

October 16, 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 7:02

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

Introduction of Guests

- Michael Lynch - District 2 Candidate U.S. Congress. Michael stated that he appreciates the support that he received at the Blue Wave Gala and would appreciate our help in gathering signatures on the petition to place him on the ballot. His message to all of us is "Thank you" for all of the support. He is planning a wine tasting fundraiser in Clare County, which many of us are anxiously anticipating.
- Kevin Taylor will be our County Commission District 2 candidate.
- Our candidate for County Commission District 4 is Sarah Foulz.

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 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:

- Pick a Date to Donate to the Dems is our latest fundraiser. We need 12 more people to choose a date to donate \$25/month to fill our calendar.
- The Michigan Democratic Party update
 - Biden has proposed elimination of "junk fees" - this is advancing
 - Bidenomics VS MAGAnomics - Biden has a plan unlike competitors
- 2nd Congressional District update
 - 12 GCDP members attended Blue Wave Gala - Debbie Stabenow and Elysa Slotkin could not attend, but Richard Bernstein spoke and Michael Lynch was excellent
- Heather Cox Richardson livestream Tuesday, October 17. Christie has an email that allows us to submit a question - email Christie your question is you have one and she will submit it
- If you can get 10 people to sign a petition, you can take one to get it filled out - the petitions will also be available in the office to be signed
- It will be especially important to have our office hours covered now with petitions to be signed
- We will have an update on the outside door, which has been an issue

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - The next book club meeting will be November 11, *Allow Me to Retort* by Elie Mystal.

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw - We are looking for candidates for open positions in townships in Gratiot County. There are many open Township, City and Village positions. Contact Bobbie if you know of anyone who might be interested in running for office.

Community Outreach -

- 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. We have until the last day of the month for this.
- Adopt-a-Highway - we would like to pick up Saturday, October 28 and then have cider and donuts afterwards. Let Helen know if you are able to participate

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Finance | Brent DeVries - no report

Fundraising | Liz Weaver

- Liz has contacted NCG Cinemas for the "Killers of the Flower Moon" movie for a daytime movie
- Liz will contact Pins for a fundraiser
- Thank you everyone for continuing to bring in bottles and cans
- A possible Christmas ornament painting party is also in the works

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - We have a new letter for members and new membership cards. Registration forms and contribution forms are ready to go. All members will receive a US mailing in January.

Public Relations | Michael Lynch - Marc Raycraft will be taking over this committee.

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz

- September 25 - forum on Enbridge Line 5 - Ithaca Public Library
- October 23 - Immigration forum - Ithaca Public Library - The focus of the evening will be a facilitated discussion starting with a video from The Aspen Institute.

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - petitions are available in the office for Michael Lynch

Unfinished Business

- Pick-a-Date fundraiser - the Executive Committee will meet to put together a letter explaining details of this fundraiser to donors.
- Vicki Chessin Event - more information upcoming

New Business

- Executive Committee approved paying a tech person to attend our events

Meeting Adjourned at 8:28

Next Meeting: Monday, November 20, 2023 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory