

Michigan Grieves the Passing of Senator Carl Levin

Former Senator Carl Levin died on Thursday, July 29, 2021 at the age of 87. A proud Democrat, Sen. Levin was the longest-serving U.S. senator in the history of Michigan, serving in the Senate for 36 years (1979 to 2015). He was a longtime member of the Armed Services Committee and served as the ranking member, when Democrats were in the minority and as chair when they were the majority party.

Numerous Democratic leaders shared their thoughts about Sen. Levin's death. Here are a few comments:

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer: "(Levin) was a champion for Michigan...he devoted his life to public service, and it's up to us to follow his example. My thoughts are with his loved ones."
- Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson: "I have no words to express what Senator Carl Levin and his lifetime of dedication to our city, state and country meant to me and so many of us who seek to serve and lead during these uniquely divided times...(a) light has gone out today in Michigan that can never be replaced."
- Michigan's 8th District Representative Elisa Slotkin: "Carl Levin led an amazing life, and set the gold standard for hard-working, decent Midwestern



leadership. May his memory be a blessing. And may we all seek to live up to his example."

Gloria Brooks, Editor

God Gives and God Takes

God gives opportunities for us to love but not forever.

God takes opportunities away after a while.

So don't hesitate or delay or curse the darkness while remaining mired in sadness and hopelessness,

because God gives; and God takes away.

Blessed be the name of God.

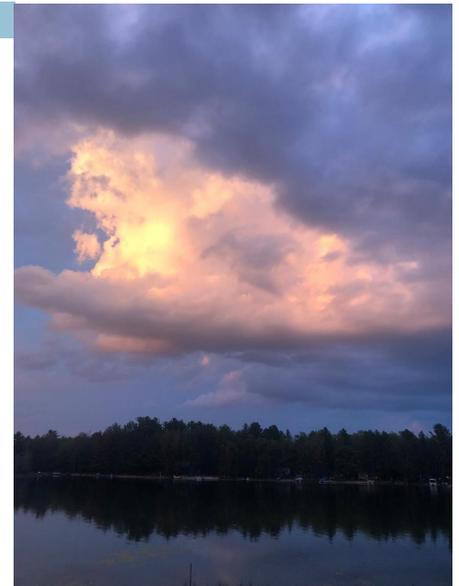
But why bless God when God takes away?

Because if the opportunities were always there, we would wait until the time was just right and never make the leap, and more of life would slip away.

So God gives and God takes; Blessed be God's name.

Rabbi Allen S. Maller

[Jewish Funeral Prayers & Psalms - Jewish Doorways](#)



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Why I'm a Democrat Series

This month we are grateful to have two submissions for this ongoing series. Learn why two ICDP members are proud to call themselves Democrats.

Gloria Brooks, Editor

Why I'm a Democrat— *Richard Douglass*

In my living room I have a piece of craftsmanship from Ghana in West Africa. As I was walking through the room this morning, and thinking about the political and social situation of the United States today I saw the piece in a new way.



This is the Sankofa. It represents a crane moving forward, but the head is turned backward. Many such images can be found in Ghana, in all kinds of places. Most Sankofas have an egg that is carefully carried in the crane's mouth. The egg represents life – and all things vulnerable that need protection and nurture.

The Sankofa represents a considered, intentional, way to live. Moving forward is what we all must do. It is how we approach the future and we really have little choice. But failure to examine the past and to assess where we've been and how well we did before can blind us to the possibility of making mistakes again that could be prevented. Human history is full of personal and governmental mistakes that seem to happen over

and over again.

To me, the Sankofa explains why I am a Democrat. The party platforms for the last 60 years have based proposals on history and documentation. Health care reforms have been based on the failures of our system to take care of everyone and education reforms have been launched to reduce the historic disparities between the wealthy and middle classes and the poor. In addition there is a consistent inclusion of our responsibility to take care of each other and especially the most vulnerable among us, including people, the environment, and the nation. We take note of the past, continue to move forward and all the while focus our efforts on taking care of those around us and the Earth. We are stewards of the future.

Republican rhetoric and platforms, by contrast, revere the past, the "Good Old Days", the myths of health, wealth and prosperity for the "deserving class", and the fictional idea that the ideal life style is the individual, alone and self-reliant, whose government does little to interfere in his/her life. The Sankofa for Republicans would only look backward, wistfully seeking a past that never actually existed. The Republican Sankofa would not be carrying a vulnerable egg.

Richard Douglass

Why I'm a Democrat— *Jesse Lyman*

I can still see the look of pained exasperation on my mother's face as I announced my support for Ronald Reagan back in 1980. See, I bought the Republican plan and what a plan it was! I soon found myself scrambling for work as industries began shutting down while cities rapidly hallowed out. A new U.S. Steel plant for Conneaut, Ohio never did materialize but somehow around that same time they ended up acquiring Marathon Oil. I think the final insult was watching a Republican Pennsylvania congressman calling the tens of thousands of suddenly and permanently laid off factory workers “hogs at the trough” because they had the gall to ask for help. I started scratching around for answers.

At a bookstore in Detroit I found an intriguing three-part series called “The Age of Roosevelt” by an author my grandfather spoke quite highly of: Arthur Schlesinger Jr. It explained life before F.D.R. and the New Deal along with the fight to create and implement it. It provided tons to think about, though my immediate takeaway was that the “Reagan Revolution” was nothing more than an attempt to undo it all and return us to those “good old days” when the wealthy owned the bag of rights while everyone else got whatever “privileges” they felt like doling out. Yes, company towns sent police to bust heads and break strikes. For so, the resulting injuries at work often meant instant termination with retirement synonymous with poverty. Needless to say, I've voted Democratic from 1984 onward, though I didn't officially become a Democrat until the rise of Newt Gingrich and

his, as Rev. Al Sharpton put it, “contract on America”. Not to mention of course my opposition to that idiotic bill-of-goods called supply-side or “trickle-down” economics.

I believe government is here to provide a framework for the greater good of society as expressed in those New Deal ideas that Republicans have fought ever since. Of course, that's the “old” Republican party. Not the one recently hijacked and funded by the current Plutocratic rich guys (thank-you Citizens United) and their very Nazi-esque Trump-worshipping stooges. The money behind all this, either by default or by design, wants a plutocracy which is polite for oligarchy which is fancy for gangster-government. Government here becomes less a framework and instead a tool and weapon. Democrats are the ones trying to fight this and I'm proud to be a member.

Jesse Lyman



ICDP is on Social Media!

Direct links to our pages:

Facebook

Public page:

www.facebook.com/loscoCountyDems

Private ICDP Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/513749385704570/>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/loscoCountyDems>

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/ioscocoountydems

On the web:

www.ioscocoountydems.org

Please contact Duane Breijak at dbreijak@gmail.com if you have any questions or additions to our social media presence.



ICDP continues commitment to Adopt-A-Highway



ICDP cleaned a 2-mile stretch of road on US-23 between Aulerich Rd and Huron Street on Saturday, July 17, 2021 from 10:00-noon. We had 13 participants: Jessica Cameron with Jack, Willey and Garrett; Bob and Jean Radin; Linda Simmons

and Rome Miller; Jan Chambers; Peter and Lisa Douglass; Carole Bleau, and our photographer Richard Douglass. There will be one final clean up activity before winter sets in, so mark your calendar for Saturday, October 2, 2021.



Recap of July's Brew & Stew

ICDP had 12 people attend the monthly Brew and Stew held on Thursday, July 15 at the Sand Lake Sports Bar in National City. Jaime Brants, Project 83 Coordinator for the Michigan Democratic Party, recommends that we fill ballots with Democrats for the upcoming elections, starting with moving people who are already in office to a higher office. Two ICDP members who have run for office in the past offered valuable advice. Cathy Wusterbarth, ICDP member from Oscoda, suggested that the ICDP start early and talk with seasoned campaigners. She also recommended a website for help <http://www.dummies.com/education/politics-government/running-for-local-office-for-dummies-cheat-sheet/>

Nickie Polumbo, part owner of The Boathouse Brewery in Tawas City, encouraged candidates to use VAN to learn about who the likely voters are, and know our precincts. According to the Michigan Democratic Party's website, VAN is a powerful resource for running successful field campaigns here in Michigan, from City Commission to U.S. President. Tools for analysis, targeting, and voter outreach are at our finger-tips with a powerful voter database designed for progressive campaigns. Nickie recommended that we go door to door and focus on common ground matters in Iosco County such as the Great Lakes, the environment, fishing, and hunting.



She also recommended that we relay a personal story to help people understand why an issue is important and to redirect questions to get back on point

Carole Bleau, Chair

Brew & Stew

Upcoming Event

THURSDAY AUGUST 19, 2021

5:30—7:30 PM

NEW FORMAT

**JOIN LIKE-MINDED ICDP
MEMBERS FOR AN
INFORMAL GATHERING**

NO TOPIC

**JUST CONVERSATION AND
CAMMADRERIE**

*Location to be determined—
either The Buckhorn Inn or The
Lodge*

*Check your email before
meeting day!*



This is the sixth installment of How Can You Fix It...Broke?, "Medicaid Never Had a Chance" by Richard Douglass, ICDP member Thanks, Richard, for continuing to share your perspective and experience about Medicare, Medicaid, and how history factors in to the current lack of access to healthcare in rural communities like Iosco County.

Last month, I described how Medicaid was introduced and the many distinctions between Medicaid and Medicare. I set the stage for this month's discussion of a progression of events, political and economic decisions, and the realization that Medicaid was far from the solution to the problem of how to provide health care for the poor. This article will survey the circumstances and outcomes of political and economic decisions, mostly by state legislatures, that crippled the Medicaid Programs' meager chances of success almost from the first year of implementation.

How Can You Fix It if You Don't Know How It Got Broke? Part 6—Richard Douglass

First, a bit of American history is necessary. As in all other nations, poor people and other categories of what society often categorizes as "unwanted people" have presented a perplexing problem in the United States. There are many categories of unwanted people from an historic perspective. Orphans, prior to the industrial revolution, were simply additional mouths to feed with low probabilities of living long enough to be "contributing members" of a community. Widows were clear and present (competitive) threats to 'properly' married women. Death was frequent, work was dangerous, and there were lots of widows. And then there were the insane.

Mental health problems of exposures (i.e. lead poisoning), substantial consumption of alcohol, smoke from bad interior heating, were combined with all sorts of other organic psychiatric problems ranging from late syphilis to schizophrenia. In 19th Century America, the consequences of inbreeding in places where women were scarce, or incest was common. But it really didn't take a legitimate diagnosis (if there was one) to declare a person insane, or a lunatic. Inconvenient spouses (usually wives) or menopausal women, children from incestuous or extramarital affairs, birthmarks, or birth defects of any nature were all used to put people away. And they were put away by the tens of thousands, usually for life. Michigan's egregious history regarding how unwanted people were put away was just like every other state.

Also, among the unwanted were the poor, be they individual adults or whole families whose farm went bankrupt. Poor farms, poor houses, and a wide range of contracted "keepers" were part of our civic landscape. Institutions kept the unwanted out of sight and out of mind. One example of this scenario is demonstrated in how the Wayne County Poorhouse was established in 1839, just 2 years after Michigan became a state:

"Its first residents were transferred from another poorhouse at Gratiot and Mt. Elliott in Detroit. Many refused to move, claiming the new poorhouse was "too far out in the wilderness." And they were right — at that time the corner of Michigan and Merriman was nearly two days by stagecoach from Detroit. But that was what the county officials had in mind. They wanted somewhere well out of sight to send what they saw as society's dregs — the vagrants, vagabonds, drunkards, pilferers, and brawlers. With such a broad charter, it wasn't long before the feeble-minded and the insane were being housed there. ... Prior to the 1940s, little distinction was made between rational and mentally ill inmates. A county report from the 1840s made reference to harsh restraints used to separate the mentally ill from other inmates. The mentally ill were housed on the upper floor of a farm building used to keep pigs." (Rothman 2002)

The passage of time and eventual public concern did little to fundamentally improve asylum conditions. In Northville, for instance, underground tunnels were created with iron rings built into the walls. Between 1900 and 1940, according to a source I met at a meeting

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Medicaid Never Had a Chance—*Cont'd*

about the impacts of deinstitutionalization in Lansing several years ago, the summer season was hot and the staff and their children, who lived in the campus, needed to use the yard for play and recreation to avoid the heat of the buildings. But inmates would scream and howl and frighten the children, so the tunnels were used to move the inmates underground, out of the hearing range of the yard. The inmates were chained to the rings along the walls. These tunnels are now used for cold storage by a commercial firm.

Typically, the poor houses, asylums for widows, homes for orphans, and asylums for the insane became institutions with county-level support, often administered by the county sheriff's office and closely associated with a local judge. Petitions to admit a person, even (or usually) against their will, were easy. Men could put unwanted women or children, aged parents, or other members of the family away with the stroke of the judge's pen. Just prior to WWII the Wayne County Poorhouse held over 8,000 adults. Thousands of Michigan citizens were held in the asylums that became mental hospitals in Traverse City, Northville, Ypsilanti, Ionia, and other locations around the state. These institutions were eventually administered by the Michigan Department of Mental Health. By about 1920 most of the public orphanages were gone. Asylums for widows disappeared by the middle of the 19th Century. The insane, feeble, and others simply labeled as such, however constituted a very large population that was entirely dependent on public support through local or state-level taxes.

From the early days of institutional care there was a predictable inflow and outflow of inmates (for lack of a better term). Dozens of contagious bacterial diseases were the leading causes of death until the mid-1940s after antibiotics were introduced. Tuberculosis, syphilis, many diarrhetic diseases, cholera, and infected wounds led the list. Amputations frequently followed domestic or vocational accidents that caused infected feet, legs, or arms, leaving the victim helplessly invalid and often unable to work. Childbirth was a leading cause of death of women due to infections. Medical care and medical practice were only beginning to adopt a scientific approach to disease control by 1900 and even the most anti-septic techniques rendered all surgeries to be life threatening. The late 19th Century witnessed the awakening of public sanitation and the field of public health with an emphasis on preventing infections. But if infectious diseases could not be prevented, there was little to do except pray, control fevers, and hope that the patient would survive. This situation meant that people in the institutions, with crowded living and sleeping conditions and staff who were ignorant about control of communicable diseases, had high mortality rates. Therefore, people died about as quickly as they were admitted.

This situation changed dramatically during the period from about 1910-1940, when advocacy groups began to examine the conditions of the asylums and raise public outcry. Medicine became more intentionally scientific during the same period, although research was poorly financed, and landmark discoveries were rare. Conditions improved somewhat, but the fact of contagious diseases was true throughout the communities and not just the institutions.

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Your Feedback is Valued!

Please join the conversation by submitting your response to "Why Are You a Democrat?", "You Might Be a Democrat If..." , "My Voice", letter to the Beacon editor, or any other topic you'd like to address for publication in next month's newsletter. Submissions should be 400 words or less. Email Gloria Brooks at gloriadbrooks@att.net by the 1st of the month.





How Can You Fix It...Part 6—*Continued*

Hospitals were septic and places to go only if there was no means of providing care at home. The 1918 Influenza pandemic killed millions worldwide and, in the United States, medical services were nearly helpless.

The introduction of penicillin and ampicillin on the front side of WWII changed everything. Leading causes of death all but disappeared in a decade. People with common diseases were no longer fearful of death and life expectancy grew rapidly while many medical calamities simply went away into public health history. Antibiotics were, and remain, the most significant life-expanding breakthrough in human history. Better care and antibiotics were also delivered to the people in the asylums. Death rates declined and admission rates either remained constant or increased. Overcrowding and the need for institutional expansions, at public expense, were paramount on local and state government agenda.

By 1960, Michigan's state Mental Health budget was approaching a level of operational and financial crisis that nobody knew how to handle. Residents who had been inmates for decades began to get old and frail. Thousands were bedfast and community rooms, or "common rooms" were used to contain the ambulatory residents for large portions of each day. Some institutions needed to assign shifts (literally) to beds to ambulatory and younger inmates because there were insufficient beds for the whole population and the frailest and aged could not go to the community rooms. These institutions were expensive, staffed by civil servants on state payrolls and retiring with state pension benefits, and 100% of the state mental health costs were the state's responsibility. Escalating costs of the institutionalized were a big worry for state legislators and executives. But institutional expenses were not high priorities or campaign issues for the public or political candidates. It was a mess.

Enter Medicaid. The new Federal-State collaboration that took effect in 1965 was written to serve the community poor. State-state variations aside, the one common denominator was that Medicaid was not to be used to care for institutionalized populations (think asylums and prisons). But if the institutionalized could be reclassified as "community residents" then Medicaid could step in and the federal government would pick up half the costs. I am sure some legislators and the Governor in Lansing at the time took a quick walk down Michigan Avenue in Lansing with a smile on their faces; the nightmare on Michigan Avenue was about to begin. Where, however, could the institutionalized go where they would become reclassified as "community residents"?

Americans are an energetic and entrepreneurial lot. There weren't many nursing homes in 1965. For the ones that did exist, they were full of retired spinsters, teachers, war veterans or other special groups and supported by church denominations or other charities. The private, for-profit sector, however, saw the possibilities being discussed in Lansing and other state capitals very quickly and a new industry was born with the birthright stamped by Medicaid. New facilities were built and staffed with personnel who had little formal training.

We Love Photos!

If you participate in a ICDP-related activity and have pictures to share, please send them to [The Beacon](#) by the 1st of the month for inclusion in the next edition!

Medicaid Never Had a Chance—Cont'd

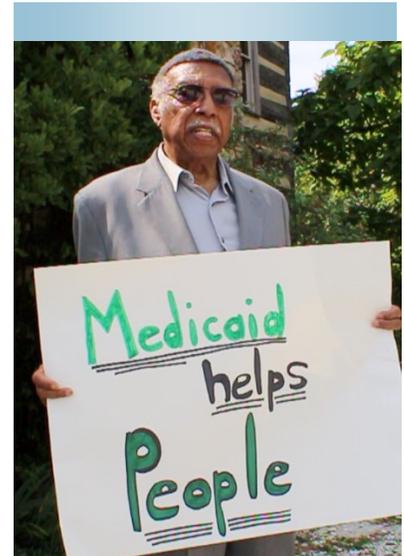
Asylums were emptied, sometimes in the middle of the night using local school busses, and the bedfast, most elderly, and most frail residents were transferred to their new homes. The residents were not asked or consulted; they were simply moved. And when they woke up in a new place, sometimes after living in a single institutional wing or even a single room for decades, they were reclassified as "community poor" and were instantly Medicaid-eligible. The institutional overcrowding was somewhat relieved and there were new jobs in many communities. And the best part, from the perspective of state legislatures was that the Federal Government was picking up half the costs for reclassified patients.

The new industry impacted America. In fact, the need for two-income households to pay for college educations of Baby Boomers who were coming of age, also meant that it was no longer necessary to take care of frail relatives at home because that "nice new nursing home in town" could take the family wards and Mom could get a job. Nursing home administrators became the first and only health administrators to be required to have a state license because the Medicaid programs needed to be able to know who was qualified to receive Medicaid payments. Many of the new nursing homes were owned and administered, as a business by the same person.

The industry took a black eye almost instantly. A poorly understood sequence termed 'transfer trauma' showed up at most of the new nursing homes when the mortality rates reached over 50% within months of former asylum inmate transfers. Professor Leon Pastelan in Ann Arbor began researching and documenting transfer trauma and found that it was a ubiquitous outcome of asylum deinstitutionalization across America. In terms of the deinstitutionalization process there was a long period of time when the mortality of former inmates was conveniently ignored by the State government. When the patient died, another came along from the same institution, be that Ypsilanti, Ionia, Northville, Traverse City or one of the others. There were plenty of patients that the Department of Mental Health wanted to move out of their responsibility. Transfer trauma was eventually brought into the public eye by social researchers, advocates for the mentally ill and the news media and was eventually projected as evidence of bad care and incompetent nursing homes, even when the actual care that was received was decent. It was the unexpected transfer of the person to a new, strange, and unknown place that led to the decline and mortality of hundreds, perhaps thousands of people. The reputation of the nursing home industry never fully recovered. But these unwanted people were no longer wards of the state and very few citizens ever knew what had been going on.

The institutions were still filled to capacity. Just in time, new pharmaceutical products saved the day. Prozac and other psychotropic wonder drugs, especially those aimed at calming schizophrenics, made it possible between 1975 and 1986 to move inmates from institutions into community-based adult foster homes. By making such transfers these inmates also became "community residents" and their care was shifted onto Medicaid.

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How Can You Fix It...Part 6—Continued



As community residents, patients who were pharmaceutically regulated often decided that being drugged up all day was not a pleasant way to live. One patient I met in Washtenaw County called it "being buzzed into neutral"; they often quit taking the drugs that made their deinstitutionalization possible. The next chapters of their lives often included homelessness, vagrancy, petty crime, sexual and other violent abuse and ultimately incarceration. The prisons became dumping places for tens of thousands of former mental hospital inmates. There was little public outcry when the prison systems came to state legislatures asking for expansion; after all, this was a political winner for "law and order" advocates. Adult foster homes became another new industry in the private sector, and many communities disapproved having an adult foster home in their neighborhoods.

The deinstitutionalization movement was driven both by the eventual outrage of the general public and advocates about the sordid conditions of state asylums and financed by Medicaid. By the late 1970's few institutions remained except those for the residents who were most dangerous (to self and others). The state mental health budgets were dramatically reduced while the state Medicaid budgets began to swell. I can imagine how some legislators on the state's public health and insurance committees in the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives might have scratched their heads about how solving one problem suddenly caused another to emerge. Medicaid was never set up to care for so many people. The medical model behind Medicaid was acute hospitalization and outpatient care for short periods of time. These new former inmates of state hospitals were neither acute nor short-term, they were long-term and usually for life. Long-term care, in private, for-profit nursing homes, became a driving force in the Medicaid programs and in my opinion ripped off the programs that were no longer financed sufficiently to meet the original mission of caring for the community poor. Today over a third of most state Medicaid budgets are spent on long-term care in private, for-profit nursing homes. Nationally this amounts to about 70% of all nursing home patients.

While the Viet Nam War was still raging, civil rights, gay rights, voting rights, and other cultural revolutions were redefining America. Medicaid programs simply staggered on with responsibilities that far exceeded program parameters. State legislatures were increasingly hostile about the continuous increases in Medicaid's financial demands. Medical cost inflation was beginning to emerge as a critical issue in the nation's economic health. It was always justified by marvelous new medicines, surgical techniques and, especially, new diagnostic possibilities such as MRI and CT scanning that revolutionized cardiovascular medicine, neurological diagnoses and the diagnosis and management of cancer. While the largest portion of medical spending was through Medicare and the matter of inflation was not fully recognized because the federal government could accept debt, these medical conditions were still major expenses for Medicaid patients. State Medicaid programs could not simply accept cost inflation because of balanced budget requirements. Most state Medicaid programs responded, in the absence of willing increases of tax revenue, by finding ways to discourage utilization, reduce eligibility, and restrict the scope and kind of Medicaid covered services. In other words, Medicaid became a more restrictive program while Medicare became progressively more inclusive and generous. The nightmare on Michigan Avenue was that Medicaid never had a chance.

Next month

I will discuss how the conflation of Medicare, Medicaid, Medical cost inflation, and politics created the health care crisis in America and the beginning of political dramas of Presidents Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Clinton and G.W. Bush that led to the Affordable Care Act.

Richard Douglass

Critical Race Theory: The Fallacy behind the GOP's talking points

Critical Race Theory has recently been a focus of conservative groups' talking points, and has been reported in local, state and national media outlets. This is becoming an issue in Alcona and Alpena Counties; Marie Fielder, ACDP's chair, has been attending all school board meetings virtually. She learned that a national conservative group is going through all school board policies looking for minority protections and pushing white supremacy theories, including the fallacy that critical race theory is currently being taught in the school district. This is an initiative that democratic parties could implement to provide factual information throughout our communities. The spin on CRT is that African Americans will start discriminating against white people and get special protections. There's a petition in Alpena saying its currently being taught and this is definitely false. Here are links to two informative articles about CRT. The Beacon encourages ICDP members to learn more about this situation and consider writing a letter to the editor or newsletter article to address the misinformation campaign that is being waged in our community.

- <https://www.bridgemi.com/talent-education/critical-race-theory-what-you-need-know-michigan>
- <https://buzzflash.com/articles/thom-hartmann-gop-strategy-in-2022-is-what-it-was-since-us-slavery-began-be-afraid-of-black-people>

Gloria Brooks, Editor

STAND UP
SPEAK UP



Highlights: July General Membership Meeting

- Change format and location of monthly Brew & Stew meetings (see page 5)
- Change location of monthly General Membership meetings to The Buckhorn Inn in Tawas City until the AuSable Inn has meeting room available
- Vote to establish a year-round ICDP office on Newman Street in East Tawas to increase the party's visibility and have a gathering place for organizing and teamwork.

Carole Bleau, Chair

Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

AUGUST

19: *Brew & Stew*

5:30—7 pm Sand Lake Sports Bar,
National City

21: *Adopt A Forest*

10 am—12 noon

25: *Women's Equality Day*

Fundraising Dinner

7—9 pm, Tawas City

SEPTEMBER

7: *Monthly General*

Membership Meeting

5:30—7 pm location to be
determined

11: *Adopt-A-Forest*

2—4 pm

16: *Brew & Stew*

5:30—7 pm

25: *Fall Fundraising Event*

4—6 pm, AuSable River Queen,

OCTOBER

2: *Adopt-A-Highway*

10 am—12 noon

5: *Monthly General*

Membership Meeting

5:30—7 pm location to be
determined

12: *Italian Night on Jose Lake*

Fundraising Event

6:30—9:30 pm, South Branch

21: *Brew & Stew*

5:30—7 pm

ICDP Committee Roundup

Executive Board

It's no surprise to any of us that it is difficult to conduct an effective political campaign without financial support. With your support of the ICDP in the past, we were able to staff an office on Newman Street in East Tawas during the 2020 presidential campaign, as well as placing billboards along our highways, publishing newspaper ads, and distributing campaign signs throughout Iosco County.

Although we helped elect a Democratic administration at our state and national levels, we still have much more to accomplish. Michigan's legislature is controlled by Republicans dedicated to cutting taxes for those who need it the least; slashing public services and benefits for those who need it the most; and passing legislation which harms Michigan workers and their families. Currently, they are attempting to make it easier for them to stay in power, by making it more difficult for Michigan citizens to vote. ***This needs to change.***

We believe the Finance Plan that was recommended by the Executive Board and approved by the membership in July will enhance our effectiveness as a political organization. We plan to raise \$30,000/year. \$20,000 of that amount is to be reserved to support state and local election campaigns.

We are asking our members to subscribe to this plan by contributing \$120/year or \$10/month. Contributions can be made directly by personal check to:

Iosco County Democratic Party

PO Box 727

Tawas City, MI 48764

Or, online through our ActBlue account: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/icdp>

While we recognize that not all our members can provide such financial support, we call on everyone to contribute what they can for our continued success as an effective political organization in Iosco County.

Carole Bleau

Józef J. Drozdowski

Laurie Miles

Thomas Davidson

James Mortimer

Cindy Schwedler

Kathleen Davidson

ICDP Committee Roundup *Cont'd*

Events & Service — *Carole Bleau & Judy Goodman*

As you know, at its July general meeting the ICDP approved the Finance Committee's proposal to raise \$30,000 to maintain an Iosco County Democratic Party Headquarters year-round and for local candidate down ballot support. At present, we have three dinner party fundraising events scheduled, with varying levels of financial involvement.

1. Wednesday, August 25, 2021: Dinner Party in Celebration of Women's Equality Day from 7:00pm-10:00pm at Richard Douglass' home in Tawas City. Beth Borowski and Mark & Suzanne Janowski of Café International of Prescott will be providing hors d'oeuvres. Rozanne Curley will donate salad and we will ask The Tawas Bay Pizza Company to donate gourmet pizzas. Cindy Schwedler and Judy Goodman will donate homemade desserts. Carole Bleau will donate wine and champagne. We are looking for contributors at the following levels. *Please respond by August 2nd to be recognized on the invitation*

- Host Committee \$500
- Sponsor \$250
- Supporters \$100
- Attendees \$75
- In-kind donations for a silent auction
- Michigan women leaders as speakers
- Musician

2. Saturday, September 25, 2021: Fall Color Private Dinner Cruise on the AuSable River Queen 4:00-6:00, tickets \$30 donation. Space is limited to 100 people.

3. Tuesday, October 12, 2021: Italian Night at Jose Lake strolling supper event at Gloria Brooks' house in South Branch. Gloria will provide an Italian-themed menu, and there will be a limited silent auction. We are looking for contributors at the following levels. *Please respond by August 26th to be recognized on the invitation*

- Host Committee \$100
- Sponsor \$75
- Supporters \$50
- Attendees \$30
- Experiences donations for a silent auction
- Michigan leaders as speakers
- Musician



If you know of anyone outside of the area who would like to support Iosco Democrats, please make them aware of our goals.

ICDP Leadership

Please feel free to contact an Executive Board member with any ideas, questions or information that would help in the work of the party.

ICDP Executive Board Members & Committee Chairs

Carole Bleau – **Chair; Chair, Bylaws; Co-Chair, Events & Service Committee**
bleausy@gmail.com

Józef Drozdowski – **Vice Chair**

drozdow@gmail.com

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Not on a Committee Yet?

Now's the time to get involved in ICDP Committee activities. Take a look at the ICDP Leadership & Committee List on Page 13, and reach out to a Chair or Co-Chair in an area you are interested in. It's a great way to see the ICDP values in action and contribute to our community!

Letter to the Editor

This letter was submitted to the local newspaper by ICDP member Betty Fahselt. Thanks Betty!

Your voting rights may be compromised next

Editor,

We are celebrating a very important date in the right to vote for half of the population of the United States. One hundred and one years ago in 1820 women who had struggled for years saw the 19th Amendment passed. It finally granted them the right to vote as adult citizens.

A little history of voting in the United States. In 1776 our leaders formed a new country with the concept of a republic with the right of its citizens to vote and have their voices heard by the people that they elected to be their officers. At first only white male property owners could vote. That was changed to white males with or without property in 1820.

In 1870 the 15th amendment granted the right after the Civil War to the vote to black men. Immediately Jim Crow laws in the south attempted to surpass, though fear and intimidation blacks

voting. In 1965 the Voting Rights Act was passed by Congress to protect the voting rights of citizens and forbidding the states to pass laws infringing on those rights. 1924 Native Americans were granted the right to vote. In 1971 the voting age was changed from 21 to 18 years.

As we all know the right to vote was fought long and hard to allow all of us to vote for the leaders of the choice of the majority of the country. We take most of this for granted now.

Now, many states are trying to limit voting by segments of their population by making voting more difficult for many. Either party will suffer in future elections if these suppression tactics win. Elections are meant to be won by each party and candidate stating their goals for the way they would rule and then getting information to the public so the voters can judge who they want to vote

into office.

If there are segments of the population that one party or another does not feel it is appealing to, they then need and should get information to all so that race or ethnic group or age group can judge and vote as they see will help them as citizens. Making it difficult for older people, racial groups or poor persons to vote, is not the way our democracy should work.

Sixty-six percent of our population voted in the last presidential election. We want that to be a larger percent in the future, not smaller in the future.

Please read carefully some of the proposals that are before the states in regard to voting. Your voting rights may be compromised next.

—Betty Fahselt
East Tawas

ICDP Ad in What's Happenin'

This August ad was the last of six months worth of advertising. Did you see the ads? Did you hear from others about them? Let the Communications Committee know your thoughts and if we should continue to allocate funding to continue advertising.



Iosco County: \$4.87m
East Tawas: \$269k
Iosco Twp: \$381k
AuSable Charter Twp: \$195k
Tawas City: \$176k
Reno Twp: \$57k
Whittemore: \$37k
and more!

Thanks to Sen. Gary Peters & Congressperson Dan Kildee

**Local Impact from the American Rescue Plan:
\$7.2 Million!**

Contact your township trustees, City Council members and County Commissioners

Let them know what Iosco County needs!

Join us at ioscocountydems.org

News from the 106th District

Alpena County Democratic Party: ACDP participated in the local July 4th parade in Alpena. Marie Fielder, Chair reported to their membership newsletter that they “had a great reception from this community, and it was truly fun. A gentleman ran from the crowd, approached our Vice Chair and shook his hand in thanks. It doesn't get any better.”



American Rescue Plan Funding

ICDP has learned from Fred Lewis, the Plainfield Township supervisor, that there are two phases for ARP funds. Municipalities and townships had to register by July 27 without any explanation required of how funds will be used. Once the registration phase is completed, then the topic of how to use the funds will be addressed. ICDP will have the opportunity to get into substantive discussions about funds within the next 4 months. The state of Michigan may be able to review and approve how funds will be used. The Cheboygan County Democratic Party has been speaking at all public comment sessions of township meetings re: suggested uses for ARP funds.

ICDP will continue to monitor this situation in regard to how Iosco County Board of Commissioners and local townships plan to use the funds and whether or not they will be seeking community input.

Jim Mortimer, Campaign Committee Chair

Thinking about running for office in 2022 or 2024?

This is an important area of focus for the ICDP. We learned at the recent Brew & Stew that there are 4 steps we should use to have a Democrat candidate run for every open seat in the county. US Rep. Jack Bergman was quoted in June in a surprise visit to Alpena telling people that “you have to control townships and school boards”. We need to get candidates now and not wait until 2022.

There is significant support by ICDP members to help identify successful candidates. Reach out to Jim Mortimer, Campaign Committee Chair, to start the process and learn more about running for office.





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About Us

The Iosco County Democratic Party is a group of passionate Iosco County Democrats who are working together to change our country's leadership throughout the Michigan legislature and in Washington DC. We believe in truth, justice, and the American way.

www.ioscocountydems.org



ICDP Newsletter

Gloria Brooks, Editor

Jim Mortimer, Associate Editor

Special thanks to our proofreaders:

Carole Bleau & Michael Brooks

Articles due:

1st Tuesday of each month

Publication Date:

1st Friday after the 1st Tuesday of each month

Submit articles for future editions to: gloriadbrooks@att.net

ICDP engages children and families in creative fundraising activity



On Sunday, July 18 Betty Fahselt and a group of ICDP volunteers provided a unique, family-friendly event in East Tawas. Children were invited to participate in a arts and crafts project to make aquatic-themed t-shirts.

These photos show Beth Borowitz helping a couple of kids, and the finished product. Thanks to Betty and all ICDP volunteers for a fun Sunday summer afternoon!

Gloria Brooks, Editor

