



# The Beacon Newsletter

January 2022 Issue #29



*Snowy day on Chain Lake Road,  
South Branch*

## NEW DISTRICTS FINALIZED BY MICRC

The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission voted Tuesday December 28, 2021 to adopt the Hickory House map, Linden Senate map, and Chestnut Congressional map.

The Michigan Democratic Party issued the following statement in response:

*For decades, redistricting in Michigan has been controlled by politicians and shrouded in secrecy and darkness. The MICRC's work brought the mapping process into the public light for the first time. Michiganders were able to give input and observe as the Commission created the state's first citizen-drawn maps. The Michigan Democratic Party recognizes and thanks all Michiganders who participated in the redistricting process by attending a Commission meeting, sharing information about their community in public comment, and weighing in on proposed maps.*

MDP Chair Lavora Barnes said in a statement, "Under these new congressional and state legislative districts, the Michigan Democratic Party renews its commitment to fighting for equality, fair representation, and justice while celebrating Michigan's diverse population."

Michigan's First Congressional district will lose Manistee and Mason Counties but has gained a portion of Wexford County

and all of Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, and Arenac counties. The district still covers all of the Upper Peninsula and most of the northern Lower Peninsula, including Northeast Michigan. This district remains the second largest district east of the Mississippi River.

Iosco County will now be included in the MI House 99th District instead of the 106th, and will be comprised as follows: all of Iosco, Ogemaw, and Arenac Counties; the majority of Gladwin County; and part of Bay County that includes Pincanning.

The MI Senate 36th District will still include Iosco County, but won't run as far south. The district has been reconfigured to exclude Midland County. Its boundaries will now extend as far south as Pincanning and as far west past Cadillac. Its northern reaches extend to between Rogers City and Cheboygan. View the new maps on Page 2 of The Beacon.

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*

*Sources: The Alpena News; VoteDrBob.com; MDP, VNP*

*For additional information visit The New York Times' article from December 30, 2021: [Michigan's New Congressional Maps Undo Years of Gerrymandering - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)*



### Inside this issue

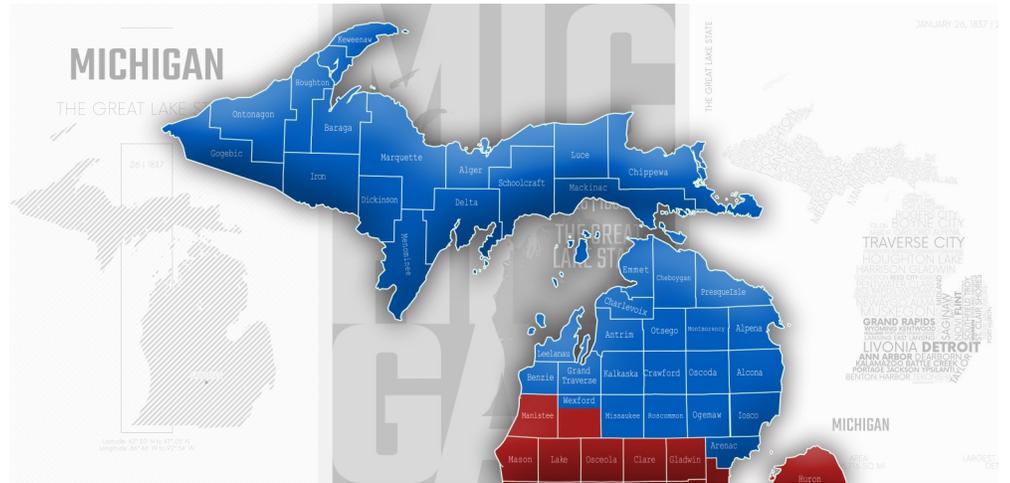
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## Ready to elect Democrats in 2022?

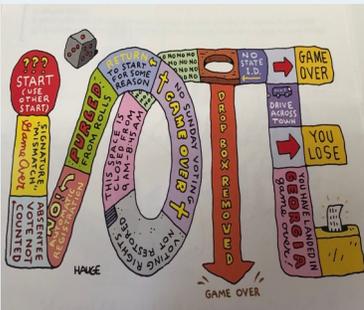
As a reminder, volunteers are needed to help candidates with email lists, collaborative design, messaging, etc. Two members of the ICDP are planning to run for elected positions this year: Carole Bleau and Cindy Schwedler (additional information about their campaigns will be shared after they publicly declare their respective candidacies). If you or someone you know has a few hours to donate per month through virtual meetings, calls, and/or computer work, please contact Jim Mortimer, Campaign Committee Chair.

Gloria Brooks, Editor

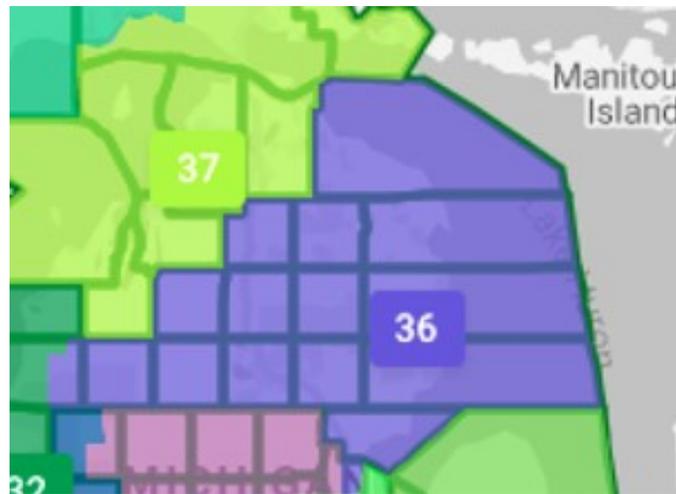
## New District Maps impacting Iosco County



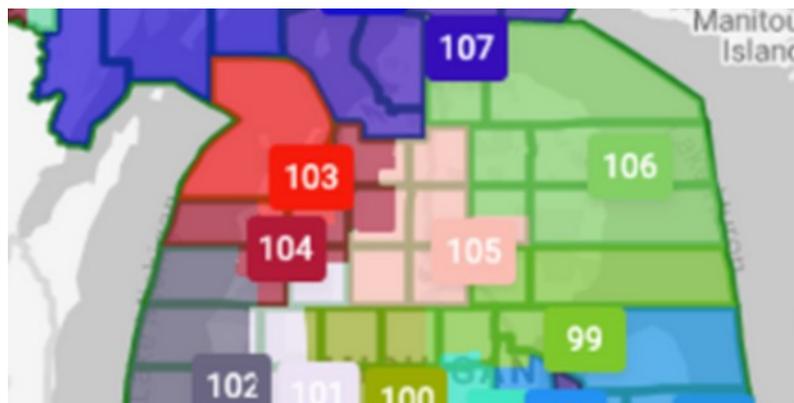
Map of the new Michigan 1st Congressional District



Copyright by Ron Hauge, New Yorker magazine, March 10 2021



Map of the new Michigan 36th Senate District



Map of the new Michigan 99th House District

# ICDP Celebrates the Holidays with Santa



Nearly 2 dozen members of the ICDP gathered at the headquarters on Saturday, December 11 to celebrate the season. We were happy to have a special visit with Santa. We raised more than \$600 in donations (see related article on page 13).



*Evelyn Moon and Sue Duncan*



*Gary Dogonski, Beth Borowski & Carole Bleau*

A good time was had by all.  
*Carole Bleau, Chair*



*Richard Douglass, Cindy Schwedler & Bernie Schenck*

## ICDP is on Social Media!

Direct links to our pages:

### Facebook

Public page:

[www.facebook.com/loscoCountyDems](https://www.facebook.com/loscoCountyDems)

Private ICDP Facebook Group:

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

### Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/loscoCountyDems>

### Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/ioscocoountydems](https://www.instagram.com/ioscocoountydems)

### On the web:

[www.ioscocoountydems.org](https://www.ioscocoountydems.org)

Please contact Duane Breijak at [dbreijak@gmail.com](mailto:dbreijak@gmail.com) if you have any questions or additions to our social media presence.

## 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!



*Carolyn Medland is the co-editor for The Sentinel, the Alcona County Democratic Party bi-monthly newsletter. She and her husband Gary live in Colorado half of the year and spend the other time here in Michigan. This article ran in the November/December edition of The Sentinel.*

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*

## Helpful Voices: Getting Ready to Speak Your Mind

After the tragedy in Oxford, we are all probably seeking solutions rather than listening to more rhetoric. Below are some excerpts from an op-ed by Jennifer Ruben, a “reformed” Republican, who writes for the Washington Post. Should we heed her words?

Defeatism abounds in Democratic circles these days. Democrats do have reasons for concern, but so, too, do Republicans. Can Democrats improve their 2022 outlook? ... they will need to adjust their message to protect democracy from the authoritarian Republican Party. Democrats should stick to five basic themes between now and the 2022 midterms:

- **Stress that there is only one pro-democracy party.** They should be clear: Republicans want to rig elections to keep Democrats out of office. Democrats also need to point out the unhinged characters on the right that are the face of the new GOP. They should focus on the recklessness of Republicans egging on violent elements, disregarding election results and playing to white supremacists. Democrats must pound this message: “Republicans are a threat to democracy, to law and order and to common courtesy.”
- **Paint a positive portrait of America.** The economy is improving, vaccines are allowing us to return to normal, and a plan for shiny new infrastructure will make Americans richer with new high-paying jobs. The quality of American life will improve. Naturally, this only works if the economy continues to boom, inflation recedes, and the pandemic lessens. But citing the progress toward this bright future is essential.
- **Present themselves as the party of work and family,** and Republicans as defenders of rich tax evaders and climate change culprits. It is not about what Democrats are giving people, but what people are able to attain when given a fair shot. By alleviating the shortage of quality child care, cutting taxes through a refundable child tax credit, and protecting unions, Democrats are making it easier to be successful as well as cheaper to raise kids. Republicans defend billionaires who pay no taxes.
- **Return to “There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.”** Democrats are labeled as surly critics of America who dwell on the “bad stuff.” They could use some patriotic, optimistic rhetoric. Democrats must tell voters how we can reform our institutions (better policing, a fairer justice system, make voting easier and more secure) and restore respect for one another. Democrats should vow to put an end to political violence (both of which the GOP, the former “law and order” party, have stoked).
- **Call out the GOP’s war on women.** With the likely overturn of abortion rights, the Republican Party, is refusing to respect women’s choices in the most intimate aspects of their lives. If voters care about privacy, personal autonomy and limited government, they should not entrust Republicans with power.

By the end of this year, Democrats will likely have nearly completed their immediate legislative agenda. Unless they repair their disjointed and often off putting message, voters will not reward them for what will be a remarkably successful legislative year.

# Medicare Advantage's Impact on End of Life Care

In the December edition of The Beacon, Bob Kennedy from Alcona County Democrats shared an article about concerns around Medicare Advantage plans. I wanted to share my own concerns from my work with nonprofit hospices about how Medicare Advantage will change the way care is provided for chronically and terminally ill.

Hospice and home health companies are currently paid by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) through a detailed billing process for either per diem (for hospices) and per episode (home health). CMS has initiated a significant change for hospices to include them in Medicare Advantage plans in the next few years through Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID—hospice). Currently when a Medicare beneficiary elects hospice care which is Medicare Part B, they opt out of their traditional Medicare Part A or Medicare Advantage Part C plan and hospice is then responsible for coordination of all palliative (comfort, not curative, care) services. In the new VBID environment, hospices will be required to have a contract with a Medicare Advantage provider (think Humana, United Health, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Priority Health) to provide services to patients with MA insurance. Insurance providers plan to only have contracts for one or two hospices per state/region.

This change generally means that non-profit, locally operated hospices will be cut out of contracts in favor of nationally-operated, for-profit providers. Some hospices are strategically thinking ahead and partnering with other nonprofits to serve greater geographic areas to be attractive for VBID. If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, you will be required to use the hospice who has a contract with that plan. You can no longer choose a provider you may be most familiar with and who has served your community for decades. VBID will also change the payment structure, so instead of getting paid a set rate each day, it is widely assumed that VBID will reduce the cost that they are paying providers for hospice services, which will in turn change how hospice services are offered or reduce services. They could offer a monthly reimbursement that will be nowhere near what is currently provided (in some demonstration models the per member/per month payment was \$400, compared to \$150/day for the traditional hospice reimbursement model).

We are also seeing insurance companies purchasing home health and hospice companies across the country. Most recently, Humana bought Kindred at Home for \$5.7 billion and Curo for \$1.4 billion and plan to merge the two entities together; Amedisys purchased Visiting Nurse Association and AsceraCare; and Ascension Health (who operates Ascension St. Joseph Hospital in Tawas City) purchased Compassus Hospice. Hospice and home healthcare have become part of the multi-billion dollar healthcare industry, a long way from its grassroots community-based services starting in the US in the late 1970's. End of life care is another important consideration as people evaluate their healthcare options with Medicare and Medicare Advantage.

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*

## Editor Op-Ed

*Gloria Brooks is the former President & CEO of Arbor Hospice & Palliative Care in Ann Arbor, Michigan and President of Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She dedicated twenty years of her career leading end of life care organizations. She founded G. Brooks & Associates LLC in January 2020 to provide consulting services to nonprofit hospices across the country. Most of her work specifically involves strategic planning for hospices to get ready for the launch of Value Based Insurance Design required by Medicare Advantage plans. She currently has clients in Colorado, Kansas, and Iowa. You can learn more about her work at [www.gbrooksassociatesllc.com](http://www.gbrooksassociatesllc.com).*



The following link is a succinct overview of the pros and cons of [Original Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage — AARP - Top Videos and News Stories for the 50+ | AARP](#)



This is the latest installment in the ongoing series of *How Can You Fix It...Broke?*, by Richard Douglass, ICDP member. Thanks, Richard, for continuing to share your perspective and experience regarding the historical factors resulting in the lack of access to healthcare in rural communities like Iosco County.



## How Can You Fix It if You Don't Know How It Got Broke? Part 11—*Richard Douglass*

The post-Viet Nam period, under Presidents Ford and Carter was a period of political prelude in many ways to the imposition of a more conservative era in American life. The Great Society programs of Lyndon Johnson were losing much of the support of Congress and the general public by the time Jimmy Carter moved into the White House. Post-war unemployment, cancelled government contracts in heavy industry, unemployment of both factory workers and returned veterans, early warnings about an aging population, and double digit inflation all conspired to make Carter's presidency difficult. When the Arab Oil Embargo forced gasoline prices to skyrocket and Carter imposed a 55 MPH speed limit to reduce consumption, many Americans began to yearn for simpler days and bygone, probably fantasy, memories of the past when life seemed simpler and more predictable. America was no longer the obvious world leader it was after WWII, the Japanese automobile industry was making rapid inroads to the U.S. domestic market, and it was a time best described as unstable.

One area of stability, or continuity, however, was certain. The medical and health care systems were thriving, growing, and becoming central players in the American economy. Because of the shopping spree of cities, counties, and hospital systems during the last years of the Hill Burton Act there were thousands of hospitals with expanded space and it was an easy matter for thousands of new hospital beds to be filled, even if for observation when no diagnosis could be found. Lifesaving technologies kept hundreds of hospitalized patients alive for months even after there was little cerebral activity and continued medical intervention was futile. This caused the "right to die" movement to emerge; but those patients were filling beds and contributing to the inflation within the healthcare sector. Many physicians simply defined their missions as defying death and endorsed industrial scale life supports. Expensive new diagnostic tests and devices all continued to flow from laboratories and emerging research and development industries that both improved diagnosis and treatment and invariably increased the costs associated with many chronic diseases including cardiovascular diseases and cancers.

In response to this inflation, driven by both supply/innovation and demand, one national effort that was initiated was called health planning. One might wonder if health care and health care systems were ever planned at the population level before. Only one, however, within the U.S., was planned at all at this level and that was the Veterans Administration health systems, ranging from specialized hospitals for addictions and alcoholism, to general purpose medical centers and long-term care facilities. For most of society planning was conducted at the local level, often separately by independent hospitals and medical offices, with little documentation or intentional examinations of what communities needed or how system development could be produced efficiently to whole communities. There was little competition between hospitals at this time because insurance generosity kept them all full.

In Ann Arbor, Michigan the Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities (CPHA) was established in 1984 by an entrepreneur named Virgil Slee who invented the collection of routine data from hospitals on admissions, lengths of stay, discharge specifics, hospital ex-

## Fix It —Part 11 Cont'd

penditures, and related measures for the analysis of system trends and regional comparisons. CPHA files included more than 1,400 hospitals and represented more than 25% of North American acute care hospitals. These data could be purchased because CPHA was a for-profit enterprise and the resources eventually became powerful tools for health economists and political advocates of both system growth and concerns about excess capacity. These analysts, throughout the system provided the first evidence that excess capacity, measured by hospital beds, was considered to be a potential problem. Such analyses quickly provided clear evidence that length of stay was not necessarily associated with good patient outcomes at discharge, among other challenges to the assumptions about the inevitability of benefits for patient care as inpatients. In other words, more and bigger hospitals with full capacity do not always result in better care for the sick.

Under President Carter federally-initiated programs were established for comprehensive health planning, regional health planning, and local planning. These applied research efforts were supposed to create gatekeeping and regulatory controls on the health care system's excessive growth. The promising and obligatory planning efforts stimulated the growth of a new industry of tech-savvy, research entities. Not only did hospitals and state health authorities create departments of planners, but data collection systems were invented within systems using computer systems that were just becoming available. Elected officials got on board with legislation that required health planners to become routine staff within state and federal legislative offices. In every state new rules were imposed by the federal government called Certificates of Need that required applicants for federal resources to demonstrate the objective and data-supported need for new facilities, expansion of older facilities, or new equipment. All of this was designed to reduce health care spending. But reducing health care spending as a long range goal. This admirable goal was immediately confronted by the reality that these developments, all within the macro-economic domain of health care, only increased the amount being spent in the short term. Inflation during the 1970s overwhelmed the net benefits of the health planning industry long before its objectives of increased system efficiency could be realized. As we said at the time, "A day late and a dollar short."

A silver lining of the health planning initiatives was that we learned a great deal more than we did before about the health care system. As a nation we were clearly under-serving populations with the greatest needs in urban centers and there was evidence of surplus resources in suburban areas where median incomes were highest. Rural communities began to be seen as places where there was little attraction for medical specialists or advance diagnostic medical resources and a long term trend began what is now recognized as medically-underserved rural regions.

The abundant health planning data also provided an understanding of how much more virulent medical care cost inflation was compared to the general inflation rates. This economic fact began to draw the attention of both political parties. Until Jimmy Carter was defeated, however, there was very little interest at the Presidential level to deal with medical care cost inflation. That was about to change.—*Richard Douglass*

### IMPACT OF DRGS

Between 1984-1988 over a dozen Michigan hospitals closed because of Reagan administration changes in Medicare reimbursement policies (DRGs).



### 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 [gloriad-brooks@att.net](mailto:gloriad-brooks@att.net) by the 1st of the month.

## Fundraising Events needed for 2022

The Events & Service Committee is in need of members interested in hosting fundraising events this year. There are a variety of ways to help: host an event at your home or another venue; join a planning committee to organize an event for local candidates or the ICDP; gather in-kind donations such as gift certificates from local businesses; to name a few. Please contact Carole Bleau or Judy Goodman to offer your talents in this important activity!

## Ready to Take Action? Phone bank!

Sue Duncan and I recently completed shifts in the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) phone bank and wanted to encourage you to volunteer. Here's some helpful information on what to expect when you volunteer. Shifts are in three-hour increments. When you sign up online, expect a series of email reminders – one to confirm your sign up, and one on the day of your shift with the link to start your shift.

The Zoom training starts at your volunteer time, not before, so you can log on right at the start of your assigned shift. The training is short and concise. Sue Duncan found that taking notes during the training was helpful to her, and you learn a lot from everyone's questions as there are other new volunteers also training.

It is very easy and quick to go from call to call. You are only calling confirmed Democrats, so other than people saying they aren't available to talk (at work or with car-pooling kids is what I heard most), you will either get voicemail in which you move onto the next call, or have a conversation with an interested and motivated Dem. There is a series of a few short questions for you to ask and it is very satisfying to connect with like-minded folks.

MI Dems want to build the volunteer base for the 2022 Election and we are helping do that by learning to phone bank and encouraging others to become involved and consider opportunities to volunteer in a variety of tasks. Some are connected to the phone bank, and others are behind the scenes and may only occur on Election Day. Training is always provided.

When you are making your calls, there is a 'notes' section in the body of the screen that you can type notes in directly, or you can take notes on paper. MDP wants to hear the themes of what you heard, so at the end of your session, log back into the Zoom for a group chat on how everyone's session went.

Sue shares, "It is really helpful to hear the other volunteers' comments and questions and having a chance to ask your questions. Everyone at MI Dems is super helpful and appreciative and they understand your situation as a new volunteer. No judgment or criticism, lots of appreciation! It could become habit forming, and what a good habit! My mind was eager to share the 5 great conversations I had during my shift!" I had 8 conversations during the 3-hour shift and was very energized by the responses.

**Act now** to help Democrats combat voter suppression and the threats to our very democracy. Sign up for the MDP Phonebank. and hear from other Democrats about the issues of most concern to them. and to gain confidence in speaking about them with others. If you are volunteering at the ICDP office, you can sign up for a phone bank session during the same time and make calls while you are at the office. **Click on this link to sign up now:** <https://www.mobilize.us/midems>.

## Update from the 2022 Governor's Campaign

The race for governor will be tough, but this team doesn't back down from a tough fight. Our competitors are seeing that this is a close race and will do anything to unseat the Governor, and while we're building a team that can win this race, we know it'll be tight. Cook Political rates this race as a tossup, U.S. News has called this seat "vulnerable," and Politico has said that Gov. Whitmer "is among Republican interests funded by DeVos are coming in for election.



With so much at stake, from protecting public education and reproductive health care to continuing our economic recovery and keeping the public safe during this pandemic, we simply **can't take the risk** that wrong-for-Michigan politicians in this race like James Craig, Garrett Soldano, or Tudor Dixon are put in charge with the help of DeVos's fortune. Governor Gretchen Whitmer is working night and day to take on our big problems, and help Michigan recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Whitmer is focused on getting things done and building a safer, stronger, and smarter Michigan that works for everyone. To learn more and make a donation to support the Governor's re-election campaign visit [gretchenwhitmer.com](https://gretchenwhitmer.com).

cans' top targets." Sponsored by people like Betsy DeVos are committed to impacting this

stake, from protecting and reproductive health care to continuing our economic recovery and keeping the public safe during this pandemic, we simply **can't take the**

### Dan Kildee: Strengthening America's Supply Chain



America should not be dependent on foreign countries like China for our economic future. However, our current dependence on foreign suppliers means Michigan workers, small businesses and consumers are being impacted by the ongoing global semiconductor shortage.

I recently hosted U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo in Michigan to discuss the semiconductor shortage. At a roundtable with autoworkers and manufacturers, we discussed bipartisan solutions to this shortage, including my legislation in Congress, supported by Republicans and Democrats, to expand production of semiconductors here in America.

I am working to end America's reliance on foreign-made semiconductors to support Michigan jobs, make our supply chain more resilient and keep our economy growing. By boosting U.S. manufacturing, we can create good-paying jobs at manufacturers like Hemlock Semiconductor right here in mid-Michigan. Learn more by watching this news segment [from WXYZ](#) about the roundtable. To stay up to date on my work in Congress. You can sign up for my newsletter [here](#).

Dan Kildee's Office

## Defend our Great Lakes!

It's a new year and the fight to shut down Line 5 continues. President Biden has the power to shut down Line 5. OWDM is mobilizing the grassroots base to send a strong message to the White House: revoke the presidential permit for Line 5 and protect the Great Lakes. OWDM is hosting virtual volunteer training events the week of January 10 to train volunteers how to text and call volunteers to contact the White House. Sign up for a training session (both trainings cover the same topic): Monday January 10 at 7 pm; Wednesday January 12 at 7 pm. Help us show the White House that Line 5 is a ticking time bomb and that we can't wait to take action any longer!

Shared by Sue Duncan from [Act Now to Keep Oil Out of the Great Lakes \(oilandwaterdontmix.org\)](https://actnowtokeepoiloutofthegreatlakes.org)



## Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

### JANUARY 2022

- Tuesday, 1/11/22 4—5:30 pm: Campaign Committee Meeting open to all members, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- Thursday, 1/27/22 4—5:30pm: Brew & Stew, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas

### FEBRUARY

- Tuesday, 2/1/22 5:30—7 pm: General Membership Meeting ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- Thursday, 2/24/22 4—5:30pm: Brew & Stew, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas

### MARCH

- Tuesday, 3/1/22 5:30—7 pm: General Membership Meeting ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- Thursday, 3/24/22 4—5:30pm: Brew & Stew, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas

### APRIL

- Tuesday, 4/5/22 5:30—7 pm: General Membership Meeting ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- Thursday, 4/28/22 4—5:30pm: Brew & Stew, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas

# ICDP Committee Roundup

## Communications Committee—*Cindy Schwedler & Sue Duncan*

The committee continues to have letters to the editor regularly published in both the Oscoda Press and the Iosco County News Herald. There is an example of other media coverage that ran in the December 29, 2021 edition on page 13 of The Beacon. Please contact us if you have a topic you want to either submit to the newspapers or record for the weekly WKJC Viewpoint segment. Following is the list of our collective efforts from December 2021:

WKJC Viewpoint	ICDP Member	Broadcast On
Be careful of what you consume	Cindy Schwedler (3rd airing)	12/6/2021
Vaccine Clinics Applause	Chris Zimmel (March 2021)	12/13/2021
Newspaper LTE Topic	IDCP Member/Paper	Publish Date
Slaves can't walk off their Jobs	Dave Rais, E. Tawas OP/INH (non-member)	12/1/21
Leaders need to show the way	Richard Douglass, Tawas City OP/INH	12/1/21
Objects to Slavery comparason	Ken (Rome) Miller, OP/INH	12/1/21
Reflections of Oxford Tragedy	Mary Reitler, OP/INH (non-member)	12/8/21
Writer Saddened by public obscenity	Ed Davis, Oscoda OP (non-member)	12/15/21
Not Arrogance, Foolishness is killing Americans	Józef Drozdowski (rebuttal), OP	12/15/21
Reward Healthcare Workers	Richard Douglass, OP	12/22/21
Vaccination Rate not Enough	Robert Zarras, Tawas City, OP/ INH (non-member)	12/22/21
Disagrees with Sue Allor	Richard Douglass, OP /INH	12/29/21

## Events & Service Committee—*Carole Bleau & Judy Goodman*

The committee has completed the initial calendar of events for 2022. Please see the attachment in the email that contained this edition of The Beacon. Also see the sidebar on page 8 to volunteer for fundraising events. We look forward to an active year!

# ICDP Committee Roundup *Cont'd*

## Campaign Committee—*Jim Mortimer*

If this article doesn't get your attention about the importance of the ICDP's Campaign Committee's work in 2022, we aren't sure what will: **"Trump's next coup has already begun. January 6 (2021) was practice.** Donald Trump's GOP is much better positioned to subvert the next election. Technically, the next attempt to overthrow a national election may not qualify as a coup. It will rely on subversion more than violence, although each will have its place. If the plot succeeds, the ballots cast by American voters will not decide the presidency in 2024. Thousands of votes will be thrown away, or millions, to produce the required effect. The winner will be declared the loser. The loser will be certified president-elect. *Excerpt from The Atlantic by author Barton Gellman, December 6, 2021. Read the full article here: [How Donald Trump Could Subvert the 2024 Election - The Atlantic](#)*

As we look forward to our work in the mid-term elections, we face new challenges. The aftermath of the 2020 presidential election has become a threat to the future of our democracy that includes new barriers at the national and state levels for Democratic organizations. We need to:

- Understand what these threats are, and what we need to do differently or better than in the past to counteract them
- Information from the Democratic National Committee and the Michigan Democratic Party on national and state strategies respectively and how this will impact county action plans, so we can assist with those plans at the local level.
- Direction from MDP on the strategies they recommend for the county level.

In addition to the article above from Barton Gellman, I'd encourage you to read this article by George Packer also from The Atlantic. To head off the next insurrection, we will need to practice envisioning the worst. **"Are We Doomed? To head off the next insurrection, we'll need to practice envisioning the worst."** [How to Fend Off Trump's Next Coup - The Atlantic](#)

To be frank, I am not satisfied with the work of the Campaign Committee in 2021. We have tried to implement lessons from the 106th District best practices study, recruiting down ballot candidates for the 2022 election. We need to redouble this work in the next few months. I am also not satisfied with the interest from our precinct delegates in reaching out to voters in their districts to become active in the work of the ICDP. How can we engage these members? We need to identify Republicans in Iosco County who are not Trumplers and reach them with our Get Out the Vote (GOTV) communications.

The challenges we face in the next ten months will require a far greater effort to address than in the past. The full attention of the ICDP board and all committee chairs is required. Members need to realize this is not a 'business as usual' election year to energize their time and sponsorship support for the 2022 election.

## 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

Laurie Miles – **Secretary; Chair, Member Recruitment & Retention Committee**

lauriejmiles@yahoo.com

Tom Davidson – **Treasurer**  
coffcreek@yahoo.com

Kathleen Davidson – **Trustee**  
ekathleen\_davidson@yahoo.com

Jim Mortimer – **Trustee; Chair, Campaign and Environmental Committees**  
j.mortimer@earthlink.net

Cindy Schwedler – **Trustee; Co-Chair, Communications Committee**  
ccschwedler@gmail.com

Sue Duncan – **Co-Chair, Communications; Community Action Committees**  
susanuncan12951@gmail.com

Susan Mayer – **Co-Chair, Community Action Committee**  
susanmayer1109@gmail.com

Duane Breijak – **Chair, Digital Organizing Committee**  
dbreijak@gmail.com

Judy Goodman – **Co-Chair, Events & Service Committee**  
Judesfamily@yahoo.com

## Annual Membership Season starts now!

January will be our membership drive. We will be sending postcards from the MDP Rural Caucus to leaning, and strong democrats to encourage membership. Please consider renewing your membership through a donation to the ICDP!

*Laurie Miles, Secretary, Membership Committee Chair*



## January General Membership Meeting Update

- Carole Bleau, Chair reported that the State Central Committee of the Michigan Democratic Party met on December 11, 2021 and elected Steve Dawes as the new Democratic National Committee representative.
- Vicky Hopcroft, ICDP member and local attorney, has volunteered to assist MDP to challenge the GOP's attacks on voter suppression. Thanks, Vicky!
- Carole reviewed the new districts (see details on pages 1 & 2 of this newsletter). She confirmed that we will lose being represented by Dan Kildee, but Dr. Bob Lorinser's campaign is moving full steam ahead in the 1st District to replace Jack Bergman.
- Shane Atwell announced his candidacy for the 99th District State Representative seat, which is vacant due to Rep. Sue Allor being term limited as the current rep for the 106th district.
- Joel Sheltroun provided an update on candidacy options for the State Senate 36th District, which has been redistricted to have a 17% GOP advantage. This seat will be vacant due to Jim Stamas being term limited. However, one of the known candidates for this district is a QAnon supporter and Joel is building bi-partisan support to ensure the district doesn't fall into the hands of people who support the #BigLie.
- Cindy Schwedler announced her candidacy for the Iosco County Board of Commissioners District 5 seat. A fundraiser is planned to support her candidacy in May 2022—additional details to follow.
- The filing deadline for candidates in the 2022 election is April 1, 2022 so if you are interested in running for office please reach out to Jim Mortimer or the MDP for guidance and training.
- Laurie Miles shared that the ICDP membership rolls stand at 230. Please see the sidebar to the left of this article for additional information on renewal activities.
- Sue Duncan encouraged the group to get active in Oil & Water Don't Mix, a volunteer group focused on addressing the threats that Line 5 poses to the Great Lakes. See page 9 for additional information.
- ICDP will be publishing a 2021 Annual Report highlighting our accomplishments during the past year. It will also lay out our goals for 2022. Look for it on February 4th!

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*



# Making a Difference for the Homeless at the Holidays

Cindy Schwedler, ICDP Trustee and candidate for the 5th District seat of the Iosco County Board of Commissioners, spearheaded the recent effort by several members of the ICDP to assist 27 homeless Iosco County residents through NEMSCA.

Roxanne Curley donated a Christmas Tree to the office. Cindy and Beth Borowski decided to create a fundraiser through the sale of ornaments to adorn the tree. Through the donations of many ICDP members, more than \$700 was raised in donations and gift cards. NEMSCA provided this assistance to individuals in need before Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this event! This may be the start of an annual tradition for the ICDP!



*Christmas Tree with a Purpose*



Cindy Schwedler present the ICDP donation to a representative of NEMSCA

## Volunteers Needed at ICDP Office

The ICDP needs volunteers to staff the office during its open hours. The office is located at 224 Newman Street from Tuesdays—Fridays, 10 am—4 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am—6 pm. Please sign up for shifts (10—1 and 1—4 weekdays or 10—2 and 2—6 on Saturdays). Shifts are in 3 hour increments. Call the office or email us to sign up — there are a lot of open shifts throughout the month of January!

*Carole Bleau, Chair*





**IOSCO COUNTY  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**224 Newman Street  
East Tawas, MI 48730  
989-984-5114**

**Tuesdays—Fridays 10a-4p  
Saturdays 10a-6p**

**PO Box 727  
Tawas City, MI 48764**

#### 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](http://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 to:  
[gloriadbrooks@att.net](mailto:gloriadbrooks@att.net)

#### Publication Date:

1st Friday after the 1st Tuesday of each month

## Oscoda Resident Wins Title, Focuses on PFAS



The Oscoda Press recently reported that Elyssa Steward of Oscoda won the title of Miss Mermaid Michigan 2021. Elyssa is harnessing the opportunity to raise awareness about the ongoing concerns related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination that has occurred not only across the state but specifically in her own community. If she placed among the top 25 finalists in the state title portion, she will compete at MerMagic Con in Manassas, VA in early March 2022.

Elyssa is a swim school owner/operator, varsity swim coach, Otters Club swim team head coach and paraprofessional. Elyssa has extensive water experience with scuba diving, underwater photography, freediving and synchronized swimming. She is a NAUI divemaster and rescue diver and a level 1 FII free diver. She is a triathlete and was a collegiate swimmer for Texas State University 2017. Elyssa owns her own swim school, teaches water aerobics classes, and acts as the head lifeguard. She also enjoys being a part of the Blue Marlins synchronized swim group.

Elyssa models in her spare time, performs as a mermaid for children's birthday parties and has a static in water breath hold PR of 2:40.

Elyssa is very committed to environmental activism. She is on the board of directors for Oscoda Citizens for Clean Water, a Need Our Water (NOW) member, clean water ambassador for the state of Michigan, Ocean Artists Society member, Discover4ocean sponsor and a Sand Cloud ambassador. She also enjoys teaching water education courses at local elementary and high schools. As Miss Mermaid Michigan, Elyssa's platform would promote the PFAS movement in Oscoda. Oscoda is ground zero for the PFAS contamination and it is seeping into our water system as well as Lake Huron. It is her mission to raise awareness and help get this PFAS cleaned out of our water systems.

As a Great Lakes mermaid, it is Elyssa's passion to raise awareness of the water crisis in Michigan. Not only is the state still dealing with the Flint Michigan Water Crisis, but they are also working with the Air force to clean the PFAS contamination in Oscoda. The largest deposit of freshwater is found surrounding the state of Michigan and it is Elyssa's intention that it stays that way. Water pollution is NOT tolerated! She chooses to support the non-profit Need Our Water.

*Laurie Miles, Secretary*

