

**March 20, 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) - p  
Al Bartholomew (Vice-Chair) - p  
Lisa Gregory (Secretary) - p  
Brent Devries (Treasurer) - p  
Nancy O'Brien (Parliamentarian/Governance) - p

Introduction of guests: Christie introduced newly elected Second Congressional District Democratic Party Chair, Mary Minnick, and her husband Mark. Mary invites everyone to visit their website <https://www.michigan2nddemocrats.com/>. An important upcoming event will be an ice cream social that will take place May 13 in Remus featuring Michael Lynch, Second District Congressional Candidate, and Hill Harper (who you may have seen on "The Good Doctor" and "CSI NY") who will be running for U.S. Senate. Visit the website for more information on this and other events.

Michael Lynch, U.S. House of Representatives Second Congressional District candidate, spoke regarding his main areas of focus as a candidate.

**Committee Reports**

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to accept the secretary's report from Michael Lynch.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bobbie Renshaw made a motion to accept the treasurer's report.

**Executive Committee Report:**

- 1) Michigan Democratic Party Update - Christie will report on new leadership
- 2) Congressional District 2 Update
  - a) New bylaws have been approved - we will have access to these new bylaws.
  - b) New committees have been approved.
- 3) Website report - The new website is in progress, and it will include an "In Memoriam" page. Please let Lisa know if you have thoughts or suggestions.
- 4) Policy for building usage - Al Bartholomew reported on the form that he is creating for groups who want to use our office. A donation will be requested from groups using our space.

### Other Committee Reports:

By-Laws/Governance/Book Club | Nancy O'Brien

- Nancy is putting together a committee to update our bylaws which was last done in 2018. The updated bylaws will reflect the Michigan bylaws.
- The Book Club book meets April 1 to discuss *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, a novel based on how the Oxford English Dictionary was compiled. The movie, *The Professor and the Madman*, will be viewed in conjunction with this book.

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw - We are currently recruiting candidates for township and village positions.

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman) - The committee will meet next week to formulate six annual events that our group will support.

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Finance | Brent DeVries - treasurer's report submitted and approved

Fundraising | Liz Weaver - Liz is looking into renting NCG Cinema for a movie fundraiser. She is also researching the possibility of a wine tasting fundraiser. The pop can drive is ongoing.

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - no report

Public Relations | Michael Lynch - This committee will advertise events and write a recap after the event is completed. They are working on email campaigns and social media accounts. Michael is working on getting a list of emails for Democrats and Independents in Gratiot County.

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz - Plans are underway for the next Reid-Knox forum that will take place Monday, March 27 at Ballyhoo Books and Brew.

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

### **Old Business**

A Vicki Chessin Memorial Community Service Plaque has been ordered for the office.

The Rural Caucus Conference will be held April 13-15 in Sault Ste. Marie. All are welcome to attend.

### **New Business**

Isabella County will hold an Earth Day event on April 22. We will have a table there with information on environmental issues.

Technology issues: We are still having issues with Zoom meetings and projectors, etc. We need a policy and a techy person to help with this. Brent suggests "1Password" to help manage all of our passwords.

The minutes from the last Executive Committee meeting were read by Christie. They will also be posted on our website.

The Michigan 2nd Congressional District is requesting names of one female and one male from each county that has positively contributed to the party. It was agreed to submit Christie Freestone and Ed Lorenz for our county.

Tuesday April 11 at 7 PM there will be a forum on the electoral college at CMU sponsored by The League of Women Voters.

April Coffee with Dems will be held at Anschutz in Breckenridge. 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, April 17 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Meeting Adjourned: 8:16