

Gratiot County Democratic Party General Membership Meeting | April 15, 2024 Minutes
Meeting Held at our Office on Wright Ave. Alma, MI

Meeting called to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 7:05

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited & The Indigenous Land Acknowledgment was 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) - A

Introduction of Guests

- Michael Lynch - Candidate U.S. 2nd Congressional District 2 - Michael will file to run for office in Lansing next week. If you have petitions please bring them to the office
- Kevin Taylor - Candidate for District 2 County Commission - Kevin has his signatures and will file later this week at the county clerk's office.
- Sarah Foltz - Candidate for District 4 County Commissioner - Sarah has filed to run for office.

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: Secretary's report accepted as presented

Treasurer's Report:

- We have approximately \$9,834. We do have rent covered for the year, but still need ongoing fundraisers for other expenses.

Executive Committee Reports:

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
 - MMDP Weekly Messaging - There is still concern that Trump would sign a national abortion ban if elected.
- Congressional District 2 Update
 - Michael Lynch has the signatures needed to file to be on the ballot.
 - Second Michigan Congressional District Volunteer Appreciation Award - Brent DeVries and Lisa Gregory were nominated
 - Delegates to the national convention will be nominated at the District 2 fundraiser/ice cream social.
 - Michael Lynch attended the Rural Caucus convention. He reported that Garlin Gilchrist was an excellent speaker.

- Gratiot County DEMS Update
 - Office Hours - We will discuss whether to increase our office hours once we get formal candidates. We need more volunteers to cover our current office hours.
 - Office Supplies - If you see that supplies are needed for our office, please put a note in Brent's mailbox.
 - Contribution forms - Brent has new contribution forms ready, and he have them in the office.
 - Biden office space request - Christie will be sending her pitch to more people, in the hope we can utilize our office for the Biden/Harris campaign. Michael is checking on who we should contact.

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - Book Club met and gave a good review of *Freedom's Just Another Word*. Next month's book is *The Lincoln Highway*.

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw -

- Bobbie is still looking for candidates to run for County Commissioner District 1 and 5, city commission, and school boards.

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

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Finance | Brent DeVries - Brent will be having a finance meeting of the finance committee.

Fundraising | Liz Weaver

- Movie Fundraiser - next Tuesday - tickets on Ticketleap
- Bottle and Can Drive (ongoing)
- Road Rally date needs to be chosen - Liz will contact Michelle Ringle
- Calendar Club letter has gone out - dates are still open
- Vicki Chessin Memorial Dinner is in the works

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - It is important that membership forms are filled out to help us message members most appropriately.

Public Relations | Marc Raycraft - Marc is planning for a float in the Highland Festival Parade. We will use the same banners.

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz - An April 22 forum is scheduled. Sandy Holm will come back to do a Ukraine presentation - 7PM - at Alma Opera House. There will be another forum in May before summer.

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - Petitions are available for anyone who would like to run for office.

Unfinished Business

- Candidate Information Night - Our event was successful. The speakers were excellent. We need more candidates to make our presence in the county known. Another training is planned for candidates for nonpartisan positions such as school board.

New Business

- Promoting Gratiot Democrats locally - Al is checking on putting an ad in The Gratiot County players program. Marc is looking into placing an ad on placemats in local restaurants.
- Committee for recruiting candidates - Christie and Bobbie are getting a group of people together to identify potential candidates. Bobbie will chair this committee. Please contact her if you would like to be involved with this committee.
- Adopt-a-Highway needs volunteers.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:24

Next Meeting: Monday, May 20 , 2024 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory