



The Benzie Kicker

Newsletter of the Benzie County Democratic Party

Volume 15, No. 3, Fall 2011

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

Precinct development training set for October 1

We will jump start our 2012 campaign on Sat. Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with an important meeting at Grow Benzie on M-115 for precinct delegates, officers and all democrats interested in making a change in their government. A lunch of pizza and salad will be provided.

Topics include "Building your Precinct!" During the lunch break, we'll hear from an Obama campaign speaker from the Michigan Democratic Party on "Organizing for America." After that we'll work on setting our local campaign goals for 2012. Please contact Carroll Volpe at 231-709-6053 or mcarrollvolpe@gmail.com if you plan on attending, so that we have enough food everyone for lunch.

Canvassing will start on Oct. 15 (after our regular meeting) with the new County Commission District 1, which is Almira

Township east of Reynolds Road. Meet in Lake Ann Village Park to canvass 1 to 4 p.m. If we don't finish, we'll return on October 19, meeting in Lake Ann Park to canvass from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

During canvassing, we'll be asking about potential candidates for township offices and county commissioner, 2012 precinct delegates and volunteers, and the issues and concerns people have now. Inland and Colfax townships will be canvassed on the same topics in April, 2012.

Several people have been delegated to contact Democratic office holders or 2008 candidates to find out if they plan to run again in 2012 for the various offices. Note that county commission District 2 is Almira Township west of Reynolds Road and Platte Township. Homestead Township is District 5.

Dems will honor four at Crystal Mountain dinner

On **Friday, Sept. 30** we have a wonderful chance to honor members of the Benzie County Democrats at the Charlotte Robling Honoree Dinner. Being recognized for their important contributions to the party are Crystal Meadows, Ray Nichols, Betty Schelling, and Mel Schuman. Our gratitude goes out to all of them for their hard work and dedication to our party's ideals. Thank you!

The speaker for the event is former State Representative Gary McDowell (District 107). He is a potential congressional candidate for District 1, which in 2012 will be our district. He lives with his family in Rudyard, Michigan, and was a congressional candidate in 2010.

Once again, beginning at 5:30 p.m., the social hour before dinner will include a silent auction, where you can bid on great stuff, both goods and services. There's still time to donate if you'd like to contribute services (your expertise) or items of interest. Contact Jan Robb at 352-9069; email: jbd17@yahoo.com.

In today's economy, quite a few people who'd like to attend find it difficult to afford, so once again we're asking for donations to help defray the cost of the event by providing lower cost tickets. If you can donate, please do so when you make your reservation.

Dinner for one is \$40 if purchased by September 15 and \$45.00 after that date. The cutoff date is **Sept. 26**. The menu choices are Eggplant Parmesan (vegetarian) or Hanger Steak. Please select your menu choice when you register. You can register by mailing the form below with your menu choice and payment (or by downloading the form from our website) and mailing it to us at PO Box 403, Beulah, MI 49617.

Contact Diane Wilbur for more information: 231-378-4362; dwilbur46@gmail.com. If a late registration is needed, contact Carroll Volpe about the possibility (231-709-6053; mcarrollvolpe@gmail.com). Late menu selection is limited to Eggplant Parmesan only.

Reservation Form, Benzie Democrats Honoree Dinner, Sept. 30, 2011

Name: _____

Menu choice: Vegetarian Beef

Name: _____

Menu choice: Vegetarian Beef

Name: _____

Menu choice: Vegetarian Beef

Name: _____

Menu choice: Vegetarian Beef

Payment Enclosed \$ _____ Additional donation for ticket subsidies \$ _____

Mail payment and reservation to: Benzie County Democratic Committee, PO Box 403, Beulah, MI 49617

From the chair...



Hello Fellow Dems and Friends,

Almost everyday this summer I am reminded why I love living in Northern Michigan, especially Benzie County! It's true, "We live where people vacation" Perhaps you've had a chance to kayak down the Betsie or the Platte River; go boating out on Crystal Lake; participate in one of our many festivals; or swim and sun out on Lake Michigan.

It may also be that you are keeping track of petition drives to Recall Governor Snyder (www.firericksnyder.com) or the Referendum to Repeal Public Act 4, the Emergency Manager Law (<http://www.rejectemergencymanagers.com>), both of which have important deadlines in the near future.

I'll be hanging on to summer until the leaves turn but at the same time, I'm thinking about what will be going on this fall and there are many different upcoming events with in the party. Here is the update to keep you all involved. Look forward to seeing you at our next meeting (September 17) and at our Honoree Dinner!

We had a nice turnout for our BBQ. Thank you again to all the volunteers and especially to Judy Baker for organizing the event. The Benzie Dems had an awesome showing in the Beulah 4th of July parade! Great response from the crowd and we gave away 1000 sparkly blue pencils with our website advertised on them. Lots of people commented on how much they preferred the pencils, and while I saw piles of candy on the road I did not see one pencil go to waste! Thank you Dick Robb for the pencils, much better than candy and it gets more people saying our name and visiting our website! *If you are interested in being our pencil angel for future events, call me at 231-275-5871

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 started to have 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.

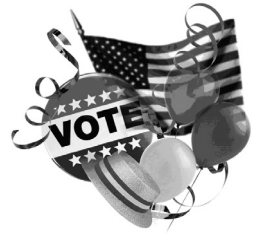
Feedback regarding our monthly meetings has been very positive, hopefully everyone still feels like we are making enough time to properly hear and address the issues of importance for the county and the party. I will continue to encourage committees to find time to address their business outside of monthly meetings. If you would like to be on the agenda for our 9/17/11 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. Hope to see you all at the Honoree Dinner Friday September 30.

Jill Kimball, Benzie Dems Chair

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 Benzie County party and many of you returned them. As of July, this effort has raised \$1,844 from people who want to support our local effort to retain Democratic office holders and elect more. The membership form is also available on line at our website: www.benziedemocrats.com, or you can contact me at mcarrollvolpe@gmail.com or at 231-709-6053 Completed forms should be returned to the party mailing address: P.O. Box 403, Beulah, MI 49617.

In the spring *Kicker* we also enclosed an 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 candidates for Congress, and the Michigan House of Representatives and Supreme Court. It's very important that we support the state party in this effort if we expect to win in 2012. Please join today (you can join on line or obtain a form from me) We currently have 90 state party memberships. If you don't remember if your membership is current, please contact me and I will look it up for you. Also note that a portion of your state dues is returned to our Benzie County organization.

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; [rivrcat570@charter.net](mailto:rivrca570@charter.net).

Fund-raising: Judy Baker, 231-275-0363; cell: 231-313-7087; judealou@hotmail.com.

Campaign & Candidate Recruitment: Mike Ross, 231-882-5913; 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

Membership: Carroll Volpe, 231-709-6053; mcarrollvolpe@gmail.com

Rules & Bylaws: Mary Robling, 231-882-9750, marylottie@gmail.com and Carroll Volpe.

Work in your own precinct! In most cases, your precinct coincides with your township. 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).

Help Michigan save 10 million!



Ten million dollars is the approximate cost to the state to hold a presidential primary elections. By holding party caucuses instead, we can still have fair and efficient elections, by at the expense of the individual parties, rather than the taxpayers. Saving \$10 million could save hundreds of jobs, if the state government was encouraged to do so.

What can you do? Contact your Michigan elected representatives (Republicans at the moment) and the state Republican Party and ask them to cancel the presidential primary. Both Parties canceled the 2004 primary to save the state money. It was the right thing to do then, and it's the right thing to do now. We must get the word out. Our representatives should also be asked to redirect the money in a way that saves jobs.

It's time to put jobs and fiscal responsibility ahead of partisan politics. Call the Michigan Republican Party at 517-487-5413 with your request. Also note that this would be a great topic to bring to the attention of your local newspapers through letters to the editor!

Recall of Public Act 4

An effort is underway to repeal the emergency managers bill, which was passed last spring year by the Republican majority. The Referendum to recall Public Act 4 is a nonpartisan one and is not sponsored by the Michigan Democratic Party nor the Benzie County Dems. However, many Democrats do feel very strongly about this threat to democracy and have been collecting signatures and encouraging voters to get educated! Note that opponents of the recall are making robo-calls warning people that it's dangerous to sign the petition. That's incorrect!

The new law increased the powers of state-appointed emergency managers who are assigned to manage local governments or school districts experiencing severe financial problems. They can dissolve local governments and school boards, while receiving high pay that the localities actually have to fund. Under the law, until the financial emergency has been resolved, the law transfers all powers from local elected or appointed officials to the emergency manager, who has the ultimate authority to void all contracts with employees, sell assets or to actually dissolve the local government or school district if the governor approves.

Gongwer Poll: voters would reject PA 4

If opponents of the financial emergency managers bill gather enough signatures to put it up for referendum, voters would reject the law, according to a Gongwer News Service poll.

Just 34 percent of those likely to vote in November 2012, when a referendum would occur, said they would vote to keep the law while 53 percent would vote to reject it, according to the poll, commissioned by Gongwer and conducted by Lansing-based EPIC/MRA.

Visit us on the Internet at www.benziedemocrats.com

Senator Levin in Honor

On the morning of August 12, Senator Levin and staff from Senator Stabenow's office were at Maley Park in Honor to present a \$25,000 check from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Development, for the village and the Honor Area Restoration Project.

"Honor is setting an example for other communities to follow," Levin said. "As a community, it has come to grips with the challenges and opportunities and is rallying around a plan for action that, over time, will bring resources and prosperity to the area".

The restoration project is a nonpartisan, completely volunteer organization formed by local residents to: preserve local history, protect local resources, encourage informed growth and development, and promote fiscal, recreational, and educational initiatives that benefit citizens of all ages.

The grant will be applied to the expense of a new sidewalk that will connect Honor's central downtown area with the Honor Shopping Plaza on US-31, and a similar path on the north side.

Engage Michigan:

Values, Vision, Victory

The Michigan Democratic Party is convening a Statewide Fall Issues Convention called "Engage Michigan: Values, Vision, Victory." Mark your calendars now for this event. The conversation will begin on Saturday, November 12, 2011 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the Lansing Center in Lansing, Michigan.

A multi-county (GT, Leelanau, & Benzie) Pre-planning meeting with the V-V-V team is planned for Sun. Oct. 9. The goal is to give an opportunity to collaborate with the MDP and the Engage Michigan team about solutions that reflect the values that bring us together as Democrats. We want to convene and share new ideas for solutions to the problems that plague our state and discuss ways in which we can work together to Engage Michigan in fighting for our future. Perhaps we can plan some carpools? Please join us for this planning meeting on 10/9/2011, 1p.m. at the MEA Office, 1745 Barlow St. in Traverse City.

Jocelyn Benson, convention chair, sends the following invitation: Friends, why are you a Democrat?

What reforms do you envision for Michigan to create jobs, improve education, fight corruption, and protect our pocketbooks?

What can we do together to reach out to families, friends, and neighbors and engage them in our battle for a better tomorrow?

We have gathered a group of concerned community leaders from every corner of Michigan and we would like to hear your ideas, discuss your answers, and together develop positive solutions.

See you this fall!

Jocelyn Benson

Chair, Engage Michigan: Values Vision, Victory
(www.engagemichigan.com)



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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:
Sept. 17
Oct. 15
Nov. 19

2011 holiday celebration to benefit baby pantry



Our winter holiday party will be Friday, December 2, 6 p.m. at the Grow Benzie facility on highway 115 between Benzonia and Frankfort. Good food, socializing, and music will be the order of the day. The event is a potluck with some meat provided by the Benzie Dems. Bring a dish to pass. You're also welcome to bring your own beverage, alcoholic or nonalcoholic. After dinner, Mike Ross and band will provide the music.

Under the tree we'll once again collect gifts for the Benzie Baby Pantry, which serves families with infants and young children in Benzie and northern Manistee counties. Items provided range from diapers and baby food to clothing and baby cribs. The pantry most often is required to purchase and especially needs: formula, **diapers**, shampoo, lotion, baby wash and wipes. Clothing is most often needed for older toddlers and up to age 5. If you don't want to shop, but want to contribute, you can make a donation by cash or check at the holiday party. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Benzie Dems Officers
Chairperson: Jill Kimball, 231-275-5871
benziedemocrats@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Mike Ross, 231-882-5913,
mike.ross0919@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Lori Cota, 231-944-3594
kidsrus.cota@gmail.com
Vice Chair: David Green, 231-325-2484
rivrcat570@charter.net
Vice Chair: Judy Baker, 231-275-0363
judealou@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Jim Campbell, 231-352-9472
verandahblu@yahoo.com
Secretary: Doreen Fitzgerald, 231-352-7876
dodie.fitz@gmail.com

DATES TO RESERVE

Sept. 22: Engage Michigan in T.C.
Sept. 30: Honoree Dinner
Oct. 1: Precinct Development Training
Nov. 12: Engage Michigan
Dec. 2: Holiday celebration

The Benzie Kicker is published by and paid for by the Benzie County Democratic Committee and is not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee. Editor: Doreen Fitzgerald (231-352-7876).