

Gratiot County Democratic Party General Membership Meeting | July 15, 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) - A
- Nancy O'Brien (Parliamentarian/Governance) - A

Introduction of Guests

- Michael Lynch - Candidate U.S. 2nd Congressional District - Michael reported that Mecosta County veterans approached him with difficulties getting benefits. There will be a debate tomorrow night at RESD. He asks that we show up and wear his campaign buttons - 7:00 at the RESD. He has ordered 600 4x4 signs.
- Tim Odykirk - Candidate for Michigan House of Representatives District 92. Bill Odenkirk (his father) represented him. He reminded everyone that Rural Urban Days will be Thursday at the Gratiot County fairgrounds. He encouraged us to elect a Democrat to the Michigan House of Representatives!
- Kevin Taylor - Candidate for District 2 County Commission - He will debate Wednesday night at the RESD.
- Sarah Foltz - Candidate for District 4 County Commission - Sarah will also debate Wednesday night at the RESD.

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: Kevin Taylor made a motion to table minutes until our next meeting. The motion was seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Brent reported that we took in more money this month from sales of merchandise in the office. Liz Weaver motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Ed Lorenz.

Executive Committee Reports:

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
 - MMDP Weekly Messaging - Issues 1) working people and workplace issues 2) healthcare, social security and medicare 3) not voting is not an option - Project 2025
- Gratiot County DEMS Update
 - New office worker procedures for sign up - Al Bartholomew will be connecting the online and paper registrations - we will need more people to staff the office - we hope to soon be open 6 days per week
 - Let Lisa know if you have ideas for new merchandise

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - *The Midnight Library* was rated 4.6 by book club members. Our next book is *The Boys in the Boat*

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw

- Come to Tuesday and Wednesday debates
- We need people to talk to their neighbors to put together information on "deep canvassing" - Bobbie will be looking for volunteers

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman) -

- Trivia Event idea - if anyone is interested in organizing this with Nancy Gott she will help with ideas

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Finance | Brent DeVries - no report

Fundraising |

- Bottle and Can Drive (ongoing)
- Our annual picnic will be held August 15 (Thursday) at Marc Raycraft's -
- Garage Sale - September 7th -

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - 5 new members in the past two weeks - Caroline has forms if needed - remember that Caroline needs a new form for each year

Public Relations | Marc Raycraft -

The second annual GCDP picnic will be held August 15

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz

- Alma College is hosting a Campus and Community Organization fair Wednesday Aug 28 from 5-7. We would like to have a table there to let Alma College students know how they can assist the GCDP.
- There are two upcoming events on PBB
 - Saturday Sept 7th from 11-1 at CMU
 - Sunday September 8 in Big Rapids
- You can join the Farmers Union and get information on agriculture
- National Zoom forums on immigration continue to be available. Contact Ed to learn more

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

Unfinished Business

- We are waiting to hear back from Biden field office
- GCDP Think Tank meeting will be held July 24

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08

Next Meeting: Monday, August 19, 2024 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory