

April 24, 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) - a
- Lisa Gregory (Secretary) - p
- Brent Devries (Treasurer) - p
- Nancy O'Brien (Parliamentarian/Governance) - p

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept secretary's report by Michael Lynch. The motion was seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept treasurer's report by Nancy O'Brien. The motion was seconded.

- If anyone is interested in seeing a copy of the treasurer's report, you can email Caroline DeGraaf gratiotdems@gmail.com at least one day before the meeting.
- Brent explained that the first priority for money will be to pay expenses to keep the office open through 2024.
- It was reported that the executive committee has approved paying recurring bills through the end of 2023.

Executive Committee Reports:

- Michigan Democratic Party Update -
 - Enbridge Line 5 Great Lakes petition - Motion by Michael Lynch and seconded to support signing the letter from the Michigan Democratic Party asking Joe Biden to investigate this issue. Ed is looking into having a forum on this topic.
 - The 2024 National Democratic Convention is in Chicago August 19-22
 - May 20, 2023 - Detroit Marriott - The annual dinner this year is recognizing Debbie Stabenow. The MDP website has more information.
- Congressional District 2 Update -
 - District 2 will be fundraising and we encourage supporting their efforts as our county benefits directly. More information is available on their website <https://www.michigan2nddemocrats.com/ice-cream-social-fundraiser.html>
 - Ed and Christie were nominated by our county for their outstanding service. Ed Lorenz took second in the overall vote.
- Gratiot Dems Office Update
 - Sign up genius has been updated to sign up to work in the office. We will need more volunteers if we want to extend hours.
 - We should have the Vicki Chessin Memorial Award engraved to show for our next meeting.
 - Marc Raycraft made a motion to write a press release regarding the Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan and its benefits for the St. Louis cleanup. The motion was seconded.

Other Committee Reports:

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

- The by laws committee is working on updating our bylaws. They will meet again later this week.
- The Book Club will meet Saturday, May 6 to discuss *The Cold Vanish* by Jon Billman. We will have the author with us via Zoom.

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw - no report

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman) - Renee and Nancy are mulling ideas over and will have a plan for the next meeting.

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Finance | Brent DeVries - no report

Fundraising | Liz Weaver - no report

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - Currently 62 members have filled out a new membership form. There are 272 who have been members in the past but have not yet renewed their form. 30 people have asked to receive emails and newsletters without being members.

Public Relations | Michael Lynch -

- The committee is working on a press release for the PBB at 50 conference and its connection to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan.

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz -

- PBB at 50 is being planned for May 18-20.
- Ed will look into possibly planning the next forum on the Line 5 debate.

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

Old Business

- Rural Caucus Conference Update - Sue Reithel and Michael Lynch attended the conference. The biggest suggestions were to “be visible” and “be engaged” and promote the Biden record.
- Building Use Form - Tabled until next meeting
- Google Meet vs. Zoom - Tabled until next meeting

New Business

- Highland Festival Parade - We plan to have a float in the Highland Festival Parade. Marc Raycaft is willing to put a float together and bring his wagon. He will fill out an application to be in the parade which is Memorial weekend (Saturday) 27th. More information will be coming out in an email.
- May Election - Fulton and Vestaburg schools have millage elections in May.
- Updating Events - Movie night Friday, popcan drive, May 2 Coffee with the Dems at RiverRock at 9, June Coffee will be at Ballyhoo, Wednesday nights Blockhouse trivia.

Motion to adjourn by Nancy O'Brien and seconded. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30

Next Meeting: Monday, May 15 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully Submitted by Lisa Gregory