

Summer Meeting Report: Gretchen Whitmer Democratic Candidate for Governor Vows Support

On Tuesday, July 24, 2018 Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer enthusiastically affirmed her support for retirees at the Michigan Association of Retired Americans (MiARA) summer general membership meeting.

The meeting was held at the Michigan Education (MEA) Headquarters in East Lansing, with close to 60 MiARA activists in attendance.

MiARA President, Richard Long, welcomed the members with remarks about the upcoming August primary elections and provided information about the Butch Lewis Act.

Roll was called, and the following officers were present: Dick Long, Henry Lykes, Jay McMurrin, Charlie Robinson, Judy Foster, Bob Sisler and Jack Schneider. Warren Danford and Arthur Kroll were excused. Treasurer Charlie Robinson presented his report and Secretary Judy

Foster followed with the minutes from the previous meeting.

Following these important business items, President Long introduced the Keynote Speaker, Mark Gaffney, past president of the Michigan AFL-CIO and current member of the Wayne State University Board of Governors. He spoke about apprenticeship programs and addressed the high cost of college and the adverse effects of the large debts that students are faced with today.

MEA's political specialist, Jessica Lumbreras, brought the attendees up to date on current election information. Tim Greimel, candidate for the 11 District United States House of Representatives, spoke of his time as Minority Leader in the Michigan House. Tim indicated he is a strong supporter of unions and he will always be a strong voice for retirees.

The meeting concluded with an excellent meal which included pasta salad, a gourmet chicken salad, turkey and roast beef, fruit dishes, bread and cupcakes for dessert.



Gretchen Whitmer tells MiARA members, "After a lifetime of hard work, we must honor the promises made to our seniors so that they can retire in dignity in the state that they love."

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Primary Results are a Mixed Bag for MiARA Candidates

Six of the ten primary candidates endorsed by MiARA won their contests in the statewide primary election held on August 7, 2018. These candidates will move on to face their challengers in the November election.

Winning candidates endorsed by MiARA were:

- Gretchen Whitmer, Governor;
- Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State;
- Samuel Bagenstos, Michigan Supreme Court;
- Megan Kathleen Kelly Cavanagh, Michigan Supreme Court;
- Gretchen Driskell, 7th Congressional District;
- Andy Levin, 9th Congressional District.

It was a disappointing night for other MiARA Endorsed Candidates, however. Tim Greimel lost to Haley Stevens, in the 35th Congressional District. MiARA Endorsed Candidate Vincent Gregory lost to Kyra Harris Bolden and MiARA Endorsed Candidate for Oakland County Commissioner, David Bowman lost to Angelia Powell. Ellen Lipton and Andy Levin had received a dual endorsement in the 9th Congressional race, which was won by Levin.

Watch for future newsletters to get more information about MiARA endorsements in the November 6, 2018 Midterm General Election.

Quote of the Month:

“There’s a direct relationship between the bread box and the ballot box; what the union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls.” *-Walter Reuther*

MiARA Activist Spotlight MiARA Executive V.P. Henry Lykes

Henry Lykes leads a more active life than the average retiree. In addition to serving on the MiARA executive board as the executive vice president, Henry also serves as president of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Wayne County Retirees Sub-chapter 38. Henry is a political activist, and deeply involved in the Democratic Party.

Henry was raised on a farm in Alabama. While in high school, he was named captain of his football team. After high school, he attended Tuskegee Institute on a football scholarship. A Vietnam War veteran, Henry spent two years as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps before receiving an honorable discharge in 1974. Henry served ten additional years as an auxiliary before retiring from the Corps as a lieutenant in 1984.

Henry enjoys his family. He has a home in Inkster, Michigan where he and Barbara, his wife of 36 years, now reside. Henry has a daughter, Latease, two step-sons, William and Darnell, and two grandsons, Zayvier and Zander. He recently became a great-grandfather to their family’s latest addition, Afier.

Henry has a long history working with labor. He has been active in his union throughout his entire career. He served as Chief Stewart, Trustee, Executive Board Member and Vice-President of AFSCME Local 25, and as President of AFSCME local 1659, representing 1,600 Wayne County employees.

In 2004, Henry helped organize the AFSCME Wayne County Michigan Sub-Chapter 38 with over 1400 dues paying members. His work has motivated a large percentage of these members to make substantial PAC contributions.

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MiARA Activist Spotlight MiARA Executive V.P. Henry Lykes *Continued*

Henry has lobbied in Washington D.C. and Lansing on behalf of his union and also for the MiARA and other groups.

Henry is a founding member of the MiARA. He served on its original by-laws committee and now serves on the executive board as the executive vice president. He has attended every MiARA convention and has been present at almost every executive committee meeting.

Henry has always been community minded, and cites his participation in the Inkster Southwest Block Club as important to his growth as a leader. In addition, he has served as an Auxiliary Police Officer for the city of Inkster and is a member of the Inkster Democratic Club. He belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9885. Henry has attended a Baptist Church since he was eight years old, and has taught Sunday school for many years.

With his long time involvement on behalf of civic and union causes and his leadership skills Henry has impacted the lives of countless people.



Active in retirement, Henry Lykes continues to work hard to better the lives of his union brothers and sisters and fellow Michigan retirees.

Important Information for The 2018 General Election

If the 2016 Presidential Election was the most important in our lifetime, then the 2018 Mid-term election has to be the second most important election in our lifetimes.

Future Supreme Court appointments are at stake. Pensions are at risk. LGBT gains are in danger. Human rights are threatened. And, the right to organize unions and collectively bargain is in jeopardy. The list goes on and on.

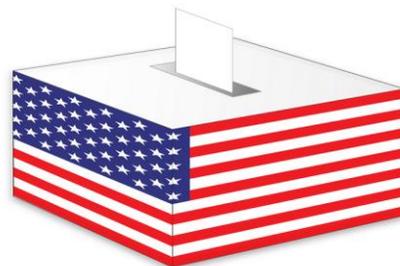
President Trump's extremist agenda can only be stopped if Democrats regain control of the U.S. House of Representatives. There is a real possibility of change, but this "blue wave" can only happen if Democrats and their allies show up and vote in the general election. It is imperative that all MiARA Members vote and get their friends and relatives out to vote too.

You must be registered to vote 30 days before the election.

You must be 18 years old on Election Day to be eligible to vote.

It is not necessary to bring photo I.D. with you to the precinct, but it will expedite the process to issue a ballot.

The election is to be held on **Tuesday, November 6, 2018**. *If you will be unable to vote on that day, now is the time to think **absentee ballot**.*



Information about Absentee Voting: Use it; Share it With a Friend

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

Judging from the voter turnout for the primary election, the lines for the November election might be unusually long and Michigan's November weather is unpredictable, you might want to request an absentee ballot. You must meet at least one of the following criteria for absentee voting:

1. You are 60 years of age or older.
2. You are physically unable to attend the polls without assistance.
3. You are appointed as an election inspector.
4. You are expected to be absent from the community between 7:am and 8:pm on Election Day.
5. You cannot attend due to religious tenets.
6. You cannot attend because you are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Michigan Poor People's Campaign Calls for a Moral Revival to End Poverty

The Michigan Poor People's Campaign is part of a national call for a moral revival co-organized by Repairers of the Breach, a social justice organization founded by the Rev. William Barber II; the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary; and hundreds of local and national grassroots groups and unions across the country.

The new campaign revives Martin Luther King Jr.'s original Poor People's Campaign, launched just before his death in 1968. The campaign seeks to address the symptoms of poverty, including

poorly funded public schools for low-income communities, inequitable access to healthcare and other services, environmental devastation that hits poor communities harder than others, and more.

According to Rev. Barber, the campaign is building a broad and deep national moral movement – rooted in the leadership of poor people and reflecting the great moral teachings – to unite our country from the bottom up. Coalitions have formed in 39 states and Washington, D.C. to challenge extremism locally and at the federal level and to demand a moral agenda for the common good.

Over the past two years, leaders of the national Poor People's Campaign have carried out a listening tour in dozens of states across this nation, meeting with tens of thousands of people from El Paso, Texas to Marks, Mississippi to South Charleston, West Virginia. The campaign has gathered testimonies from hundreds of poor people and listened to their demands for a better society.

In Michigan, the campaign has participated in a series of nonviolent direct actions calling for a massive overhaul of the nation's voting rights laws, new programs to lift up the 1.5 million Michiganders living in poverty, including one in four Michigan children and one in five Michigan senior citizens.

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