

February 20, 2023 Minutes
Gratiot County Party General Membership Meeting
Held at our office on Wright Ave., Alma , MI

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

It's President's Day! Pledge of Allegiance recited by membership.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement read by Christie Freestone.

Leadership roll call:

Christie Freestone, Chair present

Al Bartholomew, Vice Chair, present

Lisa Gregory, Secretary, absent

Brent Devries, Treasurer, present

Nancy O'Brien, Parliamentarian and acting Secretary present

Secretary's report:

Lisa absent. Minutes reviewed from last meeting. Motion to accept Secretary's minutes by Michael Lynch and seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report:

This year's deficit is \$735. Question of office repairs and maintenance for \$25 by Renee Faustmann. That expense was window washing. Noted that Canva program was purchased for the newsletter and website use. Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Bobbie Renshaw and seconded. Motion passed.

Committee reports:

Executive Committee—

- 8 members of GCDP attended the MDP Convention at Huntington Place in Detroit and attended a variety of caucus meetings and the general meeting at the end of the day. Michael Lynch declared his candidacy for Representative of District in Michigan in 2024. Speeches were given by Garland Gilchrist, Jocelyn Benson, Elissa Slotkin, Debbie Stabenow, and Gary Peters, among other prominent Democrats. 2nd District Chairperson is Mary Minnick. Christie and Michael were elected members of the Central Committee.
- Website updates are continuing by Lisa Gregory. Direct information/suggestions to her.
- 2023 GCDP goals are reworded and displayed in our office.
- In memoriam recognition of members will be a new page on our website with a donation button attached to honor and continue the work of our members who have passed away
- Policy for office use is in the works. The Philanthropic Education Organization has made a request to hold evening meetings there. It's approved with a request for a donation for use of our space.

Governance/Book Club–

- Next book club meeting is at 10:00 am on March 4 in our office when we will discuss *And There Was Light* by John Meacham.

Candidates/Elections–

- Michael Lynch announced his candidacy at the MDP Convention. He stood up and spoke briefly about his goals.
- Looking for more local and state candidates who are willing to run for an office

Community Outreach–

- Renee and Nancy will be meeting to discuss their responsibilities. Michael Lynch will join them to discuss the PR committee's duties as they relate to Community Outreach.
- Renee asked for donations and involvement for an Open House at the Alma Library in April.

Logistics–

- No report

Finance–

- Brent explained a mix-up in payment by mail to our landlords. He has corrected it and we are up to date on bills for February.

Fundraising–

- We are beginning a bottle/can drive in our office immediately. Other ideas are in the works. Brent estimates that we need to raise about \$1050 per month to help pay expenses.

Membership–

- Caroline is in California. We have raised \$2083 in membership donations since January 1. Office workers are encouraged to call those members who have not rejoined since January 1 to fill out a membership form so we can keep up to date on contact information.

Public Relations–

- Michael is the new chairperson and will meet soon with Renee and Nancy G. to lay out job duties.
- Michael is inviting members who are interested to join his committee

Reid Knox Forums–

- New forum on Monday February 27 at 6:30 at Ballyhoo Books and on Zoom. Joining us will be the chairperson of Michigan's Rural Caucus to facilitate the discussion, also stemming from our book club choice for February (*Dirt Road Revival* by C. Maxmin & Canyon Woodward)
- Renee will design a flyer to post and send to Caroline to distribute electronically
- Forum in March on the 50th anniversary of the PBB spill in Gratiot County. It will be on March 27. More information to follow.

Resolutions–

- No report

Old business:

- Vicki Chessin Memorial Community Service plaque design was discussed. It will be purchased soon from E & S Graphics.
- Office workers will be encouraged to make phone calls to members to update contact information

New business:

- Bottle and can drive starts now with box in office. Bill Weaver will redeem them at the store.
- John Roslund is looking for support for solar energy projects that may be starting soon in Gratiot County. Kevin Taylor recommended an article by NPR on solar energy.

Betty Apple motioned to adjourn at 8:25.

Submitted by Nancy O'Brien