Political Action Guide for Peace
2015 – 2017

A CITIZENS GUIDE INCLUDING:

• Locating your legislators
• How you can make a difference
• Resources for citizens
• Peace articles to consider
• Listings of peace groups
• U.S. and Michigan district maps
• Tips on participating in politics
• And much more!

This guide can be used until January 1, 2017
Dear Peace Activists,

Are you satisfied with the condition of our world? Do you ask yourself “What can I do?” This guide can help you find ways to make a difference starting right here in Michigan.

You hold in your hands the ability to influence your political leaders to make better decisions by informing them of your position on how we spend our tax dollars. Money is power. The budget is a document that must represent our needs. Read Rev. Rich Peacock’s article “Move the Money”. Take this information and contact your representatives; write letters to the editor; share emails with your friends and family; and become an involved citizen.

Join and support the groups that are working in Michigan to inform and motivate us to take responsibility for the society we are part of. We can influence the trajectory of our cities, counties, state and country. We can come together as a community determined to create a culture of peace and a more just world. Putting our energy and financial support in the organizations represented in the networking portion of the guide will give strength to the groups, and help continue their important work.

Read Robert Koehler’s article “For All Children Everywhere”. Read Ann Abdoo’s article “Save Our Children”. Support the Youth Promise Act designed to “save our children”. Read the summary of “War Impoverishes Us” from World Beyond War.org. Read Laura Dewey’s article “What’s Unity Got to do With It?” Learn nonviolent communication skills so your speech will contribute to a more peaceful family and community. Take the Family Pledge of Nonviolence. Read the books from our extensive Peace Collection of Nonviolent Materials available to the entire Library Network in Michigan.

Whether you are interested in creating a safer environment by supporting green energy, educating our children in methods of peaceful communication and conflict resolution, reforming our juvenile court system, preventing child abuse, mentoring young people, supporting veterans, shifting our money from the military or prison industrial complex, or focusing on equality of opportunity for everyone, there is something in the guide for you!

When your children ask “What are you doing to take care of these problems?” you can answer, “My friends and I are working very hard to make sure you will inherit a more peaceful and happy world!”

Let’s get started!!

Colleen Mills
Citizens for Peace President
www.citizens4peace.com
Acknowledgements

The Citizens for Peace wishes to acknowledge all of the groups and individuals who have been working for the noble cause of creating a more peaceful world. This guide offers tools for the active citizen to be a vital part in our democracy.

Michigan has a long history of being a leader in the cause of peace. There are several hundred groups working all over our state for peace, justice, human rights and other important causes. These organizations need our support, both financially and actively. The Michigan Peace Network is a good source of information on 170 peace & justice groups: www.michiganpeacenetwork.org. Also, the Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network lists its activities on the Gray Panthers website: www.graypanthersofmetrodetroit.com.

Thank you to Robert Koehler for his article “For All Children Everywhere”. Thank you to Ann Abdoo for her article “Save Our Children”. Thank you to World Beyond War.org for their “War Impoverishes Us” summary. Thank you to Susan C. Faustina Erickson for her poem “The Winds of War!” Thank you to Laura Dewey for her article “What’s Unity Got to Do with It? Thank you to Rich Peacock for his article on “Move the Money”.

Thank you to Jan Bridgman, Tada Gunter, Carole Kersten, Bill Jantz, George T. Mills and Bob Podzikowski for editing and updating the information in this Guide.

It is up to all of us to participate in our democracy, and join together in groups to make the necessary changes to our world.
Let’s get started!

Colleen Mills,
Citizens for Peace President
For All Children Everywhere
By Robert C. Koehler

We can end war.

Please, before you read on, let those four words float in silence for half a minute, until you actually hear them — until they come alive with meaning as insistent as a hatching egg. War is not inevitable, no matter how cluelessly enthusiastic the media may be to promote it, no matter how thoroughly it runs the global economy and dominates almost every government.

We can shut down this system of self-perpetuating violence and geopolitical chicken. We can dismantle the glory machine and redefine patriotism. We can curtail the most toxic enterprise on the planet. We can end war.

Oh, the audacity to say such a thing! Yet it amounts to no more than saying: We can evolve, individually and collectively. We can bring wisdom to conflict. We can reclaim the institutions that run our lives. We can look into the eyes of children, those we know and those we don’t know, and vow to protect them. We can start caring again about future generations and bring their well-being into our thoughts and plans.

I’ve been struggling most of my life to believe this and I know I cannot possibly believe it on my own. I’m thinking again of the lead-up to the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the global cry of “No!” that preceded it: the largest such cry in human history, millions of people around the world protesting the manmade hell that was coming. Then the invasion happened anyway. And the protests, rather than building in intensity, more or less disappeared.

One memory I have — an infinitesimal footnote, shortly after the shock-and-awe bombing campaign began — was walking the half mile from my house to a park on Lake Michigan, where there was supposed to be a rally. It was dusk and cold; there was a slight drizzle. The waves rolling into shore were enormous. The beach was empty. There was no rally. I felt such piercing hopelessness and defeat. The collective will of the antiwar movement had seemingly dissipated. All we had was shock and awe.

The first prerequisite for ending war, Judith Hand, an evolutionary biologist, writes in a proposal called “Moving From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Nonviolence: A Proposed Plan of Action To Shape History,” which she shared with me recently, is: the deeply held belief that achieving such a goal is possible, along with a plan of action.

I wrote a column two weeks ago about Hand’s ideas, which can be found in detail on her website, A Future Without War (afww.org). First among much else, she makes a compelling case for the rationality of believing that ending war is possible, and I agree with her: This is the starting point. Paradoxically, not believing it — even if you oppose war bitterly — may be the prime cause of its perpetuation.

This reality is manifested for me in the way the mainstream media, with zero awareness, will speculate glibly about the nature of the “next war,” not knowing when or why or with whom it will occur, but certain that our multi-trillion-dollar weapons cache will be tapped again at some point in the not-so-distant future, because evil is out there beyond our borders: North Korea, Iran, Syria, Libya, Venezuela . . .
We can end war.

“How can we mount such a herculean effort?” Hand asks. “What follows is a speculative ‘how to’ for igniting a revolution. It is based on our shared concern for all children. To achieve our goal, a paradigm of our dominant cultures must change, viz. that war is inevitable, that dominating others using violence is part of our biology, and the best we can do is manage our inescapable wars to limit their damage. This untrue belief is the single biggest barrier to ending war.

“If we don’t believe ending war is possible, then we won’t expend the time, energy, and creativity to fashion a future without war.”

But now, as never before, it is time to embrace this possibility. “To date nonviolence movements were ‘before their time,’” she writes on her website. “Now they are poised to change history.”

This, she added in an email to me, is because of two key factors: “. . . we now have a great many powerful and influential women who can be partners with men in such a movement and this will be an important change in the ‘chemistry’ of an ending-war movement, and also (because) the global community has reached a critical mass of people who see war as insane, a barbaric practice rather than an honorable endeavor.”

Hand’s website and Proposed Plan of Action go into minute, pragmatic detail about taking advantage of this critical mass and organizing a global movement to shut down the war machine. To summarize broadly, what we need to do is unify the enormous global effort now underway to bring positive change to human society by creating an umbrella entity specifically focused on ending war. Organizations pursuing environmental justice, prison reform, nonviolent conflict resolution and thousands of other crucial causes could become stakeholders in such a unifying organization, giving credibility and power to its focused effort to challenge and dismantle war efforts around the planet.

“The good news,” she writes, “is that our basic biology also indicates that the means to unite vast numbers of people across boundaries of religion, nationality, politics and race is to build a movement on a shared universal. What better universal than the biologically based love that all people have for not only their children, but all children!”

She proposes a name for such an organization: For All Children Everywhere, or FACE. I told her: Count me in. I keep seeing the faces of children. They’re counting on us.

Robert Koehler is an award-winning, Chicago-based journalist and nationally syndicated writer. His book, Courage Grows Strong at the Wound (Xenos Press), is still available. Contact him at koehlercw@gmail.com or visit his website at commonwonders.com.
Save Our Children
By Ann Abdoo
Citizens for Peace board member

I watched a movie some time ago; a true story of compassion, acceptance, prejudice, and unconditional love. There is a teenager who is raising himself; he doesn’t know his father and his mother is a drug addict. He is taken in by a wealthy family, enrolled in the same private school as their children, provided a tutor, plays high school football, earns a four year college athletic scholarship, graduates, begins his career with the Baltimore Ravens, and now plays offensive tackle for the Tennessee Titans of the NFL. This is a brief summary of the life of Michael Oher as depicted in the movie, “The Blind Side.” As I walked out of the theater, I wondered about all the poor children of color who if given just half the help that Michael Oher received, would avoid the “school to prison pipeline,” and become successful adults.

There are currently two million children in prison in the United States. (1) We incarcerate more juveniles than the next ten industrialized nations combined. (2) Ninety-five percent of kids who are in jail did not commit violent crimes. (3) We have been putting kids in prison beginning in 1830 in New York City, where civic leaders saw poor immigrant children as a threat to society; so to prevent juvenile delinquency, they arrested them without cause, and put them in a prison called House of Refuge. Of course, it did not work; but after 185 years we are still doing the same thing. Incarcerating children has always been punitive. There is no help, no education, no counseling, or rehabilitative programs. (3)

The juvenile justice system is nothing more than a path into the adult justice system, writes Nell Bernstein in her book, Burning Down the House: the End of Juvenile Prison:

“One recent longitudinal study of 35,000 young offenders found that those who were incarcerated as juveniles were twice as likely to go on to be locked up as adults as those who committed similar offenses and came from similar backgrounds but were given an alternative sanction or simply not arrested.” (4)

In addition the cost is prohibitive as Bernstein writes:

"On average, we spend $88,000 per year to incarcerate a young person in a state facility—more than eight times the $10,652 we invest in a child's education. In many states, this gap is even wider." (5)

So how do we reduce gang and individual violence committed by youth? Research shows that early prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation which include the whole family are highly effective in reducing crime. Pennsylvania adopted a program that over a ten year period saved the state $5 for every $1 spent. Due to the shrinking number of juvenile detainees, they were able to close a 100-bed juvenile detention facility. (6)

Pennsylvania’s program focuses on at-risk youth ages 12-17, who exhibit chronic and serious antisocial behavior. Trained clinicians deliver comprehensive care for the whole family, which includes crisis intervention and intensive life skills coaching over three to five months. This program, called Multi-systemic Therapy (MST) has proven to increase pro-social function, decrease truancy, and reduce drug and alcohol abuse, both immediately and over time. Those who have completed the program have 75% fewer substance related arrests four years after treatment. In 2008, MST produced an estimated $30 million savings for the state of Pennsylvania. (7)

We have a societal issue with troubled and under served youth, but we cannot arrest our way out of the problem. There are MST programs throughout the country, but they tend to be pilot programs. Nonprofit organizations that offer successful programs struggle to maintain their funding, or they have so little funding they must limit the number of children they serve.
Let’s start doing something positive for our children on a nationwide scale. Instead of incarcerating them, it is time to pass the Youth PROMISE Act (YPA). It has been introduced in every session of Congress since 1997. PROMISE is an acronym which stands for “Prison Reduction through Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education.”

When passed and fully funded and implemented this is what it will do:

1. Fund Evidence Based Prevention and Intervention programs that reduce individual & gang violence. Allow decisions to be made on the local level giving community organizations and other stakeholders the authority to decide which programs will work best for their community.
2. Reduce crime and save taxpayer money by reducing juvenile incarceration.
3. Create accountability by linking funding to measurable success.
4. Allocate money saved from incarceration to preventable programs.

Work for passage of the Youth PROMISE Act. Contact our Michigan Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters; ask them to be lead co-sponsors. Gary Peters was a co-sponsor when he served in the House. If you need to find the name of your congressional representative, go to www.vote411.org. Ask your Congressperson to contact the lead sponsor in the House, Bobby Scott (D-VA) and offer to be a lead co-sponsor. As of this printing the Youth PROMISE Act has no bill numbers.

The second thing you can do is participate in the work that Citizens for Peace is already doing. We need to build grass-roots support for this legislation. We have a Citizens Action Committee, and as affiliates of the Peace Alliance (www.peacealliance.org) we have an Action Team. Contact me for more information: Ann Abdoo: arabdoo@earthlink.net or 734-525-4326.

If we want a healthy society, then we must have healthy children. Instead of creating generation after generation of felons, let’s start with children at an early age, include their families, and work to help those who need to learn positive life skills and provide the extra help children need in school.

From the Child Welfare System, to the Juvenile Justice System, kids of untapped potential are being thrown away. How many teachers, computer software engineers, nurses, veterinarians, professional athletes and others have we lost to a cruel inhumane system that literally destroys families and children? It is time to give all children the opportunity to succeed; it can be done. We just need the political will to do it.

Sources

4. "Burning Down the House." P.19
5. "Burning Down the House." P.17
War and other violence cost the world $9.46 trillion in 2012.

Direct Expenses:
War has a huge direct financial cost, the vast majority of which is in funds spent on the preparation for war — or what’s thought of as ordinary, non-war military spending. Very roughly, the world spends $2 trillion every year on militarism, of which the United States spends about half, or $1 trillion. This U.S. spending also accounts for roughly half of the U.S. government’s discretionary budget each year and is distributed through several departments and agencies. Much of the rest of world spending is by members of NATO and other allies of the United States, although China ranks second in the world.

Indirect Expenses:
Wars can cost even an aggressor nation that fights wars far from its shores twice as much in indirect expenses as in direct expenditures.

The costs to the aggressor, enormous as they are, can be small in comparison to those of the nation attacked.

War Spending Drains an Economy:
It is common to think that, because many people have jobs in the war industry, spending on war and preparations for war benefits an economy. In reality, spending those same dollars on peaceful industries, on education, on infrastructure, or even on tax cuts for working people would produce more jobs and in most cases better paying jobs — with enough savings to help everyone make the transition from war work to peace work.

War Spending Increases Inequality:
Military spending diverts public funds into increasingly privatized industries through the least accountable public enterprise and one that is hugely profitable for the owners and directors of the corporations involved.

War Spending Is Unsustainable, As Is Exploitation it Facilitates:
While war impoverishes the war making nation, can it nonetheless enrich that nation more substantially by facilitating the exploitation of other nations? Not in a manner that can be sustained.

Green energy and infrastructure would surpass their advocates’ wildest fantasies if the funds now invested in war were transferred there.
Elected representatives are sensitive to public sentiment and response. Your input in the legislative process can effect legislation. This guide is intended to facilitate your participation in citizen lobbying or advocacy. Use it in action for justice!

White House Comment Line: 202-456-1111 -- press 0 for a comments operator

Email the president at the website - www.whitehouse.gov

To contact any member of Congress, phone 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected with the office of a specific representative or senator.

Basic Advocacy and Lobbying Tips

**Do**

- Know the elected official's committee assignments and specialties.
- Choose one or two issues for your primary focus. Become well-informed about them, especially as they affect your home and community.
- Present the need for what you're asking the elected official to do. Explain the data or cases you know.
- Show openness to knowledge of counter arguments.
- Do admit what you don't know. Offer to find out and send information back to the office.
- Spend time even when the official has positions against yours. You can lessen the intensity of opposition.
- Nurture a long-term relationship of respect with your legislators.
- Offer thanks and express support when appropriate.

**Don't**

- Don't overload a visit with too many issues.
- Don't be argumentative. Speak with calmness.
- Don't overstate the case.
- Don't speak with a moralistic tone.
- Don't make promises you can't deliver.
- Don't be put off by smokescreens.
You Can Make a Difference

Making Personal Visits

- Developing a personal relationship with elected officials and legislative staff persons is the most effective means of getting your message across. If you have never made a personal visit, here are some suggestions:

  - Before the contact, take time to read available background material on the bill or issue which concerns you.
  - Call ahead and make an appointment with the person with whom you wish to speak. Let them know what you wish to discuss. Expect 15 minutes for your visit and plan accordingly.
  - At the beginning of the visit, identify who you are by name and organization.
  - State your concern over the issue. State each of your recommendations in simple and concise terms. State clearly the reasons for your position.
  - Ask the official or staff person if he/she has any questions. Take notes on the questions and problems raised. Respond when possible.
  - Ask whether the official will support your recommendations. If not, try to determine the reasons for his/her position.
  - Leave a fact sheet or position paper with the official.
  - Express gratitude for the time given. Explain that you will be following the legislative decision-making process with interest.
  - Follow up the visit with a thank you note and share your thoughts about the interview.
  - Personal visits are best carried out in small groups. Two or more people are optimum. You will have a support group to help deflect or handle any questions the lawmaker may present. Lawmakers always respond to voting power. If your group represents several different organizations, your perceived voting power will be magnified and this will have a greater impact on the lawmaker.

Letter Writing/Composing E-Mails

- Communicating your views by letter or sending an e-mail can be very effective. E-mails will receive the quickest response. Officials tell us: On any one issue, even a few letters can make an impact; and sometimes just one letter from a new perspective, or with a clear cut persuasive argument can be a decisive factor! (Faxes and e-mails to Washington DC are now preferred.)

  - It is worth noting, that according to market research experts, that for every letter/email sent, seven people have an interest in the issue being raised. This is what makes this form of communication such a persuasive tool in the political arena.

To maximize the impact of letter writing, here are some suggestions:

  - Address the letter properly. For correct names and addresses see appropriate pages of this book.
  - Always include your name and address on the letter itself. If you are writing as a representative of a group, write on the organization’s stationery.
  - Use your own words and be reasonably brief. Speak to one issue per letter.
  - Identify the issue of concern to you. If possible, identify legislation by the bill number and title. Make clear what your position is and exactly what it is you would like the public official to do—(co-sponsor, vote)
  - Give reasons for your position.

  - Ask the public official to state his/her position in reply.
  - Send follow-up letters, if necessary. In these letters raise key questions, which may help the official to continue thinking through the issue. Ask the official to respond to the questions.

  - In general, personal handwritten letters are the most effective. Personal postcards rank next, with form letters or postcards the least effective. Whenever writing, be sure to include your address.

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Sending an E-mail

All public officials can be contacted by e-mail, and today this method of communication is preferred. All officials have websites. The website for the president is www.whitehouse.gov; here you will find a form for sending an e-mail. Also see websites of individual public officials. Follow the guidelines for writing a letter. In order to receive a response, be sure to include your e-mail address and identify yourself as a constituent if you are one.

Phoning the White House

The Executive Office of the President makes note of all citizen comments which are phoned in. The number of positive and negative comments is recorded on daily tally sheets. The President reviews these.

When you want to express your support or opposition to the content of a presidential speech, or to an announced proposal, policy, or action:

• Call the Office of Presidential Correspondence, 1-202-456-1111.
• Give your name, address, and telephone number.
• Identify the issue.
• State your position clearly and concisely.

Phoning Officials

A telephone call can be effective if it is well-timed, that is, just before a vote. Give your name and address, clearly state your position on the issue, and then ask that the public official vote with you. If you have visited or written the official, remind him/her of the previous contact. If the official is not available, speak with a staff person and ask that the message be communicated to the official.

Using the Media

Much of the legislation that elected officials support is directly impacted by what appears in the media, especially the concerns of constituents. A typical legislative staff will read newspaper articles, review radio and TV news reports, and watch webcasts to assist the legislative decision making.

Letters to the Editor are one of the most widely read sections of a paper. Large papers use up to a third of the letters they receive. Smaller papers use up to 80 percent of their letters.

To increase the chances of your letter being printed, relate your concern to your community or to a recent article that has appeared in the paper.

Keep the letter to moderate length, sign it (papers will not publish anonymous letters), and provide your phone number so the paper can contact you for any questions. Your phone number will not be published.

When writing, include the name of the legislation you are supporting and the elected official's name.

Gaining the editorial support of your paper is perhaps the most powerful way to reach your elected official. Op-Ed articles provide an additional way for members of the community to express opinions on important public Policy questions.

Organizing Public Forums and Rallies

Public Forums provide excellent opportunities for interaction between elected officials and the local Community.

Giving Public Testimony

Giving testimony at a committee public hearing is one important means of communication. During a given public hearing, sponsors of the legislation, experts on the problem, and informed members of the public are invited to make a brief presentation. This gives committee members a better understanding of the various sides of the issue the committee is addressing.
How a Bill Becomes a Law

Legislation can be introduced in either the House or the Senate (sometimes both at once). Legislators have a proposal concerning a specific problem or issue drafted into proper legal form for a bill, which begins its way through the Legislative process. You, or your organization, can help your legislators know about problems and give them advice.

**How You Can Help It Along**

**Introduced in House**

- The bill is introduced, read into the record, assigned a number and referred to the appropriate standing committee. If it involves a financial outlay, it will also be referred to the Appropriations Committee.

- You can become acquainted with the bill and learn who are the members of the committee to which it has been referred. You can urge your senator or representative to co-sponsor the bill.

**Referred to House Committee**

Within the committee, a subcommittee considers the legislation, with assistance from sponsors, lobbyists and others interested in the bill. They may hold hearings which are open to the public. In the “mark-up” process, the committee may report the bill with favorable recommendations, add amendments, replace the bill with a substitute, report the bill with adverse recommendation or no recommendation, refer it to another committee, take no action, or refuse to report it.

- You can write, phone, or visit members of the committee to give your opinion. You can attend hearings and testify. You can continue to urge your legislator to support the bill. You can write letters concerning the bill to the editor of your local or regional newspaper.

**Subcommittee Action**

If reported out, the bill goes to the floor of the House for debate and vote. At this time amendments can still be adopted.

- You can write, phone, or visit your legislator to urge a yes or no vote.

**Full Committee Action**

If the bill is passed in the same form by both houses, it goes to the executive (President or Governor) for signature. If the bill is passed in different forms by the two houses, it is sent to a House and Senate Conference Committee which tries to resolve differences.

- You can contact members of the conference committee to urge support of specific portions of either the House or Senate version of the bill.

**Senate Debates and Votes**

- Executive Signs the Bill into Law, Does Not Sign it, or Vetoes it

- The President has 10 days (Governor, 14 days) in which to sign the bill into law. If the executive does not sign within that number of days, the bill becomes law automatically. If the legislature adjourns within that number of days and the executive does not sign the bill, it fails to become law—a “pocket veto.”

- You can find out about the executive’s position. You can write or phone the executive urging signing or not signing the bill into law. If the bill is vetoed, the legislature may override the veto with a 2/3 vote of both houses. You can urge your legislator to vote to override the executive’s veto.
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Executive Branch

**President**

President Barack Obama (D)
Term: four years; expires, 1/20/2017
Comment Line: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414
Fax: 202-456-2461
comments@whitehouse.gov
www.whitehouse.gov

Address letters:
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

**Cabinet Members**

Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Secretary of Agriculture
Thomas J. Vilsack
202-720-2791
http://www.usda.gov/

Department of Commerce
Secretary of Commerce
Penny Pritager
202-482-2000
http://www.commerce.gov/

Department of Defense
Secretary of Defense
Chuck Hagel- nominated
703-571-3343
http://www.defense.gov/

Department of Education
Secretary of Education
Arne Duncan
1-800-872-5327
http://www.ed.gov/

Department of Energy (DOE)
Secretary of Energy
Earnest Monez
202-586-5000
http://www.energy.gov/

Dept. of Health and Human Services
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Sylvia Matthews Burwell
1-877-696-6775
http://www.hhs.gov/

Department of Homeland Security
Secretary of Homeland Security
Jeh Johnson
202-282-8000
Comment Line: 202-282-8495
http://www.dhs.gov/

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Julian Castro
202-708-0417
http://www.hud.gov/

Department of Interior
Secretary of the Interior
Sally Jewell
202-208-3100
http://www.doi.gov/

Department of Justice
Attorney General
Eric H. Holder Jr.
202-514-2000
Info Phone: 202-353-1555
http://www.usdoj.gov/

Department of Labor
Secretary of Labor
Thomas Perez
1-866-487-2365
http://www.dol.gov/

Department of State
Secretary of State
John Kerry
202-647-4000
http://www.state.gov/

Department of Transportation (DOT)
Secretary of Transportation
Anthony Foxx
202-366-4000
http://www.dot.gov/

Department of Treasury
Secretary of the Treasury
Jack Lew- nominated
202-622-2000
http://www.treasury.gov/

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs
Robert McDonald
Benefits: 1-800-827-1000
http://www.va.gov/

UN Ambassador
Samantha Power
212-415-4050
http://www.unstate.gov/

*Changes can be made. Updates can be found on the website listed.

**Vice President**

Vice President Joe Biden (D)
Term: four years; expires, 1/20/2017
Comment Line: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414
Fax: 202-456-2461
comments@whitehouse.gov
www.whitehouse.gov/vicepresident

Address letters:
The Vice President
Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:
Federal Government Michigan U.S. Congressional Districts
Michigan U.S. Congressional Districts
Metropolitan Detroit Area

More detailed maps of Southeast MI districts can also be found at <www.semcog.org/MapCatalog/aspx>
Federal Government 114th Congress

Michigan U.S. Senators

**Senator Debbie Stabenow (D)**
Term: six years; expires, 1/3/2019
Committees: Budget; Finance; Energy and Natural Resources; Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry (Chair)

**Washington Office**
133 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-2203
202-224-4822; fax: 202-228-0325
e-mail: senator@stabenow.senate.gov
www.stabenow.senate.gov

**Address Letters:** The Honorable Debbie Stabenow

**Local Offices**
Southeastern Michigan:
719 Griswold St., Ste. 700
Detroit, MI 48226
313-961-4330; fax: 313-961-7566

Main Office:
221 West Lake Lansing Rd., Ste. 100
East Lansing, MI 48823

**Flint/Saginaw Bay:**
432 N. Saginaw St., Ste. 301
Flint, MI 48502
810-720-4172; fax: 810-720-4178

**Upper Peninsula:**
1901 W. Ridge, Ste. 7
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-8756; fax: 906-228-9162

**Western Michigan:**
38200 E. Beltline court NE, Ste. 400
St. Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616-975-0052; fax: 616-975-5764

**Northern Michigan:**
3335 South Airport Rd. W., Ste. 6B
 Traverse City, MI 49684
231-929-1031; fax: 231-929-1250

**Senator Gary Peters (D)**
Term: six years; expires, 1/3/2021
Committees: Joint Economic Committee, Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Small Business and Entrepreneurship

**Washington Office**
2 Russell Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6221; fax: 202-224-1388
e-mail: senator@peters.senate.gov
www.peters.senate.gov

**Address Letters:** The Honorable Gary C. Peters

**Local Office**
Detroit:
McNamara Federal Bldg.
477 Michigan Avenue, Ste., 1860
Detroit, MI 48226-2576
313-226-6020; fax: 313-226-6948

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**U.S. Senate Leadership**

**President Pro-Tem:** Orrin Hatch (R-UT)

**Senate Majority Leader:** Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
**Senate Majority Whip:** John Cornyn (R-TX)

**Senate Minority Leader:** Harry Reid (D-NV)
**Senate Minority Whip:** Dick Durban (D-IL)

54 Republicans 2 Independents 44 Democrats

---

**U.S. Senate Committees:** For a complete list of Senate Committees see www.senate.gov
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<th>District</th>
<th>Representative</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Dan Benishek (R)</td>
<td>fax: 202-225-4710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Crystal Falls)</td>
<td>e-mail: through website</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.benishek.house.gov">www.benishek.house.gov</a></td>
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<td>514 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515</td>
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<td>454 W. BaldwinSt., Alpena, MI 49707</td>
<td>989-340-1634</td>
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<td>500 S. Stephenson, Ste., 500, Iron Mountain, MI 49801</td>
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<td>307 S. Front St., Ste., 120, Marquette, MI 49855</td>
<td>906-273-1661</td>
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<td>3301 Veterans Dr., Ste. 106, Traverse City, MI 49684</td>
<td>231-421-5599</td>
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<td><strong>Committees:</strong> Natural Resources, Veterans’ Affairs, Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bill Huizenga (R)</td>
<td>fax: 202-226-0779</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Zeeland)</td>
<td>e-mail: through website</td>
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<td>1217 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515</td>
<td>202-225-4401</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 South Harbor Ave., Ste. 6B, Grand Haven, MI 49417</td>
<td>616-414-5516</td>
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<td>4555 Wilson Ave. SW, Ste. 3, Grandville, MI 49418</td>
<td>616-570-0917</td>
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<td>Justin Amash (R)</td>
<td>fax: 202-225-5144</td>
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<td>110 Michigan St.,NW, Ste., 460, Grand Rapids, MI 49503</td>
<td>616-451-8383</td>
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<td>70 W. Michigan Ave., Ste. 212, Battle Creek, MI 49017</td>
<td>269-206-3823</td>
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<td><strong>Committees:</strong> House Oversight and Govt. Reform, Joint Economic Committee</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>John Moolenar (R)</td>
<td>fax: 202-225-9679</td>
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<td>(Midland)</td>
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<td>117 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515</td>
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<td>135 Ashman, Midland, MI 48640</td>
<td>989-631-2552</td>
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<td>Daniel Kildee (D)</td>
<td>fax: 202-225-6393</td>
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<td>801 S. Saginaw St., Plaza Level, Flint, MI 48502</td>
<td>810-238-8627</td>
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Continued on page 16
## Michigan U.S. Representatives

### District 6

**Frederick Upton (R)**  
(St. Joseph)  
fax: 202-225-4986  
e-mail: through website  
www.upton.house.gov  
2183 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515  
720 Main St, St. Joseph, MI 49085  
157 South Kalamazoo Mall, Ste. 180, Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
**Committees:** Energy and Commerce Chair

### District 7

**Tim Walberg (R)**  
(Tipton)  
fax: 202-225-6281  
e-mail: through website  
http://walberg.house.gov  
2436 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515  
110 1st St., Ste. 2 Jackson, MI 49201  
**Committees:** Education and the Workforce, Oversight and Government Reform

### District 8

**Mike Bishop (R)**  
(Lansing)  
fax: 202-225-5820  
e-mail: through website  
www.bishop.house.gov  
428 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515  
1000 W Saint Joseph, Ste. 300, Lansing, MI 48915  
**Committees:** Judiciary, Education and the Workforce

### District 9

**Sander Levin (D)**  
(Southfield)  
fax: 202-226-1033  
e-mail: through website  
www.house.gov/levin  
1236 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515  
27085 Gratiot Ave., Roseville, MI 48066  
**Committee:** Ways and Means

### District 10

**Candice S. Miller (R)**  
(St. Clair Township)  
fax: 202-226-1169  
e-mail: through website  
www.candicemiller.house.gov  
320 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515  
48701 Van Dyke, Shelby Township, MI 48137  
**Committees:** House Administration Chair, Homeland Security, Transportation & Infrastructure

### District 11

**Dave Trott (R)**  
(Novi)  
e-mail: through website  
www.trott.house.gov  
1722 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515  
625 E. Big Beaver Rd., Ste. 204, Troy, MI 48083  
**Committees:** Foreign Affairs, Judiciary

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Continued on page 17
Everywhere we turn, we see violence and hate and prejudice and anger and all of these negative emotions that are destroying humanity. And we have to wake up and take note of this and try to change our course, so that we can create a world of peace and harmony where future generations can live happily together.”

- Arun Gandhi
Michigan U.S. Representatives

U.S. House of Representatives Committees

Often it is very important to contact the committee(s) dealing with a specific piece of legislation.
For a listing of full committee membership, see: http://clerk.house.gov/

Agriculture Committee Chair
K. Michael Conway (R-TX)  202-225-2171

Appropriations Committee Chair
Harold Rogers (R-KY)  202-225-2771

Armed Services Committee Chair
Mac Thornberry (R-TX)  202-225-4151

Budget Committee Chair
Tom Price (R-GA)  202-226-7270

Education and Workforce Chair
John Kline (R-MN)  202-225-4527

Energy and Commerce Committee Chair
Fred Upton (R-MI)  202-225-2927

Ethics Committee Chair
K. Michael Conaway (R-TX)  202-225-7103

Financial Services Committee Chair
Jeb Hensarling (R-TX)  202-225-7502

Foreign Affairs Committee Chair
Edward R. Royce (R-CA)  202-225-5021

Homeland Security Committee Chair
Michael McCaul (R-TX)  202-226-8417

House Administration Committee Chair
Candice Miller (R-MI)  202-225-8281

Intelligence Committee Chair
Devon Nunes (R-CA)  202-225-4121

Judiciary Committee Chair
Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)  202-225-3951

Oversight Committee Chair
Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)  202-225-5074

Natural Resources Committee Chair
Rob Bishop (R-WA)  202-225-2761

Rules Committee Chair
Pete Sessions (R-TX)  202-225-9191

Science, Space & Technology Committee Chair
Lamar Smith (R-TX)  202-225-6371

Small Business Committee Chair
Steve Chabot (R-OH)  202-225-5821

Transportation and Infrastructure Chair
Bill Shuster (R-PA)  202-225-9446

Veterans Affairs Committee Chair
Jeff Miller (R-FL)  202-225-3527

Ways and Means Committee Chair
Paul Ryan (R-WI)  202-225-4625

• To contact any member of Congress, either House or Senate, phone 202-224-3121, and ask to be connected with the office of a specific representative or senator.

• To reach a member of the Senate by e-mail go to www.senate.gov

• To reach a member of the House by e-mail go to www.house.gov

“What legacies, principles and deeds will we stand for and send to the future?... We stand by silent and indifferent as a classroom full of children is killed violently every two days from guns.... How much child suffering, death, and neglect will it take for you, me, religious, civic, community and political leaders to stand up and cry out Enough! with our hearts and voices and votes to protect our young who are our sacred trust and collective American future?”

- Marian Wright Edelman
Governor
Governor Rick Snyder (R)
Term: four years; expires 1/1/2019
517-373-3400 Fax 517-335-6863
Constituent Services: 517-335-7858
e-mail: RickSnyder@michigan.gov
Address letters
Governor Rick Snyder
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Lieutenant Governor
Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley (R)
Term: four years; expires 1/1/2019
517-373-6800 Fax 517-241-3956
Address letters
Lieutenant Governor Calley
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Executive Offices
Washington, DC
Hall of the States, Ste. 411
444 N. Capitol St., NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-624-3840

Northern Michigan
234 W. Baraga Ave
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-2850

MI.gov Help
Ask for help
with state government.
24/7 an agent is on call.
1-877-932-6424

Michigan Departments
All Michigan Department web sites can be located at www.michigan.gov.

Agriculture & Rural Development
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909
1-800-292-3939

Attorney General
Bill Schuette
525 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30212
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1110
e-mail: miag@michigan.gov

Civil Rights
Capitol Tower Bldg., Ste. 800
110 W. Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
517-335-3165

Civil Service
Capitol Commons Center
400 S. Pine
Lansing, MI 48913
517-373-3030
800-788-1766

Community Health
Capitol View Bldg.
201 Townsend
Lansing, MI 48913
517-373-3740

Corrections
206 E. Michigan Ave.
Grandview Plaza
P.O. Box 30003
Lansing, MI 48909
517-335-1426

Education
608 W. Allegan St.
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3324

Environmental Quality
525 Allegan St.
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973
1-800-662-9278

Human Services
235 S. Grand Ave.
P.O. Box 30037
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-7394
Report Child Abuse & Neglect
1-855-444-3911

Insurance & Financial Services
P.O. Box 30220
Lansing, MI 48909-772
517-373-0220
877-999-6442

Licensing & Regulatory Affairs
P.O. Box 30004
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1820

Military & Veterans Affairs
3411 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48906
Veteran’s Information:
517-481-8000
MI Vet Resource Service Center: 800-MICH-VET

Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909
517-284-6367

State Police
333 S. Grand Ave.
P.O. Box 30634
East Lansing, MI 48909
517-332-2521

Technology, Management & Budget
Lewis Class Bldg.
320 S. Walnut St.
P.O. Box 30206
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1004
e-mail: DTMB@michigan.gov

Transportation
State Transportation Building
425 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30650
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-2090

Treasurer
Michigan Department of Treasury
Lansing, MI 48922
517-373-3200
State Senate Members

27 Republicans, 11 Democrats

Web site: www.senate.michigan.gov

President: Lt. Governor Brian Calley (R)

Majority Leader: Senator Arlan B. Meekhof (R)

Minority Leader: Senator Jim Ananich (D)

Secretary: Jeff Cobb: 517-373-2400

Numerical By District

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<td>1</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Colman Young II</td>
<td>517-373-7346</td>
<td>517-373-9320</td>
<td>410 Farnum Bldg</td>
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<td>Bert Johnson</td>
<td>517-373-7748</td>
<td>517-373-1387</td>
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<td>517-373-0990</td>
<td>517-373-5338</td>
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<td>517-373-5849</td>
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<td>Jim Ananich</td>
<td>517-373-0142</td>
<td>517-373-3938</td>
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<td>Peter MacGregor</td>
<td>517-373-0797</td>
<td>517-373-5236</td>
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<td>517-373-5801</td>
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<td>Arlan B. Meekof</td>
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<td>517-373-1777</td>
<td>517-373-5871</td>
<td>805 Farnum Bldg</td>
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<td>32</td>
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<td>Ken Horn</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<td>Judy K. Emmons</td>
<td>517-373-3760</td>
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<td>Geoff Hansen</td>
<td>517-373-1635</td>
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<td>420 Farnum Bldg</td>
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<td>Darwin L. Booher</td>
<td>517-373-1725</td>
<td>517-373-0741</td>
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<td>Wayne A. Schmidt</td>
<td>517-373-2413</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Tom Casperson</td>
<td>517-373-7840</td>
<td>517-373-3932</td>
<td>705 Farnum Bldg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Addresses

The Honorable (full name)
State Senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator (last name):

Continued on page 21
### State Senate Members

**Continued from page 20**

#### Michigan State Government

#### Alphabetical by Last Name

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>District</th>
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### State Senate Standing Committees

First-named is chair; next listed is co-vice-chair, majority members, and minority vice chair and minority members.

**AGRICULTURE**  
Senators Hune (C), Booher (VC), Booher, Schmidt, Smith (MVC)

**APPROPRIATIONS**  
Senators Hildenbrand (C), MacGregor (VC), Hansen, Stamas, Booher, Shirkey, Proos, Schuitmaker, Knollenberg, Nofs, Green, Marleau, Gregory, (MVC), Hopgood, Hertel Jr., Knezek, Young II

**BANKING & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**  
Senators Booher (C), O'Brien (VC), Nofs, Zom, MacGregor, Rocca, Hertel Jr. (MVC), Smith

**COMMERCE**  
Senators Schmidt ©, Kowall (VC), MacGregor, Nofs, Hertel Jr., (MVC)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT**  
Senators Horn (C), Schmidt (VC), Brandenburg, Stamas, Emmons, Smith (MVC), Bieda

**EDUCATION**  
Senators Pavlov (C), Knollenberg (VC), Booher, Colbeck, Knezek (MVC),

**ELECTIONS & GOVERNMENT REFORM**  
Senators Robertson (C), Colbeck (VC), Emmons, Shirkey, Hood III (MVC)

**ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY**  
Senators Nofs (C), Proos (VC), Horn, Schuitmaker, Hune, Shirkey, Zorn, Hopgood (MVC), Knezek, Smith

**FAMILIES & HUMAN SERVICES**  
Senators Emmons (C), Pavlov (VC), Jones, Casperson, Johnson (MVC)

**FINANCE**  
Senators Brandenburg (C), Robertson (VC), Knollenberg, Casperson, Proos, Bieda (MVC), Warren

**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**  
Senators Meekhof (C), Hansen (VC), Kowall, Ananich (MVC), Hood III

**HEALTH POLICY**  
Senators Shirkey (C), Hune, (VC), O’Brien, Marleau, Jones, Stamas, Robertson, Hertel Jr. (MVC), Knezek, Hopgood

**INSURANCE**  
Senators Hune (C), Brandenburg, (VC), Schmidt, O’Brien, Horn, Jones, Smith (MVC), Bieda, Young II

**JUDICIARY**  
Senators Jones (C), Schuitmaker (VC), Rocca, Colbeck, Bieda (MVC)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
Senators Zorn (C), Proos (VC) Brandenburg, Rocca, Young (MVC)

**MICHIGAN COMPETITIVENESS**  
Senators Shirkey (C), Stamos (VC), Robertson, Proos, Warren (MVC)

**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Senators Casperson (C), Pavlov (VC), Robertson, Stamas, Warren (MVC)

**OUTDOOR RECREATION AND TOURISM**  
Senators Hansen (C), Zorn (VC), Schmidt, Green, Johnson (MVC)

**REGULATORY REFORM**  
Senators Rocca (C), Jones (VC), Hune, Knollenberg, Kowall, Marleau, Warren (MVC), Hertel Jr., Johnson

**TRANSPORTATION**  
Senators Casperson (C), Horn (VC), Marleau, Pavlov, Hopgood (MVC)

**VETERANS, MILITARY AFFAIRS AND HOMELAND SECURITY**  
Senators O’Brien (C), Emmons (VC), Zorn, Colbeck, Knezek (MVC)

*Joint Senate-House Standing Committees see page 27*
## Michigan State Government

**State House of Representative Members**

63 Republicans, 547 Democrats

**Web site:** www.house.michigan.gov

**Speaker:** Kevin Cotter (R)

**Majority Floor Leader:** Aric Nesbitt (R)

**Minority Leader:** Tim Greimel (D)

**Clerk:** Gary Randall, 517-373-0135

### Address Letters

The Honorable (full name)
State Representative
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909
Dear Representative (last name):

### Numerical by District

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Political Action Guide for Peace '15-'17
### Michigan State Government

#### State House of Representative Members

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“There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children.
There is no duty more important than ensuring that their
rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are
free from fear and want and that they grow up in peace.”

- Kofi A. Annan

24 Political Action Guide for Peace '15-'17
Michigan State Government  State House of Representative Committees

State House of Representatives Standing Committees

Republicans are in regular type; Democrats are in italic type.

First-named is committee chair (C); second is majority vice chair (VC); first Democrat listed in minority vice chair (MVC).

Agriculture
Lauwers (C), Cole (VC), Franz, Glardon, Johnson, Outman, Rendon, Courser, Roberts, Sheppard, Vaupel, Brunner (MVC), Darany, Talabi, Driskell, Lavoy, Garrett

Appropriations
Pscholka (C), Bumstead (VC), Jenkins, Muxlow, Poleski, Potvin, Kelly, McCready, Pagel, VerHeulen, Victory, Afendoulis, Bizon, Canfield, Cox, Gamrat, Inman, Aaron Miller, Santana (MVC), Dillon, Irwin, Sarah Roberts, Singh, Yanez, Zemke, Durhal, Hoadley, Pagan

Commerce and Trade
Graves (C), Sheppard (VC), Callton, Jenkins, Johnson, Rendon, Somerville, Hughes, Barrett, Garcia, Glenn, Leutheuser, Schor (MVC), Townsend, Byrd, Garrett, Geiss, Love, Moss

Communications and Technology
Jacobsen (C), Iden (VC), Franz, Glardon, Outman, Price, Barrett, Leutheuser, Tedder, Phelps (MVC), Driskell, Chirkun, Greig, Guerra

Criminal Justice
Heise (C), Webber (VC), Howrylak, Courser, Lucido, Guerra (MVC), Hovey-Wright, Chang

Education
Price (C), Garcia (VC), Callton, Hooker, McBroom, Somerville, Yonker, Kelly, Chatfield, Courser, Tedder, Zemke (MVC), Santana, Brinks, Schor, Chang, Greig

Elections and Ethics
Lyons (C), Cotter (VC), Heise, Callton, Outman, Yonker, Haugh (Min. VC), Lane, Schor

Energy Policy
Nesbitt (C), Glenn (VC), Jacobsen, LaFontaine, McBroom, Outman, Pettalia, Hughes, Barrett, Cole, Lucido, Maturen, Brett Roberts, Sheppard, Webber,

Families, Children, and Seniors
Hooker (C), Runestad (VC), Forlini, Crawford, Vaupel, Hovey-Wright (MVC), Talabi, Liberati

Financial Liability Reform
Somerville (C), Leutheuser (VC), Farrington, LaFontaine, Lyons, Poleski, Wittenberg (MVC), Faris, Chirkun

Financial Services
Forlini (C), Pettalia (VC), Callton, Graves, Lucido, Theis, Yanez (MVC), Clemente, Gay-Dagnogo, Love

Government Operations
Jacobsen (C), Webber (VC), LaFontaine
Greimel (MVC), Singh

Health Policy
Callton (C), Vaupel (VC), Hooker, Yonker, Graves, Hughes, Kesto, VerHeulen, Bizon, Chatfield, Crawford, Garcia, Tedder, Darany (MVC), Brinks, Cochran, Phelps, Geiss, Liberati, Neeley, Wittenberg

Insurance
Leonard (C), Theis (VC), Franz, Goike, Glardon, LaFontaine, Lyons, Barrett, Runestad, Vaupel, Webber, Cochran (MVC), Banks, Clemente, Kosowski, Derek Miller, Wittenberg

“We call on the human family to address the root causes of violence and build a culture of peace and hope. We know that another world is possible, a world justice and peace. Together we can make it a reality.”

