



[www.manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us)

Monthly Meetings

**Meeting Date:**

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm

(3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month)

Strawberry Social

**June Guest Speaker:**

County officials

Mary Lynn Wrzesinski

Karen Goodman

Leadership Team

Chair

John Helge

johnmhelge@gmail.com

Vice Chair

Rebecca Amidon

rebeccalamidon@gmail.com

Treasurer

Judy Cunningham

jpc4466@gmail.com

Secretary

Mary Ortiz

mary.catherine.ortiz@gmail.com

Social Activities Chair

Peggy Raddatz

peg.raddatz@gmail.com

Blue Tigers Chair

Shirley Madden

gspmadden@gmail.com

Communications Chair

Lee Trucks

leetrucks@gmail.com

Volunteers Chair

Al Frye

alfrye55@gmail.com

Membership Chair

Rolf Wucherer

rolfwucherer@gmail.com



**STRAWBERRY SOCIAL**

The Manistee County Democratic Party will host the annual Arcadia Summer Strawberry Social **Thursday, June 17, 2021** at 6:30pm at the Village of Arcadia Finch Park on Lake Street, near the Arcadia Township Hall. Guest speakers will be Mary Lynn Wrzesinski, Manistee County Register of Deeds, and Karen Goodman, Manistee County Commissioner, District 6. The program will be in person, but with reasonable health precautions taken. Bring your own lawn chair to help with social distancing.

---

## Lil' Big Shots Talent Show

The show will go on **Saturday, July 3, 2021** from 1pm - 3pm at the Lion's Pavilion at the First Street Beach during the Manistee National Forest Festival. All talents ages 4-16 are welcome. For event details and talent registration information see page 4. All proceeds go to Blue Tigers, the community outreach project, which provides scholarship assistance for high school certification, GED and emergency funding to local students. Please come and enjoy Manistee's Lil' Big Shots!

---

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Picnic

Join us **Thursday, July 15, 2021** at 6pm at the Onekama Village Park on Portage Avenue. Brats will be served for all. Bring your own table service, beverages, a dish to pass as well as a lawn chair to make social distancing easier.

---

## Princess of Manistee Sunset Cruise

The MCDP invites you and your non-member friends and family to join us on a sunset cruise on the Princess of Manistee **Friday, August 13, 2021** from 7pm - 9pm. Stay tuned for more event details.

# COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

## Building Community Using the Four “C’s”



John Helge

The Rural Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party has been working with several nationwide leaders who are helping us focus on how to bring our mostly rural communities together to identify and prioritize opportunities to improve the quality of life for everyone. This community-building approach is focused on these four “C’s”: Compassion, Cooperation, Compromise, and Collaboration. This article will share some of those concepts and is intended to help the readers understand where your neighbors in the Manistee County Democratic Party are focusing our efforts today and into the future.

Throughout our history, American citizens have celebrated the freedom to live as rugged individualists who may not have desired or required collaboration or cooperation with others. When the early pioneers felt they had too many neighbors, they were able to pick up and move, thereby expanding the borders of the vast American frontier. Even today, as we approach a nation of almost 400 million inhabitants, we can still find an island of solitude and, if we desire, attempt to insulate ourselves from the hustle and bustle of civilization. All too often this present-day version of rugged individualism breeds contempt for others who may not be as fortunate, capable, or privileged. This attitude is what we must overcome when we talk about compassion and when we are trying to work for the greater good of the community we live in today. To build an effective community, we all need to work on becoming less self-centered and on becoming more compassionate.

Cooperation illustrates the concept that no one of us is as smart as all of us when it comes to solving a problem or taking on a challenge. When we cooperate with other stakeholders in our community, we can learn and see things from a different perspective. That alternate viewpoint is important in providing the chance to enhance the solution, and it should be appreciated. We recognize that the current political environment of deep divisiveness creates a very real barrier to cooperation because there is a hesitancy to “cross over the aisle”, to meet and to listen to those who may not agree with our interpretation of the current direction our society is headed. The first step in cooperation is to reduce the personal tension by avoiding the simplistic name calling and labeling that abound on social media and the 24-hour news channels. Progress can start with a face-to-face meeting over a cup of coffee in a local restaurant. We should not be afraid to meet and actively listen to someone who may disagree with us. We should welcome the opportunity to learn their personal thoughts and reasoning on an issue. When we meet, we should strive for listening to understand, and not just for listening to reply in a debating format. Ask some open-ended clarification questions to determine the root cause of their personal position before you make any attempt to impose your thoughts or ideas on them in response. During my 40-year professional industrial sales career, I have found this technique most effective in enabling clients to develop trust in our relationship and in allowing me to help them solve problems and establish a long-term business relationship. The same can be said for our common desire to build a stronger community here in Manistee County!

For more than 50 years in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Henry Clay of Kentucky served in various federal government leadership positions. He was known as “The Great Compromiser” for his skills in bringing together opposing parties over political and diplomatic issues. He was adept at finding ways to craft solutions that could be viewed as win/win scenarios. He knew that if one faction were declared the ultimate winner then the opposing party would have to bear the undesirable “loser” label. Clay and many of his contemporaries knew that win/lose outcomes seldom provided a viable long-term solution. It is disappointing that our current

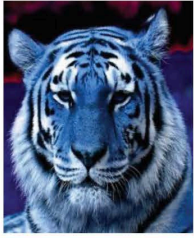
political situation has made compromise a sign of weakness and that winning at all costs is to be celebrated. The best outcomes are those where both parties win some and lose some, but in the end can see benefits all around! Compromise by our government officials should be recognized and celebrated.

