

Gratiot County Democratic Party
General Membership Meeting | February 17, 2025 Minutes
Meeting Held at our Office on Wright Ave. Alma, MI

The General Membership meeting was called to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 7:09.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and The Indigenous Land Acknowledgment was read by Christie Freestone.

Leadership Roll Call

- Christie Freestone (Chair) - P
- Scott Mackenzie (Vice-Chair) - P
- Lisa Gregory (Secretary) - P (Zoom)
- Brent Devries (Treasurer) - P
- Nancy O'Brien (Parliamentarian/Governance) - A

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was accepted as submitted by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report:

- Brent discussed our finances
- By unanimous consent, the treasurer's report was accepted.

Executive Committee Reports:

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
 - The Michigan Democratic Party state convention will be held this Saturday Feb 22 at the Detroit Marriott.
 - The Rural Caucus Summit will be held April 10-12 at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie
- 2nd Congressional District
 - They will meet from 1:00-2:30 at the MDP Convention
- Gratiot County DEMS Update
 - Focus Group Team Leaders - these people will help to keep us up-to-date on what is happening within their area and let us know what we need to do to respond. Members have expressed lots of interest in learning what they can do to help with topics that concern them.
 - Education - Michele Ringle
 - Healthcare - Leyla Moosavi
 - Environment - Gary Melow
 - Economy - Michael Lynch
 - Farming/Rural Issues - Dennis Kellogg
 - Immigration -
 - Constitutional Crisis/Coup - Bruce Moss

- Greater Gratiot County Chamber - We have joined this group, and we are excited to participate in their events.
- Optimist Club Donation - The Optimist Club will hold their annual student appreciation dinner in April. We are collecting money to sponsor this event.
- Poll Worker Training Update - Caroline DeGraaf/Betty Apple. They are putting together a packet to have in the office with information on how to become a poll worker for anyone interested.
- Postcard Writing Event - Nancy O'Brien - February 10 event was very successful. We expect to have more of these.

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien -

We discussed *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon at our February 1st meeting.

All of the books chosen for 2025 are listed in the newsletter.

We also have many books available for loan in the office.

Candidates/Elections | Al Bartholomew - no report

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman)

- We will be collecting pet supplies for the Humane Society through March 31st.
- We will have another craft-making event in February to make frosted candles.

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Fundraising |

- Bottle and Can Drive (ongoing) - Thanks Liz and Bill!
- Frosted Candle Crafting in February will be led by Nancy O'Brien

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf

- Please be sure to fill out a membership form, even if there are no changes from last year.

Public Relations | Marc Raycraft - No report

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz - We are looking for a new chair

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

Cards available in the office - "Know Your Rights" - we would like to get these out to churches, etc. -

<https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas>

Unfinished Business

- Candidate Training - Al will talk about this next time
- Our goal will now be to get our candidates elected. Targeting School Board Member positions was discussed.

- Reid-Knox forums - we are looking for someone to work with Alma College on these forums.

New Business

- Network with Established Community Groups - we discussed the value of connecting with groups as community members rather than as Democrats.
- Drinks/Dinner with the Dems was discussed for a possible social event.
- The idea of having a wine-tasting fundraiser was also mentioned.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15

Next Meeting: Monday, March 17, 2025

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory