

**Gratiot County Democratic Party General Membership Meeting | May 20, 2024 Minutes**  
Meeting Held at our Office on Wright Ave. Alma, MI

Meeting called to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 7:04

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) - P
- Lisa Gregory (Secretary) - P
- Brent Devries (Treasurer) - P
- Nancy O'Brien (Parliamentarian/Governance) - P

**Introduction of Guests**

- Michael Lynch - Candidate U.S. 2nd Congressional District
- Kevin Taylor - Candidate for District 2 County Commission
- Sarah Foltz - Candidate for District 4 County Commission

**Committee Reports**

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

Treasurer's Report:

- Nancy Gott motioned that we give "Democrats Deliver" signs to existing members and new members who sign up - seconded by Becky Fleury
- Brent wants us to look at fundraisers to be sure that each will be profitable

**Executive Committee Reports:**

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
  - MMDP Weekly Messaging - All county offices are encouraged to buy tables for the Legacy Dinner June 8 in Detroit - see Christie if you are interested in tickets
  - Cody Vitale says he will publicize our events at the state level and try to get candidates to our events
  - Great Lakes Political Academy has contacted us - they are doing a boot camp for volunteers and campaign staff - there are four different trainings that are free - Christie has the information
  - Rural Youth Workshop - June 15 - "Contest Every Race" - Christie has more information
- Congressional District 2 Update
  - Michael Lynch attended the May 11 2nd Congressional District meeting where convention delegates were chosen
  - Michael's message was that we should "Tell two people who tell two people who tell two people" to get the word out about our Democratic candidates

- Gratiot County DEMS Update
  - Office Hours - We are not ready to increase our office hours, but we hope to do so as we approach the November election. In order to do this, we need volunteers to be here during office hours. Please sign up.
  - We are working to get new merchandise to sell in the office. We have new stickers and new shirts are on the way. It was also suggested that we get Biden|Harris bumper stickers.
  - Information from the Executive Committee meeting included the following:
    - We need more volunteers involved to help with the work ahead of this year's election
      - It is sometimes difficult to cover current office hours, and we would like to add hours as we approach November. If you would be willing to help, sign up online with Sign-up Genius or contact any member of the Executive Committee.
      - In the past, postcard writing was a good way to get more members involved.
    - We need to get back to using forms for events to keep things organized
    - We need a fundraising chair - Thank you Liz Weaver for all of your work
    - Christie is working on getting the Vicki Chessin group together
    - We would like to have Letters to the Editor published between now and election discussing, especially, why this election is so important

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - Our next book club is June 1 - we will discuss *Prequel* by Rachel Maddow

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw

- Bobbie is hoping to provide training for canvassing
- Bobbie is also looking for volunteers to serve on a committee

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

- June 13 trivia opportunity - contact Nancy O'Brien for more information
- Helen Solderman thanked those who participated in Adopt-a-Highway - our next clean-up is September 21-29 and it would be very helpful to get younger people involved

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Finance | Brent DeVries - Brent is planning a finance committee meeting

Fundraising |

- Bottle and Can Drive (ongoing)
- Road Rally - tabled
- Vicki Chessin Memorial Dinner is in the works
- Possibility of a yearly "Democrat Dinner" was discussed
- Our annual picnic will be held August 15 (Thursday) at Marc Raycraft's
- We plan to have a garage sale in September again possibly on Lucky McDuck Day - we still need a location

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - No report

Public Relations | Marc Raycraft -

- Marc is planning for a float in the Highland Festival Parade. Line-up will be at the Alma Public Library at 9:30 - the parade starts at 10:30 and ends at the Presbyterian Church. We need more candy.
- Placemats - our ad will be on placemats in area restaurants - this cost \$175

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz - Sandy Holm forum was very well received.

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - No report

### **Unfinished Business**

- Helen Solderman reported on “Queenie’s Law”

### **New Business**

- Christie is working on a Committee Chairperson planning meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27

Next Meeting: Monday, June 17 , 2024 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory