



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

### Monthly Meetings

4th Thursday

7 pm - 9 pm

Dial-a Ride, Manistee

Meeting Agenda

includes

Guest Speakers

News from Lansing

and District 101

### Officers

Chair- Glen Lottie

[pglottie@kaltelnet.net](mailto:pglottie@kaltelnet.net)

V. Chair-Laurel Mason

[laurele52@charter.net](mailto:laurele52@charter.net)

Secretary-Peggy Raddatz

[peg.raddatz@gmail.com](mailto:peg.raddatz@gmail.com)

Treasurer-Joanna Collins

[collij1946@yahoo.com](mailto:collij1946@yahoo.com)

Membership-Ellen Somsel

Newsletter-

Judy Cunningham

[jpc4466@gmail.com](mailto:jpc4466@gmail.com)



*Barb Byrum received her law degree from MSU College of Law and currently serves as Ingham County Clerk.*

*Barb was the keynote speaker at last year's Don Jennings dinner after being evicted from the state legislature for speaking her mind on women's rights issues.*

Former 3-term state representative **Barbara Byrum**, an outspoken advocate for women's rights, education and health care, will be a **Guest Speaker in Manistee on Thursday, May 23 at 7pm at the Jefferson Elementary, 515 Bryant Ave. in Manistee.**

Her message is urgent and concerns the current proposals in the Republican-controlled state legislature to suppress votes through redistricting and changes to the Electoral College.

**Save the date** for our 10th Don Jennings Award Dinner to be held **Saturday, October 5, 2013**, 6pm. Don was a lawyer and strong advocate for social justice in Manistee County during his long career, as well as a member of the Manistee Democratic Party. This Award Dinner is held both to honor Don's memory and values. A person in our community that has followed Don's example of fighting for social justice is honored with an award in his name.

**Paid for by the Manistee County Democratic Party with regulated funds.  
Manistee County Democratic Party PO Box 65, Manistee, MI 49660**



May 2013

Comments from your chair

“I am a Democrat and I am proud of it.” To me a democrat is a person who cares about other people. Democrats do not espouse slogans such as: We support family values or we are compassionate conservatives. We are not hypocritical. Democrats say: “support and help your neighbor” or they use the Democratic motto: “Labor for Your Neighbor”. Democrats really care about people and their well-being. There is a big difference between using empty clichés and actually caring. An observation, which I have made, is that Democrats are reticent to be verbal about how they feel and care. We should not keep our beliefs to ourselves: we should let them be known whenever we get the chance.

An important election cycle will be here in 2014. We need to be proactive and plan for it. First we need to elect a state representative who cares about us and supports our needs. Our current state representative, whom I shudder to name, only cares about himself and his adopted cronies. They have passed laws which have taken away our rights, increased our taxes, damaged our education system, and put additional burdens on our struggling seniors. It is time to make a change in the State House. In order to accomplish this, it is important (even critical) that all Democrats in this district get active and help put extra effort into supporting our candidates.

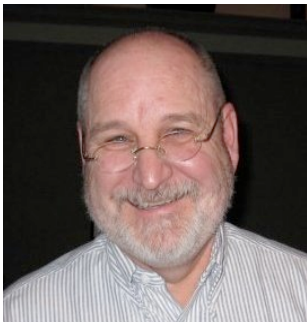
Locally we need to enlist democrats to run for township, city, and county office positions. They say that all important politics begin locally. We also need to encourage our Democrats to join the Blue Tigers. These Blue Tigers are a local Democratic group who are involved in community projects which help our residents. By being involved with the Blue Tigers we show the public that Democrats really care about them.

Please get involved!

Glenn Lottie, Chair

## NEWS FROM THE 101<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

*THE BLUE OASIS by Rick Schrock*



**101<sup>st</sup> District**, the district that elects our state representative, includes Manistee, Mason, Benzie and Leelanau counties and tends to be dominated by Republicans. Although people mistakenly believe it is all “red”, thankfully, there is a “blue” oasis and that is Manistee County. Dems continue to hold the majority on the County Board of Commissioners, and we now control two of the five county offices, Drain Commissioner and Register of Deeds, for the first time in over a decade. We can be proud of the Manistee County Democratic Party and its ability to get out the vote.

In 2012, State Rep. Ray Franz, R-Manistee, barely retained his seat. Manistee strongly supported democrat Allan O’Shea while the other 3 counties gave a small majority of their votes to Franz. Also in 2012, Gary McDowell, who ran for Congress in the 1<sup>st</sup> District, easily carried Manistee County and only lost by less than 1% of the vote.

Manistee County gave President Barak Obama and Senator Debbie Stabenow the majority vote in 2012.

Political victories don’t come easy. We are already working toward 2014. We need more than your vote to win strong in 2014, we need you to attend party meetings, support fundraisers, and become election volunteers.




---

## NEWS FROM LANSING by Frank Greco

- **The Governor and Republican leaders are continuing to work on significant changes to the public education system.** The Detroit News reported on a “secret” task force that is trying to develop a proposal for increased use of online learning. A key focus of these proposals is to break the link between state funding and the student’s “home” school district. Instead funds would “follow” the student so that more than one district could get a share of the state funds if the student takes classes from more than one provider.
- Another education proposal would give enhanced status of the Educational Achievement Authority, which would run a “reform” school district of up to 50 low performing schools. **This district would be freed from various restrictions including collective bargaining agreements.** House bill 4369 passed the House (57 to 53 vote) in late March.
- Bills have been introduced to make changes in the **state’s no-fault auto insurance law.**
- Discussions are continuing about proposals to **raise additional funds to finance highway maintenance and repair projects.**

Michigan Government TV no longer provides coverage of legislative meetings.  
Go to [www.michigan.gov/mitv](http://www.michigan.gov/mitv) to view anytime on your computer.



## *Blue Tiger Democrats*

**Michigan Blue Tiger Democrats** is a Michigan Democratic Party project that is coordinated through local Democratic organizations. It is a movement dedicated to civic engagement and community service by Democrats. By demonstrating our commitment to the neighborhoods, individuals and ideals that make our Party great, we believe we can engage people year-round in volunteer activities that help people, and in-turn, strengthen the Party from our grassroots. We acknowledge and thank the founder of Blue Tiger Democrats, Bill Samuels.



### **Local Blue Tigers are Volunteering in Manistee County**

To learn more call Josh Swenson at 231-510-2177 or email to [j.joshswenson.s@gmail.com](mailto:j.joshswenson.s@gmail.com)

### **Blossom Boulevard Watering Hands Needed:**

Linda Albee is the 2013 watering chair for Blossom Boulevard and help is needed watering the flowers on Blossom Boulevard. For the first month we water each morning between 6-9am. It takes a crew of 2 people, one to drive the van and the other person on the back of the trailer handling the watering wand. It takes about 1 1/2 hours to complete the job each morning. We will water each day for the first month, then adjust the schedule as is necessary, checking the soil condition, the health of the plants, etc.

***To sign up for a watering shift, call Linda Albee at 723-0032***

***or***

***email to [ralbee0032@charter.net](mailto:ralbee0032@charter.net)***



## *2013 Manistee DEMS Membership Year*

January – December 2013

- Your membership will keep you informed of events through email, newsletters and phone.
- Your membership will help us build an organization of volunteers as we prepare to win with our 2-year election cycle.
- The Manistee County Democratic Party will support our local county candidates with know how and funds to win.
- Your paid membership will help Democrats win. *Please join today.*

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Other joining members in same household \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### 2013 Membership Levels Per Individual

100 Club - \$100.00 per Person  
 Gold Club - \$50.00 per Person  
 Silver Club - \$25.00 per Person  
 Supporter - \$10.00 per Person

\_\_\_\_\_ 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

See what we are doing:  
 Go to our WEBSITE at [manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://manisteecountydemocrats.us)

Join us on FACEBOOK : [facebook.com/groups/210484709015534](https://www.facebook.com/groups/210484709015534)  
 Or on Twitter <https://twitter.com/manisteedems>  
 Join our discussion group by signing up on our website.

## 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.

Manistee County Democratic Party

P.O. Box 65

Manistee, Michigan 49660



«First\_Name» «Last\_Name»

«Address»

«City», Michigan «Zip»