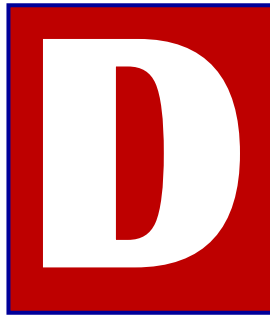




LEELANAU COUNTY



EMOCRATS

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

Dedicated to the improvement of the human condition through our commitment to opportunity, community, and accountability.

Calendar of Events

Leelanau County Democratic Party Leadership Team Meeting
1st Saturday of each month, 10:00am, Munnecke Room. All Leelanau County Democratic Party Members welcome. County Commissioners' Meeting.

County Commissioners' Meetings
2nd Tuesday of each month, 9:00am, Leelanau County Government Building Board Room. Public welcome.
3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm, Leelanau County Government Building Board Room. Public welcome.

Occupy Traverse City Street Demonstration
Every Saturday, 11am to 1pm, Front Street in front of Chase Bank and across from Horizon Books.

Tuesdays with Jack
Every Tuesday, 10:30 am, US Congressman Jack Bergman's office, 1396 Douglas Dr., Ste. 22B. Driving south on Garfield, turn right on Ashland. The building is on the right.

Citizens Climate Lobby Presents "Saving Ourselves: A Conversation About Climate, Energy & Economic Opportunity"
April 12, 6-8 pm, at the State Theater

Join Oil & Water Don't Mix for Citizen's Lobby Day in Lansing!
Lobby your elected officials to shut down Line Five!
For Information go to: http://www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/line_5_lobby_day?utm_campaign=lobbyday1&utm_medium=email&utm_source=oilandwaterdontmix

Leelanau Indivisible Meeting
April 20th, 6:00 pm., Munnecke Room, Leland Library

A Message from the Chair

By: Gwenne Allgaier

Welcome to our new format. This is our first 'email newsletter', transitioning from our mailed, paper edition. We realized we could save over \$4000/year by going to email.....and we will use that money to help elect Democrats who will stand for our progressive values in 2018.

Enjoy our news.....you will find out what the Leelanau Democratic Party is doing - and we hope you will join us! You can come to our monthly Leadership Meeting (first Saturday of the month at 10 am, Munnecke Room in Leland), attend one of our forums, contribute to area food pantries at our food drives, help with our highway



or beach clean ups, or come join us at one of our Dish With Dems events or picnics, check out our Facebook page or website. Yes, we are busy!

We are a great team.....glad you are on it!

A publication of the Leelanau Democratic Party



*“And the people have
the power to redeem
the work of fools.
From the meek the
graces shower. It’s
decreed the people
rule.” (Lyrics by
Patti Smith 1988)*



Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump

Fivethirtyeight.com has an updating tally chart of how often every member of the House and Senate votes for or against the republican president. Go to:

<https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/congress-trump-score/>

Guess what Representative Bergman’s score is?

Big Turnout for “News Media Today, Challenges? Consequences?”

The Leelanau County Democratic Party sponsored a “News Media Today” program at the Leelanau County Government Center on Thursday, March 23rd.

We wish many, many thanks to our program panelists: Bob H. Giles, retired editor and publisher of the *Detroit News* and editorial board member of the *Traverse City Record Eagle*, Peter Payette, Executive Director of Interlochen Public Radio, and Jacob Wheeler, founding editor of the *Glen Arbor Sun*, and communications manager for the “Traverse city based Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities. Dave Barrons, retired broadcast meteorologist and LCDP member, served as our program moderator, which greatly added to the overall success of this program. Our turnout on Thursday March 23 far surpassed our expectations, especially when we learned about our competi-

tion with the Michigan/Oregon basketball game. We have no doubt that our panel members and moderator drew the crowd of about 80.

