

**May 15, 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 7:00

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 with one correction (spelling of "Sue Reithel") made by Michael Lynch and seconded.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to accept treasurer's report made by Liz Weaver and seconded.

- If anyone is interested in seeing a copy of the treasurer's report, you can email Caroline DeGraaf [gratiotdems@gmail.com](mailto:gratiotdems@gmail.com) at least one day before the meeting. In addition, paper copies will be made available at the General Membership Meeting.

**Introduction of Guests:** Michael Lynch gave an update on his campaign. He attended The District 2 ice cream social and will attend a gala later this month. He is also volunteering with the Lansing food bank Saturday.

**Executive Committee Reports:**

- The Michigan Democratic Party legacy dinner will be held Saturday at The Renaissance Center. Debbie Stabenow will be honored and Mark Kelly will be there.
- The Drive SAFE Advocacy week is May 19-25. It is requested that we contact our legislators to ask them to support the Drive SAFE bills.
- According to the MDP, the new Michigan budget contains a substantial investment in education. The budget is now headed to the Senate for approval.
- The Congressional District 2 ice cream social was held in Remus this past Saturday. Christie shared information on two bills that need our support.
- The Rural Caucus Summit was attended by Sue Reithel - Christie has minutes from that meeting.
- Gratiot Dems office updates
  - Flyers about PBB at 50 were distributed at the District 2 meeting
  - Movie party here was successful - we would like to do this again

**Other Committee Reports:**

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien -

- Fun book club in May with the author on Zoom
- Our June book is *The Living Great Lakes* by Jerry Dennis.

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw - no report

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman) - no report

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Finance | Brent DeVries - no report

Fundraising | Liz Weaver - Movie night at NCG in June. A current movie and unlimited pop and popcorn will cost \$30.

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - no report

Public Relations | Michael Lynch -

- Michael has been reaching out to TV stations about local events and is receiving positive feedback.

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz - no report

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

### **Unfinished Business**

- By-law revisions - Nancy reported on revisions to by-laws. Motion to approve by-laws made by Michael Lynch and seconded.
- Building use form - tabled
- Google Meet vs. Zoom - tabled
- Highland Festival parade - Saturday the 27th - Marc Raycraft reported that details will be shared after the 19th when he gets the information. The parade starts at 10:30 - line up at 9:00. We need people dressed in blue and white to ride on the float. If possible, bring candy to throw.

### **New Business**

- A yoga class will be held Mondays at 10AM at the office beginning the first Monday in June. GCDP will receive a donation for each class.
- Project 83 - tabled

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05

Next Meeting: Monday, June 19 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory