

**July 17, 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) - p
- Lisa Gregory (Secretary) - p
- Brent Devries (Treasurer) - p
- Nancy O'Brien (Parliamentarian/Governance) - a

**Committee Reports**

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve minutes from last meeting made by Marc Raycraft. Seconded.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to accept treasurer's report by Al Bartholomew and seconded.

- Brent reported on the last two month's bills.
- 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.

**Executive Committee Reports:**

- Christie discussed MI Democratic Party talking points and offered to email them to any member who would like to read them. You can also sign up to receive updates at <https://michigandems.com/>
- Congressional District 2 is there to support Michael Lynch - we would like members to support them as much as possible. Currently they have two main fundraisers: Texas Hold 'Em and Blue Wave Gala. Blue Wave Gala tickets are on sale now. It will be held in Big Rapids September 30. More information is available at <https://www.michigan2nddemocrats.com/blue-wave-gala.html>
- Christie received an email from Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk. She is looking for two election inspectors. Contact Christie if you are interested.

**Committee Reports:**

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - no report

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 -

- Pop cans have made about \$200 so far. We have had two movie fundraisers at NCG Cinemas.

- Michelle Ringle will be chairing The Road Rally again this year. It will be held August 24 - "Escape Gratiot County" edition.

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - no report

Public Relations | Michael Lynch - no report

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz - no report

- Two new forums are being planned.
- Ed Lorenz has a committee brainstorming ways to get local candidates elected.

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

### **Unfinished Business**

- The Building Use Form is complete and a link will be placed on the website.
- Ithaca and St. Louis farm markets - we are hoping to have tables set up at these - Nancy O'Brien will report ideas on this and information will be sent out soon if we will have a booth.
- Adopt a Highway - Last Saturday's crew was not able to go out due to weather. We are still working on putting groups together to work this week.

### **New Business**

- Ed Lorenz is putting together a group to work on strategies for the 2024 election. Information about these meetings will be emailed.
- Christie asked for input regarding sponsorship for the Blue Wave Gala. Contact Christie if you have ideas.
- Michael Lynch campaign buttons - we are looking for someone to assemble these buttons so they can be made available in the office.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15

Next Meeting: Monday, August 21 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory