

Gratiot County Democratic Party
General Membership Meeting | March 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 7:00.

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) - A
- Lisa Gregory (Secretary) - P
- 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 is moving the executive team to Google Workspace and OnePassword
- By unanimous consent, the treasurer's report was accepted.

Executive Committee Reports:

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
 - The Michigan Democratic Party State Convention report - Curtis Hertel is the new MDP chair
 - MDP Rural Caucus Summit - April 10-12 in Sault Ste. Marie - if interested Christie has more information.
- 2nd Congressional District
 - 20 counties in mid Michigan make up the 2nd CD
 - They met last Saturday. The bulk of the meeting was about how the last election went and they say their main goal now is defeating John Moolenaar and how to choose and support a candidate. Dave Austin is in charge of a steering committee to find a candidate to run against Moolenaar.
 - Texas Hold 'Em is their big fundraiser. We will be sending two volunteers to the April event.
- Gratiot County DEMS Update
 - A Committee Chair Meeting with the Executive Committee will be held April 14th at 11:30. We plan to take a look at our committees and discuss how to make these work best.
 - The Executive Committee agreed to ask for two Democratic representatives at early voting for the next election even though it is a nonpartisan school millage.
 - Our Action Groups are planning to get started. The Action Group Team Leaders are:

- Education - Michele Ringle
 - Healthcare - Leyla Moosavi
 - Environment - Gary Melow
 - Economy - Michael Lynch
 - Farming/Rural Issues - Dennis Kellogg
 - Immigration -
 - Constitutional Crisis/Coup - Bruce Moss
- We will be sharing information from these organizations. They are doing good things for our cause:
 - Gratiot Neighbors for CommUNITY
 - Red, Wine, and Blue
 - Indivisible
 - Optimist Club Donation - The Optimist Club will hold their annual student appreciation dinner in April. We are collecting money to sponsor this event.

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - no report

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.
- Adopt-a-Highway - Helen is looking for volunteers - Saturday, April 5 - Sunday April 13

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Fundraising |

- Bottle and Can Drive (ongoing) - Thanks to Bill Weaver and Reg Fleury for returning the cans!

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - No report

Public Relations | Marc Raycraft - No report

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

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

Unfinished Business

- Marches/Protests are ongoing. We will keep membership updated.
- Empty Chair Town Hall - to be announced
- Dinner with Dems - Join us March 25 at Alma Brewing at 7:00.

New Business

- Wright House Renovation trivia will be held April 3 at 6:00 at the Elks. The cost is \$50. Contact Christie if you are interested in attending.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15

Next Meeting: Monday, April 21, 2025

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory