Lapeer County Democratic Party Newsletter

March 2026 Volume 6, Number 56

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Interesting web pages

https://www.secure.actblue.com
You can make political contributions to LCDP

https://www.michigandems.com
Home to Michigan Democratic Party

Contact Us

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Vice Chair: (vacant)
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www.lapeercountydemocrats.com (web page)
http://www.facebook.com/lapeerdems

Lapeer Dems meet the fourth Thursday of the month at 6pm (potluck then meeting) in the Lincoln Room at the Center Building, Lapeer.

Lapeer Democratic Party News:

Monthly Meetings:

March County Committee meeting is 3/12/26 at 6:30pm. The meeting is held at our office in Lyric Mall, Lapeer. Open to members.

The March General meeting is 3/26/26. Meetings start with a potluck at 6pm, meeting at 6:30 pm in the Lincoln Room, Lapeer Center Building. **Our quarterly charity is the Lapeer Center Building – checks and cash accepted.**

Upcoming Social and Fundraising Events for Lapeer County Democratic Party

Social/Community Events (Mark your calendar):

May 7th, Pizza and Trivia at Twisted Axis in Lapeer.

July 25th Democratic Picnic at Monson Home. Details TBA.

Fundraising Events (Mark your calendar):

April 25, 2026 – Four Comedians including Dustin Cole. Adult comedy program (18+) at the Elks in Lapeer, 6-9pm. Light refreshments and alcohol by donation.

September 19 Annual Dinner at the Elba Township Hall.

No Kings Protest Rally scheduled for March 28, 2026 in Lapeer. Watch your emails and Facebook for more info.

LCDP Pop Up Pantry in Lapeer!

February 28th Pop-up Pantry a Success

About 34 volunteers showed up to help about 150 households. We only had a small amount of food to share with other meal sites and food pantries at the end of the event. Weather was cold but sunny. A big thank you to all the volunteers. No further food pantries are planned at this time. If you decide to work at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, still tell them you are a Lapeer Dem. Many thanks to our certified sponsor LICA and FBEM. What a great day helping families!!

Are you a Member of the MDP?

The Democratic Electors of the State of Michigan are hereby notified that by the direction of the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, the **2026 State Endorsement Convention of the Michigan Democratic Party** will be held in Detroit at Huntington Place on **Sunday, April 19, 2026.**

The purposes of the MDP's 2026 Endorsement Convention shall be to endorse Democratic candidates to the November General Election in the following contests: Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Supreme Court, State Board of Education, Michigan State University Board of Trustees, Wayne State University Board of Governors, and University of Michigan Board of Regents. **All members of the Michigan Democratic Party are encouraged to attend the 2026 State Endorsement Convention. Be sure your membership is up to date.**

** Lapeer Dems Pizza Trivia Night **

May 7, 2026 from 6:30-8:30pm at Twisted Axis, Lapeer (Upper room). $12 for members and $15 for non-members (includes pizza appetizer and non-alcoholic drink.) Join the fun – winners get $10 gift cards.

Dems Pancake Breakfast a Success!

By Laura Mikus

Our 1st Dems Pancake Breakfast was a big success. We had 51 people eat breakfast with us (and 1 dog, take out for him!) This delicious event was held Sat. Jan. 31st from 8-11 at the Lapeer Center Building.

This was not your everyday Pancake Breakfast. We offered people 3 different choices (1) 3 pancakes, 2 sausages, scrambled eggs, (2) homemade sausage gravy and biscuits, scrambled eggs, and (3) pancakes and scrambled eggs. (and orange juice or coffee) with every choice. We charged $10.00 per choice--what a deal!

The Fundraising Committee wondered how this event would work as a Fundraiser for the Dems. Well, we made a PROFIT!!! There will definitely be more Pancake Breakfasts in the future!

Thanks to everyone who came out to support us. The food was delicious, sitting and talking with friends was an added bonus. And a special BIG thank you to the members of the Fundraising Committee and everyone who volunteered to help!

Save the Date

Saturday April 25, 2026 from 6-9 pm

Comedy night Fundraiser for Lapeer County Democratic Party

Come and have some fun. Lapeer Elks Lodge
Advance tickets $25 at the door $30
Food can be purchased and alcohol by donation will be available.

Lapeer County Democratic Convention – Call to Convene

The Lapeer County Convention will convene in person **on March 28th 2026** at **9:00am** at the Democratic office in Lyric Mall, Lapeer. The purpose of this Convention shall be to elect three alternates to serve on the Convention committees and to consider resolutions to be forwarded to the State Party. You must be a MDP member to vote.

Lapeer Vigil for Alex Pretti and Renee Good

By Alex Deidrich

Thank you to everyone who turned out to honor the memories of American citizens who gave their lives. Seeing so many people come out in the cold for remembrance was truly inspiring. The pain of their loss, and the many others hurt in the Trump administration's quest for power, was lessened by all of us standing together. It is a lesson we must not forget.

A Good Man, A Good Woman

By Becky Fitts (Please only reprint with permission of author)

There was a good man
There was a good woman
One stood in honor of service
to those who have served
One stood in love, peace,
and harmony by word.

There was a good man
There was a good woman
A son, a mother, a nurse, a poet
Both stood in protection of others
Both stood against racism

There was a good man
There was a good woman
Gunned down in the streets
Gunned down for standing
For their neighbors, their community
Against the reign of terror against
the ice filled roads of Minneapolis

There was a good man
There was a good woman
Who both loved humanity
Who both wore hearts of gold
Killed for hope, killed for caring
for those marginalized, their neighbors
Their community.

There was a good man
There was a good woman
In protest of a regime of Nazi's

In protest against racism and Fascist bullies
In protest to take back their country
Protecting the freedoms of others.

There was a good man
There was a good woman

In memory of Alex Pretti and Renee Good and all the good men and good women who have had their lives taken by ICE (Originally read at the Lapeer Vigil.)

Book Banning Moves to the Schools

by Alex Deidrich

In the last few weeks, attempts to ban books in Lapeer County have moved into the school system. A few days before the last board meeting, an email was sent to the school asking to remove books. The list was printed from an extremist site against books with any "LGBTQ or progressive themes". The school administration initially removed all of the books, promising a review. At the board meeting, it was determined that a committee would be formed to evaluate the books, and the books under discussion would stay available during that process. During the school board meeting, many of the censorship supporting members of the library board were in attendance to support removing the books from the school library. It would seem the same effort to ban public library books to our community has expanded to the school. Intellectual freedom, the freedom to choose and explore ideas free of government influence, has been a core American principle for generations. The campaign by book banners to impose their own worldview on our community must be met be an equally vigorous campaign against overreach.

While these individuals control the library board, they do not yet control the school board. Four school board seats are up this year for election. Intellectual freedom for our students will be on the ballot as well this year. Run for one!

Bowling at Lapeer Bowling Alley a Crowd Pleasure

The Democrats had a great evening at Gerlaches Bowling Alley. Thank You Ray Pooley for showing up – candidate for the 9th Congressional seat. Thanks to Heid and Jim Waid for making the arrangements. What a fun way to socialize and advertise that the Dems are the best party in town!

Member Spotlight Dennis & Anita Harrand

By Becky Fitts

"Give to the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you."
~ Ellis Wheeler Wilcox

I know of no better way to describe this dynamic duo, then with these beautiful words written by Ellis Wheeler Wilcox.

Dennis and Anita Harrand have been members of the Lapeer Democrats since the late 1990's. Dennis a retired teacher and Anita a retired nurse practitioner have always believed in being community minded. Working with and for Unions, faith-based organizations and public social services, they extend their generosity and kindness into the world. Dennis by doing home repair and maintenance for Habitat for Humanity and continuing to be active in industrial arts education. Anita through teaching diabetic management, helping at the Imlay City Hispanic Center, volunteering at the Refuge and working at a local thrift shop. They are both always ready to bring their light of service to others into our community.

Within the LCDP both have held positions of leadership, Dennis has served as treasurer and member of County Committee and has run for State Representative and County Commissioner, he has also helped others in our community run for local offices. He now serves as a member of the by-laws committee. Anita has been the force behind this Newsletter and an editor of it for six plus years. Anita and Dennis both, take these roles seriously because they believe in this community and the community building that we as democrats do. They recognize their privilege and understand that they can use it not to dismantle society but to build it up by recognizing the beauty in diversity and celebrating it with the insight that we are all equal. Teaching us all, that; those who may have less, doesn't mean they are less, through the actions of their everyday lives.

Dennis and Anita are two valued members of the Lapeer Dems, and we celebrate them both as individuals and as a couple for their dedication and ability to not only believe in the Democratic party platform of equality, justice and diversity but by also living it.

Precinct Delegates – Building the Party and Winning Elections (Part 3)

(Information for this ongoing article is gathered from Precinct Delegate 101 (Karl Sime), Oakland County & Midland County Democratic Parties and www.michigan.gov – Precinct Delegates information).

By Anita Harrand

Precinct Delegate (PD) Suggested Activities:

1. Learn your Precinct, geography, elected leaders, ethnic populations, etc. Get out and talk to people.
2. Recruit others in your district to help with activities.
3. Talk to local elected officials (school/library board, township, city, etc. Get to know your district.
4. Hold community events (barbecues, coffee hours, have a table at the local library, etc.).
5. Attend training for Precinct Delegates to learn skills necessary to support all campaigns.
6. Learn and become familiar with tools such as minivan and Wave.
7. Create a social media page for your precinct to create local Democratic content. Use this to build teams in your precinct. (Precinct Delegate 101)

What tools are available to you:

1. Voter Activation network (VAN, minivan) manages voter databases, analytics, and outreach work. Based on qualified Voter File (QVF) from MI SOS and contains records for all registered voters, and updated monthly. MDP has VAN knowledge base and training at: https//michigandems.freshdesk.com/support/home.
2. WAVE Michigan – similar to VAN and minivan. More flexible for users.

More topics to follow: Suggested Responsibilities of PD; Digital tools to help the PD, and others.

Kindness Needed More Than Ever

"Kindly" isn't just an adverb. It's an imperative. An instruction for how to move through the world. In this moment, kindness feels both impossibly difficult and absolutely essential. We have to practice it deliberately, consistently, even when it costs us something.

Kindness isn't a personality trait or a nice gesture when time permits. It's a discipline. A daily choice. A legacy we build one email, one phone call, one appointment at a time. By Dr. Benabio (Medscape)

News about the newsletter

This newsletter is published monthly and is available by email to all members. **All members are encouraged to submit articles and information to the newsletter.** Submissions for the newsletter should be 800 words or less and need to be sent by email to the editors by the 18th of each month.

Send submission to: Anita Harrand at aharr76@hotmail.com or Alex Diedrich at apdiedrich@gmail.com