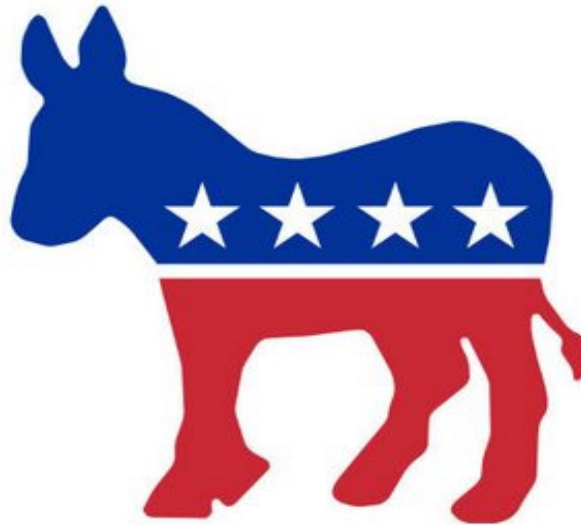


**NEWAYGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2009**

Produced and edited by
Sarah Miller, Secretary



Newaygo County Democratic Party

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On the web at newaygodems.com!

Upcoming Events

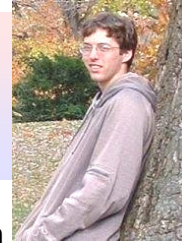
General Meeting: 7:00pm, March 11th
White Cloud Eagles, 461 N. Evergreen Dr. (M-37)

District Committee Meeting, 2:00pm, March 8th,
Ramada Inn, Ludington, MI

Paid for by the Newaygo County Democratic Party Executive Committee
P.O. Box 146, Newaygo, MI 49337
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My Experience at the Michigan State Convention

written by Jason Felton, Newaygo County Democratic Chair



Democrats from across the state descended on Detroit on Sunday, February 21st for the Democratic State Convention. Dallas Dean, Gary Timmer and I represented Newaygo County at the gathering in Cobo Hall.

My day started at 6:00am when I woke up at my friend's house in Ann Arbor and prepared to leave (Dallas started before 4:00am in Grant!).

I met Dallas after registering and we attended the party rules training. This meeting was very informative as to the structure of the party in Michigan. I was also able to meet with some other new county chairs, Rosemary Anger of Barry County and John Strachan of Eaton County.

After the rules training I wandered over to the Justice Caucus. There they elected new officers for their caucus and celebrated the victory of newly elected State Supreme Court Judge Diane Hathaway. We also received visits from potential gubernatorial candidates Alma Wheeler Smith and John Freeman.

About an hour into the Justice Caucus I decided to sneak out and see how the Progressive Caucus was coming along. This was their first meeting and it was little more raucous than the other meetings I attended that day. While there we listened to a fantastic speech by potential Secretary of State candidate Jocelyn Benson on early voting and no-reason absentee voting. She is a very dynamic speaker and I look forward to learning more about her in the coming months.

At 1:00pm the 2nd Congressional District Caucus met to elect new officers. Dallas was elected permanent chair for the purpose of the Convention and brought the meeting to order. We finished the business of the Caucus quickly by approving the slate of new officers that the nominating committee had presented. Newaygo County will be well-represented with six members on the District Executive Committee and two on State Central.

Finally at 3:00pm the official business of the Convention started. State Senator Buzz Thomas was elected chair of the Convention and began with a tribute to John Dingell, who recently became the longest serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

After the tribute we proceeded to the official business of the Convention, the election of the leadership for the Michigan Democratic Party. Mark Brewer ran for Chairperson again and was elected unanimously. After this we listened to more speeches from Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Detroit Mayor Ken Cockrel and Lt. Gov. John Cherry, among many others.

Finally the Convention was adjourned. I recommend that everyone attend a Convention at least once! I had a great time and I was glad to meet the candidates that we'll be hearing from (and hopefully seeing in Newaygo County!) in the future.

You can find a fuller account of my experience at the Convention on *newaygodems.com*.



*Dallas Dean, 2nd District
Convention Chair*

Unions Make a Difference

Unions are an essential part of a strong democracy and play a crucial role in America's public and community life. Not only do they give workers a voice on the job and help negotiate fair benefits and wages for their members, but they also use their political and economic resources to raise the floor for everyone who works for a living.

Unions, by fighting for higher standards for workers, businesses, families, the environment, and public health and safety, have helped to build the middle class and make sure the economy works for everyone.

Unions:

1. **Reinforce the middle class and lift up American's communities.** States with higher rates of unionization have lower rates of poverty, crime, and failing schools.
2. **Raise wages for all workers.** Studies show that a large union presence in an industry or region can raise wages even for non-union workers. Union members earn 30% more than non-union workers.
3. **Fight for health insurance and pensions.** Nearly 80% of unionized workers receive employer-provided health insurance, compared with 49% of non-union workers. Union members are also more likely to have pensions, short-term disability and life insurance coverage.
4. **Make workplaces safer.** Unions work to reduce injuries and deaths at work.
5. **Advocate for increases in the minimum wage and push for living wage ordinances.** Unions have been instrumental in efforts to increase the federal minimum wage, state minimum wages and in the successful living wage movement which has already resulted in over 150 local living wage laws nationwide.
6. **Make a difference for the environment.** Unions partner with environmental groups, hold corporations accountable for pollution, fight for better environmental laws and regulations, and alert the public to environmental hazards.
7. **Improve health care.** Unions can lead the fight for quality affordable health care for all, work to improve patient care and seek adequate hospital staffing.
8. **Fight for equality.** Unions helped pass key legislation on voting, civil, women's and disability rights and support equal rights for LGBT people. Unions boost minority and women's earning power.



Text and information from American Rights at Work,
www.americanrightswork.org
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CHK NO: _____
DATE: _____
AMOUNT: _____

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: _____



NEWAYGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



TITLE: _____ NAME: _____

TITLE: _____ NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

POST OFFICE BOX: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ - _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____ HOME FAX: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ Add me to mailing list

INDICATE **CITY OR TOWNSHIP** WHERE **REGISTERED TO VOTE**: _____

OPTIONAL (OCCUPATION INFORMATION REQUIRED ONLY FOR MEMBERS CONTRIBUTING \$200 OR MORE IN ONE CALENDAR YEAR)

OCCUPATION: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ - _____

WORK TELEPHONE: _____ WORK FAX: _____

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION

MAIL ALL INFORMATION TO MY: HOME _____ BUSINESS _____

SINGLE \$8.00 **COUPLE \$10.00** **OTHER \$ _____**

I CAN NOT MAKE A CONTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME BUT WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER

PLEASE MAIL YOUR COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO:

**THE NEWAYGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
BOX 146
NEWAYGO, MICHIGAN 49337**

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENT BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER – PAYABLE TO NEWAYGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE WE RECEIVE YOUR APPLICATION

Your contribution may be used in connection with local, State and federal elections and is subject to the prohibitions and limitations of the Federal Election Campaign Act. Federal Law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. DONATIONS ARE NOT U.S. TAX DEDUCTIBLE



Michigan Blue Tiger Democrats™

SUPERIOR IMAGE (810) 239-9222

Blue Tiger Projects of Michigan Democratic Clubs, Caucuses, and Local Parties

- Assemble "I Care" kits with combs, toothbrushes, shampoo, etc. for homeless people
 - Adopt a family in need for the holidays
 - Participate in annual "Make a Senior Smile Day"
- Fund annually a College Scholarship program for High School Senior
- Host a forum on Estate Planning, Nursing Home Q and A, and Probate Court procedures
 - Provide office support for local non-profits
 - Mentor youngsters through local organizations
 - Provide volunteer services to local non-profit events
 - Participate in bi-annual Walk for Warmth
- Provide entertainment and serve purchased or prepared meals and for a special evening at a nursing home
 - Volunteer to staff a booth at a non-profit fair
- Contact a homeless shelter and help keep a program going ... or start one
 - Collect and deliver food and toiletries to shut-ins
 - Conduct a food drive
 - Host non-partisan educational programs
 - Provide office support for local non-profits
- Donate benches and or landscaping skills to the library or nature center
 - Volunteer for Adopt-A-Highway
 - Volunteer for Adopt-A-Park

Be the Change You Want in This World

Contact Nancy Bosak at nbosak@michigandems.com or 517-371-5410 xt.230.

Text and information from the Michigan Democratic Party,
michigandems.com/content/bluetiger
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