

January 16, 2023 Minutes
Gratiot County Democratic Party General Membership Meeting
Meeting Held at our Office on Wright Ave. Alma, Mi

Meeting called to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 7:05

Pledge of Allegiance recited & Indigenous Land Acknowledgment read by Christie Freestone

Leadership Roll Call

Christie Freestone (Chair) - Present

Al Bartholomew (Vice-Chair) - Absent

Lisa Gregory (Secretary) - Present

Brent Devries (Treasurer) - Present (Zoom)

Nancy O'Brien (Parliamentarian/Governance) - Present

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the secretary's report from the November meeting made by Liz Weaver and seconded by Nancy O'Brien

Treasurer's Report: Nancy O'Brien made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Second by Liz Weaver.

Executive Committee Report:

- 1) Building Lease - We have agreed to a two-year lease at our current location. For 2023 the cost will be \$775/month plus utilities and for 2024 the cost will be \$875 plus utilities.
- 2) Website updates - Lisa has updated Weebly and is now moving toward creating a Canva website. She welcomes suggestions/ideas.
- 3) Community Outreach/ PR Changes - Community Outreach and Public Relations will now be two committees - Nancy Gott will be the Community Outreach chair and Michael Lynch will be our PR chair
- 4) Office Issues
 - a) Door Lock Box - Because we are now sharing access with the store next door, the lock box for our office is now located on the inside door and the outside door will be left unlocked. Ideas and suggestions for resolving this issue are welcome.
 - b) The Volunteer Notebook has been updated
- 5) Gratiot DEM Memorial Policy Discussion - JoAnn Gilbert suggested a memorial for Carolyn Ross and proposed a plaque and framed photo for the office, which she will donate. The suggestion was made to create a page on the website to memorialize Carolyn (and others) with the option to donate in their names. Nancy O'Brien made a motion to have the Executive Committee create criteria for

memorials. Nancy Gott seconded the motion. The executive committee will discuss this matter and make a proposal to bring back to the membership.

Other Committee Reports:

By-Laws/Governance/Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - February's book club book is *Dirt Road Revival*. The book club will meet February 4 at 10 AM.

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw - no report

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman) - Nancy reviewed the accomplishments of the PR committee for 2022. Thanks to this committee for their efforts.

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - not present

Finance | Brent DeVries - The budget is in progress. Brent is currently getting information from the committee chairs.

Fundraising | Liz Weaver - There are lots of great ideas that need to be put in motion.

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf (via Zoom) - 260 renewal forms were sent to members. 43 have been received back. Thank you to Brent DeVries for updating ActBlue (it's working well).

Public Relations | Michael Lynch - no report

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz (Marilyn reported) - Plans are underway for a February 27 forum on Rural Politics to be held at Ballyhoo Books. A March 27 forum is also being planned.

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

The County Convention will be held January 28 at 11AM at our office. This convention will be for electing delegates for the spring convention, which will be held February 11 in Detroit. All are welcome to attend.

February Coffee with Dems will be held Tuesday, February 7 at 9AM at Ballyhoo Books.

On March 7, Coffee with the Dems will be held at JJRubys. Coffee with the Dems is the first Tuesday of each month at various locations. These dates are listed on our website and on our Google calendar.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 20 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Meeting Adjourned: 8:06