

**June 19, 2023 Minutes**  
**Gratiot County Party General Membership Meeting**

Held at our office on Wright Ave., Alma , MI

Call to order at 7:05

Executive Committee present:

Christie Freestone, Chair

Nancy O'Brien, Parliamentarian and acting Secretary

Mark Raycraft and Karol Davidson presented a gavel to Chairperson Christie Freestone to be used at GCDP meetings.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognized that today is Juneteenth, a national day of celebration of the end of slavery by executive decree. On June 19, 1865 Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced the end of the civil war and the end of slavery. A short video was played about the history of Juneteenth.

The Indigenous Land Acknowledgement statement was read.

Introduction of guests: Sharon, a friend of Betty Apple's from Florida.

Anthony Feig, former candidate for representative for Michigan's 4th District, thanked everyone for their support and reported he's recovering from cancer.

Some issues with the Zoom meeting were fixed so Helen S. could join us and announced the roadway clean-up is happening on July 15. Responses to Helen are needed by July 12. An email will be sent out.

Accepted the Secretary's report.

Treasurer's report was tabled until next month when Brent will return.

In Michigan news – Governor Whitmer signed into law Women's Veteran's Day on June 12, recognizing the contributions of women in the military forces.

In Congressional District 2 news –

- Project Starfish has begun to buy back unused guns from citizens and pay with a grocery credit card.
- Michael Lynch opened his website [electmichaelylynch.com](http://electmichaelylynch.com) (designed by our very own Lisa Gregory). Check it out!
- There are plans for a fundraising Blue Wave Gala in September. Elissa Slotkin, candidate for Debbie Stabenow's seat, will be there.

- Texas Hold ‘Em tournaments are also a fundraiser in the works—they may need workers. We are still looking for workers in our office here in Alma. Our hours are Wednesdays from 4-6 pm and Saturdays from 10-12 am. We are also encouraging members to renew their contact information on membership forms.

The Highland Festival parade was well attended and well received. We had a float (thanks Mark & Karol!) and threw out candy.

The PBB conference was well attended (thanks Ed and Marilyn!) and over the 3 days 600 people attended in person or on Zoom.

We did well on the NCG movie fundraiser (thanks Liz!), but are unsure of precise numbers. Another one is planned for July 13. A wine tasting fund raising event led by Michael Lynch is in the works. More information to follow.

The Next Chapter Book Club meets on July 8 and will discuss “The Silent Patient”. Our next meeting is on August 5 and we will discuss “Giraffes Going West”. Please consider joining us.

Community events were discussed and a tentative schedule will follow.

The next Reid Knox Forums are tentatively set for September 25 discussing the Enbridge pipeline and October 23 discussing continuing immigration issues.

The building use form is still in draft form and we need to finalize it as we have a weekly leasee – a yoga class on Mondays at 10:00. Ask Caroline DeGraaf if interested.

A Committee Chair meeting was held this afternoon and some events were tentatively scheduled:

July

- July 11 table at Farmer’s Market 2-6 pm – need 2 volunteers to hand out water, candy and answer questions (possibly postcards)
- July 13 NCG movie fundraiser – \$30 for movie and unlimited pop & popcorn for Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny
- July 13 or 27 table at Farmer’s Market St Louis 2-6 pm – need 2 volunteers (see above)
- July 15 Adopt a Highway 10 am meet at the Park & Ride near Alger Road– need volunteers (call Helen 989-875-5093)

August

- August 10 Picnic at Mark Raycraft’s farm – fundraiser of burger cookoff and pie contest
- ?? date to be determined Road Rally fundraiser (Escape room style)

September

- September 9 Yard sale fundraiser at Faustmann’s house in Alma – donations need to be brought that morning and help set up
- September 18 Young Democrat group at General Membership meeting •

September 21 NCG movie fundraiser – movie to be announced

- September 23 Adopt a Highway 10 am meet at the Park & Ride near Alger Road– need volunteers (call Helen 989-875-5093)
- September 25 Reid Know Forum topic: Enbridge Pipeline

October

- ?? date to be determined Vicki Chessin Memorial Planned Parenthood partner fundraiser
- October 23 Reid Knox Forum topic: Immigration
- October 26 NCG movie fundraiser – movie to be announced

November

- November 9 Candidate Information and Recruitment Night
- ?? Wine tasting fundraiser with Isabella County Democratic Party
  - ?? Polar Express Coffee or Hot Cider with the Dems in Ashley – date to be determined

Christie is trying to make contact with Kody Vitale, our contact with Project 83, formerly known as One Vote, to arrange candidate training and information.

Adjourned at 8:24 pm

Respectfully submitted by Nancy O'Brien