Program committee members have pooled comments from audience members as they departed. Perhaps the most frequent remarks connected in some way to how much they learned - especially about the challenges. Other remarks focused on the extent to which the program gave folks frameworks for thinking about the issues. One remark in particular struck us - *“I came tonight because I have been so confused. Now I have some tools for getting through the chaos.”*

We have also looked through all the question cards and noted that the majority of them honed in on how to integrate what they glean from various sources of social media with more traditional news sources. Bob Giles’ explanation of the difference between a platform and a publisher was very enlightening. Similarly, Jacob

Wheeler’s proposition of thinking about the current news media environment as a “Golden Age” opportunity shifted people’s thinking a bit. Peter Payette’s comments helped us all understand the role of public radio, particularly how it has changed in recent years.

Among many points, panelists talked about the effects of social media on journalists in terms of posting to numerous platforms taking time from actual reporting; the pressing need for more investigative journalism; and that - bottom-line - ratings are important as those are what attract advertising, the key financial driver of the new business

We have no doubt that our audience members left with a more nuanced understanding of the news business, in all its forms. And, Bob Giles’ quote from Justice Damon Keith that “Democracy fails behind closed doors,” strengthens our resolve to be active consumers, participants as letter writers especially, and critics when needed.



Attendees



Recommendations

We invite all members to join the LCDP Book Club!

The Club meets the third Friday of the month at 4:00 pm, in the Leland Library Munnecke Room. We enjoy wine and snacks during lively discussions. We have read a variety of non-fiction (typically political) books and articles, titles of which have been

suggested by members. Our next book club will meet on Friday, April 21st. The suggested book is "The Righteous Mind" by Jonathan Haidt.

The book club suggests several titles so that members can choose their preference. April's suggestions include:

The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion, by Jonathan Haidt;

The New Yorker March article by Jane Mayer: *The Reclusive Hedge-Fund Tycoon Behind The Trump Presidency: How Robert Mercer exploited America's populist insurgency*, and *The Republican Brain: The Science of Why They Deny Science - and Reality*, by Chris Mooney.

Please Join Us!

Blue Tiger Report...

*We Care for Each Other
We Respect Each Other*

★ HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

The Leelanau County Democratic Party have 2-two mile sections of highway, on M22 North of Suttons Bay ending at St Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Church and M72 between Gilbert and Golden Valley Woods Rd, East of Empire, that we cleanup as a part of the MDOT Adopt a

Highway Program. The Pickup dates for 2017 are between April 29th and May 7th, between July 15th and July 23rd, and between September 23rd and October 1st. We are looking for volunteers to help out with this program. Anyone interested in helping out along the M22 section should contact

Charlie Godbout at 231-334-3204, and anyone interested in helping out along the M72 section should contact Holly Kowalske at 231-922-8156.

You can also send an e-mail to: leelanaudemo-crats@gmail.com and we will contact you.

★ FOOD DRIVES

The Leelanau County Democrats conducted the first food drive of 2017 on Saturday, March 25, at four area grocery stores -- Hansen's in Suttons Bay, the Mercantile in Leland, Anderson's IGA in Glen Arbor and Deerings Market in Empire. The Food

Drives raised \$1364 in cash and 98 bags of groceries! Many thanks to our volunteers, Barbara Abbott, Barbara Brown, Mary and Rueben Chapman, Lisa Conroy, Vicky and Tom Gutowski, Laurel and David Jeris, Alice Littlefield, Kerry Navabi, Ralph Mittelberger, Peachy and

John Rentenbach, Jill Webb and Max Wendell. This is our eighth year in serving the two food banks operated by Leelanau Christian Neighbors at Northport and the Empire Area Food Pantry which is sponsored by most of the local churches in and around Glen Lake.

People's Climate Movement



TRAVERSE CITY MARCH

Saturday, April 29th

Noon at the Open Space

Sign up to attend the People's Climate March at http://www.myclimateaction.org/peoples_climate_march_traverse_city.

Invite everyone you know; we are hoping to get at least 3000 folks. Make signs bring your kids. It will start with a drumming ceremony by the Grand Traverse Band.

If you want to donate a few dollars to cover posters, stage, audio equipment, tent and the all important porta-potties, contact Sam Getsinger @ samgetsinger@ameritech.net

We will have sign making materials at our next Leelanau Indivisible meeting on April 20th 6PM, in the Munnecke Room, Leland Library, along with a speaker from Sen. Peters office to update us on latest happening in DC.



<http://www.myclimateaction.org>



Michigan Citizens for Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform



On Friday, March 24th, representatives from Count MI Vote, a grassroots, non-partisan citizens committee, presented to a group of local residents at NWM College, about the practice of Gerrymandering and its impact on voting outcomes. Right now in Michigan, politicians have the power to draw voting lines and

**VOTERS
NOT POLITICIANS**

the result has been to render districts that guarantee voting outcomes and result in unequal representation. Voters Not Politicians (www.votersnotpoliticians.com/0) is working with Count MI Vote (countmivote.org) to educate the public on redistricting reform and to work to get a ballot initiative on the 2018 ballot to create an Independent Redistricting Commission.

Thanks to Page Kurtz, Leelanau Indivisible & T.C. Indivisible for making this forum happen!

For more information on how you can volunteer or to learn more, please visit their websites.

Editor's Picks...

New Yorker Magazine



"We're running out of diversions. We have no choice but to crimp his hair."



Woman2 WomanTC GET READY TO RUN!

Ever thought about serving on a local Board or running for Office? Want to recruit and help others? Join WOMAN2WOMAN-TraverseCity for training and networking with presenters State Rep. Donna Lasinski and Cadillac City Councilwoman Tiya Schippers, and meet Lon Johnson, Mayor Jim Carruthers, and other local leaders.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11TH
5:00 – 7:00 P.M.
WORKSHOP BREWING CO.
221 Garland St. Traverse City
No RSVP required

For more info go to:
Woman2WomanTC@gmail.com

View the event on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/191156644705036/>

The Four Stages of Reading the News





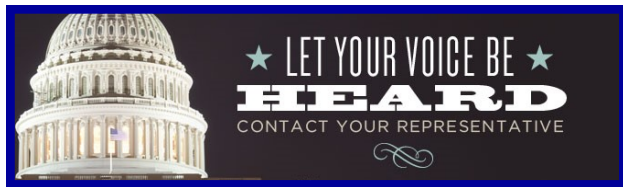
Indivisible Guide: This is a great step by step guide for resisting the Trump agenda and a “how to” for grassroots advocacy!

It can be found at:

<https://www.indivisibleguide.com/>



i'm not telling you it is going to be easy, i'm telling you it's going to be worth it.



President Trump

<https://www.whitehouse.gov>

Comments: 202-456-1111

Switchboard: 202-456-1414

Senator Gary Peters

818 Red Drive, Suite 40

Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231-947-7773

AND

724 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20510

Phone: 202-224-6221

www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary

Senator Debbie Stabenow

3335 S. Airport Road West, Suite 6B

Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231-929-1031

AND

731 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20510

Phone: 202-224-4822

www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact

US Representative Jack Bergman

1396 Douglas Drive, Suite 22B

Traverse city, MI 49696

AND

414 Cannon HOB

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: 202-225-4735

<https://bergman.house.gov/contact/>

Governor Rick Snyder

P.O. Box 30013

Lansing, MI 48909

517-373-3400

517-335-7858 - Constituent Services

FAX: 517-335-6863

State Senator Darwin Booher

P.O. Box 30036

Lansing, MI 48909-7536

517-373-1725

FAX: 517373-0741

Email: SenDBooher@senate.michigan.gov

State Representative Curt Vanderwall

S-1385 House Office Bldg.

P.O. Box 30014

Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 517-373-0825

Email: CurtVanderWall@house.mi.gov

Attorney General Bill Schuette

G. Mennen Williams Building

525 W. Ottawa Street

P.O. Box 30212

Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 517-373-1110

Email: miag@michigan.gov

Wondering what you can do to get involved?

A good start is to sign up for **Rogan's List**. Rogan's List is a participant in and strategic partner of the Action Alliance, a federation of more than 70 #resistance sites located throughout the nation. They send out an amazing, comprehensive email called “Today's To-Do List” which contains a list of action items that are easy to accomplish from your home computer or phone! Visit their blog and sign up to receive their emails, then get to work!
<http://roganslist.blogspot.com/>



“Political action is the highest responsibility of a citizen.” (John F. Kennedy)



**Mark Your
Calendar**

**Immigration Challenges
in Leelanau County**

APRIL 5 at noon at the Leelanau County Government Center the Farm Labor Task Force of the League of Women Voters Leelanau County will highlight the impact current immigration policy has on area agricultural employers and their workforce.

The forum is entitled "Immigration Challenges in Leelanau: Who Will Harvest Our Produce?" Hear from the farmers, migrant worker advocates, immigration experts and law enforcement on this timely issue that ultimately impacts all of us. Panelists include Jim Bardenhagen, farmer/employer, Joe Hubbell, County Prosecutor, Gladys Munoz, Director of Peace and Justice Advocacy Center and Susan Reed, Director of Michigan Immigrant Rights Center. May bring a lunch.

*"Of all the forms of inequity, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane".
Martin Luther King Jr.*

Who Can Use An Absentee Ballot ?

The absentee voter ballot is not just for the elderly. It is a valuable tool for younger voters to use to cast their vote.

Younger voters can use the absentee ballot if they "Expect to be absent from his or her city or township of residence the entire time the polls are open". This is the most overlooked Eligibility Requirement of this population. Consider the travel time to & from work, after work commitments and longer working hours which keep working people out of their voting district. Detailed infor-

mation regarding the absentee Voting Process can be found at: *Michigan.gov. Chapter 6 Michigan's Absentee Voting Process.*

A registered voter is eligible to obtain an absentee ballot for an upcoming election if he or she meets any of the following:

- Is 60 years of age or more
- Is unable to vote without assistance
- Expects to be absent from his or her city or township of residence

for the entire time the polls are open

- Is in jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- Has been appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of his or her precinct of residence
- Is unable to attend the polls due to his or her religious beliefs

Contact your city or township clerk to request an absentee voter ballot.

**ELECTION COMING UP
MAY 2 FOR BATA**

The Bay Area Transportation Authority hopes to upgrade its fleet and services in Leelanau and Grand Traverse Counties with renewed and increased millage to be considered in a special election Tuesday, May 2.

The current millage, .3447, costs the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$34 a year. The requested increase to a total of .5 mills would result in a cost totaling about \$50 a year for the same owner. Local taxes in the two counties currently cover about 35% of BATA's budget, with fares and grants picking up the rest.

In 2016 BATA provided a total of 500,000 rides, travelling 1.9 million miles. The number of rides averages about 25 per vehicle per day. Ridership varies seasonally, with significant increases in the summer. Full fares for the village loops in Leelanau cost \$3.00 one way.

About 30% of the rides are provided to seniors or disabled riders. Without this service, many



*We showed you ours,
now you show us
yours!*

**Tax Day Rally-April
15th - 1:00 P.M.
Open Space in
Traverse City.**

**Trump must produce his tax
returns! Nationwide Event.**

of these riders would find it difficult to remain in their own homes. For other people, BATA provides an inexpensive way to get to work. This is not only a benefit for low-income workers, but for Leelanau County employers. As it is, labor is in short supply in our county, partly because potential employees can't afford to rent housing here, or because they can't afford to commute by private car from more distant housing.

BATA anticipates that the additional millage will allow them to replace their oldest vehicles, reduce wait times, and to add on-line scheduling, tracking, and fare payment. *As Leelanau County Democrats, we believe the BATA proposal is worth our support.*



www.facebook.com/leelanaudemocrats



We are on the Web!

<http://leelanaudemocrats.org>



Contact Us!

We would **LOVE** to hear from **YOU!**

**Leelanau County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 215
Empire, MI 49630**

**Email:
leelanaudemocrats@gmail.com**

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership!

Membership Dues are \$10 per person per calendar year, January 1 through December 31. To make it possible to do more, we are asking you to give an additional donation over the \$10 membership dues if you can!

You can join the party, renew your support, or make a donation to the Leelanau Democratic

By going to: <http://www.leelanaudemocrats.org/membershipform.html> and print out a membership form that can be mailed to us along with your check.

Contributions are not US Tax deductible.

Thank You!



Amy Trumbull, & Family, met Rep. Bergman in his D.C. office. Measuring the drapes for the next Democratic Representative of the 1st District!

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Together We Can Make A Difference