



www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Monthly Meetings

August, 18th, 7pm

Manistee County Fairgrounds

Leadership Team

Chair

John Helge

johnmhelge@gmail.com

Vice Chair

Rebecca Amidon

rebeccalamidon@gmail.com

Treasurer

Judy Cunningham

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Secretary

Mary Ortiz

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Social Activities Chair

Peggy Raddatz

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Blue Tigers Chair

Shirley Madden

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Communications Chair

Lee Trucks

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Volunteers Chair

Al Frye

alfrye55@gmail.com

Parade Chair

Laurel Mason

Dems Office Manager

Joe Hall

Membership Chair

**2022 DON JENNINGS AWARD
WINNER:
KAREN GOODMAN**



Karen Goodman was born and raised in Manistee. She attended Ferris State University earning her bachelor's degree in Human Services and her associate's degree in Public Administration. Later in Karen's career, she completed her master's degree in Social Work through Grand Valley State University. Karen went on to marry Daryl Goodman and between the two they have one daughter and two sons.

Karen has worked in the field of Social Work for 40 years, starting as a Care Coordinator in a long-term care facility, Director of Residential Programs for Community Treatment Services, therapist and eventually moving into leadership roles. She worked for West Michigan CMH as Team Leader for several of their programs over 10 years. For 7 years, Karen was the Director of a psychiatric hospital before returning to community based mental health services. In 2017, Karen accepted a job with Centra Wellness Networking working on Program and Systems Development becoming the Chief Operating Officer. Over the years, Karen and her husband managed a specialized residential facility for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as owned a restaurant for five years called the Benchwarmer downtown Manistee.

Karen has served on numerous boards including the State of Michigan Foster Care Board, Local West Shore Hospital Board and numerous other boards she has been allied to and have been appointed to including: City of Manistee Housing Commission, DDA (Downtown District) Board (Vice-Chair), Northern Mi Health Services Inc, Human Services Collaborative Body (Chair), Member of MCC foundation, Member of Housing Action Team.

When elected to the County Commission in 2014, Karen was assigned and chaired several different committees of the board. (Continued on page 2)

Currently, she has been elected by her peers for the second time as Vice-Chair of the County Commission. She also has been assigned as Chair the county Personnel Committee, and the Manistee County Summit Committee. Other committees she is assigned are the Safety Committee, and the Airport Authority Networks Northwest alternate member, and the Policy Committee. Other groups/committees she has participated in include the Department of health and Human Services Board, which included the Manistee County Medical Care facility and the Green Team (County Recycling Program).

As Chief Operating Officer for Centra Wellness Network, formally known as Manistee Benzie Community Mental Health, Karen feels she is fortunate to work in an organization that truly thrives to deliver quality service and respond to the needs of the community regarding the treatment or prevention of SUD and mental health issues. Over the past couple years, Karen has worked with several other organizations and leaders to build programs that respond to community needs. Two programs built in the past couple years involved developing an idea and getting the right people connected to talk through those ideas. The results include programs like the County Truancy Officer which came out of a collaboration between the Sheriff and W-M ISD. The Child and Adolescent Center located at MAPS, which provides medial and behavioral health to students which as a collaborative effort by MAPS and NMHSI.

Karen's basic core of volunteerism and community responsibility were established by her parents and their work ethic and love for this community, and by watching her siblings and all their volunteerism and hard work in the community, and through her faith-based education at Manistee Catholic Central. It was always an expectation as part of her family and as part of the school that you always pitch in and work to make change and to lend a helping hand to others when needed.

The MCDP congratulates Karen Goodman and give thanks for her years of selfless service.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR WE ALL WANT A GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS!



John Helge

I genuinely enjoy writing these op-ed pieces because they require me to spend time collecting my thoughts, researching facts, and crafting a coherent narrative focused on expressing what it means to be a Democrat in Manistee County, Michigan. Your local Democratic Party is focused on working hard for the greater good of all the people in our community. I must admit that it is a challenge to resist the temptation to sound off about what happened in Washington DC on January 6, 2021, and the looming potential loss of our democracy to those who feel most of the American people are not worthy of selecting candidates that will provide us with functioning government at the local, state, and national levels. I would prefer to let those concerns take a back seat to the real "kitchen table issues" that the residents in Manistee County feel are most important.

We are truly fortunate here in Manistee County that this movement toward autocratic leadership has not yet taken a foothold. Yes, I do get the occasional email from someone who is still claiming the 2020 Presidential election was stolen, but the "proof" they provide has been consistently proven false or misleading by multiple fact checking sources. For the most part the flags bearing the name of the loser of that election are fading and fraying in the wind. This country, our state, and our county are moving forward with elected leaders facing the real challenges of helping people recover economically and psychologically from a global supply chain shutdown due to the deadly viral pandemic. They are also at work rebuilding and updating our aging

infrastructure, and finding ways to take real action to reduce the effects of climate change. We can be proud of our elected officials at the township, village, city, and county levels as they have all taken very positive and careful steps to allocate the one-time federal recovery funds for projects and programs that will improve the quality of life no matter where you live in Manistee County.

I can understand that most people do not desire a government that is willing to get involved in and perhaps even obstruct our rights to live a free and happy life. The Republican party of Lincoln, Ford, and Reagan used to stand for limited government intervention. Therefore, I find it confusing when these same people advocate taking away or restricting previously legislated or judicially decided freedoms such as a woman's right to reproductive choice, the right to marry who we love, the right to vote without restrictions, the right to affordable health care, or the right to safety from gun violence. Not many people would agree that limited government should mean slashing social safety net programs like Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, Food Stamps, or Unemployment Insurance so more tax breaks can be doled out to profitable corporations or mega-wealthy people who already pay less in taxes than you and I. These are just some of the reasons why we need to be very careful about who we decide to elect to represent us on November 8th!

We need to elect people to represent us at all levels of government who are willing to cooperate, collaborate, and compromise to get things done. We need more legislators and less politicians. Legislators are those who dig in and do the tough work of researching and crafting meaningful and fair laws that may not please everyone but will benefit the majority of those who are most impacted by the new legislation. I define a politician as someone who has no intention of working hard for their constituents, but instead is deep into self-promotion, creating chaos, and producing nothing more substantial than TV soundbites.

Legislators create laws that are a solution to a problem. Politicians create laws that all too often are solutions looking for a problem. Legislators know that they have been elected to represent all the people in their district, not just those who voted for them or who agree with their policy positions. Politicians simply want to hold onto the power they have been granted by the voters and they will often do anything it takes or even absolutely nothing just to remain in that position of power. Legislators are active listeners dedicated to finding out what is most important to their constituents. Politicians are great at telling their voters what to believe whether it is true or not. Legislators live to serve. Politicians live to campaign.

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETING



**August 18, 2022 at 7pm
Membership Building at the Manistee County Fairgrounds in Onekama**

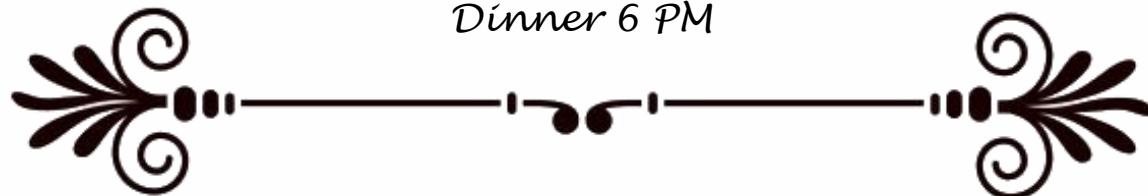
1. Support our Manistee County Candidates
2. Learn about the propositions on the ballot in November
3. Get information on State Representative Candidates Cathy Abro and Brian Hosticka and State Senate Candidate Terry J. Sabo.
4. Learn how YOU can help support Governor Whitmer, A.G. Nessel and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson



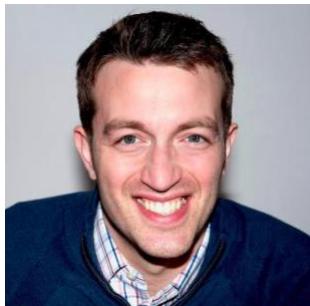
*19th Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner
September 17th*

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

*Social Hour 5 PM
Dinner 6 PM*



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 Rust Belt Rising's work improving Democratic campaigns, he is an adjunct professor at National Louis University in Chicago.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

TO ELECT GREAT CANDIDATES IN MANISTEE COUNTY!

**JOIN US FOR 30 MINUTES OF TRAINING ON HOW TO CANVASS
SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY.**

Pick a date and time that is most convenient for you

AT THE MANISTEE COUNTY DEM OFFICE 339 RIVER ST.

MONDAY AUGUST 15 at 7pm

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 17 at 1pm

TUESDAY AUGUST 30 at 11am



YOUNG PREGRESSIVES ACTIVISTS OF NORTH-WEST MI, YPANM

This July, the Young Progressive Activists of Northwest Michigan held their inaugural event, “A time of Togetherness” at the Manistee Democrats headquarters. We provided the opportunity for young, passionate people to come together and share their grief and anger following the recent failure of our judicial branch to properly protect women’s reproductive rights. Our main event centered around a talk with mental health professional Karen Goodman. She spoke about some core ideas to build bridges across the political divide as young people express their passion for political activism. During this time, attendees asked questions about how to conduct interpersonal relationships with loved ones across the political aisle effectively. We began by learning some important strategies to handle anger and tension resulting from the life-altering decisions happening in Washington. As our group discussed our shared beliefs and experiences here in Northwest Michigan, there was a unanimous desire to act in defense of our constitutional right to reproductive freedom, here at the local level. The Young Progressive Activists provided information on how to get involved and had materials on hand to write to our state and national representatives to express our determination.

The Young Progressive Activists of Northwest Michigan, founded by Mara Davidson, Rebecca Amidon, and Amanda Babcock, are a group dedicated to holding events such as this one to provide education and constructive outreach to Northwest Michigan on progressive ideas. We believe that by continuing to expand knowledge on important issues at the local level, we will create change that will impact every Michigan resident for the better.



PROPOSALS THAT WILL APPEAR ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

Reproductive Freedom for All: The measure would amend the state Constitution to make reproductive freedom a right, repealing a decades-old law that makes abortion a felony.

Promote the Vote 2022: The coalition of voting-rights groups seeks to amend the state constitution to:

- Allow nine days of early voting
- Publicly subsidize absentee ballots and a tracking system for the ballot location
- Continue to allow registered voters without a state ID to sign an affidavit attesting to their identity
- Allow public sources and charities to fund elections, subject to disclosure rules
- Allow voters to register for absentee ballots for all future elections
- Require ballot drop boxes for every 15,000 voters in a municipality
- Establish that post-election audits can only be conducted by state and local officials
- Require canvass boards to only certify election results based on the official vote counts

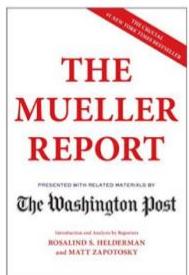
Voters for Transparency and Term Limits: The ballot measure would amend the state constitution to reduce the maximum length a lawmaker can serve in the Legislature from 14 years to 12 years, but would allow them to serve the full tenure in one chamber.

The constitutional amendment would also require state lawmakers, the governor, the secretary of state and the state attorney general to disclose certain financial information, including description of assets, sources of all forms of income, description of liabilities, positions held outside their elected office, arrangements regarding future employment, continuing benefits from former employers other than the state, and payments and gifts received from lobbyists.

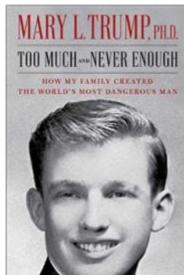
*Compiled from Bridge Michigan Website: <https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-government/2022-michigan-ballot-issues-tracker-what-know-about-election-proposals>

5 BEST POLITICAL BOOKS TO READ BEFORE THE 2022 ELECTION

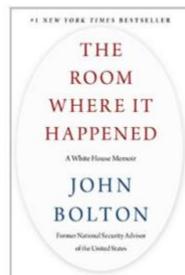
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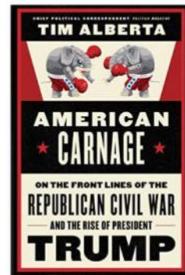
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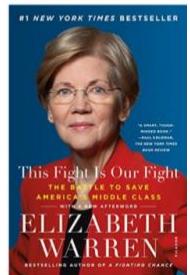
3.



4.



5.



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



Shirley Madden,
Candidate for
County
Commissioner
5th District



Megan Scott,
Candidate for
County
Commissioner
District 3



Howard Gimpel,
Candidate for
County
Commissioner
District 1

2022 MCDP SOCIAL EVENTS

Manistee County Fair

August 16-21, 2022

Canvas Training

Monday, August 15 at 7pm
Wednesday, August 17 at 1pm
Tuesday, August 30 at 11am

18th 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

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 Committee](#)
 - [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 \$ _____

Last Name _____ First _____ M.I. _____

Other joining member in same household

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

PH#() Cell#() Email @

AMOUNT OF ENCLOSED CHECK \$

____/____/2022
Date

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