



www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Monthly Meetings

June, 16th, 6pm
 Arcadia Strawberry Social
 (3rd Thursday of month)

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

Parade Chair

Laurel Mason
 laurele52@charter.net

Dems Office Manager

Joe Hall



STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

The Manistee County Democratic Party will host the annual Arcadia Summer Strawberry Social **Thursday, June 16, 2022** at 6:00pm at the Village of Arcadia Finch Park on Lake Street, near the Arcadia Township Hall. Guest speakers will be our County Commissioner Candidates. Bring your own lawn chair to help with social distancing.

MEET THE 2022 MANISTEE COUNTY CANDIDATES



Terry J. Sabo,
 Candidate for
 MI State Senate
 District 32



Cathy Albro,
 Candidate for
 MI House Rep.
 District 104



Brian Hosticka,
 Candidate for
 MI House Rep.
 District 102



Margaret Batzer,
 Incumbent County
 Commissioner
 7th District



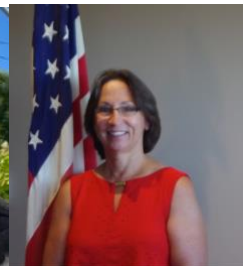
Shirley Madden,
 Candidate for
 County
 Commissioner
 5th District



Megan Scott,
 Candidate for
 County
 Commissioner
 District 3



Howard Gimpel,
 Candidate for
 County
 Commissioner
 District 1



Karen Goodman,
 Incumbent County
 Commissioner
 6th District

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

STOP THE REAL BIG STEAL ON NOVEMBER 8TH!



John Helge

Based on the current rhetoric coming out of the so-called leadership of the radical Republican Party, in the 2022 election cycle if you vote Republican, then you will vote for what many are calling the “Real Big Steal”. Current Republican legislators at both the state and federal level have publicly called for legislation to review and eliminate existing established programs that have been tightly woven into American culture and our economic system. If we allow the current Republican Party to gain majorities in our state and federal legislatures in 2022 here is what we stand to lose:

- Our Social Security
- Our Medicare
- Our Medicaid.
- Our opportunity for affordable prescription drugs
- Our access to affordable health care.
- Our access to mental health services
- Our right to privacy.
- Our control over reproductive choices.
- Our voting rights
- Our right to elect those to represent us in Lansing or Washington
- Our democracy

We are confident that even those who may still believe the “Big Lie” that the 2020 Presidential election was “stolen” would agree that taking these long-established programs and rights away from the American people would be exceedingly difficult to justify. But unjustified or not, they are squarely on the chopping block right now! The spin being put on these issues is that somehow the Republican Party will be able to craft an improved or more efficient program. That is nothing but a hollow promise as we are still waiting to see the Republican alternative to the Affordable Care Act that was promised by the previous administration. Be looking for the opportunities to interact with candidates backed by all political parties that will be provided by non-partisan organizations like The League of Women Voters. If a candidate refuses to participate in these types of town-hall forums, then that should be a major warning sign that they may not be worthy of your vote. We still have the power to stop the Real Big Steal by doing our research, questioning the candidates, and voting based on facts on November 8th.

The blame for this deeply divided country rests squarely on the shoulders of people who have made a conscious decision to follow and support the current radical Republican party, a political party that has been taken over by people who have failed at business, failed as legislators, but wildly succeeded as conmen/women gleefully raking in money from gullible supporters and high-rolling lobbyists. These people, who have consistently proven to have no idea what it means to be decent human beings, are now the leaders of a political party that has historically stood for family values and decency. Sadly, under their reign this is now a party that has decided it can only return to power by spreading hate and division, waging meaningless culture wars, and blaming others for any of the challenges we face as a nation without providing any viable alternatives or taking corrective action. They blissfully, almost joyfully do this all just to be able to crow about “owning the libs” on Fox News or local talk radio while refusing to legislate anything meaningful for the good of the people who elected them.

This current radical version of the Republican Party through the rantings of their dictator-in-waiting and the implicit approval caused by the silence of their leaders at the state and national levels has made it acceptable to fear and hate those who look differently than you, to fear and hate those who pray differently than you, to fear and hate those who are less fortunate than you, and to fear and hate those who think, act, and love differently than you. It is so sad that the leadership of the current radical Republican Party has made it seem to some that it is acceptable for people to act through an explosion of rhetorical abuse and physical violence against those who are different.

We hear lifelong Republican voters and supporters vainly try to justify their continuing support of their favored political party with statements like, *“Well, you know I like their policies about abortion, guns, regulations, etc., but I sure wish they would tone down the name-calling and bullying tactics.”* Statements like these are nothing but a weak cop-out in the glaring light of all the incompetence, lies, deception, fraud, and crimes that have been and are being committed by those currently running the Republican Party at both the state and national levels. If YOU still insist on calling yourself a Republican after everything this state and nation has experienced since January 6, 2021, YOU must accept responsibility for our current situation with no excuses. It is time for YOU to step up and demand action to change this once respected political party back to what it used to represent in the heydays of Lincoln, Eisenhower, Ford, and Milliken. If that will not happen, then YOU should have the courage to publicly denounce the current Republican Party and vote for an Independent or a Democrat in November!

NEW 2022 MANISTEE DEMS OFFICE



Manistee county Democratic Party office is now open. The move is a result of the number of volunteers including Peggy Raddatz, Judy Cunningham, Eric Lampinen, Ellen Somsel, Paul Glaser, Bonnie and Alan Garbrecht, Chris Morski, and Jo Hall, the new office manager. A big thanks goes out to all the volunteers who helped on moving day.

We would like to have volunteers at the office on Sunday 12 p.m to 3:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There are many opportunities for everyone to volunteer on a weekly basis for one of the slots. Sunday is open, Tuesday is open from 3 to 6, Wednesday is open from 12 to 3, Thursday is open, Friday is open from 3 to 8, Saturday is open. If you can't volunteer on a weekly basis, we can put you in the time slot of your choice. We need everyone's help for the fall election.



Our office colors are blue, burgundy, and cream. We have a few office needs. 1. two desk chairs, 2. command tape to hang signs on the wall, 3. an industrial dust mop 4. two office trash cans, 5. some office decorations to make it welcoming such as vases, flowers, and pictures to match the theme colors, 7. round table cloths, 8. bottled water, 9. paper towels, 10. Kleenex, 11. office stapler, 12. air freshener and 13. furniture polish. We will return items after the election.

If you wish to use the office or would like to volunteer, please contact Jo Hall at 231-723-0125. Welcome to the new digs.

BLUE TIGERS SCHOLARSHIP HELPS LOCAL WOMAN COMPLETE GED



With the incentive of the Blue Tigers scholarship, Cynthia Rhodes moved stealthily to complete her GED. She received her scholarship in September 2021 and is now the graduation speaker for the ceremony to be held on June 9, 2022 in Traverse City.

Cynthia is so pleased about her accomplishment because she felt people always looked down on her when they found out she hadn't completed high school. With this new level of confidence, she says, "I can finally go to college, (or get a trade) and make my boys, (Aryan, 13 and Kevin, 11) proud of me. I can show them, not just tell them, how important an education is."

Cynthia says her future plans are to find a career in some kind of construction. "I'm hoping that's plumbing. I just need to find a company willing to give me the opportunity to show how driven and compassionate I am about anything I set my mind to."

Ms. Rhodes also gives an encouraging message to anyone who has not completed high school. "Michigan (MI) Works is the best place to go. It's easier than people realize. Just go there and get started. That's the first step."

The Blue Tigers is the community outreach organization of the Manistee County Democrats. As chairperson, Shirley Madden states, "We are so proud of Cynthia because she exemplifies the whole purpose of the Blue Tigers. We endeavor to provide services and to help build our community. Cynthia is a proud and willing worker in our community."

The Blue Tigers also volunteer to assist monthly with the Feeding America Food Truck, which dispenses food to members of our community. This project is sponsored by the Friendship Society; Executive Director, Cassandra Kamaloski. One extremely cold morning in January when the Blue Tigers were volunteering, Cynthia had car problems. So, she got a Dial-A-Ride bus, all the way from Copemish, to get to the Armory to help offer her services for this project. This is what servicing the community is all about.

BLUE TIGERS' 4TH ANNUAL LITTLE BIG SHOTS

This year marks the fourth year for the "Little Big Shots" Talent Show. This event is one that many people look forward to as part of the Manistee National Forest Festival. This program offers children ages 4 – 16 the opportunity to share their talents; singing, dancing, reciting poetry or speeches, playing musical instruments, etc.

The “Little Big Shots” Talent Show will be held on Saturday, July 2, 2022 at the Lion’s Pavilion from 1:00 – 3:00. We are abiding by COVID-19 guidelines with our performances outdoors in the open air.

If you know of any youngsters who would like to participate, please give them the email information, manisteelilbigshots@gmail.com or call 313-478-5347. Please get in touch with Shirley Madden to arrange for auditions, which will be via zoom. Parents, family and friends are invited to come and support the youngsters as they perform. Many prizes will be given to those in the audience.

The Blue Tigers is the community outreach organization of the Manistee County Democrats. We are asking for the Dems to become **patrons** for this program, “Little Big Shots,” by making donations to support our scholarship funding. If you have a business, we are asking you to help **sponsor** this event. Your names and/or the business will go into the program booklet. Please submit your donations by **June 22, 2022**.

The three levels of Sponsorship and/or Patrons are:

Gold - \$100

Silver - \$50

Bronze - \$25

Thank you in advance for your willingness to support the efforts of the Manistee County Blue Tigers and for making a difference in our community. Make checks payable to **Manistee County Blue Tigers** and mail your donation to: **Manistee County Blue Tigers, P.O. Box 65, Manistee, MI 49660**.

