



# The Benzie Kicker

Newsletter of the Benzie County Democratic Party

Vol. 20, No. 2, Summer 2016

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



## Join us at the Centennial Lily Farm to support candidate Dan Scripps

Fund-raising reception, **Sunday, July 17**, 3-5 p.m. Refreshments provided, donation for Dan requested.

Come out to hear Dan Scripps, our Democratic candidate for the State House of Representatives, District 101 (representing the people of Benzie, Leelanau, Manistee, and Mason counties).

Dan now lives in Northport with his wife, Jamie, and their two sons, Jack and Nicol. He has a B.A. from Alma College, and he graduated with honors from the University of Michigan Law School. However, between college and law school, Dan worked on a number of political campaigns, including working in the national headquarters of Bill Bradley's campaign for president, helped to elect a member of the first Scottish Parliament since 1707, and worked for State Board of Education President John Austin.

Dan grew up in a family that instilled in him the importance of public service. As a high school student, he worked with his church to set up a community café that offered groceries and a weekly meal to low-income members of the community. Today, that same commitment to serving others still defines Dan, calling him to public service.

Dan previously represented the 101st District during some of the toughest times in Michigan history. As our State Representative, Dan chaired the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, using his position to help local families facing foreclosure to keep their homes. He also led efforts to promote advanced energy, spur job creation, protect the Great Lakes, and to reform Michigan's election laws to empower ordinary citizens, not the special



interests. Faced with a challenging budget environment, Dan was a strong and consistent supporter of local schools, opposing every single cut to education funding while championing common sense reforms.

Dan also had an active local presence, talking with residents at monthly coffee hours in each of the four counties in the 101st District, hosting dozens of district events, and helping hundreds of constituents with issues ranging from unemployment insurance and job training to dealing with state agencies.

Following his time in the State House, Dan worked as an energy attorney with Latham & Watkins LLP, a leading global law firm, where he helped to develop and implement the nation's first Green Bank and advised on three of Project Finance magazine's "Deals of the Year." Dan previously worked with the Leelanau Conservancy to create their FarmAbility

program, which helps local farmers and growers to preserve their land for future generations—a project that the Michigan Farm Bureau called “one of the most innovative privately funded farmland-preservation programs in the country.” Dan is currently leading the development of the Grand Rapids 2030 District, a groundbreaking high-performance building district in downtown Grand Rapids that is focused on reducing energy and water use, as well as transportation emissions, to encourage a more vibrant downtown through more efficient, more comfortable and more profitable buildings.

An attorney by background, Dan currently works with the Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council to foster a more

business-friendly environment for the advanced energy industry in Michigan, as well as leading community-based energy projects with the Institute for Energy Innovation.

A nationally recognized leader on energy finance, Dan has testified before Congress and numerous state legislative energy and budget committees on strategies to increase the availability of private sector funding for renewable energy, energy efficiency, advanced transportation, and smart-grid projects.

You’ll see Dan going door to door in Benzie County throughout the summer; watch for posts on the campaign Facebook page about ways that you can get involved and help out the campaign!

### **Community walks for Dan Scripps**

Walks scheduled for June that remain.

Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2016  
Meet: Storm Cloud Brewery on Main Street  
Time: 4-6  
Place: Frankfort

Date: Sunday, June 26 , 2016  
Meet: Crescent Bakery on Main St.  
Time: 2-5  
Place: Frankfort

Date: Thursday, June 23 , 2016  
Meet: Gino’s Grill, Thompsonville  
Time: 4-6  
Place: South Benzie County

Date: Tuesday, June 28 , 2016  
Meet: Lake Ann Brewing Company  
Time:4-6  
Place: Lake Ann

---

---

## ***Can you step up?***

### **Thompsonville Summer Fest Monday June 20**

It is our tradition to help out with this community event (Thompsonville Village Park, downtown Thompsonville) by helping organizers set up (begin at 2 p.m.) and put away (start at 8 p.m.) tables, chairs, and other items. Any of you who are able, please contact Mike Ross and let him know you can help out. Thanks. .

Mike Ross: (231) 651- 0604 [mike.ross0919@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ross0919@gmail.com)

# Please join or renew now

Have you made a contribution for your Benzie Dems membership in this important election year? People are working hard to get organized for our election efforts, but we also need your membership contribution to meet our goals. Note that we can no longer receive donations through the ActBlue website due to an unfortunate ruling at the state government level. So please print out, fill out and mail in the membership form below. Note that we are having fewer fund-raising events, and need to make up the difference with memberships.

---

## Benzie County Democratic Party Membership Application: 2016

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

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

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

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

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

Employer Add: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Electronic updates and newsletters are sent to members with valid e-mail addresses. If you unable to receive Emails, please check here \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are valid for the calendar year in which they were paid. If you are joining as a couple, please fill out the following information for your spouse: (circle one): Miss / Ms. / Mrs. / Mr. / Dr.

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

Home Add: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Employer Add: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Donation enclosed (check one): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Silver (\$5 to \$24) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Gold (\$25 to \$49) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Platinum (\$50 and above) 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. Thanks for participating!

# New officers serving through 2016

Because of the resignations last fall of chair Marcia Stobie and secretary Delores Berta, we have done some reorganizing. Stobie resigned due to her husband Tom's campaign for state representative; Berta resigned for personal reasons. To serve until new officers are found, the executive board in January elected former chair Ray Nichols as first vice-chair to carry out the chair's duties. Ray has been busy planning and organizing what we need to accomplish during this campaign year. Former chair Jill Kimball was later elected to serve as secretary through December.

If you are interested in serving as chair or secretary starting in January 2017, or want to suggest someone who might serve, contact either Ray Nichols or Mike Ross (contact information below).

## **Benzie Dems Officers**

Chair: First Vice Chair, Ray Nichols: (231) 383-1305, raynick@charter.net

Vice Chair, Mike Ross: (231) 651- 0604, mike.ross0919@gmail.com

Treas., Bruce Ogilvie: (231)352-6263, glengerrick@gmail.com

Secretary: Jill Kimball: (231) 632-5871, sunnyjill@hotmail.com

---

## From Ray Nichols, Benzie Dems chairperson

After the close of the 2014 general election campaign, I held two meetings inviting anyone who wish to attend to give feedback on the campaign and what should be the focus for the 2016 General Election Campaign. One thing stood out in the feedback sessions: we need to concentrate on electing local Democratic officials.

We have placed a strong emphasis on electing local candidates this campaign year. We have three individuals running for County Commissioner seats, Coury Carland Benzonia Township, Tim Harry Bannister Crystal Lake Township and Frankfort City and Donald Smeltzer Gilmore, Blaine, Joyfield and Weldon townships. We have two township supervisor candidates: incumbent Amy Ferris in Crystal Lake Township and Jason Barnard in Benzonia Township. Both are running unopposed by Republican candidates.

Others who face no Republican opponents are Carland and Barnard in Benzonia Township, Ferris in Crystal Lake Township, Mandy Gray Rineer who is running for Almira Township Treasurer, Shannon Spencely, running for Gilmore Township Clerk, and Ed Hoogterp, running for Benzie County Drain Commissioner.

Two Democrats are running in the primary for a position on the county road commission: Terry Money and Charlie Brozofsky.

We are very excited that we have more Democrats running for political office this year. We hope that the increase number of candidates will prompt you become more active during this election cycle by stepping forward to knock on doors , make phone calls and on November 8th VOTE.



# Let's elect three county commissioners

This fall we have the opportunity to elect three Benzie County Commissioners. Please do every thing you can to support their campaigns and urge your friends to do so as well.

## **Tim Bannister**

District 3

City of Frankfort &  
Crystal Lake Township

## **Coury Carland**

District 4

Benzonia

## **Don Smeltzer**

District 7

Blaine, Gilmore, Joyfield  
& Weldon townships

## August 2 Primary Election

To vote in the primary, the last day to register is July 5. An absentee ballot request must be filed by July 20, 2 p.m.

There are two Democrats running in the August primary to determine who will be the Democratic candidate for Congress in Michigan's first congressional district, and with your help, our next congressman. They are Jerry Cannon and Lon Johnson. The Republican incumbent Dan Benishek is retiring. Our local party remains neutral in these primary races, but it is important that you show up August 2 and vote for the candidate you prefer.

Jerry Cannon is a retired Army Major General and the former Sheriff of Kalkaska County, Michigan, a post he held from 1987 until 2004. He served in the Vietnam War as a Marine, and in 1977 enlisted in the Michigan Army National Guard. He served his first long-term deployment abroad in Cuba in 2003 as the commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo and was promoted to Major General in 2006, after which he served three deployments in Iraq during the Iraq War. After his third deployment in Iraq, Cannon was placed in the Army Retired Reserves, effectively signaling his military retirement. He earned a B.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Detroit Mercy in 1976 and also holds a master's degree in public administration from Central Michigan University, and a master's in strategic studies from the US Army War College.

Lonnie Barton "Lon" Johnson is the former chairperson of the Michigan Democratic Party after defeating the previous chair, Mark Brewer, in 2013. He was an unsuccessful candidate in the 2012 election for the 103rd district in the Michigan House of Representatives. In July, 2015, he stepped down as party chair to run for Congress. Johnson has worked for the Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and Congressman John Dingell's 2002 campaign, as well as the nonprofit National Democratic Institute. He was formerly vice president of a private equity firm in Tennessee, TVV Capital, a private fund that invests in small and midsize manufacturers and other companies, chiefly in the Southeast.

Two Democrats are running in the primary for Road Commissioner.

On August 2 we also select Precinct Delegates, who elect our executive board and organize in their precincts. We are allocated more delegates than we have candidates. So if you're interested in working at the most local, grass roots level, consider running as a write-in candidate. Check with the county clerk for the procedure.



# Parade with us!



We have new parade banners designed by Chelsea Tanner. We need people to carry them and our signs, and if you can't carry, ride or walk along. To participate, contact Susan Koenig, 231-510-5861. Email: koenig.esl@gmail.com

Frankfort 4th of July Parade:

Starts at 10 a.m., line up at 9, Frankfort-Elberta Chamber of Commerce, Main Street.

Beulah 4th of July Parade:

Starts at 1:30 p.m., line up at 12:30 behind the Benzie County Government Center.

Honor Coho Festival Parade, Saturday, August 20:

Starts at 2 p.m., line up at 1.

---

---

## Two Events support our 2016 effort

### *The Big Push*

**Sunday, August 28** 4–7 p.m.

Where: Bayview Grille, 727 Main St. Frankfort

You can expect Dan Scripps and the candidate for the 1st Congressional District to be there. We will have a cash bar and will serve light hors d'oeuvres. The proceeds go directly to The Benzie Democratic party to help with our expenses during this election year. Can we count on you to be there?

### *Meet & Greet Local candidates!*

**Sunday, September 11** 4–7 p.m.

Where: Bayview Grille, 727 Main St. Frankfort

We will have a cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres. This is a chance to support your local candidates including the ones running for county commissioner. Contributions will go directly to the candidates. Hope we can count on you.

To contribute at either event, bring your check book, because cash is discouraged due to reporting issues.

## Calendar

- Jun. 18: Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. HDQ
  - July 4: Frankfort Parade, 10 a.m. (Line up at 9, Frankfort-Elberta Chamber of Commerce)
  - July 4: Beulah Parade, 1:30 p.m. (Line up 12:30 behind County Govt. Center)
  - July 5: Last day to register for primary
  - July 16: No Regular Meeting in July
  - July 17: Lily Farm Reception, 3 p.m.
  - July 20: Primary absentee ballot req. due
  - Aug. 2: Primary election
  - Aug. 20: Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. HDQ
  - Aug. 20: Coho Festival Parade 2 p.m. in Honor, line up at 1.
  - Aug. 28: The Big Push event, 4-7 p.m. Bayview Grille, Frankfort
  - Sept. 11: Meet & Greet Local Candidates 4-7 p.m. Bayview Grille, Frankfort
  - Sept. 17: Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. HDQ
  - Oct. General election regis. deadline
  - Oct. 15: Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. HDQ
  - Nov. 8: General Election
  - Nov. 19: Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. HDQ
  - Dec. Holiday Party, TBD
  - No regular meeting in December.
- Regular meetings begin at 10 a.m. on the 3rd Saturday of the month at our headquarters on U.S. 31 in Honor unless otherwise announced. No meetings in July and December.

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

## What's your opinion?

We need volunteers to submit Letters-to-the-Editor to local newspapers. Submit letters independently, or contact Mike Ross at (231) 651-0604 or at [mike.ross0919@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ross0919@gmail.com) for more information.

## HDQ update

Thanks to Dick Robb and the volunteers working with him, our headquarters has been staffed on a regular basis, and the hours will expand on July 1 through the November election.

### **Benzie Dems Headquarters Hours July 1 through the Nov. 8**

Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thursday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday, 9 a.m. - noon

Phone: 231-227-1112

Street Address: 9330 Honor Hwy. (US-31); office is east of the Cherry Bowl Drive-in.

Our website is [benziedemocrats.com](http://benziedemocrats.com)

Email: [benziedemocrats@outlook.com](mailto:benziedemocrats@outlook.com)

Mailing address: P.O. Box 403, Beulah, MI 49617.

**TO VOLUNTEER IN ANY CAPACITY,  
CALL THE OFFICE DURING THE ABOVE  
HOURS, OR CONTACT ONE OF OUR  
OFFICERS.**

*You Rock!*

Thanks to all who attended our showing the documentary film "American Revolutionary". This successful fund-raising event was at the Garden Theater in Frankfort on May 18. Thanks to our fund-raising committee for organizing the event and to all who provided refreshments.