



www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting Date:

May 21, 2020

(3rd Thursday of month)

7 pm

Virtual ZOOM Meeting

DEPENDING ON OUR GOVERNOR'S GUIDELINES, WE HOPE TO RESUME OUR REGULAR MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE SOON, SO STAY TUNED!

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

Membership Chair
Shirley Madden
gspmadden@gmail.com



A Virtual Happy Hour Fundraiser

For Senator Gary Peters

May 1, 2020 - 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Come Early for a

Grand Gary Peters Pre-Party!

HELP US RE-ELECT
OUR GREAT SENATOR

&

TAKE BACK THE U.S. SENATE

BYO MARGARITAS AND ZOOM WITH US

WE'LL CELEBRATE

LABOR!

CINCO DE MAYO!

SINKO DE GOP!

AND ENJOY

LIVE MUSIC BY

TIM JOSEPH & BLAKE ELLIOTT



PLUS SOME FUN, LOW-BUDGET CONTESTS!

COOLEST HAT

MOST COLORFUL BANDANA

PRETTIEST PLATE OF MEXICAN CUISINE

*So Come Zoom with Us
Friday, May 1, 4:30 p.m.*

*For Your Zoom Pass to All the Festivities
(Our Pre-party & the Senator's Fundraiser)
Contact Sasha...*

248-877-2116 or sasha@PetersforMichigan.com

If you can, please donate to the Senator here:
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/May1Virtual>

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR



Gary Madden

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and healthy during this unprecedented public health emergency. Thankfully, most citizens in our area are practicing behaviors that are proven effective against this virus and following the guidelines ordered by the state. So far, we have seen very few cases of the infection in our part of the state. We all need to continue behaving responsibly so that the whole community can remain safe. I was very disturbed by the comments of the four sheriffs in our region that were publicly released on April 15. As elected public officials they have a sworn duty to uphold the law and to serve the public's best interests in keeping us all as safe as possible. By picking and choosing which laws to enforce and which to ignore, they are communicating a dangerous message to the public and setting a poor example of how government officials should behave in office.

Law enforcement officials have always had discretion in applying the law. When stopping a motorist for driving 5 mph over the speed limit, for example, they can issue a ticket or give a warning. Publicly announcing that they will not enforce speed limits only encourages drivers to ignore speed limits and thereby make our roads more dangerous than they already are. This puts everyone at risk. Similarly, announcing that certain restrictions will be ignored by law enforcement sends a dangerous message that can only result in more people being exposed to this highly contagious virus.

Like it or not, we are literally and irrevocably, in this health crisis together. We are highly social beings that depend on each other for our very lives. Too often we forget about the connections we have to other people and how fundamentally important they are to our everyday well-being. If there is a positive side to this pandemic, it is a reminder to us of just how connected and dependent we are on each other and other people around the world. How we behave as individuals effects the whole of humanity. It is this social power that is the driving force behind our success as a species. To place our imagined individual rights above the health and safety of our community is suicidal. Yet that is exactly what these sheriffs have done. The right to rake our lawn, go fishing, or put our boats in the water should not be more important than public safety.

This emergency has come upon us very quickly and has called for rapid responses from leaders at all levels, especially in the areas of health services and government. By now it is abundantly clear that we were not fully prepared. Restrictions had to be devised and communicated to the public very quickly. In such an environment, some restrictions were probably not thoroughly thought out with all implications considered or all bases covered. Its not unreasonable for those who have to enforce restrictions to have doubts or objections about them. The proper way to deal with such a situation is to communicate concerns to higher authorities so that policies can be reasonably adjusted or reevaluated. Our sheriffs instead chose to go public with their objections and act in defiance of the Governor's orders, accusing her of "overstepping her authority." This kind of open defiance is shameful and should not be forgotten by voters in November when it is time to elect a new county sheriff.

In their statement, the sheriffs seem more concerned with getting the economy opened so that businesses can resume making money than with public safety. It is true that the current situation places a great burden on working people and businesses. It is also likely that many more people will die or become seriously ill if we all resume our normal activities too soon. Many experts in science and medicine have warned that the viral pandemic could worsen if we reopen too soon.