Cooperation will identify common issues of concern or opportunities for improvement that we can work on together. Through effective Compromise, we can identify mutually agreed-upon outcomes. We then build on that important foundation to achieve the goals through Collaboration. Working together, we can accomplish much more and achieve the common goals more effectively and efficiently. Collaboration then requires us to hold each other accountable for doing what we said we would do. When one of us runs into an unexpected issue, we should be willing to pitch in together to determine how to overcome the obstacle standing in our way to getting that win/win scenario we mutually agreed was the desired outcome. One current opportunity for collaboration is to support those elected to represent us in Washington, Lansing, the County Courthouse, the City Hall, or the Township Hall even if they are not from our desired political party. Agreeing that the winner of every election is the candidate who receives the most votes is the first step. Holding that elected official accountable to serving those who elected them is also a means of support. We need to support them by regularly providing feedback to remind them to make decisions based on what is ethical and what is best for their constituents and not what their political party leaders may want from them.

It has often been said that the longest journey begins with the first step. Manistee County Democrats will be taking those initial steps over the next few weeks as we establish “pop-up offices” in outdoor public areas of Manistee County communities. We invite our neighbors to pull up a chair and visit with us over a glass of lemonade. We want to listen and learn more about your concerns and ideas on how to make Manistee County a better place to live and thrive now and well into the future.

Manistee County Democratic Party hats and t-shirts are each available for a \$15 donation on the MCDP website. You can also find “Thank you Governor Whitmer” signs for a \$10 donation. Your items will be personally delivered. Check out the inventory at: [www.manisteecountydemocrats.us/](http://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us/)





**Manistee County Blue Tigers  
Presents**

**LIL' BIG SHOTS TALENT SHOW**

(Auditions scheduled via email video or Zoom.)

**ALL TALENTS AGES 4 – 16 WELCOME! !**

**All Entrants will be awarded a Participation Ribbon**

(Participants limited to 20. First come, first served.)

**TALENT SHOW:** July 3, 2021, from 1:00 – 3:00 at the Lion's Pavilion  
at the First Street Beach  
Included in the **Manistee National Forest Festival.**

**Receive Registration Forms at:** [manisteelilbigshots@gmail.com](mailto:manisteelilbigshots@gmail.com)  
or call 313-478-5347

**Program Booklet with Donation**

**EVERYONE – Come Enjoy Manistee's Lil' Big Shots! ! !**

**(Prizes given!)**

All proceeds go to **Blue Tigers**, the community outreach project, which provides **scholarship assistance** for high school certification, GED and emergency funding to local students.

---

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR PROJECT

The Manistee County Democratic Party is setting up a Letter to the Editor writing Project. Every Monday a Messaging MEMO is distributed by the Michigan Democratic Party LTE Program and specifically, the 101st District Committee. Members of the four counties in the 101st will all be writing letters based on these talking points to provide a unified message throughout the district.

We need your help to keep democratic good news in the forefront, and hold republicans feet to the fire. The research is done for you. Just put pen to paper. If you are interested, please contact Peggy Raddatz at [peg.raddatz@gmail.com](mailto:peg.raddatz@gmail.com).

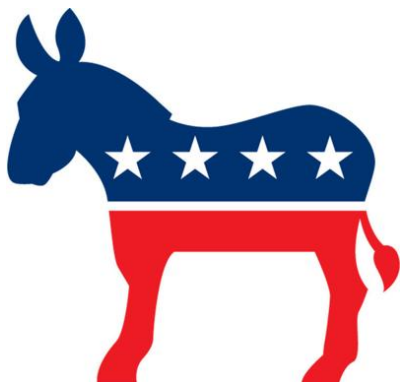
# MANISTEE COUNTY DEMOCRATS IN ACTION



Each month, the MCDP Blue Tigers have been working closely with the Friendship Society, who have been promoting the Feeding America Food Truck. The Blue Tigers are volunteering to help pack the tote bags with food and passing other food items to many families as they drive up in the lengthy lines to receive their food. Not only are they helping with the volunteer effort, but the Blue Tigers are also supporting this endeavor financially.



On April 13, MCDP members held a rally to protect voting rights and end voter suppression on the steps of Manistee City Hall.



On April 22, The MCDP joined the Friendship Society on Earth Day for a clean-up walk picking up litter in Manistee.

## 2021 MCDP SOCIAL EVENTS

Arcadia Strawberry Social	June 17, 2021, 6:30pm
Manistee 'Lil Big Shots	July 3rd, 2021 1-3pm
4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Picnic Onekama Village Park	July 15, 2021, 6pm
Manistee County Fair	August 2021
Princess of Manistee Sunset Boat Cruiser	August 13, 2021, 7pm - 9pm.
18 <sup>th</sup> Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner Manistee National Golf and Resort	September 11, 2021, Social hour 5pm, Dinner 6pm
Joseph Farm Country Picnic	October 3, 2021
Manistee Dems Holiday Celebration	December 18, 2021



*September 11, 2021*

*18<sup>th</sup> Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner*

*Manistee National Golf and Resort  
(in the tent)  
Speaker TBD*

*Social Hour 5 PM  
Dinner 6 PM*





## The 18th Annual Don Jennings Award Nomination Form

Please Print:

I nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

for political activism and the pursuit of social justice

Because: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(if you need more space, please continue on a separate sheet of paper)

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed nomination by **July 23, 2021** to: Manistee DEMS/DJN --  
P.O. Box 65 – Manistee, MI 49660

Or go online at [manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://manisteecountydemocrats.us) and fill out this form online.

Previous Winners of the Don Jennings Award:

Judy Cunningham	Peggy Raddatz	Alan O’Shea	Gary Madden
Jeanne Butterfield	Ellen Somsel	Tim Joseph	David Berns
Alan Marshall	Glenn Lottie	Lee Trucks	
Allan O’Shea	Tim Joseph		

