

April 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 10:05

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

- Rural Caucus - Sault Ste. Marie
 - Christie and Nancy reported that the 2025 Rural Caucus Summit was packed with informative seminars and many well-known speakers. The overall message seemed to be about listening and finding common ground.
- We discussed procuring delegates for all of our precincts. Delegates can serve as a bridge between local (township, village, city) issues and our party. We will continue to plan the best way to fill these roles.
- We are planning to have an informational meeting for potential candidates
 - We would like to do this in May at the public library.
 - Christie will send a letter to folks who have been identified as good potential candidates to run for office.
 - We will have tables staffed with people who can provide useful information on what is required for each of these offices, running a campaign, etc.
 - It was agreed that our goal will be to have a candidate running in each open office. Once we have candidates, we will support all candidates but focus on one or two races.

Meeting with Committee Chairs

- More discussion was held on precinct delegates and our Candidate Information Night
- We will be revising our goals
 - Potential future goals were discussed
 - We also need a specific action plan explaining HOW we will do each of these things
 - A committee of Brent, Christie, Lisa, Caroline and Al will work on this and report back

- Betty Apple - Petitions and
 - Betty is available to handle petitions for any of our groups that would like to collect signatures
- Caroline DeGraaf - Membership
 - Caroline is a one-person committee, and she keeps our membership list up-to-date. She does have someone who helps her with mailings, etc.
 - We are now members of the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce, and Caroline has been working with them to have volunteers from GCDP at their events. She has gotten members to work at the Athena Dinner and hopes to do this with other Chamber events like Rural Urban Day.
 - More poll workers have signed up and some will be trained to work the early voting site for our next election.
 - We discussed the best way to get people to attend county meetings. We will contact someone from each precinct to help us find a local to attend each of the township/village/city meetings.
- Nancy Gott - Community Relations
 - People often come into the office and want to know “What can I do?” so Nancy has created a resistance board showing some of the things that we have done and upcoming events.
 - Nancy is proposing we print out her “You Can Resist” handout with more information about what each of us can do and make it available in the office.
 - We talked about a new GCDP t-shirt to spread a common message in our county. We will ask people to pre order and prepay. Al is working on a design.
 - We also discussed having calendar printouts in the office available for anyone who would like to take one.
- Al Bartholomew - Candidates Liaison
 - Al will be available to help assist our candidates who decide to run.
- Brent DeVries - Finance Committee
 - Brent is planning to have more meetings, etc. with his committee. Christie will ask at the next general membership meeting who would be interested in serving on this committee.
 - We are also looking for someone with bookkeeping experience who would be willing to be a backup for Brent.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25

Our next meeting will be our General Membership Meeting on Monday, April 21 at 7PM at our GCDP office.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory