



April 2021

Ashland County Democratic Party Newsletter



Tim Ryan Speaks to Area Democrats

Representative Tim Ryan spoke at the invitation of the Shelby Area Democratic Club via zoom to over 3 dozen Democrats from Richland, Ashland, Wayne, and Morrow counties on February 18. Mr. Ryan represents the Ohio 13th District in the US Congress.

Rep. Ryan was born in Niles, Ohio in 1973. He graduated from Bowling Green State University with a BS degree in political science and later earned his law degree at the

Rep. Ryan has spent his career in politics, serving in the Ohio Senate before being elected to the US Congress in 2002, where he is now serving his 10th term. Ryan currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee and is most interested in strengthening the US manufacturing base and reforming America's trade policies. By doing this he hopes to improve the quality of life and well being of all Ohioans. Currently Rep. Ryan lives in Howland, Ohio with his wife, 3 children and 2 dogs.

Rep. Ryan opened his talk by discussing the difficulties of the COVID pandemic. According to Ryan, the pandemic exacerbated and highlighted problems in the US, including the digital divide, disparities in healthcare and vaccine access, and more people slipping into poverty. The pandemic also lead us all to appreciate the hard work and value of essential employees, including teachers, healthcare workers, truckers, and other labor. He envisions the Democrats as the Post Pandemic party, poised to address these issues.

During the town-hall style question-and-answer session, USW Local 3507 president Norm Shoemaker thanked Rep. Ryan for cosponsoring the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, which would boost the eroded rights of working men and women, and asked about its chances of passage. In response, the Congressman stated, "we need more union membership if we're going to balance out the extreme concentration of wealth in this country. We've got to rebuild the middle class in this nation. We want to make sure that workers get a piece of the action." Mr. Ryan believes the legislation will pass the House but isn't sure about the Senate.

Ryan sees the opportunity to move forward by creating the industries of the future, such as clean energy and more tech applications. Workers need to be part of the future plans, so that they can have good jobs that include pensions, living wages, and affordable healthcare. Ryan's vision includes good schools with affordable post-secondary education, a path from high school directly to workforce training for good jobs, a clean environment, and good food for all. He realizes that the U.S. is in a cutthroat global competition and we need to do more to be competitive and for our people to thrive.

Ryan feels that companies that bring jobs back to the US, have healthcare and pensions for their workers, and pay living wages should be rewarded with tax cuts, not companies that do the opposite. He sees growth potential particularly in Ohio manufacturing and agriculture. Ryan cites the example of the new Lordstown electric truck plant, which is expected to bring 1500 good jobs to that area. For farmers, he would like to encourage regenerative agricultural practices that sequester carbon into the soil. These practices are also good for business. Although problems needs to be solved with creativity and imagination at the state and local level, the Federal government can assist with recommendations, guidelines, and financial incentives.

Democrats need to message that we are the party that cares about these issues and that we want to

solve worker's economic problems. That message needs to be delivered to the red states more effectively.

When asked about the ideas of fellow Ohio Congressmen such as Jim Jordan, Ryan stressed that all people have the same needs in life. Politicians need to stop dividing us in camps such as rural vs. urban and ethnicity. If people can unite over the common ground of voting for representatives who value better working conditions for all, life will improve for all.

If you are interested in learning more about Representative Ryan, go to his website: <https://timryan.house.gov/>

The entirety of Congressman Ryan's remarks can be viewed on Facebook at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/RCDPOH>

Ashland Dems helping Ashland County

At the close of every year, the Ashland Democratic Women and the Ashland County Dems Central Committee vote to help others in the community.

For 2020, the Women Dems selected Safe Haven and asked the director about the needs of families with children currently served in that program. Women Dems did the shopping and purchased hats, gloves, scarves, puzzles, games and toys such as play-doh and blocks, etc. Kathy Barnet said these items went to five families, which include 13 children between the ages of 1 - 17. The Safe Haven director was grateful that our gifts "would take the pressure off the mothers who wanted their children to have a nice Christmas."

The Ashland County Democratic Party gave a donation to Associated Charities, which helped a family with 2 children, and to the Kroc Center for Christmas.

The Ashland Dems discovered a unique mission conducted by Barb Phillips: a pop-up soup kitchen. Barb makes high quality homemade soup the 4th Saturday of the month and takes 4 roasters full to the food pantry distribution at Luray Lanes. She offers soup to the people waiting in line for their food. Barb says she is inspired by the example of Jesus to give generously to those in need. She also noted that she has seen the food lines grow longer due to pandemic induced job losses. She has been doing this for over a year. The Ashland Dems voted at their Jan 2021 meeting to give Barb some cash to help defray the cost of soup ingredients and containers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BLM Protests

The Black Lives Matter protestors will continue to be at the SE corner of Claremont and Main in Ashland Monday-Friday from 5:30 to 6 PM and Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 to 2:30. All who seek racial justice are welcome to join in.



Meetings

Ashland County Democratic Party

Central Committee Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 6 PM, currently via Zoom. An email with the meeting link goes out to all email subscribers prior to the meeting. All supporters are welcome.

Ashland County Democratic Women

The Women's Dem group meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 PM via Zoom. An email with the meeting link goes out to all email subscribers prior to the meeting. All are welcome!

Remembering Joseph Mudra

MANSFIELD -- Joseph Mudra died Thursday evening knowing he had made a difference in the lives of others.

That's the thing his brother, Jim, said he took comfort in on Saturday morning as he recalled the life of the 71-year-old teacher, social advocate and long-time Richland County Democratic Party leader.

"Most of us don't know if we made a difference," the 69-year-old Jim Mudra said. "Joe knew."

Mudra passed away Thursday at the The Ohio State University James Cancer Center after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his mother, Nancy, 95; his "life-long love" and wife, Joanne; two sons, Joseph

and Jason; and four granddaughters.

His father, Joseph Mudra, who brought his family to Mansfield from Cleveland in 1957, was the director of the local Social Security office. He died in 2004.

Praise began to pour in as news of Mudra's death spread across the community. One of the first was an email from U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, a Mansfield native who grew up in the same neighborhood as the Mudra brothers.

"Joe Mudra was a lifelong friend, a champion of civil rights and one of Mansfield's best ambassadors," Brown said on Friday. "Joe was always on the forefront of the fight for social justice, and his legacy will live on through the work he did to make the Mansfield community a better, fairer place to live.

"I knew Joe for 50 years, from when I went to Mansfield Senior with his younger brother, Jim, and I will miss his friendship and counsel. My heart goes out to Joe's family and friends during this difficult time."

Joe Mudra

Joe Mudra (file photo)

Former Mansfield Mayor Lydia Reid knew Mudra for many years.

"Joe has always been a tireless worker, organizer, supporter and leader," Reid said. "His passing leaves a huge void for all that knew him."

Jim Mudra said his brother got involved in politics while working on one of Brown's early statewide campaigns and that he worked tirelessly in the effort -- just as later he did for many local candidates during four decades with the Richland County Democratic Party.

He served as the party chair from 2003 until he retired from the post in 2020, though his efforts in politics and government began long before that.

Article from The Richland Source



Two Women Dems Running for Local Office

Two Ashland women will be running for Ashland City Council seats in November. Emily Huestis will be running for the Ward 3 seat and Heather Sample will be running for Ward 2 . If you are in either of these wards, be sure to look into these two candidates who will bring fresh perspectives and voices to the Council. We hope to run more in depth articles on these two candidates later this year. The Ashland County Democratic Party is supporting these candidates.



DONATE NOW

OR SEND YOUR DONATION TO:
Ashland County Democratic Party
C/O 963 Winthrop Lane
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Awards

Every other year at the Fall Dinner, deserving Dems are nominated for awards by the Executive Committee. The Awards traditionally given are:

- The Glen Ellison Award - to a distinguished Union member
- The MAMS Award - to a distinguished female member working with the Democratic Women
- The Democrat of the Year

We have decided to add a 4th award, the John and Dorothy Stratton Award, to be given to a Dem that exemplifies the spirit of activism. The award is named for John Stratton (1944-2016) who founded and directed the Ashland Center for Nonviolence, and Dorothy Stratton, who continues a legacy of spirited activism in the Ashland Community.



How Can I Help?

There is a concerted bipartisan effort currently underway in Ohio to assure that the Fair Districting process proceeds as the voters wish. With a Republican supermajority in power in Ohio, you can be assured that they want to hold onto that power by any means necessary, including gerrymandered voting districts. To help, you can support or assist a group that is holding the Redistricting Committee accountable. Here are some links to learn more:

[Our New Redistricting Process in Ohio - Common Cause Ohio](#)

[Voting & Election Information | League of Women Voters of Ohio | United States \(lwvohio.org\)](#)

[Ohio | National Democratic Redistricting Committee](#)

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Sherrod Brown (D) - 216.522.7272 or 614.469.2083

Senator Robert Portman (R) - 216.522.7095 or 614.469.6774

Congressman Bob Gibbs (R) - 419.207.0650

Ohio House Rep. Darrell Kick (R) - 614.466.2994

Ohio Senate Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R) - 614.466.5802

HOW TO CONTACT US

PHONE: 419-685-7326

Ashland Democratic Party

C/O 963 Winthrop Lane

Ashland, Ohio 44805

Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and our [Website](#):