**Manistee County Democrats**

We had a great turnout for our monthly information meeting on Thursday January 16, 2024 at 7pm at the West Shore Community College building on River Street in downtown Manistee. We featured a viewing of the award-winning documentary “One Water for Life” that was produced by Dr. Ziggy Kozicky and Dr. Stephanie Baiyasi who were both in attendance to take questions from the audience. Ziggy and Stephanie are also key organizers for the Great Lakes Environmental Festival which will be held at the Manistee High School on Saturday April 20, 2024

We had over 28 engaged members attend the 2024 Strategic Planning session on Saturday January 20, 2024. The group evaluated the MCDP performance in 2023 and decided which will be the key components of our strategy in 2024. See below.

MCDP members also volunteered at the Feeding America Food truck like we do every month. We distribute an average of 15,000 lbs of food to over 350 food insecure families in Manistee County.

Our Candidate Recruitment and Support Committee held two information sessions in January to help potential candidates decide to run for down-ballot offices in Manistee County. Additional meetings like these will be held in February and March.

Our February 22, 2024 information meeting will feature Kelly Tomaszewski, President of Munson Manistee Hospital who will be leading a discussion on the future of rural healthcare.

Further information about the Manistee County Democratic Party can be found on our website using this link: <https://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us/>.

**Main Goals for 2024**

* **Recruit, Support, Train & Elect Down Ballot Candidates**
  + Recruit, support, train & elect 7 county commissioner candidates
  + Recruit, support, train & elect at least 2 candidates per township
  + Recruit, support, train & elect 1 candidate in all countywide races (sheriff, prosecutor, clerk etc)
* **Recruit & Engage Members**
  + Increase membership to 300 members by the end of 2024
  + Precinct delegate regular meetings
  + At least 2 Precinct delegates for each of the 16 precincts in county
    - (should be members of the county committee)
* **Increase/Improve Conversations**
  + Documenting events and attendance (numbers), topics covered.
  + Hosting events related to Democrat values (such as housing, environment, etc).
    - Could use membership meeting as a measure.
* **Increase Community Involvement**
  + Document the local boards/commissions are current members on
  + Identify board/commission openings and encourage members to join increase by 20%
* **Improve Messaging**
  + Focus on messaging that Manistee County Democrats are financially conservative (balanced budgets)
  + Highlight achievements made by Democratic majority in Lansing.
  + Provide training to be prepared to engage in discussions about what is or is not happening in Washington, DC.