Shirley Madden,
Blue Tigers, Chairperson

2022 MCDP SOCIAL EVENTS

Arcadia Strawberry Social	June 16, 2021, 6:00pm
Manistee ‘Lil Big Shots	July 2, 2021 1-3pm
4 th Annual Membership Picnic Onkama Village Park	July 21, 2021, 6pm
Manistee County Fair	August 2022
18 th Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner	September 17, 2022 Social hour 5pm, Dinner 6pm Manistee National Golf and Resort
Joseph Farm Country Picnic	October 8, 2022 (Saturday)
Manistee Dems Holiday Celebration	December 10, 2022



*19th Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner
September 17th*

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

*Social Hour 5 PM
Dinner 6 PM
Ticket sales begin in August*



19TH ANNUAL DON JENNINGS AWARDS DINNER SPEAKER: PAUL KENDRICK



The Keynote Speaker for the 19th Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner to be held September 17th, 2022 will be Paul Kendrick. Paul is the Executive Director of Rust Belt Rising, which trains a network of more than 700 Midwest Democratic leaders on effective messaging to win voters in our region and deliver change for working families. Rust Belt Rising was founded after the 2016 election to help Democrats rebuild the Blue Wall through more resonant messaging and learning from the best campaigns across six Great Lakes states.

Beginning his career leading a college success program for first-generation college students, Paul then organized the youth vote in Wisconsin for President Obama and Senator Tammy Baldwin in 2012. After serving in the Obama Department of Education and White House, he worked on Illinois Governor JB Pritzker's campaign.

Paul is also the co-author of *Nine Days: The Race to Save Martin Luther King Jr.'s Life and Win the 1960 Election*, a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice and *Oprah Magazine Book You Will Love*. In addition to leading Rising's work improving Democratic campaigns, he is an adjunct professor at National Louis University in Chicago.

THE 19TH 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, 2022** to: Manistee DEMS/DJN --
P.O. Box 65 – Manistee, MI 49660

Or go online at manisteecountydemocrats.us and fill out this form online.

Previous Winners of the Don Jennings Award:

Judy Cunningham, Jeanne Butterfield, Alan Marshall, Allan O’Shea, Gary Madden,

Peggy Raddatz, Ellen Somsel, Glenn Lottie, Shirley Madden, Dave Berns, and Tim Joseph

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership issued _____ Membership Category _____

VAN # _____ MDP Expire _____

Manistee DEMS Membership Year

January 1- 2022 - December 31, 2022

Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) membership included for all membership levels

Visit Website: www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Facebook: Manistee County Democrats

Please check off three (3) or more categories where you can volunteer your time and skills.

ASSIST CAMPAIGNS

- ___ Make phone calls
___ Knock on Doors
___ Write Letters
___ Train/manage Volunteers
___ Compile Mailings
___ Absentee Voter Program
___ Attend Events
___ Deliver Yard Signs
___ Pick up Yard Signs
___ Get Out The Vote (GOTV)
___ Call / text members re: meetings
___ Provide Food
___ Mobile Office
___ Newsletter Committee

ASSIST POLITICAL EVENTS

- ___ Voter Registration Drive
___ Annual County Picnic
___ Manistee County Fair
___ Candidates Meet 'n Greet
___ Fundraisers
___ March in Parades
___ Event Planning
___ Poll Watchers
___ Work Campaign Office
___ Run for Precinct Delegate
___ Run for Political Office

ASSIST SERVICE EVENTS

- ___ Feed America Food Truck
___ Annual Country Picnic
___ Environmental Film Festival
___ Blue Tigers
___ Holiday Party
___ Don Jennings

SERVE ON A COMMITTEE

- ___ Candidate Recruitment
___ By-Laws Committee
___ Finance Committee
___ Membership Committee
___ Communications Committee
___ Scholarship Commtee
___ Campaign Committee
___ Editorial Committee

I have campaign / political experience: _____

This yearly membership is for the MANISTEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY. A separate MDP registration is required to vote or run for office at any level of the Democratic Party. Your optional donation to MCDP is greatly appreciated to help defray expenses, operate a campaign office and to support candidates. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

- ___ Grass Roots - \$0
___ Young Democrats (ages 18 - 25) - \$5
___ Ontario Club \$25 per person
___ Erie Club \$50 per person
___ Huron Club \$100 per household
___ Superior Club \$250 per household
___ Michigan Club \$500 per household
___ Donation to Blue Tigers Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Optional: set up payment plan with your bank or with our internet: manisteecountydemocrats.us
Please return the entire sheet. Your receipt is forthcoming via email or the U.S. mail.

Last Name _____ First _____ M.I. _____

Other joining member in same household _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PH#() _____ Cell#() _____ Email _____ @ _____

AMOUNT OF ENCLOSED CHECK \$ _____

Signature

____/____/2022

Date

***** Make checks payable to Manistee County Democratic Party *****
Mail to : Manistee County Dems, P.O. Box 65, Manistee, MI 49660