



# Newsletter for Democrats

## December 2019

### Welcome to our fourth monthly newsletter

November saw the beginning of our cold season with a reduction of our schedule of events. With the Presidential debates starting at 9pm for November and December, we decided to wait until January to schedule the next watch party. The Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment period began November 1 and runs through December 15. We posted fliers on this throughout the county and ran public service announcements on WKJC radio and in the Iosco County Press - Tawas and Oscoda.

Work on protecting our waters from possible pollution from the Enbridge Line 5 was expanded in November. More on this below. We will consider a resolution on this subject at the December 4 Membership Meeting. Our big event in December will be on the 15th when we have our Christmas party at Hsing's Garden in East Tawas.

This newsletter is to keep all our members better informed on our many events, volunteer projects and efforts and to give prospective members a look at what being a member would be like. Please share this newsletter with all who are interested.

**Jim Mortimer, Editor** [j.mortimer@earthlink.net](mailto:j.mortimer@earthlink.net)

### Possible ICDP Headquarters for 2020??

We have made a reservation to rent the space at 224 Newman St. in East Tawas from the Twin City Spa for July through election day 2020. This space proved to be an excellent spot for our office in September-November 2018. This time we will have it for four months if it is not yet under a long-term lease by 5/31/2020.

### Brew and Stew - November 21

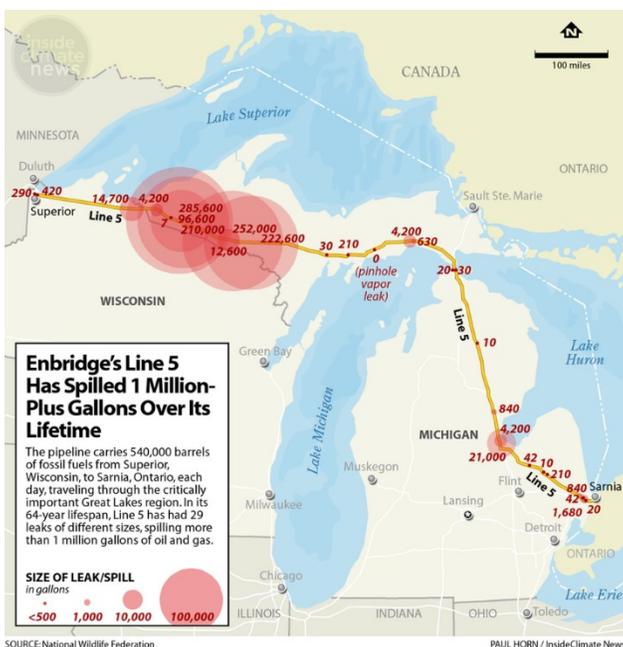
The Brew and Stew moved to the **Buckhorn Inn** on M 55 at Plank Road in Tawas City. The back room there provides ample space for this event with drinks and food served by the staff.

We discussed the results of the Presidential debates from the previous night. Going around the table we asked who had the best chance of beating Trump. Here are the votes: Kamala Harris 5, Bernie Sanders 5, Cory Booker 4, Joe Biden 3, Elizabeth Warren 3, Tom Steyer 2, Amy Klobuchar 2, Stacey Abrams 2. All others got one vote.



**Brew and Stew at the Buckhorn Inn**

## Enbridge Line 5 brings potentially dangerous spills and pollution to the Great Lakes and Michigan



The map above shows the history of spills from Line 5 during its 63 years of operation. The UP has suffered most of this damage, but the age of the line threatens many rivers and wetlands in NE Michigan as well as the Straits of Mackinac. Jim Mortimer shared these facts and more data with the Iosco County Board of Commissioners in early November. They are interested in learning more about how the Attorney General is working to decommission Line 5.

Democratic County Parties in the 106<sup>th</sup> District recently passed a resolution which would update a 2018 Michigan Democratic Party resolution for decommissioning Line 5. The update lists the current potential impact of a line break and supports efforts in the Governor's Office and by the Attorney General to end its commission. On December 4, we will consider an amendment to the resolution asking for a decommissioning date to be set.

We are working on plans for a representative from the AG's office to meet with a group of County Commissioners from the five counties in the 106<sup>th</sup> House District along the Huron Shore. We should have a time and place for this event to announce at our December Members Meeting.

## Christmas Party at Hsing's Garden Sunday, December 15

Join the party from 4:00 to 6:00 at 600 E. Bay Street (US 23), East Tawas.

- Wear your holiday clothes and bring a present for the gift exchange.
- Enjoy live music from the Great Lake Effect band.
- Order dinner off the menu.
- Bring some friends to meet our group and join us for 2020.



We have had several events at Hsing's Garden for our Party. Above is a photo of a luncheon with Brandon Dillon, MDP Chair, there during July 2018. Great place for food and fun.

## Event Schedule

### December

- 4- Monthly Meeting-** 5:30 PM at the **Camp Inn Lodge** on US 23 South of Oscoda
- 12- Brew & Stew** 4:00-6:00 PM at the **Buckhorn Inn** on M-55 at Plank Road in Tawas City
- 15- Christmas Party** in **Hsing's Garden** 4:00-6:00 PM.  
600 E. Bay Street (US-23), East Tawas

### January

- 8- Monthly Meeting-** 5:30 PM at the **Camp Inn Lodge** on US 23 South of Oscoda
- 16- Brew & Stew** 4-6 PM at the Buckhorn Inn on M-55 in Tawas City

## Canvassing with the MiniVAN Easy to Learn

Members of the Campaign Committee have started learning how to use the MiniVAN computer tool for canvassing. This is a way to use your smart phone to show your list of addresses and a map of a customized "turf" for your neighborhood rather than sheets of paper. It also electronically sends the data we learn from each door, so the VAN is updated constantly.

We will need a small army of trained canvassers to reach out to likely Democratic voters across the county for the 2020 election campaign to meet our goals of a Democratic vote of 55% in November for Iosco County.

Jim Mortimer will offer a 30-minute MiniVAN training session before and after each monthly Membership Meeting for the next six months and can schedule a special training session at any location on other dates. Please contact Jim at 773-343-8663 or [j.mortimer@earthlink.net](mailto:j.mortimer@earthlink.net) to schedule a time for your training.



## New Canvassing Technology Texting

The Michigan Democratic Party has established a new tool for reaching out to voters – texting. We have been told several times that reaching younger voters is more productive with texting than phones, mail or knocking on doors. MDP has established a texting site for our party. Carole Bleau and Jim Mortimer are taking training on how to use this new technology. If you are interested in learning about this new tool on Saturday, December 14, please call Carole at 810-875-5282 or Jim at 773-343-8663.

Texting is done with a laptop or home computer – not a cell phone. A list of cell phones numbers is produced from the VAN and then texts are sent to people one-by one. Prepared scripts are used to "talk" with responders to offer information and learn about their interest in the 2020 elections. This sounds like a great way to keep our canvassing efforts moving forward during the cool months. We will have more information on this as we learn how to use this new communication tool.

## MDP and Voter Protection

The Michigan Democratic Party has employed Erica Peresman as Voter Protection Director. She led a webinar in November featuring the purpose of this MDP department and an overview of new rules being administered by the Secretary of

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State (SOS) to implement changes to state law from 2018.

MDP's Voter Protection Goals:

- Every voter gets to vote
- Every voter knows how and where to register and vote
- Every election official and worker follows the law

Michigan has 1,520 cities and townships with polling places – a challenge for adequate training of election staff on the new rules.

New Rules:

- Register to vote and vote at City/Township Clerk's office beginning 45 days before election day
- SOS will have online registration system up and running soon allowing registration up to 15 days before election day
- After 15 days prior to election day, voters must register in-person with the City/Township Clerk with proof of residency
- Absentee ballots must be received by the Clerk by 8:00 PM on election day.
- Early voting in 2020 in person with the City/Township Clerk is available 2/24 through 3/9 for the March 10 election.

Erica invites members to contact her if it appears a Clerk is not up to date on the new rules for voting. She can be reached at [eperesman@michigandems.com](mailto:eperesman@michigandems.com)

## Charity Event for Hope Emmanuel Emergency Homeless Shelter

Members of the Iosco County Democratic Party participated in a charity event Nov. 24 at Wiltse's Brew Pub in Oscoda to support the Hope Emmanuel Emergency Homeless Shelter. The 10-bed shelter is located at 219 West River Road, Oscoda, the back of Hope Chapel, Anglican Church. It is open 5 PM to 8 PM and provides emergency shelter for the needy, 18 years of age and older. Men, women, and children are welcomed, if there is room. The shelter serves a five-county area that includes Iosco County. It is always in need of volunteers and donations. Their

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telephone is (989) 739-5751.

<https://www.facebook.com/oscodamission/?rf=116949158645056>

ICDP members donated a variety of items for use by shelter occupants. Father Tim Doublestein was thankful for the contributions.



**ICDP members display some of the donations**

**John Morris brought a truckload of gifts for our donation.**



## Join Iosco County Democratic Party

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Iosco County Democratic Party? You can fill out a membership application form at any event or go to the party website [www.ioscodemocrats.org](http://www.ioscodemocrats.org) and click on "Join the Party". There you will find the information you need to send an application by mail to us at P.O. Box 252, East Tawas, MI 48730.

For More information on the webinars go to:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1G88Den309k6FFdCZJqO9Czw5j1bgpgEI5M9uoXzALnA/edit>

## Join the Michigan Democratic Party



The Michigan Democratic Party - <https://michigandems.com> supports 83 county parties like ours and a number of caucuses and clubs throughout Michigan. Our party members learn a lot from the MDP staff in Lansing and regional support locations.

MDP offers a variety of Webinars each month to train party members all over Michigan on the details of a successful local program. Here are topics and dates for the free webinars in December:

- Thursday, December 5 at 3PM  
- The Basics of Fundraising
- Monday, December 9 at 7PM  
- VAN and Data for Intermediate Users
- Tuesday, December 10 at 7PM  
- MDP Party Structure and Participation
- Wednesday, December 11 at 7PM  
- Voter Education and the New Voting Laws
- Thursday, December 12 at 3PM  
- Digital Organizing
- Monday, December 16 at 7PM  
- Talking to the Media 101
- Tuesday, December 17 at 7PM  
- Running for Local Office
- Wednesday, December 18 at 7PM  
- Robert's Rules and Parliamentary Procedure

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