

Tuscola County Democratic Party Newsletter

February, 2023

Volume 2, Issue 2

Our Goals

- Ensure honest and transparent government.
- Restore and protect our environment.
- Support strong economic growth and opportunity.
- Strengthen voter access and turnout.
- Promote affordable education and health care for all.

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Notice of Our February Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party will be held on **Thursday, February 16th, 2023**. The meeting will be held at the Brentwood, 178 Park Drive, Caro, MI. Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

We hope you will join us.

Highlights of Our Second Strategic Planning Session

Our second strategic planning session was held at 12:30 p.m. on January 13th at the Brentwood. Sixteen members of the Tuscola, Sanilac, Huron, and Michigan Democratic Parties, along with two representatives from the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, were in attendance.

Here are some ideas that came up during the session:

It appears that we want to accomplish two things: (1) elect more Democrats to public office in 2024 and (2) promote Democratic values in the Thumb. To elect more Democrats to public office, we need to find out which offices are up for election, find attractive Democratic candidates, provide training and staffing for first-time candidates, and provide support and funding for the candidates. To promote Democratic values in the Thumb, we need to classify voters as strong or leaning Democrats, strong or leaning Republicans, non-voters, or persuadable voters. Then we need to identify issues that Thumb voters care about, formulate our message, and deliver our message by door knocking, wherever possible, and otherwise via local media outlets.

Our next strategic planning session will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 11th, 2022, at the Brentwood.

Highlights of Our January Meeting

Chair Deb Parker called the monthly meeting of the Tuscola County Democratic Party to order at 6:30 p.m. on January 19th. Fifteen members were in attendance. Vice-Chair Alex Kirsch gave us a rundown of current events. We discussed various strategies for promoting Democratic values in Tuscola County during the coming year. Chair Deb Parker announced the time, place, and agenda for the Spring Convention. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Highlights of Our Spring Convention

We held our Spring County Convention via Zoom on January 26th at 6:00 p.m. Six members were in attendance. We elected Bob DeCoe to be a male member of the Rules Committee of the Michigan Democratic Party and submitted the following resolution, suggested by Sharon Schwab, to the Resolutions Committee of the Michigan Democratic Party.

A resolution advocating for a program to recruit retired Seniors to volunteer as mentors in public schools.

WHEREAS some children avoid going to school for various reasons, such as bullying, feeling dumb, trouble at home, new surroundings, or school shootings.

WHEREAS retired Seniors who volunteer as mentors in public schools can offer understanding, support, and advice to these children. A mentor is a caring adult, a friend who listens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Michigan Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with the appropriate committee for action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan Democratic Party advocates for a program to recruit retired Seniors to volunteer as mentors to troubled children in public schools.

Debbie Stabenow

Senator Debbie Stabenow, who has been our senator for more than two decades, recently announced that she would not seek another term in 2024. Now Democrats must figure out how to hold on to her seat in 2024.

Fortunately, we have a long list of strong candidates — many of them in their 40s and 50s. For example, Rep. Elissa Slotkin, 46, was a star of the 2018 freshman congressional class. In 2022, Republicans targeted her district as a potential flip, but she won comfortably by more than five points. Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, 45, is another possible contender.

Then there's Dana Nessel, 53, who just won reelection as state attorney general. Like Benson, she has won twice statewide. We also have other potential candidates, such as Michigan Reps. Haley Stevens, 39, and Debbie Dingell, 69.

With a strong home state team of Democratic leaders, we should have no trouble choosing a centrist candidate with broad appeal. And with a president at the top of the ticket who has delivered for the state, we should be able to hold onto the Senate seat. But we cannot take it for granted.

Gary Peters

Senator Gary Peters knows tough campaigns. He beat an eight-term Republican incumbent in 2008 to win a House seat and then survived the Tea Party wave in 2010. Republicans targeted him for extinction in 2012, but he won again. In 2014, Peters won Michigan's open Senate seat in a year when Republicans picked up nine seats in the chamber, making him the only newly elected Democrat and the party's incoming class of one. In his 2020 re-election bid, he held off the Republican Party's top recruit and \$40 million in outside spending to win again.

Last year, as the chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Mr. Peters did not have a race of his own, but he applied some of the political lessons learned to forge a winning strategy for his party in multiple challenging campaigns featuring Democrats. He helped Democrats add to their majority in a cycle that would typically favor Republicans, bolstering their 50-50 majority to a more functional 51-49. "Gary Peters did an amazing, amazing job as head of the D.S.C.C.," said Senator Chuck Schumer.

At first, Peters turned down entreaties from Senator Schumer to do the job again, hoping to get a breather from the exhausting role, but later changed his mind and agreed to stay on as Chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee for the 2024 election.

Rally at Lisa McClain's Office

North Oakland Democratic Club will be holding a rally outside Lisa McClain's office in Lake Orion on March 4th from noon until 1:00 p.m. The theme of the rally is stalling by Republicans on solving the debt ceiling issue. Let's plan to be there.

Please Contribute

Tuscola Dems need your support. To contribute, you can write a check to Tuscola County Democratic Party and mail it to Box 605, Caro, MI 48723 or bring it to one of our meetings. You can also contribute by going to our website, tuscoladems.com, and clicking "Contribute."

Thank you!

John Chapin, 1933-2023

John Chapin was born on April 25, 1933, in Wilmot, Michigan. His family moved to a farm in Deford when he was six years old. John married Joan Green in 1955 and graduated from Taylor University in 1956. John and Joan moved to Deford in 1957 and John took a teaching position at Caro High School. He received a Master's degree in Counseling in 1962 and a Certificate in Social Work in 1968. He worked for the Tuscola County ISD for a few more years and then went to work in Saginaw Public Schools as a School Social Worker.



In 1986, John retired from his position as social worker at Saginaw Public Schools. He and Joan decided to dedicate the rest of their lives to promoting peace. Together they went to Vieques Island in Puerto Rico. The U.S. Navy had taken over half of the island and were using it as a live bombing training site. They had taken native people's farms and killed their livestock. One day, they dropped a live bomb on a guard shack, killing a security guard who was a native to the island and injuring four others. The people of Vieques Island had had enough. A few islanders from the local church broke into the bombing area, set up camp, and put out a call to all churches to come and help them stop the bombing. John and Joan went to Vieques Island twice and stayed a week each time. As a result of these protests, the U.S. Navy stopped using the island as a practice bombing site and cleaned up the area. The island has gone back to the people who live there.

John and Joan also participated in a number of protest marches in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere and continued to have a major impact on people's lives. They have helped young people earn their college degrees. They have helped people move from institutional life to living independently. They have helped people buy homes and found others a warm safe place to live.

Joan died in 2019, and John became an active member of the Tuscola County Democratic Party, where his daughter, Deb Parker, is now Chair. We remember his quick smile, droll humor, and total dedication to Democratic values. We will miss John Chapin.

Make
Tuscola County
a better place
to live.



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P.O. Box 605, Caro, MI 48723*

Elect Democrats