

Gratiot County Democratic Party
General Membership Meeting | January 26, 2026 | Minutes
Meeting Held at our Office on Wright Ave., Alma, MI

The General Membership meeting was called to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 7:00.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement was read.

Leadership Roll Call

- Christie Freestone (Chair) - P
- Dan Greening - (Interim Vice-Chair) - P (Zoom)
- Lisa Gregory (Secretary) - P
- Brent Devries (Treasurer) - P
- Nancy O'Brien (Parliamentarian/Governance) - P

Committee Reports

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

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was accepted by unanimous consent.

Introduction of Guests:

Christie's Updates on MI Dems, 2nd CD and GCDP:

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
 - MDP Messaging
 - [Mivoter.org](https://mivoter.org) is a good place to find information about protests near you, ballot initiatives (petitions) and more
 - US government will shut down Friday if no deal is reached
 - MI Democratic Party seems to be dedicated to finding candidates for local offices and helping those candidates with their campaigns
 - Michigan Democratic Party State Nominating Convention - contact Christie if you are interested in attending
 - Sunday, April 19, Huntington Place, Detroit
 - At this convention, candidates will be endorsed for the following contests
 - Secretary of State,
 - Attorney General,
 - State Supreme Court,
 - State Board of Education,
 - Michigan State University Board of Trustees,
 - Wayne State University Board of Governors, and
 - University of Michigan Board of Regents.

- February 16 we will start our membership meeting with the convention to elect our officers and delegates - Christie has more information (“Call to Convention” catalog) if you are interested
- 2nd Congressional District (MI2CD) Update
 - Members are being asked to take their survey - we have emailed this to members and put the link in our newsletter <https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/j9euinPe/i/o/q/o>
 - The 2nd CD is encouraging us to have forums, which we have been doing for many years
 - Christie says that Gratiot County schools are being affected by ICE - the MARSP is looking for ways to reach out to community members about how to handle ICE
- Gratiot County DEMS Update
 - Thanks to Nancy O and Nancy G for organizing workers for our office - still need a second person to work the third Wednesday and second Saturday of each month - check the Signup Genius if you are willing - we also are looking for people willing to sign up to sub
 - An LGBTQ group of teens from Alma will be using our office for a self-defense course
 - Stephany Slaughter did a documentary that won an Emmy Award - her latest is called “Did You Guys Eat” about migrant workers - it will be shown at CMU
 - We will be hosting Resist Saturdays the 4th Saturday of the month at our office - we will have training, make phone calls, write postcards, etc. We will send out reminders for our next one - everyone is welcome.

Committee Reports:

- By-Laws/Governance/Book Club | Nancy O’Brien
 - February 7 - *The Anxious Generation*
 - Postcards - During our last Resist Saturday we wrote 100 postcards. Nancy has postcards about stopping ICE which we should send to our representatives.
- Candidates/Elections | Al Bartholomew - no report
- Community Outreach |
 - Nancy Gott will have a Valentines Day brunch to end the baby pantry drive and a “Palentines Day” at noon for \$10 (limit of 10)
- Events/Logistics - Renee Faustmann - no report
- Finance Committee & Fundraising -
 - Brent is looking to get members to be a part of the fundraising committee. His role will be to help facilitate the financial aspect of any fundraisers we want to plan.
 - We need someone to volunteer to return our bottles and cans. If you are willing to take over this responsibility, please let Christie know.
- Membership | Caroline DeGraaf -
 - A group is still working to get Rank Choice voting on the ballot
 - Social Security Lockbox Act
 - Caroline can direct you where to go for more information on bills and ballot initiatives
- Public Relations | Marc Raycraft - Marc proposed having a 5K race at his house maybe in August - a run/walk country 5k - **February 3 at 10:00** at Ballyhoo Books he will have a meeting for anyone who is interested in helping with this race.

- Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - We have turned in the petitions that have had in the office. We will let you know when we get more.

Unfinished Business

- Mission/Vision/Goals update - moving in a good direction - another meeting will be scheduled
- Sweatshirt Sale - sample shirts are in the office. We are currently taking orders if you are interested - please pay when ordering.

New Business

- We have chosen an interim vice-chair, Dan Greening,

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33

Next Meeting: General Membership Meeting - Monday, February 16, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory