



The Beacon Newsletter

September 2021
Issue #25

ICDP Establishes Permanent Office in East Tawas

The ICDP will officially have a year-round office at the location of our former headquarters at 224 Newman St, East Tawas, for one year beginning October 1, 2021! The Executive Board is requesting assistance from members in the following areas:

Design Assistance

Since ICDP will occupy the space for at least one year, we can design a space suited to our needs. We need help designing an effective office and kitchen space. We also need help with cleaning and painting – and we’d love to see a democratic-themed mural in the space. If you can assist with any of these planning activities, please contact Carole Bleau (contact info on page 13).

Designated Donations

We must pay for utilities, internet and phone services so monetary donations are needed as well. Send your designated donation to ICDP, PO Box 727, Tawas City, MI 48764.

In-kind Donations

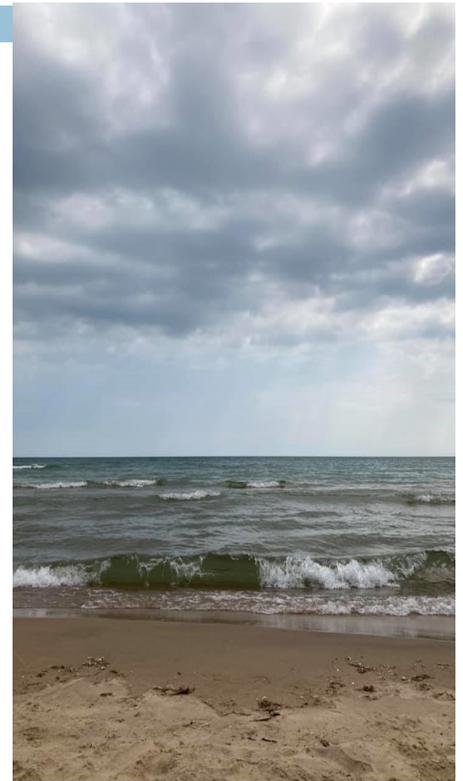
This is an initial list of items we will need at the new office. Preference is for items that can stay in the office year-round.

- Computer
- Printer
- Desk
- Shelving
- Refrigerator
- Microwave
- Desk organizer
- Office supplies
- Decorations
- Carpet/flooring
- Tables
- Chairs
- Closet door
- Democratic-themed art
- Curtains/echo absorbers
- Kitchen: There is a well-used utility sink that we’d like to change into a kitchen sink with a cabinet and countertop

Rep. Sue Allor’s involvement in extending “The Big Lie” to Michigan Vaccine Mandates

State Rep. Sue Allor, R-Wolverine recently introduced new legislation that would prevent employers from requiring employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and other diseases, to wear masks in the workplace or to disclose their vaccination status. According to Dave Boucher of the Detroit Free Press, “...the measure, HB 4471, flies in the face of guidance from state and national health officials: At the legislative hearing for the

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Lake Huron, Oscoda MI 8/22/2021

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Sue Allor—Continued

measure, multiple speakers repeated lies and conspiracy theories about the pandemic and the vaccines. Allor said she wants to protect employees from their employers' mandates, stating "...many believe that government is too intrusive, and I would agree with that statement. But that's not to say that government hasn't already inserted itself into business operations. Do two wrongs make a right? Absolutely not. The bottom line, as it pertains to this bill: There is precedent for government creating laws and rules that an employer must follow. And that is what this bill is requesting — a statute that will prevent an employer from discriminating or retaliating against employees who choose to not take a vaccine." The measure goes beyond COVID-19. It also would prohibit employers from requiring vaccinations against the flu, tetanus, diphtheria or pertussis. Employees could sue and collect damages against an employer who violates this proposed law. To read the full article, visit <https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2021/08/19/michigan-vaccine-mandates-misinformation/8192404002/> Then call Rep. Allor's office to share your concerns about this proposed legislation at (517) 373-0833.



Additional Voter Suppression Bills Introduced

According to a recent email from Voters Not Politicians, Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey testified earlier this year as to the threats, harassment, and intimidation that she and other Detroit election officials and poll workers faced in the 2020 election. Fortunately, democratic lawmakers in the Michigan House recently introduced *House Bill 5282* that would protect election workers from harassment, threats, and intimidation. This legislation would create consequences and punish anyone who harasses an election official or prevents an election official from performing their duties. However, Republicans in Lansing are focusing on the wrong legislation to further a partisan agenda aimed at voter suppression. They support Senate Bills 275 and 276 that would allow video recording of ballot counting, rejecting the secret ballot tenant, and Senate Bill 309, which would give challengers stronger protections than poll workers. These three bills are just part of a large voter suppression package that Republicans are using to promote The Big Lie and satisfy special interests rather than helping the people.

Voters Not Politicians has been on the ground fighting back against the anti-voter package, to protect the freedom to vote. Right now, volunteers are out in their communities at events, farmers markets, and other places, sounding the alarm and having important conversations with voters. For up to date information on VNP's activities, visit their website at www.votersnotpoliticians.org.

ICDP is on Social Media!

Direct links to our pages:

Facebook

Public page:

www.facebook.com/IoscoCountyDems

Private ICDP Facebook Group:

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

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/IoscoCountyDems>

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/ioscocountydems

On the web:

www.ioscocountydems.org

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



Why I'm a Democrat Series

This month's article was published in the August 17th edition of the Manistee News Advocate. An abbreviated version is included; to read the entire article, visit [JOHN](#)

[HELGE: Surprising things that Democrats believe \(manisteeneews.com\)](#).

John Helge is a veteran U.S. Army officer and has recently retired after a 40-year career leading technical sales teams focused on the challenges of industrial water and energy sustainability. He is currently serving as chairperson of the Manistee County Democratic Party. He can be contacted at johnhelge@gmail.com.

Gloria Brooks, Editor



DEMOCRATS

CHANGE THAT MATTERS

Why I'm a Democrat—*John Helge* Surprising Things that Democrats Believe

When confronted with the current divisive political landscape many people have challenged me with this question, “What do Democrats believe?” I must admit that sometimes I do not have a quick and ready answer to this question. I realize that it should not be that difficult to come up with an answer, but it depends on who is asking the question and what is the most important issue on their mind at that time. We must first seek to understand why they are asking that specific question and respond appropriately. Currently with social media memes and quick labels it is too easy to fall into the trap of lapsing into the tell mode rather than taking the time to explore more in-depth reasoning and focus for the root of the question. This column will attempt to share some of the basic beliefs we Democrats adhere to. We consider these beliefs to be founded on common sense and human decency. We do not believe most readers will find them excessively radical.

Democrats believe that people working 40 hours a week should not be living in poverty. We also believe that business leaders should not be compensated at a rate more than 3,000 times that of their average employee. We do not believe it is right that 80% of the wealth generated during the recent pandemic went exclusively to less than 1% of Americans...

Democrats believe that businesses should not be able to trash the earth in the name of making a profit. We also believe that profitable corporations should not be eligible to receive government subsidies just because they have historically received them...

Democrats believe that access to quality, affordable healthcare is a human right that should be provided to every U.S. citizen. For-profit health insurance is not sustainable and should be replaced by Medicare for all as soon as possible. The typical America worker is currently spending an average of \$6,000 a year in health insurance premiums, co-pays and deductible charges...

Democrats want elected leaders who are not afraid of telling us the truth even if the truth may be against current popular opinion. Our allegiance should not be to any one individual no matter what their perceived voter base of support may be. Our allegiance must be to the rule of law and the people of this country who deserve a government that works for them.

Democrats also believe that all legal U.S. citizens should be able to vote in every election without having to overcome obstacles intended to suppress those who may not align or agree with the political party that is currently has the power of a legislative majority.

Finally, Democrats believe that we should work at all levels to help make this country better for every person who lives near us. We will be the ones you see who are volunteering to help with local projects like food pantries and environmental clean-ups... We hope you will join us (with our sweat-stained blue hats) in taking action to continue improving our community, our state and our country.

John Helge

Call to Action: Redistricting Update

The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is currently working on draft maps of the state House and state Senate districts. There are seven criteria before the commission. But, for this first draft, the MICRC is largely fo-

cused on just half of the first criteria: creating districts of equal population. So far, the MICRC has drawn 50 of the 110 state House districts and 21 of the 38 state Senate districts. **The MICRC's**

drafts feature more Republican seats than the old Republican gerrymanders. They once again pack Democrats into cities.

Please submit a public comment and ask the commission to:

- **Prioritize partisan fairness when mapping.** Tell the commission to draw districts with as close to zero political bias as possible. We want to see commissioners mapping with partisan data in front of them so that they can evaluate partisan fairness throughout this process.
- **Adhere to the 7 criteria outlined by Prop 2** and listed in order of importance. The commission is too focused on creating compact districts and keeping townships, cities, and counties together. Those criteria are listed at the bottom of the list after communities of interest and partisan fairness.
- We do not expect to see perfectly square legislative districts. **Cities and precincts are not square. Thus, we don't expect their maps to be either.** In the past politicians justified oddly shaped districts for the purpose of cre-

ating partisan gerrymanders. We should be able to allow oddly shaped districts in the name of creating partisan fairness.

- If the MICRC packs Democrats in cities, they will create another Republican gerrymandered map. **Splitting cities is necessary to achieve partisan fairness and keep give adequate representation to**

all people of Michigan.

Keeping cities together packs Democrats and marginalizing our voices.

The MICRC is currently rotating its meetings between Lansing and Detroit with several college campus stops

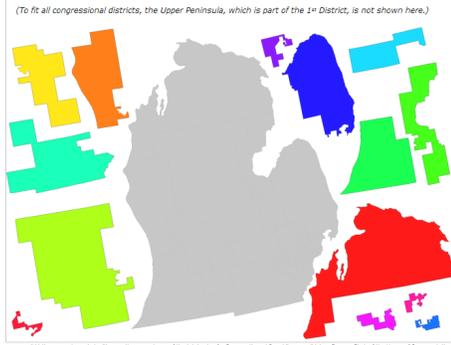
scheduled in September. **There are currently only 10 more days of mapping scheduled.**

Now is the time to weigh in! You can find a full schedule of meetings at the [MDP's redistricting toolkit](#). Provide public comment to the commission by:

- Attending a meeting in person. ([see public notices of upcoming meetings](#))
- Give public comment at the meeting.
- Give public comment via zoom.
- Submit public comments through the [online portal](#).
- Provide comment on the process or partisan fairness.
- Provide a map highlighting a community of interest for the commission to consider.

Please reach out with questions about redistricting or how to submit a public comment or COI map to Emily Boyer, eboyer@michigandems.com.

Jaime Brants, Project 83 Organizer, Michigan Democratic Party
jbrants@michigandems.com or 231-758-9997



Know Your County Commissioner!

There is a link to a county district map on the Iosco County website at <https://iosco.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/District-Map-Landscape-2.pdf>. If you don't know what county district you live in, it is possible to find out using this map. If you live in Oscoda Township, please note that there are three distinct districts. It's important to know who represents you on county matters.

Cindy Schwedler



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 by the 1st of the month.



This installment is seventh in an 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 7—*Richard Douglass*

When Richard Nixon was elected in November 1968 our nation was at the peak of a wave of social discord and change that had actually been brewing for a long time. The first cohort of Baby Boomers had just graduated from college. Their brothers who did not go to college were working overtime shifts in heavy industry with a nearly capacity level of employment that was stimulated, ironically, by the bi-partisan military misadventure in Viet Nam. Those guys who neither went to college nor worked in a plant producing war machines got a free trip to S.E. Asia. Too many got a free and early ride home. Fathers and sons argued about the war. And surrounding this schism in our society we were in the midst of historic levels of social change in human rights, civil rights, recognition of racism as a scar on the national soul, and the budding demands of gay and lesbian people for safety and acceptance. By 1968 more American households were two-income families than ever before, in part because the kids were all getting ready for college. Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy were both murdered within weeks of each other. We were still reading about the Tet Offensive. Students were facing off against combat-gearred troops at the Pentagon, and some of our cities were still smoldering from riots and fires. There was a lot going on.

But on the health side of our national consciousness there was a kind of drama that had not yet demanded our attention. Most Americans were happy about the new Medicare program, just three years old, and our aging citizens were filling hospitals from coast-to-coast with chronic conditions that had been neglected for years. Few of us were aware that the state mental hospitals were emptying out and adult foster homes were popping up in every city. The new nursing homes seemed to be filling a need for an aging population that, we were told by a small group of pundits called gerontologists, was the beginning of "the aging of America." Poor people were apparently getting medical care through Medicaid. In fact, in Michigan, the Medicaid program was so popular that relatives were moving up from Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida just to become eligible for Medicaid in the Mitten of the Great Lakes. The Medicaid programs in those states were not as generous as we offered here.

On top of all of that medical science was producing new gadgets and pharmaceuticals that staggered the imagination. Keeping people alive, often for months or weeks, with heart-lung machines stimulated an ethical debate about the right to die; or at least to die with dignity. Mood altering drugs and anti-anxiety concoctions became so popular that pop songs were written about them. These drugs also allowed tens of thousands of schizophrenics to be moved from asylums to adult foster homes in the community (and the cost would be shifted from the State Budget to Medicaid, remember?)

Were we worried? Not much, because compared to the nightly casualty scores of U.S. dead versus Viet Cong dead and the appalling cost of the war, whatever was happening that resulted from Medicare and Medicaid was OK. After all it demonstrated that there was pent up and unmet need before these programs were put into effect. People were getting care



One Economic Crisis Deserves Another —*Cont'd*

that they obviously needed. And nobody was going to argue about the benefits medical science and medical technology making death more distant in a nation that was still very much addicted to a culture of youth. The costs associated with the implementation of Medicare and Medicaid and our shift from small scale to industrial scale health care systems was not recognized as serious or even a threat because it was all good in comparison to the cataclysmic vibes throughout the rest of society.

Some Observers Were Getting Worried

In April of 1968 I had an admissions interview in Ann Arbor with a kind and very smart professor at the School of Public Health. I did not realize then that the man who took the time to ask me why I wanted to study in Ann Arbor was a living legend. He was Solomon Axelrod, MD. I need to introduce you to him to remind and assure you that we are still a nation with genius that is sometimes packaged within people offering generosity and social consciousness.

Solomon (Si) Axelrod was born in Gloversville, New York on September 25, 1912. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College in 1934 and received his MD from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1938. He served his internship at the Indigents Clinic of Philadelphia General Hospital. In 1941 Axelrod became a medical officer for the Tennessee Department of Health fighting venereal disease and tuberculosis. From 1943 to 1949 Axelrod worked as a commissioned officer in the United States Public Health Service (PHS) in the migrant labor health program, and then as a rural health consultant in Michigan. Axelrod completed his master's degree in public health in 1948 and became Medical Director of the Michigan Rapid Treatment Center (for syphilis) located in Ann Arbor. The development of antibiotics to treat syphilis made rapid treatment centers obsolete, so Axelrod made a decision in 1949 to move to Washington D.C. to help implement the [national health insurance program](#) which was expected to be enacted under the Truman Administration.

Nathan Sinai, Director of the Bureau of Public Health Economics at The University of Michigan, convinced Axelrod to resign his commission in PHS and become a faculty member of the UM School of Public Health, an affiliation he maintained until his retirement in 1977. In 1959 Professor Axelrod became Director of the Bureau of Public Health Economics, and from 1965 to 1970 he served as the first Chairman of Department of Medical Care Organization in the School of Public Health. Part of his motivation to establish the new department was his recognition that medical care was changing very rapidly and was becoming as much of an issue of politics and economics as with medical science and epidemiology. Along with a crew of like-minded faculty members Dr. Axelrod began to let the nation know that the cost of medical care was increasing exponentially.

During the riots in Detroit in 1967 Axelrod loaded his wife and other volunteers from Ann Arbor into his station wagon, filled it with first aid and medical supplies, and drove into the riot zones to help injured Black citizens who were without other sources of help. He was as courageous as he was smart and concerned about the poor and helpless. But for most Americans Axelrod's effort to call attention to medical care cost inflation and system expansion was a voice in the wilderness. The data and monitoring systems he invented, however, are now high priority sentinels of the state of our economy.

Richard Douglass

ICDP Member invited to submit book proposal

Cambridge Scholars Publishing has invited Richard Douglass, ICDP member and frequent contributor to *The Beacon*, to submit a proposal for their *Life Sciences* academic books and edited collections division. Cambridge Scholars Publishing is committed to supporting long-form research dissemination in all fields of academic and scholarly publishing, through the publication of monographs and edited collections.

As readers of *The Beacon* are aware, Richard is an emeritus professor from Eastern Michigan University. He has been writing a recurring series on access to healthcare in rural communities this year (installment #7 starts on page 6.) This series, about why the health care system does not work well for everyone as well as topics such as climate change and environmental threats, was partially motivated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the denial of science by special interest groups present in the rural population. We all look forward to updates from Richard regarding his proposal submission.



Next month

"The Numbers Tell the Tale"

Richard Douglass

My Voice Series

My Voice is the opportunity for our readers to share their thoughts on a topic or issue.

Marty P. Jordan is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at Michigan State University. He specializes in American politics, public policy, and research methods. Professor Jordan is originally from the Tawas area.



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!

My Voice: Rural Democrats Helped Biden Win Michigan—*Marty P. Jordan, Ph.D.*

The conventional wisdom from the 2020 presidential election among political pundits is that rural America got redder and urban U.S. bluer. While cities went big for Democrat Joe Biden and small towns overwhelmingly supported Republican Donald Trump, this takeaway is too reductive. The reality is that rural Michigan Democrats in 2020 outperformed their 2016 showing and helped Biden and Harris win.

The 2020 presidential election saw massive voter turnout in the Great Lakes state, with almost 5.6 million Michiganders casting a ballot. Indeed, 71% of eligible voters participated, the highest rate in the state since 1960—despite a global pandemic. But countering the Republican narrative that turnout was suspiciously high in urban areas, turnout was actually surprisingly high in rural counties too. For example, while Wayne County (a Democratic stronghold and awash with media attention) witnessed a 10% uptick in turnout from 2016 to 2020, Iosco County (traditionally Republican) saw nearly a 14% surge in voter turnout. Rural counties overwhelmingly experienced the most considerable percentage increase in turnout in the Mitten state.

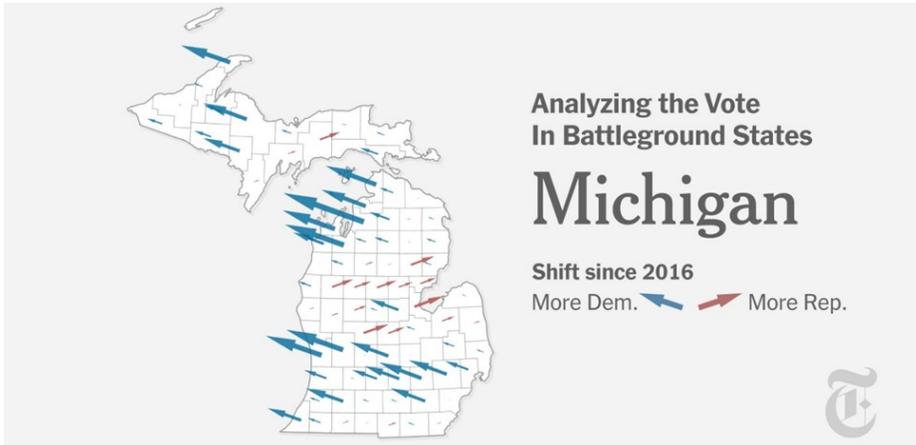
And it was turnout among rural Democrats that helped win the race for Biden and Harris. In fact, President Biden earned 87,000 more votes from rural Democrats than Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Recall that Biden only carried Michigan by 154,000 votes. Hence, rural Democrats made up more than half (56%) of the Biden's winning margin, despite only a quarter of Michiganders living in rural counties. If rural Democrats had stayed home in November, believing their blue ballots carried little sway in red counties, Biden's win would have been delicate rather than decisive.

It is true that nearly ninety thousand more voters cast a ballot in Wayne County in 2020 than in 2016. Yet Democrats did not increase their margin of victory there. Sure, Democrats turned out big in Detroit, but so did Republican voters, keeping Biden's margin the same as Clinton's (at 69%). Where Biden succeeded was at reducing Trump's margin of victory in rural counties. Take, for instance, the eleven counties comprising northeastern Michigan where Biden increased Democrats' margin by 1.1 percentage points, on average, in rural northeastern Michigan compared to their showing in 2016. Although shaving off one percent of Trump's margin in predominately red areas might seem modest, consider that Biden only won the Mitten state by 2.7 points. This one percent matters! Furthermore, this pattern holds for most rural counties throughout the state, with many rural districts exhibiting an even more sizeable shift (especially northwest Michigan and parts of the U.P.).

1 Mack, Julie. 2020. "See 2020 Election Turnout by Michigan County Compared to 2016." Mlive. November 5, 2020. <https://www.mlive.com/politics/2020/11/see-2020-election-turnout-by-michigan-county-compared-to-2016.html>.

2 Gazette-Journal, Reno. 2021. "2020 vs. 2016: Presidential Election Results Comparison." Reno Gazette-Journal. Accessed August 31, 2021. <https://data.rgi.com/presidential-election-results-compare-2016-2020/>.

Rural Democrats—Continued



The Democratic Party's win was aided in large part by mobilizing and convincing more rural voters to cast their ballot for Biden. Perhaps Democrats were able to convince their family members or neighbors to vote for the first time. Or perchance Democrats' more vocal presence and activism in rural communities changed a few minds. Maybe even some Democrats' willingness to post Biden yard sign in a sea of Trump paraphernalia allowed reluctant supporters to come out of the shadows. Regardless of the means, in the end Democrats won in the margins with the rural vote.

Therefore, rather than ceding rural folk to Republicans and city dwellers to Democrats as many political operatives might advise, the evidence from the 2020 presidential election paints a more nuanced picture. Yes, Trump posted large vote shares in rural counties, just as Biden maintained strong results in urban counties. But Biden won Michigan partially by reducing Trump's margin in most rural areas. Thus, Republicans should not consider the rural vote a lock, nor should Democrats write off mobilization efforts in small towns and farming communities. On the contrary, it was mobilizing rural Democrats and moving a few hearts and minds toward the Democratic ticket that put Biden and Harris in the White House. Democrats would be wise to double down on these efforts, speaking to the policies and issues that rural voters care about.

Update from Congressperson Dan Kildee

According to a recent message from Congressperson Dan Kildee, movie theaters, arts centers, museums and event venues have been hurt by this pandemic yet remain an important part of our communities. Rep. Kildee helped pass the *American Rescue Plan* to provide emergency relief for mid-Michigan entertainment venues. So far, he has secured \$2.4 million in relief for nine local entertainment venues through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program. Dan says that small businesses needing help can still apply for federal grants today. Please visit www.sba.gov to learn more, or contact his office by telephone at 810-238-8627 or online at dankildee.house.gov for help with federal resources.

American Rescue Plan for Iosco County

The Iosco County Board of Commissioners' American Rescue Plan committee meeting is scheduled for September 23rd from 9am – 4pm. The Zoom link is on the Iosco County website at <https://iosco.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/American-Rescue-Plan-ZOOM.pdf>. Please attend to witness the proceedings and comment on how our county plans to spend this significant infusion of funding for the betterment of county residents.



Promote the ICDP in style!



The ICDP has a limited supply of T-shirts available for \$20 each. If there is demand, we can order additional shirts. Profits from the sales, \$6 or 30% of the cost of the shirts, go to a family in Columbus OH dealing with severe autism with one child. His 11 year old brother designed this shirt and set up the website to help his family. Currently, the following sizes are available:

4 Medium

1 Large

4 X-Large

To order, go to <https://manic-14.creator-spring.com/listing/icdp-shirt?product=11>.

First Women's Equality Day Fundraiser a Great Success

ICDP's first house party fundraising event of 2021 was held on Wednesday, August 25th at the home of Richard Douglass in Tawas City. The event was in celebration of Women's Equality Day on August 26, marking the 101st anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment for women's right to vote in America in 1920.

Two dozen attendees feasted on international cuisine, and heard from three dynamic speakers: attorney Victoria Targosz of Targosz & Walker Legal Group PLLC; Elinor Jordan, Esq., Senior Law and Policy Manager at the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence; and Jenny Johnson from the Michigan Democratic Party's Rural Caucus.

The event raised more than \$5,000 towards the \$30,000 annual donation goal for the ICDP. Special thank you to the Events & Service Committee whose members assisted with the event, and to the following donors:

Hosts

- Richard Douglass
- Bob & Newana Visser
- Bob & Jean Radin

Sponsors

- Bill & Barbara Lavery
- Betty Fahselt
- Bill Richardson
- Charlie Corcoran
- Jenny Johnson
- Elinor Jordan

Supporters

- Gloria Brooks
- Cathy Wusterbarth
- Beth Borowski



- Jim Rupert
- Timone Mikko
- Judy Shuler
- Sue Duncan
- Jim Mortimer
- Charlie Corcoran
- Don & Gene Bennion
- Kenneth Koral & Catherine
- Ruth Mohr

Attendees

- Laurie Miles
- Dan Godwin
- Marguerite Schmidt
- Judy Howe
- Cindy Schwedler
- Robby AR Green-Weir

In-Kind Contributors

- Betty Fahselt & Judy Howe – Art auction items
- Tawas Bay Pizza Company – Antipasto Salad
- Richard Douglass – Indian-spiced vegetarian patties & pierogies
- Cindy Schwedler – chocolate cupcakes
- Judy Goodman – cheesecake

Attendees listening to attorney Victoria Targosz, one of three speakers at the Women's Equality Day event held at the home of Richard Douglass, ICDP member, in Tawas City on August 25, 2021



Inspirational Women's Equality Day Quotes

"The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day; a movement is only people moving." — **Gloria Steinem**

"When there are no ceilings, the sky's the limit." — **Hillary Clinton**

"We have to organize. We have to build up coalitions across all of these people who are considered 'the other.' If we all banded together and built coalitions that were truly intersectional, we would be in power. I believe in the power of the people." — **Janet Mock**

"We're all under the same sky and walk the same earth; we're alive together during the same moment." — **Maxine Hong Kingston**

"I knew then and I know now, when it comes to justice, there is no easy way to get it." — **Claudette Colvin**

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." — **Audre Lorde**

"My own definition is a feminist is a man or a woman who says, yes, there's a problem with gender as it is today and we must fix it, we must do better. All of us, women and men, must do better." — **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful." — **Malala Yousafzai**

"Women will only have true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation." — **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

"I will not have my life narrowed down. I will not bow down to somebody else's whim or to someone else's ignorance." — **bell hooks**

Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

- Tuesday 9/7/21-5:30 ICDP Membership Meeting, Buckhorn Inn, 483 M-55, Tawas City
- Saturday 9/11/21 Adopt-A-Forest **POSTPONED UNTIL 2022**
- Thursday 9/16/21- 5:30 Brew & Stew-5361 Weir Rd, Oscoda – Hispanic Heritage Month Fund-raising Event
- Saturday 9/25/21-4:00-6:00 AuSable River Queen Fundraiser-\$30/ticket, food provided
- Saturday 10/2/21- 2:00-4:00 Adopt-A-Highway. Meet at Aulerich & US-23
- Tuesday 10/5/21- 5:30 ICDP Membership Meeting- 224 Newman St, E. Tawas
- Tuesday 10/12/21-6:30-9:30 Dinner Party Fundraiser at Gloria Brooks' home.
- Thursday 10/21/21- 5:30 Brew & Stew Fundraiser- 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- Saturday 10/30/21- Halloween Dinner Party Fundraiser- 1748 Louks St, National City
- Tuesday 11/2/21-5:30 ICDP Membership Meeting- 224 Newman St, E. Tawas
- Thursday 11/18/21-5:30 Brew & Stew- 224 Newman St, E. Tawas
- Tuesday 12/7/21-5:30 ICDP Membership Meeting- 224 Newman St, E. Tawas
- Saturday 12/11/21 6:00-9:00-Holiday Party at The Buckhorn Inn

ICDP Committee Roundup

Communications Committee—Cindy Schwedler & Sue Duncan

It was a busy month for Letters to the Editor. Thanks to all who submitted articles to the Oscoda Press and the Iosco News Herald.

Newspaper LTE Topic	IDCP Member/ Paper Published	Date
<i>People should know when they are defeated</i>	Richard Douglass INH/OP	7-7-21
<i>Nothing to apologize for</i>	Star Erickson INH/OP	7-7-21
<i>DT forgot the matches</i>	Jesse Lyman INH/OP	7-7-21
<i>Voting Rights Compromised</i>	Bett Fahselt INH/OP	7-21-21
<i>GOP claims voter fraud</i>	Richard Douglass INH/OP	8-11-21
<i>Appreciates Gary Peters</i>	Gloria Brooks INH/OP	8-11-21
<i>It's all about dividing</i>	Jesse Lyman INH	8-25-21
<i>Please don't dump trash</i>	Betty Fahselt INH/OP	8-25-21

Events & Service —Carole Bleau & Judy Goodman

We successfully kicked off our fundraising event activities at the end of August at Richard Douglass' home (see article on page 10). Please consider participating in one of the following events or let E&S Committee Chairs know if you'd like to host an event.

Thursday, September 16, 2021: The monthly Brew & Stew will become a Dinner Fundraiser. We will meet from 5:30-7:30pm at Rozanne Curley's home at 5361 Weir Rd, in Oscoda. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, we will be serving burritos, queso dip, sweet corn, beans & rice, guacamole, dessert, Dos Equis & Corona beer, and soft drinks for a donation of \$20. RSVP to Rozanne Curley 989-260-2234.

Saturday, September 25, 2021: *Private Dinner Cruise* on the AuSable River Queen 4:00-6:00 pm, tickets \$30 donation. Space is limited to 100 people, and we've already sold 70 tickets! Music will be provided by Ray Skiver on acoustic guitar. The dinner menu is Sloppy Joes (a beef and a turkey option provided by Rozanne Curley and Gloria Brooks); Cheesy potato casserole by Beth Borowski; Macaroni Salad by Judy Howe; and yummy desserts by Karen Drozdowski. Please email your RSVP to ioscocountydems@gmail.com today, and send your check to ICDP, PO Box 727, Tawas City, MI 48764. *See our ad on the back cover of The Beacon.*

ICDP Committee Roundup *Cont'd*

Events & Service — *Continued*

Tuesday, October 12, 2021: *Italian Night at Jose Lake* strolling supper event at Gloria Brooks' house in South Branch. Attendees will enjoy an Italian-themed menu with vegetarian and gluten free options, dessert, wine and nonalcoholic beverages. As of September 7, 2021 our host committee includes the following:

Hosts

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

Sponsors

Sue Duncan
Marguerite & Don Schmidt

Supporters

Beth Borowski
Gary Dogonski
Judy Goodman

Tickets to attend the event are \$30/per person. There will be a live auction of 6—8 experiences to bid on: some examples include an Italian dinner for 4 prepared and delivered to your home; a 2-night stay at a brand new lake home on Jose Lake; and a grandparents summer activity basket for 4, to name a few. Please RSVP by October 7, 2021 to gloriadbrooks@att.net or 810-429-6727. **Vaccinated guests only, please.**



Saturday, October 30th, 2021: Halloween Dinner Party Fundraiser at Carole Bleau's home located at 1748 Louks Street in National City, MI. Carole will provide hummus with vegetable crudites; chicken wild rice soup; chicken lasagna; pumpkin cookies; beer and wine; coffee, tea, and water. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. RSVP to Carole at 810-875-5282 or email bleausy@icloud.com. We are looking for contributors at the following levels: Host Committee \$100; Sponsor \$75; Supporters \$50; and Attendees \$30. Pledge by October 17th to be recognized in the invitation. Final count by 10/25/21.

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**

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Jim Mortimer – **Trustee; Chair, Campaign and Environmental Committees**

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Cindy Schwedler – **Trustee; Co-Chair, Communications Committee**

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Sue Duncan – **Co-Chair, Communications; Community Action Committees**

susanduncan12951@gmail.com

Susan Mayer – **Co-Chair, Community Action Committee**

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Duane Breijak – **Chair, Digital Organizing Committee**

dbreijak@gmail.com

Judy Goodman – **Co-Chair, Events & Service Committee**

Judesfamily@yahoo.com

My Voice Series

My Voice is the opportunity for our readers to share a Letter to the Editor on a topic or issue.



Sue Duncan is a longtime resident of National City. She retired from Hale Area Schools as an elementary teacher in 2002. She is an active volunteer in the community with the AuSable Valley Audubon and Tawas Bay Players.

Letter to the Editor: Don't Mess with Mother Nature—*Sue Duncan*



This letter is in regard to building homes or stores in local wetland areas. Wasn't it just 2020 when the Tawas River flooded the basement of Tawas City Hall with many inches of water? It washed out a substantial amount of railroad track support on Whittemore Street, too. The flooding was due to heavy rains in a fairly short amount of time onto already saturated ground. I bet repairs cost a bundle of bucks for lots of folks and entities. These examples are part of why we need to respect wetlands; wetlands are Mother Nature's sponge and a great source of natural protection.

Unless thoroughly contaminated by humans, wetlands clean ground water as it passes through, provides habitat for a huge variety of wildlife, insects, and fish from white tail deer to ducks and other birds that make it their home or use it for R&R during migration. Wetlands are places where people have gathered food or trapped for food and furs for the economic wellbeing for centuries. Wetlands add beauty and mystery to life.

I have lived in two places where wetlands were not valued. One was a northwestern Chicago suburb which included homes that had the additional selling point of a full basement. Sadly, basements in that area routinely flooded or worse...had city septic drains backing up whenever there was a hard rain. The other place was Mount Pleasant, Michigan where the roads often flooded. The high concentration of roads, parking lots, and acres of pavement meant the rainwater had insufficient places to drain, making driving dangerous. If you were driving, every passing vehicle created a blinding waterfall across your windshield. If you were walking, you never know when you'd get soaked by puddles and a careless drive or end up on your backside due to slippery footing.

Greater attention to wise use of wetlands can limit many undesirable scenarios. I hope that both EGLE and the Tawas City leaders will tread very carefully when the subject of building on some of our vacant wetlands next comes up for discussion. I'm pretty confident there will be better places to build than by trying to force Mother Nature's wetlands to support more human interference. Payback's can be extremely costly and devastating. Consider the mess Detroit and other areas are dealing with this year due to flooding. Respect our wetlands!

Sue Duncan

My Voice: Medicaid and the Mental Health System—*Michael Brooks*

As I read Richard Douglass' article, "How Can You Fix It if You Don't Know How it Got Broke? Part 6" in last month's newsletter I recognized many of the points he made about our public mental health treatment system from my 25 years of having worked in that system. When I started in mental health, funding for public mental health services came primarily from Medicaid under a fee for service system, meaning we provided treatment and billed Medicaid. We were fortunate in Michigan that those funds were augmented by the State and we had more financial resources than many other states. Over the years, however, shortsighted political leaders who were bent on cutting taxes cut away the State's contribution to eventually nothing. Coupled with the closing of the State hospital system, also a money saving act, the public mental health system at the county level became seriously over-burdened and under-funded. The solution? Change how Medicaid paid for services.

This "throw-the-baby-out-with-the-bathwater" approach was also a way to save on Medicaid expenditures by ending the fee for service model for a managed care approach. Were there problems with fee for service? Yes! Were there problems with the state hospital system? Yes! Was destroying both systems instead of fixing what was wrong the right answer? I don't think so.

Because Medicaid is not a profit-making business, when funds for services are cut, but the number of people needing services rises and the cost of those services increases, the only way for public mental health to survive is to cut services. And that is what I witnessed first hand. When I began in mental health we approached people seeking services with the mindset of, "How can we help you?" By the time I left it became, "How can we deny you services?" Because denying services saves money. The primary reason I retired when I did was that I did not want to work in a organization that denied, cut and provided only bare bones services instead of doing what was best for the individuals in need.

Until mental health services, including substance use disorder services are part of our overall insurance system and that system is forward-looking system and covers every American, our hodge-podge, state-by-state, county-by-county way of doing things is going to continue to fail all of us, especially those who need the help the most.

Michael Brooks

My Voice Series

My Voice is the opportunity for our readers to share their thoughts on a topic or issue.



Michael Brooks shares his thoughts about how the mental health system and Medicaid directly impacted clients that he served in his two decades of service at Genesee County Community Mental Health in Flint, MI. Michael has a lifelong commitment to helping those struggling with mental health and homelessness. His career focused on customer service and quality improvement, program development, community education and outreach, and family reunification. He retired in 2014.



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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



ICDP Newsletter

Gloria Brooks, Editor
Jim Mortimer, Associate Editor

Special thanks to our proofreaders:

Carole Bleau & Michael Brooks

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ICDP, PO BOX 727, TAWAS CITY, MI 48764

Remember Schoolhouse Rock?

After reading the article on pages 10-11 on how the ICDP celebrated Women's Equality Day this year, visit this link on YouTube to watch Schoolhouse Rock's take on the 19th Amendment from the 1970's': <https://youtu.be/pFOieRHRzh8>

