



## Newsletter for Democrats

October 2019

### Welcome to our second monthly newsletter.

We are aiming high to bring Democratic voters to the polls next year. With leadership from the campaign committee and our trustees we are setting a goal aiming to equal or exceed the number of Republican voters in the primary and presidential elections in 2020. More on that below. And we have a new Resolution on Gun Safety approved at the September Monthly Members Meeting.

This newsletter is to keep all our members better informed on our many 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.

### Words about Gun Safety

A formal resolution was adopted at the September monthly membership meeting of the Iosco County Democratic Party taking a stand on important gun safety issues.

These included support for more rigorous background checks, strict restrictions on the purchase of military style assault rifles and related weapons of war, and support for the general goals established by the March for Our Lives organization founded by the students at the Parkland high school.

At the meeting members emphasized that this was not action opposing the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment Right to Bear Arms, and that firearms

possession and use for hunting, sporting activities, rifle range membership etc. was a valued and important part of local culture for many fellow Michiganders.

The full text of the resolution is available on the Iosco County Democratic Party website and the Iosco County Democratic Party Group on Facebook. It has been shared with our local U.S. Senators, with Congressman Kildee, and with the Michigan State Democratic Party. Other County organizations across Michigan are being contacted to urge adoption of similar action to take a stand on this issue.

Carole Bleau, Iosco County Democratic Party Chair explained “This is one of the issues that is stuck in the U.S. Senate. Senator McConnell continues to block any action, and it should not be lost in all the attention now being paid to Impeachment”

“We all, especially kids in school, need an environment that is safe and secure. The mass shootings this summer must not be accepted as a normal part of American life. They should be a call to action.”

Bill Richardson



## September Debate Watch Party Report



Our third Debate Watch Party was held on September 12 at the AuSable Inn on US 23 south of Oscoda. The number attending was less than attended the June and July Parties and the number of candidates was also less due to a raised DNC threshold in polls and donations to get on the stage.

At the close of the debate, those present voted on the candidates they preferred for nomination by the DNC. They could vote for as many candidates as they thought were qualified. For the second time Elizabeth Warren got the most votes. She won our July party vote after Kamala Harris won the June party vote.

## October Debate Party

We will have a party on October 15 for the debate at 8:00 PM at the Dock Grill on US 23 in Tawas City. There will be 12 candidates taking the stage in Ohio. We will have the room set and food and drinks available at 7:30 PM. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this event.



## Why do people become members of our party and what do they enjoy as members?

These are two questions on an informal survey of members we started in September. We have members who have become active Democrats since the 1960's and as recently as 2019. They enjoy knowing and working with others who share the same values and respect each other as we apply the power of teamwork to pursue our vision for the USA. We now have 114 members.

Here are some of the responses we have to the survey so far. **Please add your experience to this survey.** You can find the survey questionnaire on the ICDP website [www.ioscodemocrats.org](http://www.ioscodemocrats.org). You can print the form and mail it to Jim Mortimer at the address on the form.

### Why I joined the Democratic Party

- **Aligns with my beliefs**
  - Core Democratic Values are the fundamental beliefs and constitutional principles of American society
  - Inequality of the 70's moved me to become Democrat
  - 1963 concerns for civil rights, Viet Nam war, union rights made me leave the GOP and join the Dems to better work for my values
  - Belief in equality, social and community responsibility, environmental protection, a pathway to citizenship, universal health care for all and a woman's right to choose.
  - Equality and opportunity for all – The other party is for more wealth at the expense of the middle class and working poor.
- **School culture**
  - High school and JFK caring for human rights
  - Purdue U. delegate to '68 Chicago Democratic Convention
- **Welcoming members**
  - Found welcoming people with my same values at meeting in 2018 headquarters on Newman St.
  - Feel comfortable right away and no longer a "lone soul" without others of like concerns
  - Leaders and members invited me to get involved at my first meeting. Invited me to join teamwork.

- **Trump concerns**
  - To beat despair, do whatever I could to oust Trump and his party
  - Became active in 2017-18 because of Trump (5)
  - Dem for 20 years, but became active to make a change when Trump was elected

### What I enjoy and respect about membership in the Iosco County Democratic Party

- **Like-minded people**
  - Care that everyone should enjoy the same freedoms
  - Enjoy being with like-minded people who have many of the same concerns I have (4)
  - We are a group of people who are compassionate, ethical, fair-minded and good stewards of the earth
  - We respect individuals and are willing to look at differences.
  - We respect our country and our constitution
  - Help neighbors understand the Democratic Party
- **Challenge of turning Iosco County blue**
  - Increasing activities and commitment of growing membership
  - Work on projects that empower Democrats
  - Important that we know each other and are known
  - Very active group
  - We empower our members to try to change our community and country through lawful and positive ways
  - We are responsible as voters to look at the future good for all.
  - We have access to the state Democratic Party for skills training and policy issue support through resolutions
- **Events**
  - Brew and Stew (3)
  - Parades and picnics
  - News stories – letters to editors – radio perspective
- **Teamwork**
  - Party supports values among like-minded people who work hard and have a good time
  - Make a change in whatever capacity I can
  - Life-long Dem active in GOTV and phone banking. After Trump, decided to be more involved by knocking doors and manning headquarters for 2018 election
  - We learn together what it takes to improve voter turnout
  - MDP staff and regional organizers are helpful

### Joining the ICDP

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.

## Event Schedule

### October

- 2- Monthly Meeting- 5:30 at the Camp Inn Lodge on US 23 South of Oscoda Campaign Committee Meeting at 4:00
- **12- Festa Italiana dinner CANCELLED**
- 15- Presidential Debate Watch Party 7:30 pm at Dock Grill in Tawas City
- 17 - Wiltse’s Charity Drive 4:00-7:00 on Hwy F41 for Hope Anglican Church Emmanuel Mission Homeless Shelter (Details on Page 5)
- 24- Brew & Stew 4:00-6:00 at the Dock Grill on US 23 in Tawas City

### November

- 6- Monthly Meeting- 5:30 at the Camp Inn Lodge on US 23 South of Oscoda Campaign Committee Meeting at 4:00
- 21- Brew & Stew 4:00-6:00 at the Dock Grill on US 23 in Tawas City
- TBD - Presidential Debate Watch Party

### September 22 Picnic in the Park

Rain Likes to mess with our parties in the East Tawas City Park Gazebo. But, a breeze off the lake and cool temperatures were all we got as strong rains went north and missed us. Our keynote speaker, **Eric Keller** of Senator Gary Peters’ staff in Traverse City and **Sarah Rigney**, MDP Regional Organizer in Gaylord braved flooded roads and heavy rain for the long drive to the event.

**Eric** said Senator Peters was a good boss. The senator is a work horse – not a show horse. Peters served on the Rochester Hills City Council before joining the Michigan state Senate in 1995 and then was elected to the US

House in 2013 and the US Senate in 2015 where he was the only new Democrat elected.



**Eric Keller – Senator Gary Peters’  
Northern Michigan Regional Director**

Senator Peters is focused on Issues that matter: PFAS pollution, pharmaceutical costs, retaining the Affordable Care Act and education of our young people for posterity; more than elections.

Eric stated that on the Line 5 issue, they believe that Enbridge is neither trustworthy nor reliable. Peters called for a short-term shut-down of Line 5 after the 2018 anchor strike to determine the extent of the damage. He is working on a freshwater safety bill for the Coast Guard in a new national center of expertise,  
On PFAS he has pushed for legislation keeping fire departments from using the chemical, EPA Superfund money for clean-ups and for the Air Force to expand attention to ground water

contamination. Seventy PFAS sites are known in Michigan and 11,000 are possible.

Party members urged Eric to help the Senator to be more visible to the voters. He is in a tight race for re-election. We hope he will make a trip to the Iosco County area in the Spring so we can help.

**Sarah** is Chair of the Otsego County Democratic Party and joined the staff of the Michigan Democratic Party this year as Regional Organizer covering the northern part of the lower peninsula. She has taken over for Hannah King supporting county parties in a large part of the map. Sarah has been an excellent coach and educator for our party meeting with the campaign committee, our monthly meeting and attending monthly meetings of the 106<sup>th</sup> group of county parties.



**Sarah Rigney, MDP Regional Organizer**

Sarah stated that Trump’s win in Michigan was a narrow one at 10,704 votes in 2016. There are 4,799 precincts in Michigan, so if each one had 2.23 more votes for Clinton, Trump would have lost Michigan We have eighteen precincts in Iosco County. She said if Dems had produced three more votes in each precinct, Trump

would have lost in Michigan. For 2020, we need to concentrate on getting more Democratic votes in each precinct to turn Iosco County **BLUE**.

There are 27 precinct delegate positions defined for Iosco County. Currently we have eight elected delegates. Rozanne Curley has taken on the job of recruiting more delegates to be on the August ballot for election in 2020 as well as reelecting the current delegates. [If you would like information on becoming a precinct delegate, please contact Rozanne at 989-260-2234.](#)

Sarah said the delegates should become leaders of canvassing teams in each precinct to have the best chance of turning the county **BLUE**. She will help us with the canvassing support technology from the VAN database and other tools so our members knocking on doors and making calls are well prepared for the work.

To get started on the canvassing work, MDP has launched a campaign promoting automatic mailing of absentee ballot applications by township clerks for 2020 elections. She has provided attractive “Permanent Absentee Voter” brochures we can hand out to Democrats on special VAN turf lists using a special set of instructions to use in talking with our neighbors. We will be using these materials during October and November as we begin our first phase of canvassing for 2020.

### Iosco County Vote Goals for 2020

At the regular Monthly Meeting on October 2 members discussed Iosco County data on the elections in 2012 and 2016. Democrats have

delivered fewer votes than Republicans in each election. In 2012 we had 11% of the Primary vote and 46% of the Presidential vote. In 2016 we had 38% of the Primary vote and 32% of the Presidential vote. The Executive Board discussed these data at their meeting on September 25 and proposed a better turnout for 2020: They recommended we shoot for 50% of the Primary votes and 55% of the Presidential votes next year. This comes to an estimated 3,250 votes in the Primary and 8,250 votes in the November election.

Some members at the Monthly Meeting thought these goals were too high and unrealistic: 39% increase in March and 90% increase in November Democratic votes from 2016. But most said we should be shooting for these goals so that we do our best work in finding Democratic voters and encouraging them to vote in our canvassing over the next 12 months. The goals were approved on a voted motion. We will share these goals with other county parties in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to encourage collaboration on efforts that produce solid voters and promote friendly competition among the counties.

March 2020	Voter share %	November 2020	Voter share %
3,250	50	6,750	45
3,250	50	8,250	55
6,500	30% of Reg	15,000	70% of Reg
Registered Voters 21,490 on 11/9/2018			

October 17 Wiltse's Charity Drive 4:00-7:00 on Hwy F41 for Hope Anglican Church Emmanuel Mission Homeless Shelter in Oscoda. (Donate brushes, disposable razors, laundry pods, soap, flip flops for showering, pillows, dish soap, surface disinfectant, disposable cell phones, \$5.00 gift cards, non-perishable food items, bus tokens for Iosco Transit, or cash.) Food off the menu and drinks available.