

MICHIGAN INDO AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2005

GENERAL BODY MEETING

November 6, 2005, Sunday, 3:00 to 5:00 PM

Guest speakers: Michigan Democratic Party Chair - **Mark Brewer**

Michigan State Representative - **Andy Meisner**

Location: 1257 Cottingham Row Bloomfield Hills MI. 48302. Tel: (248) 646 - 8977

Directions: To the home of Jayanthi and Guruswamy Balakrishnan. Enter the gated subdivision 'Hills of Lone Pine' located between Telegraph and Franklin. Turn Left on Wickford and then turn on second left into Cottingham Row. It is the first house on the right.

AWARDS TO PAST CHAIRS

An award recognizing their service to the Indo American community will be extended to the past chairs of MIADC at the General Body meeting on November 6, 2005. The recipients are:

Chathapuram Ramanathan: Chair 2001 – 2002. Dr. Ramanathan is a practicing academician in the area of social work and psychotherapy with focus on cross cultural issues. He conceived and launched MIADC after the 9/11 catastrophe in 2001. He organized the inaugural function and implementation of bylaws. He was instrumental in establishing formal liaison with MDP.

Gopi Nair: Chair 2003 – 2004. Gopi is a Global Practicing Manager for EMC Corporation. He organized the seminar on 'Outsourcing'. He was the chair of Ethnic Coalition of the Democratic Party during the Presidential election of 2004. He organized the rally and fund raising event for the coalition.

TEN YEAR MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

The MIADC executive committee at its meeting on 9/11/05 implemented the policy of members' choice to pay their dues for multiple years up to a maximum of ten years. The current annual dues of \$25 remains in affect. A member may choose to pay multiples of \$25 for any number of years up to a maximum of \$250.

Few members have already exercised this option by paying for two years. The first ten year members are Bobby Mukkamala and Nita Kulkarni.

GO SAMIR GO!

We are pleased to report that MIADC member Samir Singh has announced his candidacy for Mayor of the city of East Lansing. Samir has served the past 10 years on the East Lansing City Council with eight of those ten years as the Mayor Pro-Tem (Vice-Mayor). Samir has also served on the MIADC board in the past. The election will take place during the second week of November 2005.

JASON ELLENBERG IN GRAND BLANC

Jason Ellenberg, Political Organizing Director of Michigan Democratic Party reviewed the election of 2004 and provided information on elections of 2006 at the MIADC meeting in Grand Blanc on 9/11/05. He stated that 86% of Indo Americans voted for John Kerry in the 2004 Presidential election as per exit polls provided by Indian Center of Political Awareness. The issues that are important to Indo Americans are national security v/s civil rights, isolationist v/s diversity and access to government programs such as social security.

He made us aware that the election in November 2006 is extremely important for democrats at all levels of government. The seats in contest in 2006 are US Senator (1), Michigan Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, US Congress (15), State Senate (38), State House (110), County Commissions, State Board of Education (2), University of Michigan Regents (2), Michigan State Trustees (2), Wayne State University (2), and Supreme Court (2). There may be three ballot proposals – Raising the minimum wage, Reversing affirmative action and election reform making it easier to vote.

GENESEE COUNTY CHAPTER IS LAUNCHED

In keeping with MIADC's objectives of increasing membership through regional chapters we are pleased to announce that the following members have stepped up to the plate to head the Genesee County Chapter of MIADC.

Chair Bobby Mukkamala

Vice Chair Neelam Puri

Secretary Lakshmi Palavali

The chapter will focus on increasing awareness about MIADC and its programs in addition to emphasizing the importance of political participation. The chapter is planning on conducting voter registration drives and will meet soon to discuss future goals.

MODEL MINORITY !

Jayashree and Shanti made a presentation titled "Shattering the Myth of the Indian American Community as a Model Minority" using facts and figures from a report published by IACFPA (The Indian American Center for Political Awareness based in Washington DC). Their presentation focused on the fact that Indian Americans, while having achieved a high level of education and income, have not translated this into an increase in political participation. Little known facts such as poverty in certain states, barriers and access to health care and low usage of government programs were discussed.

POLITICAL INTERNSHIPS

MIADC board members are working very hard to set up a summer political internship program for undergraduates in Michigan in an effort to encourage young Indo Americans to learn about the political process at the grassroots level. The program will place accepted applicants in local, state or federal lawmakers' offices where they will learn how to deal with constituent issues, work on political campaigns and also learn more about issues that affect the Indo American/Asian community and the public at large.

The Internship Application will be available online by November 15th. Please check www.miadc.org after November 15th if you are interested in applying.

RAMZI DALLOO CANDIDATE FOR TROY CITY COUNCIL

An election for the Troy City Council will be held on Tuesday November 8, 2005. The Indo American US citizens of Troy are urged to support and vote for Ramzi Dalloo. Ramzi is a candidate for this non partisan seat. He is a committed democrat. He is the chair of Chaldean Democratic Caucus. He was one of our partners in the ethnic coalition for democratic candidates during the 2004 election. He believes in enhancing business growth, enhancing citizen's lives and embracing diversity.

PROGRESSIVE TALK RADIO WDTW 1310 AM

Listen to the exciting, informative and truthful talk show hosts Nancy Skinner and Ed Schultz on WDTW 1310 AM from 6 to 9 in the morning and 3 to 6 in the evening every weekday. They provide a refreshing commentary on the current political issues with a progressive outlook. You are encouraged to call into their shows with your questions and comments.

**Newsletter prepared by
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