

January 14, 2025 Minutes
Gratiot County Democratic Party Executive Committee
Meeting Held at our Office on Wright Ave. Alma, Mi

Meeting called to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 11:00

Leadership Roll Call -

Christie Freestone (Chair) - P
Scott Mackenzie (Vice-Chair) - P
Lisa Gregory (Secretary) - P
Brent Devries (Treasurer) - P
Nancy O'Brien (Parliamentarian/Governance) - P

- 2025 Membership Drive
 - The committee is working on a letter to be sent to membership
 - We want to find a way to help members understand the importance of filling out a new membership form at the beginning of each year
 - Members will also be given the opportunity to pledge a monthly donation of any size for 2025
 - Discussion was held regarding the best way to have members submit forms and donations

- We discussed the importance of not only utilizing our office space, but also covering the costs associated with running the office.
 - It costs approximately \$5 per hour to keep the office open
 - Events and fundraisers should charge enough to cover the office cost
 - The suggestion was made for a “pay it forward” option with our events and fundraisers giving members the opportunity to pay for someone else who would like to attend

- Greater Gratiot Chamber of Commerce - Caroline visited Sarah Bonacci, Executive Director
 - \$275/year to join
 - We have been a Chamber of Commerce member in the past, but we were not able to participate in some events since we are a political organization. It appears that the new leadership will be willing to include us in all events and activities.
 - We will need to have our members willing to serve on committees
 - Our group would get exposure in several ways as members including participating in Chamber events and appearing in their publications
 - We can reevaluate after one year
 - A motion was made by Scott for us to become members of the Greater Gratiot Chamber of Commerce for one year. Nancy seconded. No discussion. The motion carried.

- The committee discussed ways to continue to enhance our Digital and Social Media presence
- Christie will be contacting potential donors in the coming weeks
- Alma College Social Democrats - We continue to look for ways to work with this organization

Next Meeting: General Membership Meeting - Monday, January 20, 2025 - 7:00 PM - Gratiot Democrats Office

Meeting Adjourned: 12:40

-Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory