

Gratiot County Democratic Party General Membership Meeting | August 19, 2024 Minutes

Meeting Held at our Office on Wright Ave. Alma, MI

Meeting called to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 7:01

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 - Michael reported that in the primary in some counties he earned as many uncontested votes as his opponent. He has been endorsed by the AFL-CIO. His signs are here ready to be picked up. He is looking for actors to appear in some YouTube and Tik Tok videos about Moolenaar policies.
- Tim Odykirk - Candidate for Michigan House of Representatives District 92. Bill Odenkirk (his father) represented him. He reported that signs are available and he is looking for locations. His campaign is noticing young people expressing an interest. September 20 he is having a special fundraiser at The Twisted Fork in MP. He thinks the campaign is going very well.
- Kevin Taylor - Candidate for District 2 County Commission - In the primary he earned more votes than he expected, so he was pleased. He also mentioned that we need to educate democrats on write-in candidates and split tickets in primary elections to avoid spoiled ballots. His signs are available in the office.
- Sarah Foltz - Candidate for District 4 County Commission - Sarah got 113 votes in the primary.
- Christie Freestone will be running for Alma School Board as a write-in candidate.

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brent reported that we have rent and utilities covered through the end of the year. After 2024, we will have to discuss whether to keep our office where it is now. The treasurer's report accepted as presented.

Executive Committee Reports:

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
 - A Gratiot County primary elections incident with a poll worker working as a Democrat who has Trump signs in her yard has opened up new discussion. Christie will suggest to our county clerk that the county parties give names for suggested workers so each party can vet their workers.
 - Michael Lynch is going to the MI Dem Party state convention in Lansing this Saturday - university regents will be chosen here and supreme court candidaes will be endorsed.
 - Training is being planned on canvassing and phone banking - more information will follow.
- 2nd Congressional District - Michael Lynch and Tim Odykirk were both given funds for their campaigns at the last meeting.
- Gratiot County DEMS Update
 - We are working on a slate of endorsements that we will print for voters to take to the polls if they would like.
 - Postcards are available in the office. Nancy O'Brien has information. They may be picked up in the office if you are willing to help. Postcards need to be returned by October 17 to the office to be sent out.
 - We can make donations or purchase merchandise on ACTBlue - Brent has made barcodes to simplify this process.
 - We are hoping to expand office hours - Al is working on a sign-up geenius.

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - *Medgar and Myrlie* by Joy Reid is the book club choice for September 7 (same day as garage sale).

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw - no report

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman) -

- Adopt-a-Highway - Helen is looking for volunteers to do 1/2 mile each - Saturday, September 21 at 10AM

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Fundraising |

- Bottle and Can Drive (ongoing)
- Our annual picnic was held August 15 (Thursday) at Marc Raycraft's. It was a great success.
- Our Garage Sale will be September 7th. Information has been emailed to members.
- Trivia Event idea - if anyone is interested in organizing this with Nancy Gott contact her - October 8 Terrific Tuesday Taco Trivia - tentatively start at 6:30 (doors open) 7:00 begins - Pins in Ithaca - tentative price \$40/seat - table for \$320 - gift silent auction baskets

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - no report

Public Relations | Marc Raycraft -

- The picnic was a success. Contact Marc if you have ideas for PR. He is looking for suggestions for kids' events which will, in turn, bring in more families.

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz - no report

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

Unfinished Business

- GCDP Think Tank meeting was held July 24 - Dan Greening reported on the ideas being generated.
- Alma College Student event - more information to follow

New Business

- Sherry Adams was the winner of the “Best Pie” contest at our picnic with her cherry crumb pie that sold for \$100.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30

Next Meeting: Monday, September 16 , 2024 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory