



Newsletter for Democrats

September 2019

Welcome to the first monthly newsletter from our Party. We want to keep our members informed of what is going on and to help decide how they want to be involved.

We are aiming to turn Iosco County **BLUE** in the 2020 presidential election. Making that possible will be a major challenge for our organization. We believe teamwork and outreach from our growing membership can turn the tide.

August 18 Picnic in the Park

A sudden but brief rainstorm started our picnic in the East Tawas City Park. Nearly 70 people crowded into the Gazebo to dine on free burgers and hot dogs plus a long table of side dishes and desserts.



Beautiful Day after the Rain

The program included presentations from U.S. Congressman Dan Kildee, Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lavora Barnes, former state gubernatorial candidate Dr. Abdul El-Sayed and Carley Hammond, candidate for the MI House from Saginaw.

U.S. Congressman Dan Kildee did not hold back in his criticism of President Trump. Calling Trump's

inauguration day "my worst day in 42 years of public service" Kildee cited a long list of issues he called unprecedented, as potential threats to the nation and our system of constitutional government.

First on Kildee's list of issues was water quality. He underscored his support for those fighting against PFAS pollution of ground/well water in Oscoda. He pointed out the work he had done in Washington to pressure the Air Force and Corps of Engineers to live up to their responsibilities. A contingent from Oscoda was present with signs of support and to express appreciation for his efforts.

"The sad reality," he said, "is your government has poisoned your water! This, of course, was also true in Flint. Water should be a fundamental right. It is now at a crisis point in many cities across the country. And still there is no support from the White House or the Senate for programs that could help address this issue or many other infrastructure problems that are tearing this country apart."

In addition to the importance of water quality Kildee emphasized the need for universal health care coverage, for addressing the growing wealth gap, divisive racial policies, and the need to save the planet from self-inflicted disaster. "We are the last generation that is positioned to save this planet. We must force politicians to be accountable to our kids for their future."

Kildee urged those present to work hard for the 2020 election. "Our framers did not anticipate that an entire party would wrap their arms around a leader who demeans women and promotes white nationalist extremism. Remember, there is always in politics a moral dimension. It's fundamentally about the moral values of our country. And this guy

in the White House is pathetic. We must mobilize. We must get this done.”



Party Trustee
Cindy Schwedler
greet
Representative
Dan Kildee

The other party leaders, who addressed the crowd also urged that energy and commitment be mobilized now in preparation for the 2020 national election. **Lavora Barnes, Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party** emphasized that “It’s going to be hard. But we want our country back. We must make the campaign about Hope for the future, not about the Fear promoted by the other side.”

She said that as Democratic Chair she was urging national candidates to pay attention to all of Michigan, to the whole state. “Too often folks just blow into Detroit and Ann Arbor and think that’s Michigan”, she said. “I’m telling them they need to come to communities like this. They need to go to the U.P. We want to get all of Michigan involved”.



Lavora Barnes
Michigan
Democratic
Party Chair

Commenting on the large number of Democrats running for President in 2020, she urged that voters survey the field carefully, don’t rush, but said “It’s OK if you fall in love with a candidate. We want everybody to work and put energy behind your favorite candidate. But we must win this. Come next July we all need to put differences aside and support ONE candidate and make that candidate our next president.”

A 2018 state gubernatorial candidate, **Dr. Abdul El-Sayed** also spoke. He discussed his newly formed Political Action Committee and advocacy organization, Southpaw. “We believe in people power not money power. Politics should put people first,” he said and referenced issues like universal health care, renewable energy, support for college education and labor unions, among the progressive causes which Southpaw promotes.



Party Chair
Carole Bleau
and Dr. El-Sayed

“Front line organizing,” he said, “is essential. Talk to your neighbors. It’s about issues like Justice, Freedom, and Peace.” He emphasized: “It’s about the future for my daughter, for your children and grandchildren. We need an America that serves all Americans.”

Also, on the agenda was **Carley Hammond**, a candidate for the Michigan state legislature in the 95th Legislative District that encompasses nearby Saginaw. She also urged active involvement in pushing for positive change. She shared some experiences as an activist in Flint and outlined some of the issues in Saginaw. “We’re never going to stop,” she urged. “We must unify and resist”

Carley
Hammond
and Carol
Kushion



Finally, there was a presentation by **Andrew Miller**, representing Michigan for Single Payer Healthcare, who thanked Rep. Kildee for co-signing

federal legislation in support of Medicare for all. Also, a brief presentation was given by **Pat Race** of Bay City, promoting the use of a “Climate Stick” visual aide to help give public presentations on the critical importance of global warming as an immediate threat to the planet. His organization provides training for its use.

Following the speakers, **Jozef Drozdowski**, Vice Chair of the Iosco County Dems, announced that another monthly picnic has been scheduled for September 22. U.S. Senator Gary Peters has been invited to attend. It will also be held at the E. Tawas City Park, Gazebo. Iosco County Democratic Chair, **Carol Bleau** thanked everyone for coming. “This program was so good,’ she said ‘that the rain stopped, and the sun came out. That has to be a good sign for the future.”

Iosco Dems love Parades



Sand Lake has their annual Summer parade in August. Jim Rupert decorated his truck with two banners while Carole Bleau, Jozef Drozdowski, Sue Duncan and John Morris waved to the crowd and passed out treats to the kids.

Brew and Stew at The Dock café in Tawas City

Our monthly Brew and Stew on August 15 was an open session. Members landed on the hot issue of Gun Control for the discussion. This is a complex topic. The result was to look into what policy resolutions the Michigan Democratic Party has adopted with the eye to strengthening this considering the proposals March for Our Lives and

other interest groups are pursuing. The next Brew and Stew on September 26 will be an open session starting with an update on Gun Control policy.

September Event Schedule

On the next page is our event schedule for September. We are working to confirm a talk from **Senator Gary Peters and/or Senator Debbie Stabenow** at the next picnic in the East Tawas Gazebo. At this point it looks like we will have at least one of them with us.

Please share copies of the schedule with your friends and neighbors as an invitation to join you at one or more of these events. Bringing people together is how we carry out our work for the county and Michigan.

Meet Governor Whitmer



In July, Chair Carole Bleau was invited with other county party chairs to the governor’s mansion in Lansing for a visit with Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The Michigan Democratic Party is working hard at all levels to win in 2020.