

February 19, 2024 Minutes
Gratiot County Democratic Party General Membership Meeting

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

Meeting called to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 7:07

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

Introduction of Guests

- Michael Lynch - Candidate U.S. 2nd Congressional District 2 - Michael still needs signatures, and petitions are available in the office
- Kevin Taylor - Candidate for District 2 County Commission
- Sarah Foltz - Candidate for District 4 County Commissioner

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: Motion by Sue Reidel to accept the he secretary's report as presented

Treasurer's Report:

- Reminders from Brent:
 - No cash over \$20 - only checks
 - Send any correspondence for him to the GCDP treasurer email (treasurer.gratiotdems@gmail.com) if it is treasurer related
 - Also, send any mail to the GCDP P.O. Box (GCDP, P.O. Box 154, Alma, MI 48801)
- The Treasurer's report was accepted. Brent says we currently have enough money to pay bills for the next eight months.
 - We still have a few open dates for the Calendar Club
 - Brent reported that taxes are complete
 - We currently have receipts for miscellaneous supplies and a \$200 tax prep bill to pay - Marc Raycraft made a motion for Brent to pay these bills with support by Michael Lynch

Executive Committee Reports:

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
 - MMDP Weekly Messaging
- Congressional District 2 Update
 - Michael Lynch needs 1000 more signatures before the end of March
 - March 16 - Clare parade - Betty and Nancy O and Christie and Bobbie will be there circulating petitions for Michael - Michael will be there March 13-16 (Clare Irish Festival) - contact one of these people if you'd like to participate
 - The Rural Summit starts in April at Shanty Creek

- Gratiot County DEMS Update
 - Long and Short Term Goals - Brent shared some ideas for future goals (16 year plan) which included
 - recording the history of redistricting including the need for legal representation (Christie was involved with the last redistricting).
 - the need for recruiting more members including more young people.
 - planning our yearly fundraising so fundraisers are consistent
 - building a pipeline of talented candidates
 - 2024 Year Long Calendar of Events - A meeting of committee chairs will be called within the month to do a 2024 calendar.
 - Calendar Club Update - Pick a Date to Donate - Donors will receive a letter soon.
 - Coffee with the Dems - Our next Coffee will be March 5 at JJRubys. After that, Coffee with the Dems will be held at Ballyhoo Books.
 - The Open House was a wonderful event. We discussed strategies for promoting our events.

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - The next book club will be March 2 at 10:00 AM at the GCDP office. The novel is *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver.

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw - Bobbie commented how much effort elections take including what it takes to run a precinct.

- A candidate information meeting will be held in March - location TBD.

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman)

- February is national canned food month - we are collecting items in the office through the first week of March.

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Finance | Brent DeVries - no report

Fundraising | Liz Weaver

- Bottle and Can Drive (ongoing)
- Upcoming events
 1. PINS bowling night
 2. Possible trivia night at the office
 3. Also looking into NCG movie morning

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - Membership registration forms for 2024 have been sent in the mail. We are collecting these as they come in - 51 people so far have turned in registration forms.

Public Relations | Marc Raycraft - Marc will be putting another ad in the Gratiot County Herald with regular ongoing dates.

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz - meeting Wednesday at 3 at GCDP office - follow-up of December immigration forum.

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - Petitions are available in the office for Michael Lynch.

Unfinished Business

- We have a committee working to come up with a list of candidates in the area
 - They are contacting school union presidents
 - The committee will meet again
- We need to order new merchandise to have for sale in the office.

New Business

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29

Next Meeting: Monday, March 18, 2024 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory