

101st District Committee

MINUTES

May 12, 2021
1:00 PM

ZOOM Meeting
Host Manistee, Michigan

1. Call to Order
Chairman, Jim Dulzo called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.
2. Introductions
Members in attendance introduced themselves, Jaime Brants, Project 83 Coordinator, MDP, Ed Miller, Past Chair, Mason County, Lee Trucks, Communications Chair, Manistee County, Jim Dulzo, Committee Chair, and Chair, Benzie County, Fred Cepela, Leelanau County, Barbara Conley, Chair, Leelanau County, Dennis Bushey, Vice Chair, Leelanau County, and Peggy Raddatz, Manistee County and Committee Secretary. Beth McGill-Rizer is taking a leave of absence due to personal reasons and will be away for a few weeks.
3. Jaime Brants, Michigan Democratic Party, Project 83, Northern Michigan Political Organizer
Jaime Brants, gave us an update on the Legacy Dinner to take place tomorrow. She sent a notice to the chairs of the parties regarding redistricting and the upcoming hearing to be held in Gaylord. Jaime encouraged continued calls to Senators about voting rights. She said to contact Erica Peresman to hone testimony to give before senate hearings. Also, Jaime noted the numerous webinars the MDP is offering.
4. Should we give serious consideration to recruiting a candidate to run for the 101st?
Yes, we should. We should be recruiting now, and for all areas. Even with redistricting, our best bet would be to encourage someone from Benzie or Manistee Counties. Else, recruit someone who is flexible knowing the district boundaries might change after redistricting. Should we run a newspaper ad asking for candidates? The overall response was no. Maybe on social media. Fred Cepela reported Leelanau ran an ad for training on how to run for office which kind of backfired; it scared everyone away. Jaime ran a list of strong democrats with a high propensity to volunteer for us all to review.

5. Jim Dulzo – Update on 101st Marketing Project

Jim Dulzo reported that some of our daycare Moms were hinky about being in a democratic video. We got a determination from Mark Brewer that the video could be paid for by our Northern Michigan Values PAC. But somehow put in the video, Democrats could fix this. Jim had talked to Chris the videographer, and discovered no daycare Mom has been found. He discussed the alternate underwriter, a Benzie daycare provider who had to close her doors after 30 years of business due to regulations and financial concerns for herself and her customers, while Chris was cold-calling daycares in Benzie and Manistee Counties. Jim would contact Chris after the meeting, have him follow up with his cold calls, then if not successful, pursue Plan B which is to talk to the Benzie daycare provider that closed her doors. By the time the Marketing Committee meets in two weeks, an action plan should be in place.

6. County Reports

a. Manistee County

Manistee County is being more visible by every month assisting a food pantry and the Feed America Foundation in distributing food. 20 volunteers are wearing Blue Tigers hats and shirts to identify themselves as Democrats. We partnered with the Friendship Society on Earth Day and cleaned up the Riverwalk. Our speaker on May 20th is a Union Leader who was Bernie Sanders State Campaign Director. We will be having our first face to face meeting on June 17 in Arcadia; our Annual Strawberry Social.

b. Benzie County

Benzie County has their Precinct Delegates attending their Township Meetings and County Meetings taking Minutes and sending to respective residents. Dana Nessel will be their speaker this Saturday. July will be their first face to face meeting at a member's farm where they will enjoy breakfast. They have an ad in the paper inviting people to attend their meetings. Their LTEs are working themselves out with one per week.

c. Leelanau County

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners reinstated an opening prayer. Their Civics 101 was very well attended. They also partnered with the local Indivisible Group to sponsor a Climate Change Program. They will have their first face to face meeting at a June picnic. The speaker this month is Lt. Governor Garland Gilchrist. Spread the word so there is a big turnout. They also have purchased a media buy from their newspaper for 24 weeks of small ads stating *why you might be a democrat*.

In addition, they have booked three billboards for coming year. They have also had LTEs to the Enterprise and the Record Eagle.

d. Mason County

Mason County is presenting their \$750 Senior Essay award. They have LTEs on voter suppression and on voter rights. They will be having their first face to face meeting in June or July.

7. Discussion for the Good of the Cause

Discussion followed on raising funds for a non-existent candidate. We could raise funds and donate them to the NW Michigan Values PAC. Suggestions were thrown around, such as the Lily Farm in late July or August. A Zoom Fundraiser in November. County Parties holding their own fundraisers.

8. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday – June 9th @ 1:00 PM

Next Messaging Project Meeting: Wednesday – May 26th @ 1:00 PM

9. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Raddatz, Secretary