election 2018-General** contains three bullet points including Postcards to Voters, finding ways to get people to vote, and getting young voters engaged. **Election 2018-By State** lists Special Elections and state primaries or runoff elections in May. **Other Actions** follow and briefly mentions ICE, Safety Pin Box, elimination of poll taxes, Obama Foundation, Increase in hate crimes since Trump took office, recreational use of marijuana, Fox News host Sean Hannity. The following section covers **Marches/events/webinars/Tweetstorms to attend/organize**. The last section is on **Reading/Watching** with references to resources to use for keeping track of Small Victories and things subtly changing around us.

Rogan’s List is an amazing resource and worthy of your attention.

Rogan’s List, visit roganslist.blogspot.com

RISE Stronger, visit www.risestronger.org

The Patriot River
By Gene Lagerquist

Candidate for Manistee County Commission District #3

Patriotic is an adjective that is often used to describe behavior in these days of nationalistic fever. It takes many forms from raising a flag to joining the military institutions. I like to think of patriotism as a river that flows through the heart of our country.

The river begins small, similar to a tiny stream that meanders through the countryside. This could be thought of as the reciting of the pledge of allegiance in our elementary schools. The children repeat what they have learned with little thought or knowledge of their oath. As the tiny stream is joined by other small creeks and streams it grows in size and volume. To continue the metaphor, this could be as children and adults join together singing the national anthem at sporting events. It could also be the time that schools teach the history and mechanics of our government and political parties in the high school classes.

The large stream becomes a river when the students leave high school. They are exposed to the military as a career opportunity. They are encouraged to register for the voting process by endless media ads. They are persuaded to join social movements and political parties by giving money or volunteering their time and efforts. The adult world is under daily influences to push or pull an individual toward various parochial interest. Some individuals are drawn into various movements while others have the capacity to ignore the many voices of persuasion.

As the river flows downstream, it grows ever deeper and mixes the waters from new tributaries into a powerful flow. The same occurs in our developing sense of patriotism. New experiences affect us. We take employment and become members of the labor force. That brings on interactions with labor unions and the demands of management. We perhaps marry and create a family. We must choose which school the children will attend. We receive a paycheck from which several taxes are withheld. If we purchase an auto or a home, we discover the added cost of license, property tax, and limitations on what we can do with our property.

All of these experiences will have a small amount of interaction with government agencies at the very least. The more involved we become with the local economy, the greater the interaction with government. For many, this is a strong source of frustration with our government, our rules, and our regulations. The call for less government is often heard and it appears to grow in volume.

If we could think about our patriotic river, this would be a good time to think about what is patriotic about paying taxes, following building codes, and driving within the limits of our traffic regulations. Are not all of these taxes and regulations an effort to protect the masses within our country? Do they infringe upon the individual? Yes, of course, but only in a small degree relative to greater good to the general society.

If you did not have regulations on the highway, how safe would it be for you or your children? If there was no speed limit, no determined right of way at intersections, just think of the chaos. You complain that the regulations toward your sewage and water sources are too restrictive, but without them how could you keep your neighbors from leaking their fouled waters onto your property or contaminating your drinking

Patriot River (continued)

water. Lastly, we should consider what it is that our taxes buy us. The roads and highways we drive on are not an act of nature. They take money to build and maintain. Some of that is your fuel tax money. We send our children to school, these schools are only in existence because of tax money collected from property tax and other state taxes. Taxes that no one likes to pay, but by joining together, we have maintained our schools to some degree.

All of government functions, from our police and court systems to our social security programs are tax supported. We all pay in to the system in different amounts, but we all take back from the system through roads, education systems, and social services.

All of these efforts by our citizens to pay taxes and follow the rules of our country are a vivid display of patriotism to me. Without those efforts our country would soon fall into disarray and failure. Is paying taxes not a subtle display of patriotism? Does Patriotism not go beyond who displays the largest American flag or joining whichever military invasion is taking place with heated emotion? Does the river of Patriotism not flow through our townships and counties just as strongly when it is displayed by good roads, excellent schools and clean air and water?

Gene Lagerquist

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School Millage Renewals are Not New Taxes.

It is a renewal to non-homesteads and businesses and is not for taxes on primary residences. These are taxes that have been in place for a long time, and periodically have to be renewed.

The Manistee County Democratic Party supports the Onkama Consolidated, Bear Lake Schools and Mesick Consolidated Schools Millage Renewals.

**Vote Yes for School Millage
Renewals on May 8.**



SUPPORT OUR DEMOCRATIC COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES

Gene Lagerquist – 3rd District

Karen Goodman – 6th District

Margaret Batzer – 7th District

Meg Batzer is the only Commissioner facing opposition this year.

Legal Marijuana Headed to Michigan Ballot, Prevailing Wage Repeal to Court

State canvassers on Thursday approved a ballot proposal to decriminalize recreational use of marijuana in Michigan.

The proposal, backed by a committee called the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, likely is headed for the November ballot.

“This November, Michigan voters will finally get the chance to eliminate Michigan’s outdated marijuana laws,” coalition spokesman John Truscott said in a statement. “Just like with alcohol, it is clear that prohibition doesn’t work and that regulation and taxation is a far better solution.”

But the state’s four-member Board of State Canvassers deadlocked 2-2, along party lines, on whether to certify a petition to repeal Michigan’s prevailing wage law, which essentially establishes union-level wages on state construction projects. Democratic members Julie Matuzak and Jeannette Bradshaw opposed certification, citing an unresolved challenge from union-backed opponents of the measure.

Voters Not Politicians (Redistricting reform)

What is it? An effort to redraw the lines that make up Michigan legislators' districts, a process known as redistricting.

Currently, whichever political party controls the state Legislature decides the boundaries of state and congressional districts every 10 years based on U.S. Census data, which critics say leads to boundaries intended to give unfair advantage to the party in power. Michigan is considered one of the most gerrymandered, or unfairly drawn, states in the nation.

In Michigan, Republicans controlled the Legislature and the governor's office in 2011, as they do now.

The Voters Not Politicians effort would amend the Michigan Constitution to take away redistricting power from lawmakers and give it to an independent citizens commission made up of 13 registered voters in the state. Each major party would have four members and the remaining five members would be independent voters.

Who's behind it? Voters Not Politicians has relied on volunteers, rather than paid circulators, to collect signatures.

Katie Fahey, the group's president and treasurer, wrote a Facebook post shortly after the 2016 election saying she wanted to tackle gerrymandering in Michigan. Fahey has said the coalition has had more than 10,000 people sign up to volunteer, with nearly 4,000 working directly as petition circulators.

How much money has it raised? The committee took in \$47,225 in the most recent filing period from Jan. 1 through Feb. 10, according to state records. It has publicly reported more than \$574,990 this election cycle.

What's the status? Voters Not Politicians submitted roughly 425,000 signatures to the state, more than the required 315,654 for citizen-driven constitutional amendments.

The state Bureau of Elections has pulled a random sample of signatures to conduct its review, and has given approval. The politicians, consultants, and lobbyists who want to protect the status quo have filed a lawsuit seeking to keep this proposal off the ballot.

Manistee

Little Big Shots



Sponsored by the Blue Tigers

June 30th -- 1-3 p.m -- First Street Beach

2018 Manistee DEMS Membership Year

January – December 2018

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)
- ★ 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
 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