



# The Benzie Kicker

Newsletter of the Benzie County Democratic Party

Volume 15, No. 2, Spring 2011

*Benzie County Democrats: working inclusively and creatively for the betterment of all.*

## **PUSH BACK!**

### Working now for 2012 victory

As we look ahead to the 2012 election, our first priority is to identify and communicate with all county Democrats and Democrat-friendly independent voters: people who want a different agenda than the one that's been established by the current GOP-dominated state government and the GOP in Washington, D.C. For that reason, this issue is dedicated to increasing membership in our county and state Democratic parties.

Because of budget constraints, we regularly communicate between newsletters using email, but we know that that this method doesn't reach the majority of Benzie Dems. If you can and want us to keep you updated via email, please send your email address to: [benziedemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:benziedemocrats@gmail.com).

#### **PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW NOW!**

If you have already joined Benzie Dems and the MDP, thank you for your participation! If you can respond to this mailing, thank you as well!

## County Commission districts redrawn

As a result of the 2010 census and population changes, Benzie County Commission districts have been redrawn. The commission will still have 7 seats. Almira Township gained the most population, and eastern Almira township (Reynolds Road and east) will now be a separate commission district, District 1. District 2 is the western part of Almira Township and Platte and Lake townships. District 3 is now Crystal Lake Township and the City of Frankfort. District 4 is Benzonia Township. District 5 is Homestead Township. District 6 is Inland and Colfax townships. District 7 is Gilmore, Blaine, Joyfield, and Weldon townships. In population, the districts vary from roughly 2100 to 2700 people. The redistricting puts current Democratic commissioners Don Tanner and Marcia Stobie in the same district. Our chairperson, Jill Kimball, was the sole Democrat on the redistricting committee.

From 2000 to 2010 the county population increased by 9.6%. The population is now 17,525. Almira Township increased by 29.7%, Frankfort City's population is down 15%; figures for all townships can be found on the "About Benzie County page of our website, [benziedemocrats.com](http://benziedemocrats.com).

## Save the Date: Sept. 30

The 2011 Benzie Dems honoree dinner will be Sept. 30 at Crystal Mountain Resort. Items for the silent auction are needed. Contact Diane Wilbur for more information: 231-378-4362; [dwilbur46@gmail.com](mailto:dwilbur46@gmail.com).



## Honor BBQ Sat. July 2 Noon - 4

Benzie Dems annual summer BBQ will again be held at Maley Park in Honor. This year's menu includes pulled pork, various side dishes, a drink and dessert. Come early; event ends when the foods gone. Adults, \$10, child's meal (10 and under) \$5.

**Eat hearty and support the party!**

## Visitors focus on issues, GOP fallout in state

Mary Valentine

About 40 people attended a community forum on state budget proposals and Public Act 4, the financial emergency managers bill, that was sponsored by Benzie Dems. May 28. Former state representative Mary Valentine, and Anne Pawli, who was her legislative assistant, were the presenters. The forum focused on how the legislation will affect citizens of Michigan and Benzie county in particular. Valentine, a Democrat who lives in Norton Shores, served two terms as a state representative before her 2010 defeat in her bid for the state senate. Thanks to Vice-Chair David Green for organizing the event.

Jocelyn Benson

Election law expert Jocelyn Benson toured Northwest Michigan June 4, and attended a dessert reception in Frankfort, hosted by Benzie Dems at the Amy Ferris residence. Benson was the Democratic candidate for Michigan secretary of state in 2010. Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer also attended. Benson discussed redistricting issues and Public Act 4, the financial emergency manager bill. She also answered questions from reception guests. Thanks to Judy Baker for organizing the reception and Amy Ferris for hosting it.

## State training held here

State chairperson Mark Brewer and his staff were in Benzie county June 11 to present a training for Dems from throughout the Second Congressional District. About 30 people attended the training sessions. Subjects included using the state party's database, press communications, fundraising and membership, local party development, and campaign finance and compliance. Thanks to 2nd District Chairperson Mary Robling for organizing the event and to her volunteers.

## From the chair...

### Hello Fellow Democrats, Friends and Neighbors

Well you know what they say, "If you don't like the weather in Northern Michigan wait a day and it will change!" Indeed we have gone from the 90's back down to the 50's and I'm still predicting it's going to be a hot summer, one way or another!

The Benzie Dems are looking forward to lots of different activities and I'm feeling hopeful about us slowly building steam and strength as we head into 2012. To help get us on track we have continued to have more guest speakers and are eager to hear if you have anyone you would like to invite (or recommend) to speak at a public forum, if so please call David Green (325-2484).

We are beginning some early exploration into possible candidates for local offices, if you have considered running for township office, commissioner, precinct delegate or anything else reach out to Mike Ross (651- 9734) and he can help you find more information.

Judy Baker has been busy working on our Annual Summer BBQ and could use volunteers for that fund raiser or a few others she has been planning, give her a call if you can help out (275-0363).

Feedback regarding our monthly meetings has been very positive, hopefully everyone still feels like we are making enough time to properly hear and address the issues of importance for the county and the party. I will continue to encourage committees to find time to address their business outside of monthly meetings. If you would like to be on the agenda for our 6/18/11 meeting please email me or call me.

Thanks for your support, I look forward to feedback and new ideas about promoting our party's ideals.

*Jill Kimball, Benzie Dems Chair*

## Recall and referendum efforts

State and local party organizations have chosen to focus on organizing for a successful 2012 election, but there are two other efforts underway: one to recall Governor Snyder and one to work on repeal of Public Act 4, the financial emergency manager bill. For more on the second effort, go to <http://www.facebook.com/rejectemergencymanagers>.

Two young men who have stepped up to serve as Co-captains of the Snyder Recall effort in our part of the state: Cam Jarrod at 231-360-5680 and Matt Szymanski at 231-392-3061. You can also reach them at [gtrrecallcaptains@gmail.com](mailto:gtrrecallcaptains@gmail.com)

## Want to govern?

Thoughtful, energetic people who are willing to serve at the township and county level are always needed. If you are interested in seeking an elected position, please contact Benzie Campaign and Candidate Recruitment Committee chair, Mike Ross or Dems chair Jill Kimball to learn how we can work with you on your campaign.



## Join the Party!

*From Carroll Volpe, Membership Committee Chair*

In the last issue of the *Kicker* we included an application for you to become a supporting member of our local Democratic Party and many of you returned them. We are again printing an application on page 3 of this issue for those of you that want to support our local efforts to elect more Democrats to office.

Please mail these forms to Benzie Democrats at P.O. Box 403, Beulah, MI 49617.

In this issue we're also enclosing a application to join the Michigan Democratic Party. Note that all elected and appointed officials, including precinct delegates are required to be members of the state party for voting purposes. Money raised from party memberships will be used to run the State Coordinated Campaign in 2012. This campaign will include President Obama, Senator Stabenow and congressional candidates, state house candidates and Supreme Court candidates. It's very important that we support the state party in this effort if we expect to win in 2012. Please join today – make checks payable to "Michigan Democratic Party" and mail them to: 606 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933.

If you don't remember if you are a current member or not, please contact me at [mcarrrollvolpe@gmail.com](mailto:mcarrrollvolpe@gmail.com) or at 231-709-6053 and I will look your membership up for you.

## Help Wanted

If you can join us on any of our local projects, please contact the appropriate committee chairperson below and let them know what you're most interested in working on.

**Issues & Action:** David Green, 231-325-2484; [rivrcat@charter.net](mailto:rivrcat@charter.net).

**Fund-raising:** Judy Baker, 231-275-0363, cell: 231-313-7087; [judealou@hotmail.com](mailto:judealou@hotmail.com).

**Campaign & Candidate Recruitment:** Mike Ross, 231-882-5913; [mike.ross0919@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ross0919@gmail.com)

**Blue Tiger and Community Service:** Mike Ross (above)

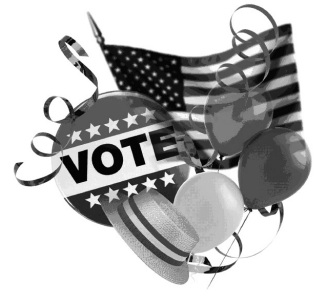
**Communications and Public Relations** (news, website, newsletter, distribution (lists) publicity, letters, advertising, etc. Doreen Fitzgerald: 231-352-7876; [dodie.fitz@gmail.com](mailto:dodie.fitz@gmail.com)

**Membership:** Carroll Volpe, 231-709-6053; [carrollvolpe@gmail.com](mailto:carrollvolpe@gmail.com)

**Rules & Bylaws:** Mary Robling, 231-882-9750, [marylottie@gmail.com](mailto:marylottie@gmail.com)

## Work in your own precinct!

If you can participate in a precinct phone tree or canvass in your neighborhood, please contact your precinct captain. To find out who this is and how to contact them, contact Mike Ross: 231-882-5913, [mike.ross0919@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ross0919@gmail.com).



# Benzie County Democratic Party Membership Application



**Please Note:** The State Campaign Finance Act requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, employer and employer's address of all donors (occupation not necessary). Contributions are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Local membership efforts are paid for by the Benzie County Democratic Committee and not authorized by any federal candidate or candidate's committee. The Benzie County Democratic Party is part of the Michigan State Democratic Party. **Membership in the state party is required if you want to vote** on party matters at the state and local levels (download a form at [www.michigandems.com](http://www.michigandems.com) or write: Michigan Democratic Party, 606 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933)

(Please circle one): Miss / Ms. / Mrs. / Mr. / Dr.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical/Voting address (if different from mailing address) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ If retired, check here \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

In an effort to protect the environment and to cut paper and printing costs, electronic updates and newsletters are sent to members with valid e-mail addresses. If you have a valid e-mail address and can receive updates electronically, please indicate that on this form or visit our website: [www.benziedemocrats.com](http://www.benziedemocrats.com). Delivery of the regular mailed Kicker will continue as always to members who wish to receive it in this form. If you have email, but require a mailed copy, check here \_\_\_\_\_.

**Your membership is valid for the calendar year in which your dues were paid.** If you are joining as a couple, please fill out the following information for your spouse:

(Please circle one): Miss / Ms. / Mrs. / Mr. / Dr.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Donations:** \$\_\_\_\_\_ Silver Supporter (\$5 to \$24) \$\_\_\_\_\_ Gold Supporter (\$25 to \$49)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Platinum Supporter (\$50 and above) \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive communications but can't donate at this time.

Please make your personal check payable to **Benzie County Democratic Committee**. Mail to the Benzie County Democratic Committee, P.O. Box 403, Beulah, MI 49617. This application can be downloaded at our website: [benziedemocrats.com](http://benziedemocrats.com).



**Thanks for participating in the politics  
and government of Benzie County!**



**Benzie County Democratic Committee**

PO Box 403  
Beulah, MI 49617

**BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #15  
HONOR, MI 49640**

Regular meetings now begin at 10 a.m. on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Benzonia Township Hall unless otherwise announced. Next meetings: June 18, July 2 (no meeting, summer BBQ), August 20, September 17.

## Thanks for the successful June yard sale!

Every two years, friends of Benzie Dems put on a yard sale and donate the proceeds to the party. Thanks to yard sale organizers Susanna Green, Chloe McGehee, and volunteers, about \$1600 was raised at the June 10-11 sale, despite poor weather. Helping with the event were: Mary Lou Allen, Judy Baker, Delores Berta, Kay Boyne, Susan Breuer, Lori Cota, Phyllis Crowell-VanHammen, Marcia and Ted Curran, Jean Dzik,

Doreen Fitzgerald, David Green, Jill Kimball, Susan Koenig, Keith McGehee. Paula and Ray Nichols, Jane Purkis, Kathy and Mike Ross, Joyce Skinner, Carroll Volpe, Diane Wilbur. Special appreciation to Jim Sheets who once again provided us with space for the sale and was available to receive donations. Thanks also, of course, to all of you who donated items to be sold and all the shoppers.

## Neighbor to Neighbor...

On June 11 we received the following note from Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN):

Soon the students will be out of school for the summer break. The food pantry would like to have fruit juice available to our neighbors. Also, there have been requests for band aids. Personal care products are always hoped for. BACN is hoping that the area worship communities, business', individuals, and organizations can help with donations. Thank you all for your continued care and support of BACN. Always "promoting and supporting a whole and healthy community". Note: BACN is in need of volunteers to help in our clothing center and Friday pantry help. If you are interested in giving the gift of time please contact us at 882.9544. Please visit our new website at [www.benziebacn.org](http://www.benziebacn.org) for ongoing information.

### Benzie Dems Officers

Chairperson: Jill Kimball, 231-275-5871  
[benziedemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:benziedemocrats@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: Mike Ross, 231-882-5913,  
[mike.ross0919@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ross0919@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: Lori Cota, 231-944-3594  
[kidsrus.cota@gmail.com](mailto:kidsrus.cota@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: David Green, 231-325-2484  
[rivrcat@charter.net](mailto:rivrkat@charter.net)

Vice Chair: Judy Baker, 231-275-0363  
[judealou@hotmail.com](mailto:judealou@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: Jim Campbell, 231-352-9472  
[verandahblu@yahoo.com](mailto:verandahblu@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Doreen Fitzgerald, 231-352-7876  
[dodie.fitz@gmail.com](mailto:dodie.fitz@gmail.com)

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