Finally, you have to wonder why these and other sheriffs around the state have behaved so irresponsibly in ignoring the common good. My own feelings are that they have simply taken a page out of the Republican playbook to politicize a major national health crisis. You know, the page about divide and conquer. Instead of trying to face this crisis with unity and purpose, they are trying to make this a personal rights issue, a position guaranteed to divide us along political lines. Perhaps this is their way of supporting Donald Trump and his eagerness to resume business as usual with a casual disregard for the lives of citizens. What does that say about our national values and the importance of human life? If you believe, as I do, that the health, well-being, and safety of people ought to be our first consideration in response to this pandemic, it should be our duty to communicate our displeasure with this shameful declaration from our sheriff. His e-mail address is: falkk@manisteesheriff.org. Please let him know how you feel.



I'm Beth and I'm Running for Michigan House District 101

On November 9, 2016 I awoke to the news that the most qualified person to have ever run for office had just been defeated in the Electoral College by the least qualified person to ever run for the Presidency. I knew my children and grandchildren's lives were going to change drastically.

How did this happen? Somebody needed to do something! I'm somebody, what was I going to do? I was a keyboard warrior. I had been an issues person, not much of a political party person, but there is power in numbers.

In 2017 I moved back to Ludington and discovered that yes, there were Democrats in Mason County. I became active with the Democratic party. I joined the County Committee and served as chairperson of the Elect Dems. I ran for Precinct Delegate and represent Victory Township. I serve as Region 8 (Benzine, Leelanau, Manistee, and Mason Counties) Vice-chairperson in Congressional District 1.

While I love organizing, I never lost my passion for issues. We moved to Ludington in 2004, so my husband could open a medical practice. Our logic was, who wouldn't want to live where people came to vacation.

Since retiring from healthcare, I still hold the strong belief that health care is a right, not just a privilege for the few. Health care policy will be made on the national level but the State must take responsibility to prepare our communities for all of us to receive quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare. We need to attract new providers and cultivate providers within our communities.

The best way to attract providers is to show them our rural paradise. We want them to know that we provide excellent educational opportunities for our children. We want our children to receive quality childcare and free public universal pre-school through community college, preparing them for good-paying jobs. We want them to see we are communities that support our educators and the necessary infrastructure.

We strive to improve our infrastructure with broadband services that expand our children's educational opportunities and offer new business opportunities and support our local industries.

The vision I have brings our communities together to create a legacy for future generations.

I decided to run to bring effective leadership, integrity, and dignity to our communities. I will need you to help me create this legacy. I need you to vote, volunteer, and donate if you're able. Visit my website for more information: <http://electbethmi101.com/>

TRUMP'S MISSTEPS HAVE MADE THE NATION MORE VULNERABLE

By Robert Weissman *InsideSources.com*

In a time when protecting the nation's public health demands clear, truthful and compassionate leadership, President Donald Trump has offered exactly the opposite. He is a clear and present danger to the nation's public health, and he should resign immediately.

Trump has dissembled about the seriousness of the coronavirus epidemic, either because he refuses to accept the truth or fears the effect on his political fortunes, or both. Months too late, he has finally started to acknowledge that the crisis is real, serious and likely to persist.

Trump repeatedly has refused to make science-based recommendations or to declare a public emergency, reportedly out of fear about the effect on the stock market. It turns out that denying the truth visible to all doesn't fool the market; and in fact when Trump did finally declare a public health emergency, markets responded positively.

Trump has misstated his administration's own policies, making multiple material misstatement in just one national address, wreaking havoc across the world. In that address, he stated there would be a ban on European cargo imports, which would have massively disrupted the global economy and in fact has not been imposed.

He also failed to make clear that Americans in Europe would be permitted to return home, sparking a pointless, desperate scramble and emotions turmoil for countless Americans who sought a plane back to the United State before new travel restrictions kicked in. (In fact, the restrictions don't stop American from returning home.)

Trump has presided over an administration that inexplicably has failed to deliver vitally need coronavirus tests to health care providers around the country and then repeatedly lied to or misled the American public about remedying the problem. Instead of taking responsibility for the problem and fixing it, Trump has bizarrely blamed it on his predecessor, Barack Obama. "No, I don't take responsibility at all," says Trump.

This testing failure may be the single most consequential human factor responsible for the spread of the disease. It has been impossible for public health authorities to calibrate appropriate responses without a clear understanding of COVID-19 incidence in the United States. Even now, public health experts are merely guessing about the actual extent of disease spread in the United States.

Beyond the testing debacle, there has been a shocking lack of leadership from the federal government under Trump. Governors and local authorities have stepped into the gap, but they are desperate for federal leadership. It has not been forthcoming. With states seeking federal assistance in providing the equipment needed to treat COVID-19 patients. Trump replied, "Try getting it yourselves."

Even for Trump, this Marie Antoinette response was shocking.

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Crisis moments typically give rise to inspirational words from our leaders. Whether naturally gifted orators or not, they typically rise to the moment. They understand the need to share the truth with the compatriots. They understand the need to calm and galvanize the nation in the face of fear and great challenges. And they understand the need to bring people together for shared national purpose, to spark kindness and solidarity.

Leaders do these things because they care about their people and their country – and because they understand that honesty, calm, shared purpose and solidarity are necessary to meet fearsome national challenges.

That Trump is doing the opposite of all this is not just a shortcoming or just another example of his boundless self-absorption. Trump's failings have nothing to do with political ideology or legitimate areas of policy disagreement. They are intolerable failures of leadership in a time of national crisis that have endangered the lives of all Americans.

Trump should step down immediately.

VOTE MAY 5 IN SUPPORT OF THE MILLAGE PROPOSAL OF THE MANISTEE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Located in Manistee County, the Manistee Intermediate School District is a regional service agency which provides instructional and administrative services to four public school districts, two public academies and two non-public schools. They serve the community by helping all learners reach their full potential.

The Manistee Intermediate School District proudly services the school districts of:

- Bear Lake Schools
- Kaleva Norman Dickson Schools
- Manistee Area Public Schools
- Onekama Consolidated Schools
- Manistee Catholic Central
- Trinity Lutheran Schools
- Casman Academy
- Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy

Governor's Executive Order 2020-42

Many of you may have seen news reports of lawsuits challenging the Governor's Executive Order 2020-42, issued April 9, 2020 – commonly referred to as a “stay at home” order. See, e.g., https://www.theoaklandpress.com/news/coronavirus/oakland-county-residents-join-federal-lawsuit-against-whitmers-stay-at-home-order/article_dd0e5f94-7f5f-11ea-915c-db46275fd447.html. Limited time and space don't permit a detailed discussion of the merits of the challenge to the Order, but it may be helpful to collect the relevant constitutional and statutory provisions to facilitate discussion of the issues.

It appears that the lawsuits rely on the First and Fifth amendments to the US Constitution. Regarding the First Amendment, the lawsuits presumably relies on the right to assemble clause:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

The Fifth Amendment has a number of provisions, most of which are irrelevant to the current claims. The arguably applicable one is the Due Process Clause:

“No person shall . . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; . . .”

It is worth noting that historically these provisions did not apply to the States. However, the Fourteenth Amendment created at Due Process Clause that does apply to the States, and later court decisions have applied the First amendment. See *DeJonge v. Oregon*, 299 U.S. 353 (1937).

Like other rights recognized by the Constitution, these are not absolute. States have broad police powers that can be used to protect the public, particularly in the context of public health:

“[T]he liberty secured by the Constitution of the United States to every person within its jurisdiction does not import an absolute right in each person to be, at all times and in all circumstances, wholly free from restraint. There are manifold restraints to which every person is necessarily subject for the common good. On any other basis organized society could not exist with safety to its members.”

Jacobson v. Massachusetts, 197 U.S. 11 (1905).

We should also keep in mind that the Executive Orders are not things that the Governor just makes up out of some claimed inherent power. The Legislature has enacted the Emergency Management Act, which authorizes the Governor to declare a state of emergency: “(1) During times of great public crisis . . . when public safety is imperiled . . . the governor may proclaim a state of emergency and designate the area involved. After making the proclamation or declaration, the governor may promulgate reasonable orders, rules, and regulations as he or she considers necessary to protect life and property or to bring the emergency situation within the affected area under control. Those orders, rules, and regulations may include, but are not limited to, providing for the control of traffic, including public and private transportation, within the area or any section of the area; designation of specific zones within the area in which occupancy and use of buildings and ingress and egress of persons and vehicles may be prohibited or regulated; control of places of amusement and assembly and of persons on public streets and thoroughfares; establishment of a curfew. . . .” Michigan Compiled Laws § 10.31

And the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act provides: (1) The governor is responsible for coping with dangers to this state or the people of this state presented by a disaster or emergency. (2) The governor may issue executive orders, proclamations, and directives having the force and effect of law to implement this act. MCL § 30.403 That statute says that an emergency declaration by the Governor is only effective for up to 28 days, unless it is extended by the Legislature. In this case on April 7 the Legislature did extend the declaration. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24.

By Frank Greco



Local. Food. Education.

Manistee County Food Pantries

Pantries are listed in date order by their monthly day of service.

Bear Lake United Methodist Church

7861 Main Street, Bear Lake, MI 49614
Serves 49613 and 49614 zip codes.
1st Thursday 9-11am (also 3rd Thursday – see below)

Bethany Lutheran Church

14575 Wuoksi Ave., Kaleva, MI 49645
1st Friday 10am-noon

Manistee Senior Center

457 River St., Manistee, MI 49660
1st Friday Fresh Produce Bingo (also 3rd Friday pantry – see below)

Marilla Food Pantry (sponsored by Irons 7th Day Adventist Church)

Marilla Township Hall, 9991 Marilla Rd, Copemish, MI 49625
2nd Thursday 11am

Matthew 25:35 Food Pantry

St. Joseph Parish Center, 249 Sixth St., Manistee, MI 49660
2nd Friday 10am-noon

Bear Lake United Methodist Church

7861 Main Street, Bear Lake, MI 49614
Serves 49613 and 49614 zip codes.
3rd Thursday 5-7pm - coincides with Community Table

Manistee Senior Center

457 River St., Manistee, MI 49660
3rd Friday 9-11am

Lakeview Church of the Brethren

14094 Coates Hwy., Brethren, MI 49619
Last Wednesday 9-11am

St. Joseph Catholic Church Onekama

8252 Fifth St., Onekama, MI 49675
4th Friday 10-11:30am (Nov & Dec are scheduled for the holidays)

BACN (Benzie Area Christian Neighbors)

2804 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia MI 49616
Serves Benzie and northern Manistee Counties
Monday-Thursday 10am-2pm (please sign in by 1:30pm for service)

The Salvation Army

471 Water Street (use Spruce Street entrance), Manistee MI 49660
Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm (by appointment)

FiveCAP

265 First Street, Manistee MI 49660
TEFAP Commodities 1st Thurs of March, June, Sept and Dec
CSFP Senior Commodities 2nd Wed of even numbered months: i.e. Feb, Apr, Jun, etc

Manistee Friendship Society

1475 South US 31, Manistee MI 49660
Serves members of the Manistee Friendship Society
Monday-Friday 9:30am-3:00pm

Information provided by the Manistee Community Kitchen



Café Opening for Third Season in April 2017

"Planting the future. Cultivating the past."

For more information to volunteer or to donate contact:
Manistee Community Kitchen P.O. Box 993 Manistee, MI 49660
231-887-4401

www.manisteeKitchen.org

To the left is the posting from the Manistee Community Kitchen listing all the Food Pantries and their monthly days of service. Obviously, the Iron Works Café information is dated, and no longer available.

Members of the DEMS Executive Board have volunteered to shop and deliver for our members who would like this service provided.

Gary and Shirley Madden

313-478-6250

or 313-478-5347

City of Manistee, Onekama,

Rest of Manistee County

Judy Cunningham

231-794-0005

Bear Lake and Onekama

Laurel Mason

616-540-5255

Northern Manistee County

Donations can be sent to the Food Pantry of your choice. Any and all contributions will be greatly appreciated in this time of need.

