

Gratiot County Democratic Party General Membership Meeting | March 18, 2024 Minutes

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

Meeting called to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 7:12

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) - P

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: Secretary's report accepted 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)
- We have approximately \$11,000 right now split between two accounts.
- Michael Lynch motioned to accept treasurer's report as presented.

Executive Committee Reports:

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
 - MMDP Weekly Messaging
- Congressional District 2 Update
 - Michael Lynch talked about petitions
 - He needs 1,000 signatures.
 - Thursday, March 28th there will be a petition signing event from 4:00-7:00 at the Soaring Eagle Casino in the Three Fires Room for Michael Lynch and Elissa Slotkin. Everyone is invited to come and help!
- Gratiot County DEMS Update
 - Long and Short Term Goals ideas
 - We will continue using last year's goals as our short-term goals.
 - Long-term goals - Long-term goals for the GCDP were discussed.
 - We will be getting new merchandise in at our office soon

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - April 6 Book Club - *Freedom's Just Another Word* by Len Joy.

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw - A Candidate Education Event will be held April 5th at 7PM for county partisan positions including townships, villages, and county commissioners. Information on non partisan offices including city and school board positions will be shared at another session. Please encourage anyone you know who might be interested in running for office to attend if you think they would be good candidates.

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman)

- Helen Solderman presented Adopt-a-Highway information. Volunteers are needed to help from Saturday, April 13 through Sunday, April 21. If you are able to participate, call or text Helen at 989-875-5093.
- Nancy Gott has proposed an outreach to Alma College students at Starbucks. More information will be shared as this develops.

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Finance | Brent DeVries - Brent will be contacting his team to schedule a meeting.

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
 4. Eight more spots on Calendar Club are still available

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - We currently have 59 official members; the mailing list has over 200. It is important that membership forms are filled out to help us message members most appropriately.

Public Relations | Marc Raycraft - Marc is placing ads in the Gratiot County Herald. He is looking into a banner for the float in the Highland Festival Parade.

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz - An April 22 forum is scheduled. Sandy Holm will come back to do a Ukraine presentation - 7PM - location TBA. There will be another forum in May before summer.

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

Unfinished Business

New Business

- Brent says we will have to renegotiate our lease at the end of the year; we should think about whether we can afford to keep an office open and if we can afford this office.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27

Next Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2024 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory