

Gratiot County Democratic Party
General Membership Meeting | October 21, 2024 Minutes
Meeting Held at our Office on Wright Ave. Alma, MI

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 7:05.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and 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) - P

Introduction of Guests

- Michael Lynch - Candidate U.S. 2nd Congressional District - Michael reported that he was able to debate John Moolenaar. He plans to continue working hard in this final stretch and continues asking people to not only vote but also ask their friends to vote.
- Tim Odykirk - Candidate for Michigan House of Representatives District 92 - Not present, but his signs are available in the office.
- Kevin Taylor - Candidate for District 2 County Commission - He has been canvassing and says we have to give it our best try in these final days before the election.
- Sarah Foltz - Candidate for District 4 County Commission - Not present, but her signs are available in our office.
- Christie Freestone will be running for Alma School Board as a write-in candidate.

Committee Reports

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

Treasurer's Report:

- Brent reported that this month we brought in \$7752 with \$5200 in expenses.
- Rent has been paid for the next 3 months by District 2.
- Taco Trivia made \$2571.
- The idea was raised of possibly having the opportunity available for members to leave endowments in their wills. We will speak to an attorney about what would be required.
- Brent has a new contribution form and says we need training for our volunteers in terms of accepting money.
- By unanimous consent, the treasurer's report was accepted.

Executive Committee Reports:

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
 - One Campaign - Al Bartholomew spoke about canvassing. Our list has updated information in terms of who has already voted. We need more canvassers in these critical last days before the election.
 - Our county convention will be held before the November general membership meeting during which we will elect officers. You need to be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party 30 days before the convention in order to vote at the convention. If you have questions, see a member of the executive committee for more information.
- 2nd Congressional District
 - Michael Lynch reported on the 2nd Congressional District Blue Wava Gala.
 - The 2nd Congressional District is planning a celebration event after the election - more information is coming.
- Gratiot County DEMS Update
 - We now have Harris/Walz signs available free of charge in the office.
 - We have signed a two-year lease, and we currently have enough to pay rent into 2026.
 - Al is working on a form for office volunteers to help people know what to do when working in the office.
 - A list of candidates supported by the GCDP is available in our office. Printouts were shared with those in attendance. It is also available on our website (gratiotdems.net)
 - There will be an election night party at the GCDP office - more information to follow.

Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - *What the Eyes Don't See* was last month's book about the Flint water crisis. It was excellent. The next meeting will be November 2 at the GCDP office at 10 AM to discuss *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.

Candidates/Elections | Bobbie Renshaw - Bobbie says we need canvassers - please be willing to sign up.

Community Outreach | Nancy Gott (Renee Faustman) -

- Helen - Adopt-a-Highway -
- Nancy Gott - Taco Trivia was a huge success, and Nancy will be sending out a Google survey for future community outreach events.
- A Family Bowling event is being planned for November 23 at PINS. This will be both a fundraiser and fun - more information to follow.

Events/Logistics | Renee Faustmann - no report

Fundraising |

- Bottle and Can Drive (ongoing) - Thanks Liz and Bill!

Membership | Caroline DeGraaf -

- We have gained 24 members since our last meeting. We have 165 official members who have filled out forms and are emailing over 400 people.

Public Relations | Marc Raycraft

- The Detroit Free Press has a good article about Hemlock Semiconductor receiving \$325 million for a new facility thanks to the Biden/Harris CHIPS Act.
- Marc would like to see events for next year to draw in young parents and children.
- Press releases were suggested for after the election.

Reid-Knox Forums | Ed Lorenz -

- The next forum will be held on November 13th at 7PM at Heather Room Alma College. It is about understanding the 2024 election. Ed says these forums are a good way to reach Alma College students.
- Ed spoke about the history of Reid-Knox forums explaining that these are bi-partisan forums.

Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - no report

Unfinished Business

- Nancy O'Brien reported that the postcard party went very well. We had over 30 participants who wrote postcards. She is planning to mail the rest of the postcards out this week.
- Our GCDP Slate of Endorsements has been printed and is available in the office.

New Business

- The executive committee is thinking about after-election planning which includes the idea of sharing our office with neighboring counties and making it a "Mid-Michigan Democrats Office." More information will be shared as we pursue this.
- With money provided by a generous donor, we are now able to make purchases to improve our technology, security, and messaging. The executive committee has agreed to purchase subscriptions to Google Workspace and One Password to get this started.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30

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

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory