



Come one – Come all
You're Invited to the Holiday Celebration Potluck
December 9th 2023 | 6:00 pm | Farr Center
5283 Main St,
Onkama, MI 49675
We'll serve Sander's Ham
Share some Wine
If you'd Bring a dish to pass
Your own table service
We'll have a jolly, good time



COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR John Helge

UAW Strike Against the Big Three

As I am writing this, the news of the day is dominated by the UAW strike against the Big Three automakers. The union workers are striking to recover a portion of what they gave up back in 2008-2009, in the midst of the Great Recession, to help save the US auto industry from collapse due to poor management and poor leadership.

These three publicly traded companies have since recovered and posted record profits while their stock prices and executive-level compensation have also soared. Despite the current era of automaker prosperity this same period many of the workers who produce the components and build these vehicles are not making enough money to afford the same high-quality, American-made vehicles they are rolling off the assembly lines without having to work extreme overtime hours or hold down another job.

The strike undertaken by the UAW is justified and will ultimately benefit all working men and women who deserve to share in the fruits of their labor – the same labor that enriches the executives and stockholders.

One of the most valuable courses I took as an undergrad at Michigan Tech was Labor Relations 101 taught by Carmine Della-Quadri, who was the primary negotiator for the UAW during the 1960's. On our first day of class, he made a statement that has served me well for almost 50 years in both my military and business careers: He said, "Management gets the union it deserves!".

He went on to explain to the class, many of which would end up as mid-to-upper-level executives in the Big Three, that you can manage budgets or projects, but you must lead people. During our weeks together in that class, he shared many examples of his experiences with managers who were great at bringing a project in on-time and under budget, or great at maintaining strict financial budget controls, but failed to succeed in their long-term career because they neglected to prioritize taking the time to discover the personal and professional goals of the people they were assigned to lead and aligning those goals with the goals of the organization. Their failure in leadership resulted in high manpower turnover, dismal morale, and eventually poor performance. This lack of focused leadership is what ultimately caused the near collapse of the domestic auto industry in the USA back in 2008-2009. It was the union workers who made the concessions necessary to save the auto industry in America and now it is time for them to be made whole for their willingness to sacrifice for the long term greater good.

One major issue concerning the UAW leadership is how the Big Three will

handle the transition from gas/diesel to electric vehicles (EVs). Senior executives at all three companies have enthusiastically embraced the move to electric vehicles because they can see that they will be less labor-intensive to produce and command a higher profit margin. These same industry executives are willingly aligning with the public's concern about climate change and see EVs as a clear path to this highly engaged section of the car-buying market.

The UAW wants to have the ability to unionize the workers in the American battery plants that will be supplying the Big Three in the future so that these workers can also afford to purchase the vehicles their batteries will propel. It has been a shame to see some politicians lining up to bash and blame the Biden administration for the decisions that in reality have been made by free-market capitalist leaders in the Big Three to aggressively pursue the conversion from fossil fuels to lower carbon alternatives. In fact, when speaking to a group of Michigan non-union auto employees this week, Donald Trump attempted to demonize the transition to EVs rather than express unreserved support for the striking workers. His stance was hardly a surprise to those who have watched him engage in anti-union practices for decades.

Yes, there will be challenges as the implementation and technology supporting EVs progresses, but we can take comfort that technology is rapidly advancing. Less than 30 years ago, no one believed that smart phone technology would progress as fast as it did. Now, virtually everyone is carrying a personal computer in their pocket. Despite misinformation proliferating across social media and right-wing entertainment outlets, no one in our federal government is mandating that everyone today, tomorrow, or well into the future must only drive EVs. The free market, shaped by consumers concerned about climate change, will drive this natural conversion and the EV supply chains will rise to the opportunity to make more money. THIS is how capitalism is supposed to function!

Eventually, the internal combustion engine will go the way of the horse and buggy and be found exclusively in museums to be marveled at by our great grandchildren. Even the big oil companies are getting on board and developing alternative energy technologies such as safe hydrogen fuel cells that could produce electrical power on-board the EV itself. Hydrogen is produced by the electrolysis of water and when burned produces nothing but water vapor. It is a viable method of storing low carbon electricity produced by solar and wind power.

Instead of spreading misinformation and creating more chaos, the politicians we have elected to represent all of us in both Washington, DC and Lansing should be focusing our governmental resources on finding ways to expedite this transition for the benefit of not just current voters, but for our grandchildren who will have to live with the adverse effects of severe climate change if we do not act today!



Blue Tigers

Blue Tigers Searching for Support

The Manistee County Blue Tigers are involved with many community outreach programs and we are searching for volunteers. The Meals on Wheels (Senior Nutrition) Program delivers lunch to seniors throughout Manistee County. We need volunteers to deliver meals on Tuesdays and we also need volunteers to be a substitute when others cannot serve at their assigned date. Providing meals to seniors does not take much of your time and this is such a rewarding effort.

Also, the Feed America Food Truck comes on the fourth (4th) Wednesday of each month to the St. Joe's Parking Lot, at 10:00a.m. There we assemble bags with the food that is unloaded from the food truck. Cars line up to pick up the bags of food and other items for themselves and/or for other families. We also need volunteers to help take any extra food to the Senior Center or other designated places.

Volunteers are needed to help serve members in our community who may be shut-in and those who are not able to go shopping for themselves. We need your help in these community endeavors.

Please contact Shirley Madden, 313-478-5347 or email at gspmadden@gmail.com.



Run for Office

Consider running for local office

If you haven't before, take a moment to consider running for an elected office. Manistee County needs more citizens involved in local government. We also need younger, more diverse voices to serve on township and county boards. Everyone over 18 years old and a resident of their county and township is eligible.

Candidate Interest Meetings will continue monthly starting in January 2024. If you are interested in running for any township or county office and would like to

find out how to do so, please contact Judy Cunningham at 231-794-0005 or jpc4466@gmail.com.

Contest Every Race

The greatest change is often created at the local level, but we need to be on the ballot. The Manistee County Democratic Party is in partnership with the Rural Power Lab whose “Contest Every Race” supports county parties to set goals for recruiting and training candidates for local races. Our goal is to make sure every race is contested with a Democratic candidate. Contact John Helge, chair, for more information: johnhelge@gmail.com.

19th Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner

The 20th Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner was a very well attended event. We sold the most tickets ever! We couldn't be prouder of our two 2023 Don Jennings Awardees, Laurel Mason and Paul Glaser. No two people are more deserving. It was so hard to choose between them, the vote ended in a tie!

Though our keynote speaker was busy doing her job elsewhere, Representative Betsy Coffia, 103rd District and others filled the void awesomely with their heart-felt, passionate speeches. The food was outstanding as usual. The silent auction was a major success through the marketing efforts of Eric and Pat Lampinen. Rebecca Amidon showed what a super salesperson she is with the 50/50 drawing! Kudos to Sandy Nelson for gifting her winnings back to the Party.

Above all else, we had very capable and dedicated volunteers. A big thank you goes out to Judy Cunningham and Mary Ortiz for their seamless check-in process. A thank you too, to Jo Hall and Tracy Howard for adding acceptance of credit card capability to the event.





We have a new Membership Program on our [website](#). Most previous members have already been entered, but a password has not been assigned. To access the system,

1. Click on [Join the MCDP](#) and then *Member Sign-In*.
2. Enter your email address. It will prompt you for a password.
3. Since you have not signed in before, you will have to *Request Password*.
4. Check your email for the new password.
5. Return to the *Member Sign-in* Screen and enter the password.

You are now a signed in member of the MCDP and can explore the options that are available. Remember to note your password and save it in a secure location.

In the event section, you will see that we have a number of upcoming events that you can attend. Some of those have specific *Volunteer Opportunities*. To see the dates and times click on the *Volunteer Sign-Ups* option.

In the *Join A Committee* option, you can volunteer to help in specific areas. Remember, we are a totally volunteer organization and depend on you to make things work. The more people involved, the less the burden is on individuals. Many hands make light work.

This is new program for us so please let us know about any problems that you encounter or any comments that you think might be helpful.

Note that for your protection, certain areas are only available to registered members of the local party so that the ability to stalk or to troll is minimized.

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