

**August 21, 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 7:01

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**

- Michael Lynch - District 2 Candidate U.S. Congress - Michael stated that he is going to events and meeting people. He expressed that he is not running AGAINST anyone, but FOR clean water and air and growth in business and jobs - he is running to get more done.
- Kevin Taylor - County Commissioner District 2 candidate was introduced.
- We may have another County Commissioner candidate.

**Committee Reports**

**Secretary's Report:** The secretary's report was accepted with no changes.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- The Treasurer's report was accepted as delivered.
- 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, the treasurer's report will be made available at the General Membership Meeting.

**Executive Committee Reports:**

- The Michigan Democratic Party update - Biden's Inflation Reduction Act has created 170,000 good-paying union jobs this year.
- 2nd Congressional District update
  - September 30 fundraiser - Blue Wave Gala
  - September 23 1:00 PM Osceola County get together to encourage their county to have a Democratic Party group
- Christie discussed an issue with the office lights. The landlord will have someone come to repair the problem.
- Bobbie will look into a new "open" sign for the office.
- We need members to sign up online to cover office hours.
- Board of Canvassers - Nancy O'Brien and Sue Hunter are our board of Canvassers representatives.
- The Executive Committee is open to ideas for groups that would like to use our office space.

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - The next book club meeting will be the same day as our garage sale - *Read Dangerously* by Azar Nafisi is this month's book.

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw - We are looking for candidates for open positions in townships in Gratiot County. Bobbie is in the process of obtaining a list of open seats in the county.

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman) - RISE Advocacy, Inc. (formerly Women's Aid Service) is collecting items this month for victims of domestic violence. There is a need for personal items for the pantry which helps these families.

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Finance | Brent DeVries - no report

Fundraising | Liz Weaver

- The yard sale fundraiser will be held Saturday, Sept 9.
- Michele Ringle reported on the Road Rally which will be held Sept 14. Please sign up online to participate.
- A September 21 movie night is pending, and Liz is also looking into a bowling fundraiser, and possible painting party in November.

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - We would like more members to fill out registration forms so that we have up-to-date information for them. Our office workers will be calling those who have not filled out forms.

Public Relations | Michael Lynch - No report

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz

- September 25 - forum on Enbridge Line 5 - Ithaca Public Library possibly
- October 23 - Immigration forum

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

### **Unfinished Business**

- Farmers Market - We are still looking into having a table at the St. Louis farmers market.
- Campaign buttons for Michael Lynch - Bobbie will choose a time and an email will be sent for volunteers to put these buttons together.

### **New Business**

- Vicki Chessen Celebration of Giving will be held in the spring.
- Committee chairs should have a Gratiot Dems email and we should be using these email addresses when conducting Gratiot Dems business. If you need an email address or have questions, Nancy O'Brien will help.
- Alma School Board Meeting report - 2 seats are open to fill in the next election.
- Adopt-a-Highway - September 23 - contact Helen Solderman to volunteer.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:39

Next Meeting: Monday, September 18, 2023 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory