

**Gratiot County Democratic Party**  
**General Membership Meeting | September 16, 2024 Minutes**  
Meeting Held at our Office on Wright Ave. Alma, MI

Meeting called to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 7:02.

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) - A

**Introduction of Guests**

- Michael Lynch - Candidate U.S. 2nd Congressional District - Michael reported that all is well. He has been attending many events and will be carrying signs with him once he has them. He will be cutting two TV spots and is hoping to get YouTube videos created soon.
- Tim Odykirk - Candidate for Michigan House of Representatives District 92. He has a fundraiser this Friday (20th) from 6-8 at the Twisted Fork in Mt. Pleasant.
- Kevin Taylor - Candidate for District 2 County Commission - His yard signs are mostly gone. He plans to use the rest of his money to take out a GC Herald ad.
- Sarah Foltz - Candidate for District 4 County Commission. Most of her signs are out. She is working on a newspaper write-up.
- Christie Freestone will be running for Alma School Board as a write-in candidate. She has flyers that will be passed out at the Alma Homecoming Parade. Christie was the only candidate who responded to attend a Meet and Greet at the library for candidates - so she will try to have a coffee at Ballyhoo Books instead.

**Committee Reports**

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

Treasurer's Report:

- Brent reported a net profit of over \$7000 in the past month.
- Our office rent will increase \$75 per month for next year and \$50 per month the year after that. Motion by Al Bartholomew to renew our lease for the next 2 years seconded by Marilyn Lorenz.
- We have 58 Harris/Walz signs left. We will order more once these are mostly sold. We are still hoping to get free signs from the state. Our signs have been very popular and we have sold many. Christie is checking on a union printer to print the next batch. We have sold almost 300 signs in the past 3 weeks. We also have banners 12 ft by 2 ft for sale for \$20.
- Brent explained that our office costs on average \$1500 per month to function, which explains the need for more income now while people are excited and motivated.
- We made \$1200 at the garage sale.
- Al has made several button designs which are for sale in the office.
- At the 2nd Congressional District meeting, Christie requested three months rent for our office - it was approved.

### Executive Committee Reports:

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
  - Christie has been having trouble getting responses from the state. Christie proposes that we do our own canvassing workshop to get our own canvassing going.
- 2nd Congressional District
  - The 2nd Congressional District approved providing us with funds to pay for three months of office rent.
  - The Blue Wave Gala will be held September 28 at Riverwood Golf Course in Mt. Pleasant. Joslyn Benson and Michael Lynch will speak. If you are interested in going, Christie has a sign-up form.
- Gratiot County DEMS Update
  - We will order more Harris/Walz signs
  - Saturday, September 28 Gary Peters will be honored by Alma College with a possible reception that evening. More information will follow for anyone interested in attending.
  - A reminder for office workers accepting money that \$20 cash per day per individual is the limit. Checks can be written for larger amounts, or donations can be made on the ACT Blue website.

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - The next meeting will be October 5 at the GCDP office at 10 AM to discuss *What the Eyes Don't See* by Mona Hanna.

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw - Bobbie is excited to get canvassing. She would like handouts from candidates to distribute.

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman)

- Adopt-a-Highway - Helen is looking for volunteers to do ½ mile each - Saturday, September 21 at 10AM and Thursday September 26 - we still need workers.

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Fundraising |

- Bottle and Can Drive (ongoing)
- Trivia Event - October 8 at PINS - Nancy Gott pointed out that this event will be a fundraiser, but also an investment. This event will showcase our organization and provide information about opportunities to get involved and what our group provides to the community.

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf -

- We not have 404 names on the membership list - 140 haven filled out the registration form - 25 have asked for event information and the newsletter but don't want to be members - we have 53 new members in the last two months
- Bobbie, Caroline and Helen went to the Alma College event and reported that it was challenging to get students interested. They also made contact with the Socialist Democrats on campus.

Public Relations | Marc Raycraft - no report

- The digital board by Domino's pizza is offering ads for \$400 per week and \$200 per day. Discussion was held regarding having our candidates advertise here.

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz -

- A forum will be held Wednesday, October 9 on Fascism at 7 PM at the Alma College Chapel
- Ed is still trying put together a forum on voting

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

### **Unfinished Business**

- GDP Slate of Endorsements - we will get this list printed to provide to interested voters

### **New Business**

- We are putting together a canvassing training
- The postcard writing is going well

Meeting Adjourned at 8:21

Next Meeting: Monday, October 21, 2024 - 7PM - Gratiot Dems office

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory