



# The Beacon Newsletter

November 2021 Issue #27

## ICDP Celebrates New Office Grand Opening

Nearly 50 ICDP members and community members celebrated the grand opening of its new permanent office at 224 Newman Street in East Tawas on Election Day, Tuesday November 2. The event included multiple speakers who all spoke regarding their upcoming campaigns for open seats in the 2022 election.

Kelly Lively represented Sen. Gary Peters' office and told the crowd that Sen. Peters successfully developed the concept, legislation and implementation plan for a Great Lakes Coast Guard Center of Expertise, which will be headquartered at Lake Superior State College in Michigan to study freshwater oil spills.

Attendees were excited to hear that Marie Fielder, current Alpena County Democratic Party chair, plans to run for the open State Representative seat being vacated by Sue Allor, who is term limited. Learn more about Marie's campaign at @fielderforNEMichigan on Facebook.

Dr. Bob Lorinser, democratic candidate to challenge Sen. Jack Bergman for the first congressional district in Northern Michigan, also addressed to the crowd. He said he adamantly opposes Bergman's statements about infrastructure investment being 'a waste of money'. He seeks to bring people together, and encouraged Democrats by saying if we can switch just 1 in 12 Republican voters to voting Demo-

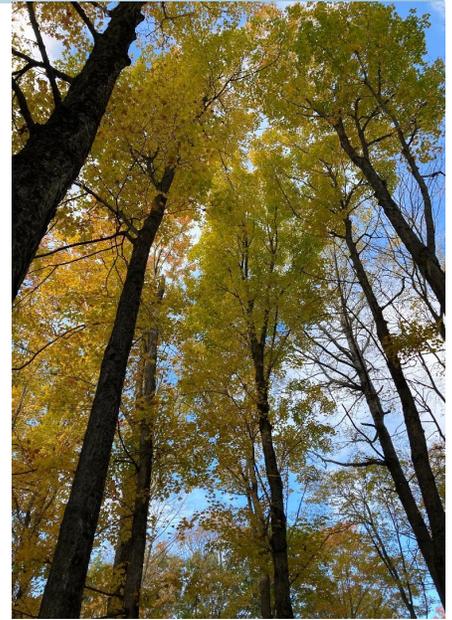
crat, we can win this seat. Learn more about Dr. Bob's campaign at <https://www.votedrbob.com/>.

Joel Sheltroun, former member of the Michigan House of Representatives representing Iosco County, discussed his interest in running for the newly redistricted 36th seat currently represented by Sen. John Moolenaar of the 4th Congressional district that includes Midland. Stay tuned for additional information about his candidacy.

Finally, newly appointed Iosco County Commissioner James Miner made remarks about his interest in learning more about what his constituents in District 4 (East Tawas, Tawas City & part of Baldwin Township) need. He is currently the only Commissioner holding open office hours and asking clarifying questions during BOC meeting proceedings. He encouraged residents to participate in the monthly BOC meetings (see additional information on page 12).

Thank you to ICDP members who generously donated food for the event: Carole Bleau, Gloria Brooks, Rozanne Curley, Richard Douglass, Karen Drozdowski, Judy Goodman, Laurie Miles, Angie Noble, and Cindy Schwedler. See The Beacon's back page for photos.

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*



*Towering trees announce the autumn season*

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## 106th District

The Chairs, leadership members, and newsletter editors of the following counties meet monthly to discuss and coordinate information and messaging to our respective counties. Attendees are from:



## 106<sup>th</sup> District Updates

### Alcona County

- Primary activity has been the Decline to Sign project (see next page)

### Alpena County

- Hosted Alpena News Editor Justin Hinckley at its October County Committee meeting to discuss the possibility of writing a monthly side-by-side column on (important topics such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment) with the Alpena County Republican Party. The Editor will find any commonalities between the two views and include it in the side-by-side. This is up for discussion with membership as there is both support for and against this activity.
- Circulating petitions for everyone to sign in support of Governor Gretchen Whitmer to get on the 2022 ballot.
- Finalized the reapportionment map with Alpena County Officials. The Alpena County Republican Party did not attend any meetings while the ACDP attended all.
- Appointment to the Alpena County Board of Canvassers was approved by the Alpena County Commissioners. The Alpena County Republican Party did not submit any names for a Republican nominee; therefore, the Alpena County Clerk will appoint a Republican to the Board of Canvassers.
- Planning to participate in the upcoming Bolenz Holiday Parade in November/December 2021 by throwing candy, carrying the ACDP banner, and wearing BLUE Santa hats.

### Cheboygan County

- Reapportionment completed. No changes due to lack of large population changes. There was little public participation, but the process was transparent and amenable.
- Redistricting work continues despite the Commission not seeming to listen to CCDP's "Community of Interest" points, concerns and wishes. Attended the October 25th meeting in Gaylord.
- Canvass activities for "Walk for Whitmer" continues in the City of Cheboygan.
- Held first meeting & bonfire with the newly organized "Liberal Youth of Cheboygan". The group gave a brief outline of what they want to do and CCDP expressed support.
- Continued on-going Township Engagement & Precinct Delegate work.
- Gathered items for CCDP's On-Line auction.

### Presque Ile County

- Primary activity has been the apportionment process.

*Please note: The ICDP report from Carole Bleau is encompassed throughout this newsletter and therefore not reported in this article*

# Decline to Sign Petition: What You Need to Know

*From our friends at the Alcona County Democratic Party*

Are you aware there is a petition circulating that could restrict your vote? If you are asked to sign a petition from Secure MI Vote, **PLEASE DECLINE TO SIGN!** The ACDP ran an ad recently in the Alcona Review newspaper about this situation. Here is some background on what this petition drive is about so you, as an informed citizen and party member, can answer questions or provide information to friends who may ask you about our objections to these petitions.

There is an arcane and seldom-used law in the Michigan Constitution that allows citizens to petition to enact a law while bypassing the governor. Only 8% of the voters in the last election that voted for the gubernatorial candidates needs to sign petitions to thusly enact a law.

Using this method, the Republican Party will be able to pass laws all by themselves and bypass the Governor's input or veto, including laws that restrict citizens' right to vote. They can pass laws that favor the election chances of Republicans. In 2018, Michigan residents overwhelmingly passed two proposals, one to end Gerrymandering and the other to make voting in Michigan easier. What the Republicans are proposing to do is to have their own blank check to rewrite the laws the way they want them.

Neither party should endorse this way to govern! When those in power make laws keeping them in power, we are no longer a democracy. Keep these numbers in mind!

- Michigan has more than 8,000,000 registered voters
- 4,125,727 voted in the Governor's race in 2018
- Gretchen Whitmer won by more than 400,000 votes
- It will take a mere 340,000 petition signers for the Republicans to ignore the results of the governor's race and all the voters who supported the two 2018 voter proposals, allowing them to rewrite the laws and retain their power.

**DON'T FORGET  
DECLINE TO SIGN!**

*Alcona County Democratic Party*

## ICDP is on Social Media!

Direct links to our pages:

### Facebook

Public page:

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

Private ICDP Facebook Group:

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

### Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/loscoCountyDems>

### Instagram:

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

### On the web:

[www.ioscocoountydems.org](http://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.

## Interested in hosting a fundraiser?

*The Events & Service Committee will start developing the fundraising activities for 2022 in the next month. We are seeking people to host a fundraising event in their home. We can help you with the planning and theme of the gathering if you request. For more information, please contact Judy Goodman or Carole Bleau.*

# ICDP Fundraising Events Update for October 2021

While ICDP's events are winding down for the year, there were three events held in October to forward us towards the \$30,000 annual goal (See information about the Brew & Stew on page 11).

On October 12, 2021 two dozen people attended the **Italian Night on Jose Lake** fundraiser at the home of Gloria & Michael Brooks. The live "Experiences" auction was successful, and guests enjoyed meeting new members and supporters in the South Branch community. The event raised nearly \$4,000. Thank you to all who donated to the event!

### Hosts

Gloria & Michael Brooks  
Sue Duncan  
Richard Douglass  
Betty Fahselt  
Judy Shuler  
Cathy Wusterbarth

### Donors

Dr. Anne Cairns Federlein  
Hazel & Jerry Munro  
Chuck Parkinson

### Sponsors

Marguerite & Don Schmidt

### Supporters

Carole Bleau & Gary Dogonski  
Beth Borowski  
Judy Goodman  
Jim Mortimer  
Terry & Rosemary  
Shanbeck

### Attendees

Laurie Miles & Dan Godwin  
Dave & Donna Marshall  
Connie & Perry Roberts  
Bob Davidson  
Ward Lindsay  
Duane Lindsay  
Rozanne Curley  
Mary Ann Filka  
Candy Rudzinski



Jim Mortimer shares campaign updates



Gloria Brooks leads the live auction

## October Fundraising Events—Continued

**Halloween** was the backdrop for a ICDP fundraiser at the home of Carole Bleau on Saturday, October 30 on Sand Lake. Costumes were encouraged – check out the photos and see if you can identify our members and supporters. Carole Bleau generously donated the entire menu for the gathering, and attendees were treated to beautiful views of Sand Lake complete with fireworks and bonfires, and great conversations about living in Iosco County and current political topics. In addition, an auction raffle was held with donations from the following donors:

Emily Davie

Gary Dogonski

Betty Fahselt

Judy Goodman

Tawas Bay Pizza Co.

Tawaste

The event raised approximately \$1,000. Thank you to:

**Hosts:** Carole Bleau, Sue Duncan, Judy and Chuck Shuler

**Supporters:** Jim Rupert, Marguerite and Don Schmidt, Laurie Miles and Dan Godwin, Kathleen and Tom Davidson.

**Attendees:** Rozanne Curley, Gloria and Michael Brooks, Josef & Karen Drozdowski, Judy Goodman, Angie Noble, and Betty Fahselt.



From soup chef to Wing Nuts



Enjoying the autumn evening lakeside

### Additional Photos



Keeping order for the rowdy crowd



Food Network's power couple



Have you seen these folks in the forest?



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 9—*Richard Douglass*

There are many sources of health care cost inflation, and none of them seems like a problem in the abstract. An aging population is accompanied by more chronic disease prevalence, increased prescription drug utilization, and higher use of medical care. In basic terms, population growth means more patients requiring more medical care. Generally, people with higher levels of education often results in increased health consciousness and higher rates of medical care utilization. New technologies for treatment or diagnosis are expensive, and those who invent, develop, implement, and maintain such additions to our medical care require compensation and investment. More medical science means more medical and health care information which ultimately generates the need for more education and increased levels of specialization. Public opinion effects demand for services, and new, improved ways of treating or managing health status can force providers to expand the scope and availability of services. The more successful we are at keeping people alive with medical care, the more demand for that care is generated. Demand pushes supply, and as supply becomes overextended, prices for services and supplies will increase. The fundamental rules of economics apply. There are elements of health care cost inflation, however, that do not show up in elementary health economics textbooks. So, let's talk for a moment about the rising costs of regulation and oversight and the price tag for deciding who gets the check – the financial intermediaries.

**Let's begin with Regulation.** In our system, the government – usually at the state levels as defined in state constitutions – offer licenses that give certain, legally defined businesses and individuals permission to operate. Licenses apply in a broad continuum, from city-level dog licenses and bicycle licenses to barber shops, cosmetologists, food preparation, alcohol sales, driving, boat ownership, and many other examples. Medical professionals require licenses as do medical and health care facilities. A license, however, is no guarantee of quality or state of the art expertise. While a license may be mandatory to operate, it is just the minimal level of assurance that the person, business, or operation is not dangerous. Some licenses are linked to levels of monitoring and surveillance by the government and for tax purposes. But having a license is not evidence of top level surgical, orthopedic, pharmaceutical, nursing, or home care quality. Medicaid requires any organization seeking to get paid to be licensed. Getting a license is a bit of a bother, but not a prohibitively expensive proposition. Getting busted for failing a licensing examination often means a fine and a slap on the wrist, but the state has no interest in closing facilities such as basic nursing homes because there are too few alternatives where a closed facility's patients could be sent.

The quality of medical care services, especially for hospitals and other institutions such as skilled nursing homes, are monitored by the private sector. The largest, most powerful private source of accreditation is the Joint Commission (originally called the JCAHO or Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals). The Joint Commission, often called "The Joint" by insiders, gives a stamp of approval to all hospitals and other institutions that require reimbursement by Medicare. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals began

## Follow the Money —Cont'd

charging for surveys shortly after Congress passed the Social Security Amendments of 1965 with a provision that hospitals accredited by JCAH are “deemed” to be in compliance with most of the Medicare Conditions of Participation for hospitals. Through this deemed status, they are able to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. If that sounds similar to the definition of a monopoly, it is close. Osteopathic institutions won a little bit of independence by getting their own version of the Joint. In order to be eligible to bill Medicare, an organization has to be accredited by an approved score keeper in the private sector. Accreditation, unlike licensing, is not cheap. Most hospitals spend upwards of 15-18% of total revenue per year on the accreditation process, representing nearly 1 out of 5 dollars that find their way into a hospital's accounts go to accreditation and, therefore to "staying eligible" to receive Medicare reimbursements. I'm not aware of any other industry that spends such a percentage of total revenue just to remain eligible to get paid. To make it somewhat more disturbing, there is virtually no basis for conducting a real "cost benefit" analysis of the health care system's investment in accreditation because the Joint only measure processes and not outcomes. Do the highest rated hospitals generate the healthiest populations in their communities? We do not know.

Since then, the Joint Commission accredits outpatient care, skilled nursing homes, hospice, psychiatric facilities and has expanded its domain over accreditation and, in effect, its ability to certify that a healthcare facility is "deemed" compliant with gold standards of care. This means that services, procedures, staffing, record keeping financial record keeping and clinical services are within a peer system of established gold standard practices. There are no Joint Commission standards for clinical outcomes under a broad assumption that doing the right thing in the right way will lead to clinical success. It still makes me wonder about the old adage, "Congratulations Doctor, the surgery was a great success. It's a shame that the patient died."

**Now let's think about Financial Intermediaries.** This class of institutions, departments and government offices basically controls the flow of money. Financial Intermediaries link the patients to the organizations who provide services. Insurance in the public and the private sector, billing offices, accounting firms, government "watchdogs" in the non-profit sector, and legislative committees trying to figure it all out are all within this class of participants in our health care system. Medicare and Medicaid, through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS in the federal government) are major players. So are major health insurance and managed care companies, like the ones offered to us through the Affordable Care Act. The Financial Intermediaries are the ones who decide who gets paid, how much they are owed, and where the money comes from. Financial Intermediaries also get involved in deciding what services deserve compensation and what that compensation should be. Currently within the hospital sector financial intermediary elements of the system take about 18% of the total health care dollar.

*Continued on page 8*

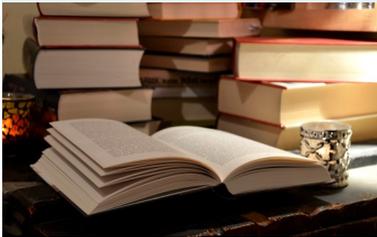


### Your Feedback is Valued!

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.

## Next Month in the Series

- Thwarted efforts by the federal government to slow health care inflation
- Failed efforts by Presidents Nixon and Carter to reduce explosive growth health care spending
- How Ronald Reagan gives us the "health care crisis"
- Why 20% Medical Indigence was the price of offering generous medical insurance to 80% of the population



## 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!

## Follow the Money—Continued

Ask yourself what proportion of your correspondence from any health care system or medical office is not related to billing, debt, negotiated billing, or bills from medical consultants you never knew were looking at your laboratory reports or biological samples.

If you do the math this means that: **Regulation + Financial Intermediaries = 34 to 36% of total health care spending! If you do not consider this to be shocking, then you might not be paying attention.** Over a third of our health care spending is only indirectly related to health care or public health services! If you then add the amount we pay for other administrative expenses of our complex and de-centralized "system" of health care, we see that we spend far more than any other developed nation to administer and manage the crazy way we do health care in America. Yes, it is true that we pay physicians, laboratories and pharmaceutical companies more than most nations. But by having a federalist system that is complicated by public and private entities, entrepreneurs, for-profit and not-for-profit providers, and poorly appreciated systems of oversight and regulation, we divert a large proportion of our health care spending to the management and distribution of care and not on actually providing public health and medical services.

*Richard Douglass*

## Michigan Independent Citizen Redistricting Commission Update

According to a recent report in the Detroit Free Press, the MICRC has received significant feedback from voters about concerns as to the proposed redistricting maps and their potential impact to communities. Attendees at the Detroit and Flint hearings told the independent commission that there were concerns that the Voting Rights Act would be violated if the current redistricting maps, which favor Republicans by up to 7%, stand. A meeting planned to review these concerns was then delayed after a death threat against the entire commission was received via email to law enforcement. The commission then held a controversial closed-door session to discuss voting rights with its lawyers. This resulted in requests from both republican and democratic state senators to have Attorney General Dana Nessel investigate the closed-door meeting. For additional information, see the following articles:

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2021/10/27/michigan-redistricting-commission-black-voters/8546994002/>

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2021/10/27/michigan-redistricting-committee-meeting-suspended-threat/8569854002/>

<https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2021/10/7-things-to-know-ahead-of-michigans-redistricting-public-hearings.html?fbclid=IwAR19LseonaZNjqXDgTjW--N7WrRhialUjEvyPmN6lmIF5O5rDNiDHqSc>

Also visit the Commission's website for the latest updates at <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc>.

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*

## Rep. Kildee Fights to Protect MI from Nuclear Waste



According to a recent email update from Rep. Dan Kildee, the Canadian power company Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has tried to permanently bury its nuclear waste less than a mile from Lake Huron for many years. Rep. Kildee led the fight against this nuclear waste site and due to his collaborative efforts the OPG finally cancelled its plans last year. Now, Canada is developing a new nuclear waste dump to permanently store even more dangerous high-level nuclear waste near the Great Lakes. An accident involving nuclear waste and the Great Lakes would spell disaster for Michigan's economy, environment and the drinking water millions of people rely on, in both the U.S. and Canada. Rep. Kildee has introduced a new bipartisan congressional resolution in Congress that has both Republican and Democrat support to oppose Canada's new plan. Learn more about Rep. Kildee's plan by clicking on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fagCEAIXC78>. Thank you, Rep. Kildee, for fighting to protect Michigan's resources – environment, people, and jobs!

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*

## VNP's Take on Decline to Sign

According to a Voters Not Politicians' email from October 29, Governor Whitmer's veto of Senate Bill 303, an anti-voter bill that perfectly mirrors the measures in the "Secure MI Vote" petition that is being circulated across the state right now, is big news. However, this win for voting rights may be short term. The veto initiates next challenge to Michigan's voting rights because the Republican politicians and political operatives behind "Secure MI Vote" plan to use the veto to fuel their anti-voter plan. Earlier this spring, the Michigan Republican Party Chair Ron Weiser told a crowd of supporters that they knew it was "not very likely" that the Governor would sign "the reforms that we like...but it's going to set us up to launch an initiative that we can collect the signatures statewide." The "Secure MI Vote" plan is to turn voting rights into a hyper-partisan issue and to rally their fringe supporters to sign their anti-voter petition. If they can collect enough signatures, these anti-voter measures cannot be vetoed by the Governor and voters will not see the petition on the next ballot.

**DECLINE TO SIGN! GET THE WORD OUT TO YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY**

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*



## Pottery Fundraiser

Several local artists including Emily Davie, Betty Fahselt and Judy Goodman have donated hand-thrown pottery for a fundraising activity for the ICDP.

Check out the selection of items below and on page 12, or stop by the office during our new office hours. These items make great holiday gifts for loved ones—or yourself!



## Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

### NOVEMBER

- Monday 11/8/2021 10 am  
Corsair Trail Clean Up
- NO BREW & STEW DUE TO  
THANKSGIVING

### DECEMBER

- Saturday 12/4/2021 4–10 pm:  
ICDP Float at the 16th Annual  
Northern Lights Parade, Oscoda
- Tuesday 12/7/21 5:30–7 pm:  
General Membership Meeting  
ICDP office, 224 Newman St,  
East Tawas
- Saturday 12/11/21 6–9 pm,  
Annual Holiday Party, ICDP  
office, 224 Newman St, East  
Tawas
- NO BREW & STEW DUE TO  
CHRISTMAS

### JANUARY 2022

- Tuesday, 1/4/22 5:30–7 pm:  
General Membership Meeting  
ICDP office, 224 Newman St,  
East Tawas
- Thursday, 1/27/22 4–5:30pm:  
Brew & Stew, ICDP office, 224  
Newman St, East Tawas

**Brew & Stew Special Note:** There will be no Brew & Stew fundraising events in November and December 2021 due to the holidays. We will start up again in January on a new date and time: the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. In January, join us from **4–5:30 pm at the ICDP office on Thursday, January 27, 2022.**

# ICDP Committee Roundup

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

Here's a reminder to listen to WKJC 104.7 FM radio on Mondays at 12:15 pm for the weekly Viewpoint from Iosco County residents. This segment runs immediately after the news broadcast. Several ICDP members have recorded the short 5-minute program on a variety of topics. If you want your voice heard on the air about a particular topic, reach out to co-chairs Sue Duncan or Cindy Schwedler for more information.

We had another record-setting month with 2 Viewpoints broadcast and 13 Letters to the Editor, same as in September. Thanks to all who participated in the Oscoda Press & Iosco County News Herald!

WKJC Viewpoint	ICDP Member	Broadcast On
Wetlands	Sue Duncan	10-11
Attack Ads	Bill Richardson	10-18
Newspaper LTE Topic	IDCP Member/Paper	Publish Date
Get vaccinated	Vicky Hopcroft, OP	10-6
Health workers and Vaccines	Delores Marlinga, OP	10-6
Vaccines work	Betty Fahselt, INH & OP	10-6
Hospital staff and Vaccinations	Marguerite Schmidt, INH	10-6
Line 5	Sue Duncan, INH & OP	10-13
Help Each Other	Star Erickson, INH & OP (not a member)	10-13
Attack Ads	Bill Richardson, INH & OP	10-13
Praise BoC for Leadership	Józef Drozdowski, INH & OP	10-20
Facetious Covid Nightmare	Richard Douglass, INH & OP	10-20
Line 5	Bobby Kennedy, OP	10-20
BoC and Bill of Rights	Jesse Lyman, INH & OP	10-28
Democracy and Voting Rights	Rozanne Curley, OP	10-28
COVID facts about Contagiousness	Chris Zimmer, OP	10-28

# ICDP Committee Roundup *Cont'd*

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

**Help the Forest and Get some Exercise:** We have a service event opportunity for interested parties. On Monday, November 8 at 10:00 a.m. we are meeting at the Corsair Trailhead warming cabin for a ski trail Fall clean-up. We will be removing small trees, brush and tree limbs from the cross country ski trails. Wearing boots and gloves is recommended. Light chainsaws, pole saws and loppers are welcome, but not necessary. We expect this to take about four hours. We will provide a hot dog lunch at the conclusion. Please contact Laurie Miles if you are able to join us.

### Upcoming Events:

1. **Saturday December 4, 2021** from 4 - 10:30 pm is the 16th Annual 2021 Northern Lights Parade & Community Gathering. ICDP needs volunteers to support Cindy Schwedler's candidacy for Iosco County Board of Commissioners with a float in the parade
2. The Events & Service Committee is busy planning the ICDP Holiday Party on **Saturday December 11** from 6 – 9 pm at the office on Newman Street. Join us for wonderful food prepared by our members, a white elephant gift exchange. There's also rumors that Santa will make an appearance! If you want help with decorations or menu items, please contact Carole Bleau or Judy Goodman.



Beef 'n Ale Stew; Cornbread; Peach Cobbler

## Brew & Stew

**October's Brew & Stew** was held on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at the new headquarters office on Newman Street in East Tawas. A dozen people enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and talked about a wide range of topics including future candidates for open seats in the 2022 and 2024 election; the state of the national Democratic



Gloria Brooks, Joel Sheltrown and Carole Bleau enjoy spirited conversation

party; and the impact that the insurrection and the January 6<sup>th</sup> congressional committee is having. Guests enjoyed a meal donated and prepared by Events & Services Committee members. Approximately \$100 was raised. Thanks to the following members for cooking: Gloria Brooks, Judy Goodman, Cindy Schwedler.

## 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**

susanduncan12951@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



## Follow the ICBOC – helpful links

The website for Iosco County is located at [IOSCO County Michigan](http://iosco.net). This is where the Iosco County Board of Commissioners (ICBOC) information is located. The front page is organized into three columns. On the right hand column approximately 2/3 down on the page (underneath the link for County Maps) are links for all Board of Commissioners meeting agendas. Regular meetings of the Board and meetings of the Committee of the Whole are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. The meetings are held in the Board Room of the Iosco County Building which is located at 422 Lake St., Tawas City, Michigan 48763. You can attend these meetings via Zoom as well—link to join is posted with the agenda on the website.

There is also a link for the meeting minutes for the American Rescue Plan Allocation meeting from July 2021, which describes how the county plans to use the funds.

BOC has 5 members who each represent a specific district. Here’s a link to the current districts: [District-Map-Landscape-2.pdf \(iosco.net\)](#). Find your commissioner here: [Board of Commissioners \(iosco.net\)](#). Following is the Commissioners’ contact information:

District 1	Robert W. Huebel III 6467 Loud Drive Oscoda, MI 48750	Office: 362-4212
District 2	Terry Dutcher 304 4th St North, Oscoda, MI 48750	Office: 362-1041 Home: 586-663-5519
District 3	Charles Finley 8191 Chain Lake Road South Branch, MI 48761	Office: 362-4212 Cell: 619-0546
District 4	James Miner	Office: 362-4212
District 5	Donald Jay O’Farrell PO Box 57 Whittemore, MI 48770	Office: 362-4212 Home: 756-4803

Meeting minutes are also posted on this site. Keep informed about what the ICBOC is doing—they represent all residents of the county.

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*

## Pottery Available for Donation to ICDP

Learn more on page 9



# November General Membership Meeting

## Notes

- Carole Bleau, Chair, announced that we have renewed our annual membership with the Tawas Chamber of Commerce
- Carole reminded members to sign the Gov. Gretchen Whitmer candidate petition at the office
- MDP has several digital toolkits located on their website at [Toolkit - Michigan Democratic Party \(michigandems.com\)](https://www.michigandems.com)
- Józef Drozdowski, Vice Chair, initiated conversation regarding allowing local vendors to use the office as a pick up location for their products. Tom Davidson made a motion seconded by Jim Mortimer to refer the matter to the Executive Board for additional research related to liability and lease restrictions prior to a decision.
- Laurie Miles, Secretary, reported that our membership count has increased to nearly 215 after additional memberships from the General Meeting
- Tom Davidson, Treasurer, announced that since we announced efforts to raise \$30,000 annually to support the office and candidates, we have raised more than \$18,000. Tom applauded our members' efforts and success with this initiative.
- Tom asked members to please consider supporting the ICDP through online donations through our website, either one-time or monthly recurring, through the upcoming winter. Please visit [Iosco County Democratic Party \(MI\) - Administrative Account — Donate via ActBlue](#).
- Jim Mortimer, Campaign Committee Chair, shared plans for the Campaign Committee to host a candidate recruitment and education event in January 2022.
- Kathleen Davidson, Trustee, encouraged office volunteers to make calls to lapsed members as requested; she has seen increased engagement of members due to the calls
- Cindy Schwedler, Trustee, prompted members to participate in the Iosco County Board of Commissioners meetings (additional information on page 12), as well as the Viewpoint series on WKJC (see page 10).
- Gloria Brooks, Beacon Editor, introduced a new condolence card initiative. Please inform her if you learn of the death of an ICDP member or family member; she will bring personalized condolence cards monthly to the General Membership meeting for the attendees to sign.
- Following robust discussion, attendees voted on new office hours (please see sidebar article on this page and the back page).
- Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021

*Gloria Brooks, Editor*

### NEW OFFICE HOURS

Effective immediately, the ICDP office at 224 Newman Street will now be open 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).

*Carole Bleau, Chair*





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

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

PO Box 727  
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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](http://www.ioscocountydems.org)

### ICDP Newsletter

Gloria Brooks, Editor  
Jim Mortimer, Associate Editor

Special thanks to our proofreaders:

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## Grand Opening Celebration at New Office

As reported on the cover page, a Grand Opening celebration and candidate introduction event was held by the Iosco County Democratic Party on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at the headquarters on Newman Street, East Tawas. Nearly 50 people enjoyed an assortment of savory appetizers and sweet desserts while learning about a number of potential 2022 candidates for government offices both regional and beyond. Attendees included local residents and guests from Gladwin, Alpena, West Branch, Grand Rapids and Marquette.



Chair Carole Bleau



Executive Board watches Carole



Executive Board cheers



Our new sign



Kelly Lively



Dan Godwin



Dr. Bob Lorinser



Joel Sheltrown



James Miner



Grand opening attendees listen to speakers



Richard Douglass addresses the crowd