- Nobel Peace Laureates Centennial Appeal

Continued on page 26

Political Action Guide for Peace ‘13-’17
Michigan State Government

State House of Representative Standing Committees
Continued from page 25

Judiciary
Kesto (C), Lucido (VC), Heise, Johnson, Howrylak, Cole, Runestad, Irwin (MVC), Robinson, Chang, Guerra

Local Government
Chatfield (C), Price (VC), Heise, Maturen, Runestad, Sheppard, Theis, Moss (MVC), Brunner, Rutledge, Neeley

Military and Veterans Affairs
Barrett (C), Hughes (VC), Hooker, Outman, Courser, Glenn, Rutledge (MVC), Faris, Talabi

Natural Resources
LaFontaine (C), Rendon (VC), Forlini, Goike, Lyons, McBroom, Kivela (MVC), Smiley, Plawecki

Oversight and Ethics
McBroom (C), Howrylak (VC), Graves, Theis, Robinson (MVC), Pagan

Regulatory Reform
Franz (C), Brett Roberts (VC), Yonker, Kesto, Lauwers, Courser, Crawford, Garcia, Iden, Dianda (MVC), Darany, Lane, Schor, Chirkun, Moss

Tax Policy
Farrington (C), Maturen (VC), Somerville, Yonker, Howrylak, Chatfield, Glenn, Iden, Webber, Townsend (MVC), Clemente, LaVoy, Byrd

Tourism and Outdoor Recreation
Rendon (C), Goike (VC), Forlini, Pettalia, Cole, Smiley (MVC), Brinks, Gay-Dagnogo

Transportation and Infrastructure
Pettalia (C), Glardon (VC), Farrington, Goike, Jacobsen, Yonker, Lauwers, McCready, Cole, Maturen, Lane (MVC), Rutledge, Smiley, Cochran, Dianda, Neeley

Workforce and Talent Development
Johnson (C), Tedder (VC), Farrington, Price, Lauwers, Crawford, Iden, Brett Roberts, Brinks (MVC), Townsend, Geiss, Greig, Liberati, Love

“There can be no enduring peace for any nation while other nations suffer privation, oppression, and a sense of injustice and despair. In our modern world, it is madness to suppose that there could be an island of tranquility and prosperity in a sea of wretchedness and frustration.”

“We are in the era of the thermo-nuclear bomb that can obliterate cities and can be delivered across continents. With such weapons, war has become, not just tragic, but preposterous. With such weapons, there can be no victory for anyone. Plainly, the objective now must be to see that such a war does not occur at all.”

- Dwight D. Eisenhower
**Legislative bills**, including Public Acts, are available to the public at no charge.

Copies may be obtained from the Legislative Service Bureau, 124 W. Allegan St. P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48906-7536. Director@legislature.mi.gov

You may also access legislation via the Internet: www.legislature.mi.gov

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**Michigan State Government**

**Joint Senate - House Standing Committees**

Co-chairpersons are indicated (C)
Vice Chair (VC) Minority Vice Chair (MVC)

**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES:**
Senators Stamas (C), Rocca (VC), Kowall, Hood, Hertel
Representatives: Goike (C), Howrylak (VC), Price, Geiss (MVC), Hovey-Wright

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:**
Senators Meekhof (C), Rocca, Schmidt, Stamas, Ananich, Hood
Alternates: Senators Schuitmaker, Horn, Bieda
Representatives: Cotter (C), LaFontaine (VC), Jacobsen, VerHeulen, Rutledge (MVC), Greig,
Alternates: Representatives Leonard, Nesbitt, Kosowski

**LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**
Retirants: R. Robert Geake (C), Alma Wheeler Smith (VC)
George McManus, Gary Randall, Burton Leland, George Cushingberry, John Cherry, Phillip Hoffman, John Jamian
Deferred Vested Member: Trietta Reeves
Defined Contribution Member: Donald Gilmer

**MICHIGAN CAPITOL COMMITTEE:**
Senators Meekhof (C), Kowall, Hansen, Bieda
Representatives: Outman (C), Crawford (VC), Nesbitt, Schor (MVC)

**SENATE FISCAL AGENCY BOARD OF GOVERNORS:**
Senators Meekhof (C), Hildenbrand, MacGregor, Hood, Gregory

“Did you know that every two hours the nations of this world spend as much on armaments as they spend on the children of this world every year?”

- Peter Ustivov
Michigan's 38 Senate Districts
Michigan's Senate Districts
Metropolitan Detroit Area

Political Action Guide for Peace '15-'17
Michigan State Government  Michigan's 110 House Districts

State House
Michigan's House Districts
Metropolitan Detroit Area

OAKLAND

HOUSTON

ADDISON TOWNSHIP

BRUCE TOWNSHIP

AMADA TOWNSHIP

RICHMOND TOWNSHIP

ROSE TOWNSHIP

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

ORION TOWNSHIP

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

RAY TOWNSHIP

LENEX TOWNSHIP

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

WATERFORD

Pontiac

ROCHESTER

SHELBY TOWNSHIP

MACOMB TOWNSHIP

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP

MILFORD TOWNSHIP

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

WEST BLOOMFIELD

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

TROY

CLINTON TWP.

HARRISON TWP.

LYON TOWNSHIP

NOVI

FARMINGTON HILLS

SOUTHLAND

ROYAL OAK

WARREN

ST. CLAIR SHORES

WAYNE

LIVONIA

REDFORD TWP.

DEARBORN

TAYLOR

SOUTHFIELD

GROSSE PONTE

GROSSE ILE

DAVID PIERCE/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Political Action Guide for Peace '15-'17
At the Polling Place

- You are required to fill out an application, giving name and address, and show picture I.D., such as a drivers’ license, state I.D., military I.D., student I.D., from high school or an accredited institution of higher education.
- If you do not have a picture I.D., you can sign an affidavit attesting that you do not have a picture I.D., or forgot to bring it with you. You can still vote.
- Request instructions or assistance if you do not know how to use the voting equipment or have other questions about casting a ballot.
- Obtain a replacement ballot if you make a mistake when voting.
- Vote a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the registration list and you assert under oath, that 1) you registered to vote by the registration deadline and 2) you are a resident of the city or township where you are offering to vote.

Absentee Voting

Request an absentee ballot application from your city clerk’s office. Fill it out and return it to the clerk’s office.

You may obtain an absentee ballot for the following reasons:
- Age 60 years old or older
- Unable to vote without assistance at the polls.
- Expecting to be out-of-town on election day.
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial.
- Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons.
- Appointed to work as a poll worker in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

If you received an absentee ballot and then decide you want to vote in person, take your absentee ballot to your polling place, turn in the ballot, and after signing a simple form, you will be permitted to vote in person.

See also: http://michigan.gov/vote

“When someone stands up to violence, a force for change is released. Every action for peace requires someone to exhibit the courage to challenge violence and inspire love.”

- Thich Nhat Hahn

Registering to Vote

- You may register to vote if you are a citizen of the U.S., 18 years of age by the date of the election and have resided in Michigan for at least 30 days prior to the election.
- You may register to vote at any local office of the Secretary of State, or the County, City, Township, or Village Clerk’s office. In which you live, or by mail.

Going to the Polls

- Polling places are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day. All persons in line at closing time will be permitted to vote.
- Polling location is listed on your voter registration card. If you do not have a card, call the local clerk’s office before Election Day.
- If you have changed residences within the same town or city since the last time voting, but have not notified the local clerk’s office, you must return to the polling place of your previous address. When voting at that polling place, fill out a change of address card and leave it with the poll workers.

Absentee Voting
Networking/Collaborating

What’s Unity Got to Do with It?
Laura Dewey
Coordinator, Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom, Detroit Branch

“We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.” “An injury to one is an injury to all.” “All for one and one for all, united we stand, divided we fall.”

Sound familiar? These are calls for unity. (Pop quiz: Who made these statements? See answers below.)

What is unity and why do we need it?

Unity can take different forms: 1) separate organizations struggling for the same cause; 2) those same organizations coordinating their efforts, sharing ideas and tactics, and strategically working together to achieve a goal. In the peace movement, individuals and organizations know how to work together to promote peace, work for nuclear disarmament, organize protests against wars, and advocate for funding human needs instead of war.

But another form of unity is also necessary. Peace and justice activists need to take unity to a higher level by allying ourselves with the environmental, labor, civil rights, human rights, and other movements. We need to take our messages of peace, nuclear disarmament, and “money for jobs not war” to other groups. And we need to listen to their messages.

Unity is key to winning struggles and creating a better world. The Civil Rights Movement is only one example. In the 1960’s, unity was expressed by Freedom Riders traveling to the South, black and white college students registering voters, lawyers defending jailed activists—a myriad of individuals and organizations working for the same cause.

What does unity look like?

To paraphrase a popular slogan, THIS is what unity looks like—the People’s Climate March in New York in fall 2014. Environmentalists were there, of course, in huge numbers. But so were peace groups; political, union, religious, and neighborhood organizations; members of indigenous communities, and so on. The breadth of organizations was inspiring.

As individuals, we can strive toward unity by occasionally attending another group’s event. A few times a year, leave the “comfort zone” of your issue and reach out to another organization: attend a D15 demonstration outside a fast-food restaurant, attend a rally for water rights in Detroit, walk a union picket line, lobby Lansing for women’s reproductive rights, attend an anti-fracking meeting, or march against police violence, among other activities.

On the organizational level, groups can designate members to represent them in other groups. Send a member to the NAACP monthly community outreach meetings, a Detroit Eviction Defense meeting, or a meeting of the Sierra Club, to name a few, and have that member report back to your group. Ask a few questions: How can we make a connection with this issue and organization? What do we have in common? What events and goals can we unite around?

Unity is not about “I’ll scratch your back if you scratch mine.” It’s about having each other’s backs, supporting each other’s struggles, and recognizing that our issues are interrelated. Although we work on different issues, we have much in common. A just and equitable society that emphasizes a culture of peace, care for the earth, human needs instead of wars, a living wage, excellent education for all—these are things everyone can support.

Unity is a powerful idea. Indeed, it is power to the people.

Networking/Collaborating

Groups/Organizations: Alphabetically

*The Citizens for Peace collaborates and shares information with many groups working on local, state, and federal levels. The following directory lists a limited number of these groups who serve as resources for additional information. We may not necessarily endorse every activity or position of these groups and organizations.

**Alliance to Halt Fermi-3 (ATHF3)**
Keith Gunter
P. O. Box 511001, Livonia, MI 48151
(734) 838-8084
e-mail: info@athf3.org

*Issue Priorities:* Cancellation of plans for new Fermi-3 nuclear plant, shutdown of existing Fermi-2, renewable energy development

**American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) (Michigan)**
Natalie Holbrook or Peter Martel
1414 Hill Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-761-8283
e-mail: micj@afsc.org, www.afsc.org

*Issue Priorities:* Criminal justice and prisoner advocacy, peace education

**Being Who I Want 2 Be, LLC**
Kevin Szawala (Mr. Peace)
PO Box 1383
Novi, MI 48376
856-MR-PEACE (856-677-3223)
e-mail: mrpeace@mrpeace.net

*Issue Priorities:* "Being Who I Want 2 Be, LLC" is a motivational speaking company started in 2006 and designed to help at-risk youth, ranging from elementary age students to young adults. So far the message of peace, love, compassion and respect has reached over 500,000 people across the Nation. To bring one of these powerful talks to your school, church or organization contact ‘Mr. Peace’ via the contact information above.

**Children’s Defense Fund**
25 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
1-800-CDF-1200
Marian Wright Edelman, President
e-mail: cdinfo@childrensdefense.org
www.childrensdefense.org


**Citizens for Peace**
Colleen Mills, President
734-425-0079
e-mail: cmills0079@yahoo.com

*Issue Priorities:* Providing monthly programs for the membership and the public on topics related to nonviolence and creating a culture of peace. Mission: To be responsible community leaders centered on learning, educating, and facilitating the practices and principles of nonviolence in our world; and to support the passage of the Department of Peace legislation and the Youth Promise Act.

**Citizens for Peace Education Fund**
Rosemary Doyle, Education Director
e-mail: rdoyle@cheerful.com
248-476-0791

*Issue Priorities:* Provides funds to purchase nonviolent materials, for youth and adults, to local libraries; and trainings in Restorative Practices and Nonviolent Communication.

**Detroit Area Peace With Justice Network (DAPJN)**
Issue Priority: to provide a network of peace and justice organizations to coordinate and communicate efforts to make a more peaceful world.

For a listing of the organizations and a calendar of their activities: www.graypanthersmetrodetroit.org

**Detroit-Democratic Socialists of America**
28292 Harwich Dr.
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
David Green
248-761-4203
e-mail: dsagreen@aol.com
www.dsausa.org

*Issue Priorities:* Social and economic democracy

**Detroit Area Restorative Justice Network (DARJN)**
St. Peter’s Episcopal Church
1950 Trumbull St.,
Detroit, MI 48216
e-mail: detroitrestorativejustice@gmail.com
detroitrjnetwork.wordpress.com

*Issue Priorities:* Providing restorative justice trainings for practitioners and grassroots conflict resolution in neighborhoods, families, and community centers. Once a month, DARJC sponsors a Speakers Series or a Peacemaking Circle 101s if interested in attending or volunteering, notify by email. Vision: To bring restorative practices and social justice to Southeast Michigan with a focus on Detroit.

**Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network (DAPJN)**
Issue Priority: to provide a network of peace and justice organizations to coordinate and communicate efforts to make a more peaceful world.

For a listing of the organizations and a calendar of their activities: www.graypanthersmetrodetroit.org

**DETROIT AREA PEACE WITH JUSTICE NETWORK (DAPJN)**
Issue Priority: to provide a network of peace and justice organizations to coordinate and communicate efforts to make a more peaceful world.

For a listing of the organizations and a calendar of their activities: www.graypanthersmetrodetroit.org

**Detroit-Democratic Socialists of America**
28292 Harwich Dr.
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
David Green
248-761-4203
e-mail: dsagreen@aol.com
www.dsausa.org

*Issue Priorities:* Social and economic democracy

**Fetzer Institute**
Nathan Moore
9292 West KL Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
269-375-2000 ext 268
e-mail: Contact via website
www.fetzer.org

*Issue Priorities:* Our Mission - To foster awareness of the power of love and forgiveness in the emerging global community

**Freedom House**
2630W. Lafayette
Detroit, MI 48216
313-964-4320 Fax 313-963-1077
e-mail: info@freedomhousedetroit.org
www.freedomhousedetroit.org

*Issue Priorities:* A temporary home for survivors of persecution from around the world seeking legal shelter in the U.S. and Canada; an official member of the Northern Tier Anti-Trafficking Consortium; Provides safety for those “yearning to breathe free” (inscribed on the Statue of Liberty).
The Gray Panthers of Metro Detroit
Randy Block, Co-Convenor
248-549-5170
Kelly Smith, Co-Convenor
586-776-0167
PO Box 37033
Oak Park, MI 48237
e-mail: randyblock@yahoo.com
www.graypanthersmetrodetroit.com
Issue Priorities: universal health care; protecting and strengthening Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; peace; reducing military spending; public education; fair labor practices; social & economic justice; issues affecting young people.

Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice (GLENAWI)
Margaret Neilson & Ann Francis
517-410-1243
e-mail: glnawi2004@yahoo.com
www.glawi.org.
Issue Priorities: Works locally for peace and justice; building community; educational events; and nonviolent action.

Home for Peace and Justice
Joan McCoy
1571 Wenonah Lane
989-792-9766
e-mail: homeforpax@aol.com
Issue Priority: Peace & justice

Huntington Woods Peace, Citizenship & Education Project
Phyllis Aronson
248-548-7370
PO Box 7011
Huntington Woods, MI 48070
e-mail: info@hwpeace.org.
www.hwpeace.org
Issue Priority: Peace, justice

IHM Sisters Justice Peace Sustainability
MONROE OFFICE:
Sarah Nash
610 W. Elm Ave., Monroe, MI 48162
734-240-9691
e-mail: snash@ihmsisters.org
www.ihmsisters.org/living-justly/peace-and-justice/current-issues/

IHM Sisters Justice Peace Sustainability
DETROIT OFFICE:
Elizabeth (Liz) Walters, IHM
1950 Trumbull St., Detroit, MI 48216
313 204-6350
e-mail: erwalters@ihmsisters.org
www.ihmsisters.org/living-justly/peace-and-justice/current-issues/
Issue Priorities: Recognizing the many interconnected needs of the world, we focus on and organize around ecological integrity, social justice, economic justice and peacemaking and global solidarity

Institute for Global Education (IGE)
1118 Wealthy SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-454-1642
e-mail: coordinator@instituteforglobaleducation.org
www.instituteforglobaleducation.org
www.facebook.com/instituteforglobaleducation
Issue Priorities: disarmament; conflict resolution; militarism in schools; peace vigils; “Don’t Waste Michigan”; nuclear power & nuclear waste; peace & justice; media literacy.

Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice
1679 Broadway
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-663-1870
e-mail: info@icpj.net
www.icpj.net
Issue Priorities: belief that love, commitment to future generations, wise stewardship of the environment and promotion of social, political, and economic justice are religious responsibilities.

Kalamazoo Nonviolent Opponents of War
Raelyn Joyce
269-345-0489
e-mail: raejoyce10@gmail.com
www.kz004peace.org
Issue Priorities: Nonviolent change toward peace & justice.

League of Women Voters (Michigan)
600 W. St. Joseph St., Ste 3-G
Lansing, MI 48933-2288
517-484-5383 Fax: 517-484-3086
e-mail: info@lwvmi.org
www.lwvmi.org.
Issue Priority: voter education

League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County
Angela Ryan, President
PO Box 51502
Livonia, MI 48151
734-421-4420
www.lwnorthwestwayne.org
Issue Priority: voter education

Metro Detroit AFL-CIO Civil Rights Committee
Michelle Artt, Chairperson
248-957-8988
600 W. Lafayette, Suite 200, Detroit, MI 48226
e-mail: micheleartt@gmail.com
www.metrodetroitafcio.org
Issue Priorities: equality, dignity and pride for all races, religions, sexual persuasions and beliefs

Michigan Campaign Finance Reform Network
600 W. St Joseph St., Ste.3G
Lansing, MI 48933
517-482-7198
www.mcfnr.org
Issue Priorities: Ethics; campaign finance reform

Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR)
9200 Gratiot
Detroit, MI 48213-3860
313-579-9071
e-mail: support@mchr.org
www.MCHR.org
Issue Priorities: Human rights - global & local; war & peace; civil rights & racism; globalization.
Networking/Collaborating

Groups/Organizations: Alphabetically

Michigan Department of Peace Campaign
Kevin Szawala - 'Mr. Peace'
(State Coordinator)
856- MR-PEACE (856-677-3223)
e-mail: mrpeace@mrpeace.net
www.thepeacealliance.org
www.studentpeacealliance.org.
www.michiganpeacenetwork.org.
Issue Priority: Creating a culture of peace; promoting legislation for a Department of peace; promoting legislation that focuses on youth violence (Youth Promise Act).

District 11 Leader:
Colleen Mills
President of the Citizens for Peace
734-425-0079
e-mail: cmills0079@yahoo.com
www.citizens4peace.com
Issue Priorities: create a culture of peace through programs at monthly meetings; advocate for a Department of Peace and a Youth Promise Act; support Restorative Justice in our schools and courts; teach Nonviolent Communication; educate on the nuclear age; provide books on nonviolence and peace to local libraries; promote annual Season for Nonviolence activities and support the over 170 organizations working for peace and justice in Michigan.

Michigan Eyes Wide Open/ Cost of War
Red Cedar Friends (Quaker)
Meeting
1400 Turner St.,
Lansing, MI 48912
517-347-1071
e-mail: MichiganEWO@yahoo.com
Issue Priorities: visual displays of human and economic cost of war.

Michigan League for Public Policy
1223 Turner St. STE G-1
Lansing, MI 48906
517-487-5436 Fax 517-371-4546
www.mlpp.org
Issue Priorities: To foster economic opportunity, independence and security of Michigan's economically vulnerable population by shaping public policy through objective data-driven research, education and advocacy.

District 6 Leaders - See -The Peace Alliance of Greater Kalamazoo
Luana VanDam
269-370-8602
e-mail: wildwoman@sbcglobal.net
Chuck Harmon
e-mail: A5charlie@yahoo.com
Issue Priorities: make Kalamazoo a City of Peace and Compassion; study Non-Violent Communication; support Peace Pizzazz, an annual children’s festival for peace in May, which is preceded by a year long peace education program in the Kalamazoo Public Schools; support peace legislation at the national level with emphasis on The Youth Promise Act.

District 13 Leader
Dennis Mazurek
313-433-4466
e-mail: d.m.is@earthlink.net
Started the City Council Resolutions for a Department of Peace in Hamtramck & Detroit. There are 39 governing bodies around the country calling for a Department of Peace, representing 13 million people.

District 11 Leader:
Colleen Mills
President of the Citizens for Peace
734-425-0079
e-mail: cmills0079@yahoo.com
www.citizens4peace.com
Issue Priorities: create a culture of peace through programs at monthly meetings; advocate for a Department of Peace and a Youth Promise Act; support Restorative Justice in our schools and courts; teach Nonviolent Communication; educate on the nuclear age; provide books on nonviolence and peace to local libraries; promote annual Season for Nonviolence activities and support the over 170 organizations working for peace and justice in Michigan.

See Citizens for Peace and Citizens for Peace Education Fund for more information.

Michigan Peace Budget Coalition
Margaret Nielson
517-336-5921
Cell: 517-881-6956
e-mail:MichiganForum@yahoo.com
Issue Priorities: Federal Budget priorities; Peace and Social Justice
Please follow us on facebook.

Michigan Peace Network
www.michiganpeacenetwork.org.
Issue Priority: Provides a network of 170 peace groups in Michigan; Provides an online method of communication.

Peace activists and “Peace Mama” at a Network meeting in Kalamazoo sponsored by the Peace Alliance of Greater Kalamazoo.
Groups/Organizations: Alphabetically

Meta Peace Team
Peter Dougherty
Mary Hanna
201 Miller Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911
517-489-2607 And
1950 Trumbull
Detroit, MI, 48216
e-mail: metapeacesteam@gmail.com
www.michiganpeaceteam.org.

Issue Priorities: Creating a nonviolent alternative to militarism and violence through empowered peacemaking.

Michigan Stop the Nuclear Bombs Campaign (MISTNBC)
Kim Joy Bergier
25720 Miracle Drive,
Madison Heights, MI 48071-4111
248-545-1862
Cell: 248-515-2380
Fax: 248-545-7871
e-mail: 2mistnbc@gmail.com
http://michiganpeacenetwork.org/organizations/Michigan-Stop-the-Nuclear-Bombs-Campaign

Issue Priorities: associated with "Stop the Bombs Campaign" organized by the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA). Our goal is to help end nuclear weapons proliferation worldwide starting with the "Y-12 National Security Complex", a nuclear weapons production facility

MOSES
220 Bagley, Ste. 212
Detroit, MI 48226
313-962-5290 Ext. 14
Contact: Johnnie Turnage
e-mail: jturnage@mosesmi.org
www.mosesmi.org
Issue Priorities: Health & sustainable communities, economic dignity, education for all, transportation, and transparency & accountability.

MOSES/ CB3 - Crossing Boundaries
Building Bridges
220 Bagley, Ste. 212
Detroit, MI 48226
313-962-5290 Ext. 14
Contact: Johnnie Turnage
e-mail: jturnage@mosesmi.org
www.mosesmi.org

Issue Priorities: Youth Violence Prevention, Bullying, Secondary Education Options, Youth Hiring, Youth Transportation

Newaygo County People for Peace
Gloria Switzer
5671 Lakeland
Fremont, MI 49412
231-924-5292
e-mail: gswitzer12@comcast.net
www.michiganpeacenetwork.org.

Issue Priorities: Promote peace & justice using education and nonviolent action; make governments accountable for their military, social, environmental and economic actions.

Pax Christi (Michigan)
Pat Valaer
Mary Hanna
201 Miller Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911-4639
517-481-5280
e-mail: paxchristi.mi@gmail.com
www.paxchristimi.org

Issue Priorities: To bring about peace locally, nationally and globally through prayer, study and action. We are rooted in spirituality, dedicated to studying issues of justice from the vantage point of all those involved, and espouse working for peace with justice through nonviolent conflict transformation.

MI Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network
Randy Block
4220 Arlington Dr.
Royal Oak, MI 48073
248-549-5170
e-mail: randyblock@yahoo.com
www.uujustice.org.

Issue Priorities: To foster the worth and dignity of people by promoting social justice and community service.

Peace Pals International is a program designed to encourage youth, ages 5-16 to become peacemakers dedicated to living in the spirit of the words, May Peace Prevail On Earth.
www.wppspacepals.org. The Citizens for Peace lends the art display to groups. E-mail cmills0079@yahoo.com if interested.
**Networking/Collaborating**

**Groups/Organizations: Alphabetically**

**Peace Action (Michigan)**
195 W. Nine Mile Rd., #208
Ferndale, MI 48220
248-548-3920
e-mail: peacemichigan@gmail.com
Issues Priorities: Elimination of nuclear weapons, reduce Pentagon spending, support global peacemaking, restore the well being of the planet. "Move the Money" from making war to meeting human needs".

**The Peace Alliance and the Student Peace Alliance**
P.O. Box 27601
Washington, D.C., 20038
202-684-2553 Fax 202-204-5712
e-mail: info@thepeacealliance.org
www.thepeacealliance.org
www.studentpeacealliance.org
Issues Priorities: The Peace Alliance and The Student Peace Alliance are working to pass national legislation that will promote a Culture of Peace, such as The Department of Peace and the Youth Promise Act.

**The Peace Alliance of Greater Kalamazoo**
Luana VanDam
269-370-8602
e-mail: wildwoman@sbcglobal.net
Chuck Harmon
e-mail: AScharlie@yahoo.com
Issue Priorities: make Kalamazoo a City of Peace and Compassion; study Non-Violent Communication; support Peace Pizzazz, an annual children’s festival for peace; support the Youth Promise Act.

**The Peace Education Center**
855 Grove St.
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-515-5634
e-mail: peaceedcenter@gmail.com
www.peaceedcenter.org

**Peace Poles**
7221 S. Wheeler Rd.
Maple City, MI 49664
Phone: 231.326.4567
info@peacepoles.com
www.peacepoles.com
Issues Priorities: Spread the message of "May Peace Prevail on Earth".

**Pointes for Peace**
Carole Bendure
1310 Three Mile
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
313-822-7732
e-mail: pointesforpeace@yahoo.com
www.pointesforpeace.org.
Issue Priority: We provide educational opportunities about current events to the community.

**Puzzles with a Purpose**
Susan Belanger
906.235.7927
PO Box 58, Big Bay, MI. 49808
sbeli59@puzzleswithapurpose.com
www.puzzleswithapurpose.com
Issue priorities: Peace Education

"Violence rests on the assumption that the enemy and I are entirely different: the enemy is evil and I am good. The enemy must be destroyed and I must be saved. But love sees things differently. It sees that even the enemy suffers from the same sorrows and limitations that I do. That we both have the same hopes, the same needs, the same aspiration for a peaceful and harmless human life. And that death is the same for both of us. Then love may perhaps show me that my brother (sister) is not really my enemy, and that war is both his enemy and mine. War is our enemy. Then peace becomes possible."

- Thomas Merton
Groups/Organizations: Alphabetically

Straits Area Concerned Citizens for Peace & Justice and the Environment (SACCPJE)
Karen Martin
Cheboygan, MI 49721
877-826-6871
e-mail: Karen4peace@yahoo.com
www.straitspeace.org.
Issue Priorities: Promotes progressive goals, such as peace, healthcare and quality education for all, a sustainable lifestyle, alternative to fossil fuels, earth stewardship, nuclear-free and fracking-free practices

Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery
33 E. Adams at Grand Circus Park
Detroit, MI 48226
313-963-7575
e-mail: swordsintoplowshares@prodigy.net
Issue Priorities: Promotes and inspires justice and peace through the visual and performing arts.

Tri-City Action for Peace (TCAP)
Joan McCoy or Ginger Thibodeau
e-mail: homeforpax@aol.com or bgthib@yahoo.com
Issue Priorities: Peace & justice; and the end of armed conflict.

Veterans for Peace Chapter 50
President: Tim Keenan
John Lewis
605 Cromwell Drive
 Traverse City, MI 49686
231-947-9104
e-mail: lordnladyc@charter.net
www.vfp50.org
Issue Priorities: To abolish war & seek justice and well being for veterans and victims of war

Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 SE Michigan (Metro Detroit)
Steve Saelzler
28355 Redla Dr.
Trenton, MI 48183-5079
734-675-4138 (home)
734-674-0688 (cell)
e-mail: saelzler@comcast.net
www.vfp74.org.
Doug Osmond
586-731-4207

Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 (South Central MI)
Bob Krzewinski
706 Dwight Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
734-487-9098
e-mail: wolverbob@gmail.com
www.vfp93.org.

WAND (Women’s Action for New Directions)
Southeast Michigan
Fern Katz, contact and board member
248-557-7505
e-mail: faywy1@comcast.net
Issue Priorities: to act politically to reduce violence and militarism; and to eliminate nuclear weapons

WILPF (Detroit)
(Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom)
Laura Dewey
1891 Lancaster
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
313-882-1596
e-mail: wilpfdetroit@att.net
Issue Priorities: Racial justice, women’s rights, economic justice, disarmament, human rights, sustainable development, nuclear disarmament, Middle East peace, building a culture of peace from a feminist perspective.

WILPF (Ann Arbor)
Odile Hugonot-Haber
PO Box 7213
Ann Arbor, 48103
734-761-7967

The Winds of War

The winds of war are blowing -
And blood will soon be flowing!
    Ours and theirs,
And no one cares -
As seeds of death we’re sowing!

All the earth will tremble -
As armies all assemble!
    They plan to kill,
The blood will spill -
What will the earth resemble?

Susan C. Faustina Erickson
February 12, 2003

“We take smooth-faced young men out of their mother’s kitchens to teach them how to march blindly into death, how to destroy what they do not know, how to hate what they have not seen. We make victims of the victors themselves. We call the psychological maiming, the physical squandering, the spiritual distortion of the nation’s most vulnerable defenders ‘defense.’ We turn their parents and sweethearts and children into the aged, the widowed, and the orphaned before their time. We make a wasteland and call it peace.”

Seneca

Political Action Guide for Peace ’15-’17
Move the Money

During his first week away from home at college, our oldest son wrote a letter to his mother and me. It was two pages of good news. Then came the PS: "This is the first and last letter you will receive."

That meant we would communicate by phone calls and later by emails. However, that first letter reminded me that his mother was an excellent letter writer. I preferred picture postcards. So, twenty years ago, I decided to write a weekly postcard to our son. I have rarely missed a week, and I have written postcards to our other son for twelve years.

The moral of the story is: "Communication counts!" However, our elected representatives do not receive enough of our visits, phone calls, and emails. One of our elected officials' staffers told us that she does not receive enough communication from folks who emphasize peacemaking.

Will you promise to communicate weekly with our elected officials? What about a monthly "Letter to the Editor?"

"Talking points" is a recent vocabulary word. Can I add "writing points" to our lexicon? Here are some of both.

Congress must step up overseeing fiscal discipline at the Pentagon
- The Department of Defense cannot or will not make an annual audit of its budget.
- Both Republicans and Democrats want Pentagon spending to be audited.
- There has been waste and fraud in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Before supplying new war funds, Congress should demand audits.

The Pentagon already has enough money to deal with ISIS.
- Just before Congress recessed for the 2014 election, it enacted a short-term spending bill for war making of $85 billion, an astonishing $27 billion more than requested.
- We cannot afford another war on our nation's credit card.
- The Pentagon doesn't need more of our tax dollars. It needs less mission creep, clearer priorities, and better management.

The Pentagon should abide by the Budget Control Act, also labeled "sequestration."
- The Budget Control Act allows the Pentagon to keep on spending at historically high levels.
- Those who want the budget caps increased are using crises to defeat fiscal discipline and spend more of our taxes.
- The promises to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and Iraq should lead to a real downsizing.
- The Budget Control Act would create the shallowest defense downsizing over the next ten years since World War II.
Questions about nuclear bombs - another way to communicate is to ask questions.
- Dear Senator or Representative: I am concerned about nuclear wars and all the bombs existing around the globe. Where can I get the data about nuclear policy and the number of nuclear weapons?
- How many nuclear bombs do we really need? 4,000? 900?
- How many nuclear bombs are in storage?
- How many nuclear warheads are on high alert?
- How long do the Presidents of Russia and the U.S. have to decide whether to launch a nuclear attack?
- Are we spending enough to dismantle nuclear warheads and keep nuclear bombs away from terrorists?

Background

Congress and the President annually decide how much of our tax dollars will go to national security. Pentagon spending takes over half of our discretionary spending year after year. Is that enough? Too much?

Our country has increased spending on Pentagon programs and nuclear weapons by over 50% the past twelve years. In addition, we have spent trillions on war making in Iraq and Afghanistan. Will that bill reach $3, or 4, or 5 trillion? How on earth can our children and grandchildren deal with the national debt?

National security is important; however, Pentagon spending is more than the military spending of the next 10 or 12 countries...and most of them are allies. It is time to reevaluate our priorities.

Polls show that Americans want to spend tax dollars on lowering the cost of student loans, increasing the amount spent on roads and bridges, and addressing climate change. Americans want to preserve Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

We must lobby to move the money from the Pentagon to the peoples' priorities!
President Eisenhower said, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children...This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

We who believe in a world without nuclear weapons...must not rest...until the bombs are abolished.

Rev. Rich Peacock
Co-Chair of Peace Action of Michigan
rjpeacock@wowway.com

PS - Contact me to discuss when Peace Action can present motivating information ("Move the Money") to your organization.
The Mission of the Citizens for Peace is to be responsive community leaders centered on learning, educating, and facilitating the practices and principles of nonviolence in our world. We encourage the empowerment of an active citizenry and support a United States Department of Peace, A Youth Promise Act and violence prevention.
www.citizens4peace.com

The Peace Bibliography of Nonviolent Materials

What makes this Collection different than other peace collections? It is different because a public collection of nonviolent materials is very rare. The Library of Congress has no classification for nonviolent materials. Therefore, individuals who wish to learn about nonviolence must spend more time and energy in their search. The Citizens for Peace is contributing their research to broaden the educational opportunities on nonviolence and further develop a culture of peace.

The Citizens for Peace bibliography now has over 650 titles for adults, teens, and children which contain information on peace movements, both historical and current, leaders of nonviolence, and Nobel Peace Prize winners. Also included is information on inspirational leaders dedicated to improving the lives of people through economic and social change. In addition, you will find materials on nonviolent solutions to conflict, such as Restorative Practices. This is an alternative method to school suspensions and prison sentencing resulting in building a sense of community and reducing conflict and violence in schools.

This bibliography was first shared with the Livonia Public Library in 2006 along with funds to purchase materials from the list. In 2007 and 2009, the list was shared with the Commerce Township Library, Redford Township Library, and Westland Library with funds to select and purchase titles from the bibliography. Our latest donation in 2014 was to the Farmington Library.

Many of these materials are available through your local public library. Most libraries in southeastern Michigan offer interlibrary loan and have reciprocal borrowing including MelCat. Citizens for Peace looks forward to expanding the access to these materials in the Detroit Metropolitan area as funds become available.
If you would like to see the bibliography of nonviolent materials, go to www.citizens4peace.com. and click on the links to download the adult and youth bibliographies.

We welcome you to join us in developing a culture of peace through educational reading of our nonviolent resources.

Get Involved Guide/ Monthly Meetings

The Citizens for Peace have published a Get Involved Guide as a companion to the Political Action Guide for Peace. The Get Involved Guide is designed to inspire young people, teachers, and all activists to participate in creating a more sustainable and peaceful world. The Guides are available at our monthly meetings. For over eleven years, we have held monthly informative meetings at Unity of Livonia (28660 Five Mile Rd.) on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Our dedication to peace is exemplified by never missing a meeting. For a complete list of our activities, we invite you to go to our web site - www.citizens4peace.com. Join us in creating a culture of peace!
Celebrating the Season for Nonviolence

The Gandhi-King Season for Nonviolence was launched in 1998 and co-founded by the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence and The Association for Global New Thought. The Season focuses attention on the philosophy of attaining peace through nonviolent action as demonstrated by Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. The Citizens for Peace sponsor an annual activity to honor this Season for Nonviolence. We are starting a Random Acts of Kindness Campaign in 2015. We will record our kind acts and anonymously submit them. We will share them at our meetings and compile them in a booklet in April. Everyone is welcome to participate. For more details go to our web site: www.citizens4peace.com.

The Season for Nonviolence runs from January 30 (assassination date of Gandhi) to April 4 (assassination date of Martin Luther King, Jr.) For information and free resources go to www.agnt.org/season-for-nonviolence.

“We must begin to replace the culture of violence that dominates all aspects of our lives today with a culture of nonviolence.”

“I think Nonviolent Communication is a very significant part of the culture of nonviolence. We cannot use abusive language and expect to convince people of the effectiveness of nonviolence.”

“The first thing a nonviolent activist is required to do is to understand that in this struggle there are no enemies. There is nothing like "us and them." We are all one and some of us need to be changed. But we cannot convince anyone to change if we do not show the change in our own attitude.”

For instance we cannot convince people not to treat others as enemies if we ourselves are treating some people as enemies. We must live what we want others to learn. People learn more from what we do than what we tell them.”

“We need to create a society where everyone works for the good of all and not just the good of a few.”

“Activism and protest have their place in the culture of nonviolence, but they must be designed to transform the people and not to provoke them. Much of the activism today is provocative and the language used reflects a lot of anger and disrespect for the other. This should not happen because we are not there to alienate them but to transform them.”

- Arun Gandhi, Gandhi’s grandson and founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence
Family Pledge of Nonviolence

Making peace must start within ourselves and in our family. Each of us, members of the ______________________________ family, commit ourselves as best we can to become nonviolent and peaceable people.

To Respect Self and Others

To respect myself, to affirm others and to avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks and self-destructive behavior.

To Communicate Better

To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger, and to work at solving problems peacefully.

To Listen

To listen carefully to one another, especially those who disagree with me, and to consider others’ feelings and needs rather than insist on having my own way.

To Forgive

To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another, to forgive others, and to keep from holding grudges.

To Respect Nature

To treat the environment and all living things, including our pets, with respect and care.

To Play Creatively

To select entertainment and toys that support our family’s values and to avoid entertainment that makes violence look exciting, funny or acceptable.

To Be Courageous

To challenge violence in all its forms whenever I encounter it, whether at home, at school, at work, or in the community, and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.

This is our pledge. These are our goals. We will check ourselves on what we have pledged once a month on ______________________________ for the next twelve months so that we can help each other become more peaceable people.

"Eliminating violence, one family at a time, starting with our own."

Institute for Peace and Justice
475 East Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119
Phone: (314) 918-2630 --- Fax: (314) 918-2643
www.ipj-ppj.org
Want to check for accuracy or truth?
Check the following websites:

www.factcheck.org (Operated by the University of Pennsylvania, provides careful analysis of claims made by politicians and other newsmakers. It's scope is national.)

www.politifact.com (Run by the Tampa Bay Times, won a Pulitzer Prize in 2009 for its "Truth-O-Meter" ratings of politicians' claims.

www.snopes.com Debunks all sorts of myths, including those spread by viral emails.)

www.urbanlegends.about.com (Operated by The New York Times, debunks political and other misleading claims, photos and videos nationally.)

www.votesmart.org (Features an interactive website where you enter your address and the issues most important to you and it responds with an array of the candidates for national offices you are eligible to elect.)

www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker (Written by veteran Post columnist Glenn Kessler, awards “Pinnocchios” for political falsehoods.)

Want legislative news?


League of Women Voters—www.lwv.org (Promoting democracy, campaign and election reform)

Project Vote-Smart—www.vote-smart.org (Voters’ self-defense system)

RESULTS – www.results.org (Legislative work to end poverty and hunger)

State of Michigan—www.michigan.gov (Official site)

United States Congress— www.Congress.org

United States House – www.house.gov (Provides information about representatives and legislation)

United States Senate – www.senate.gov (Provides information about senators and legislation)
National Organizations for Peace Activists:

A Future Without War
www.afww.org
Dr. Judith’s Hand’s vision of making war obsolete within two generations.

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
www.bradycampaign.org
The Brady Campaign is devoted to creating an America free from gun violence, where all Americans are safe at home, at school, at work, and in our communities. Find facts on violence and legislation to prevent gun violence.

Friends Committee on National Legislation
www.fcnl.org/resources
FCNL has worked for more than 65 years to change federal policy to advance social and economic justice, peace, and good government. Their resource page has flyers and factsheets that are helpful to active citizens.

Metta Center for Nonviolence
www.mettacenter.org
Resources available on this website encourage the move to a nonviolent future.

Peace Action
www.peaceaction.org
Since 1957, Peace Action (formerly SANE) has been working to abolish nuclear weapons. The goal of seeing war abolished as a means to settling conflict is a noble one. Currently their Move the Money Campaign is a national focus. The website provides many resources for the activist.

The Peace Alliance
www.thepeacealliance.org
The Peace Alliance empowers civic engagement toward a culture of peace. It supports a Department of Peace and the Youth Promise Act. There are tools and educational resources available on the website

WAND – Women’s Action for New Directions
www.wand.org
Find great resources on how to reduce violence and militarism, and redirect excessive Pentagon spending to unmet human and environmental needs

WILPF – Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
www.wilpf.us.org
WILPF will celebrate their 100th year in 2015! WILPF works to achieve through peaceful means world disarmament, full rights for women, racial and economic justice, an end to all forms of violence, and to establish those political, social, and psychological conditions which can assure peace, freedom, and justice for all.

World Beyond War
www.worldbeyonddwar.org
World Beyond War is a global nonviolent movement to end war and establish a just and sustainable peace. We aim to create awareness of popular support for ending war and to further develop that support. We work to advance the idea of not just preventing any particular war but abolishing the entire institution.