

Gratiot County Democratic Party
General Membership Meeting | July 21, 2025 | Minutes
Meeting Held at our Office on Wright Ave., Alma, MI

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

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

Michael Lynch has been appointed as temporary vice-president. We will elect him formally in a couple of months if he chooses to accept.

Leadership Roll Call

Christie Freestone (Chair) - P
Michael Lynch (Interim Vice-Chair) - P
Lisa Gregory (Secretary) - P
Brent Devries (Treasurer) - A
Nancy O'Brien (Parliamentarian/Governance) - A

Committee Reports

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

Treasurer's Report: We have a new format for the treasurer's report. Brent will give more details at our next meeting. Voting on the treasurer's report will be tabled until our next meeting.

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

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
 - Christie spoke about Elissa Slotkin's report on the "One Big" bill and its consequences.
 - Every American's health care will be affected, not just those on Medicaid.
 - Not only will it be harder to qualify for food assistance, but grocery stores will also suffer especially in rural areas having to potentially cut hours or even close down.
 - Student loans will be more difficult to obtain.
 - This bill will reduce energy supplies as energy use is expected to go up. This will result in higher electric bills
 - MDP Messaging
 - Tell your story - MDP is looking for personal stories of how the actions of the Trump administration have affected your life. Go to the Michigan Dems website to submit yours. <https://michigandems.com/mystory/>

- 2nd Congressional District
 - The next CD2 meeting will be a Zoom call on August 9. They will have an in-person meeting on October 11.
 - We have been contacted by several US CD 2 Candidates who are running for various offices that would like to speak to us. We will invite them to our meetings.
 - We currently have three candidates who have expressed interest in running against Moolenaar.
 - All counties are being asked to have an Empty Chair Town Hall. The Executive Committee will look into teaming with Isabella County to do this.

- Gratiot County DEMS Update
 - Protest Marches Update - We will host a march Wednesday, August 6 from 4:30-6:00 at the office.
 - Office Workers - we still need people to sign up to work in the office.

Executive Committee Reports:

- By-Laws/Governance/Book Club | Nancy O'Brien - We will not meet in July, but will cover both July and August book selections at our August meeting. The August meeting will be held at Lincoln Road United Methodist Church. There will be a craft show there that day. Please stop in.

- Candidates/Elections | Al Bartholomew - Al will report on follow up to our Candidate Info meeting at our next meeting.

- Community Outreach | Nancy Gott
 - There will be a Mystery Movie night Thursday night to support Relay for Life. The fundraiser starts at 6:30 and the movie will begin at 7:00. August 9 from 9AM to 9PM is the Relay for Life at Alma College if anyone is interested in volunteering.
 - Helen reported that Adopt-a-Highway is complete for this summer. The next pickup will be on September 20-21 and September 27-28.

- Events/Logistics - Renee Faustmann - Remember to save garage sale items for our sale, **Saturday, September 6**. Items may be dropped off the day before.

- Finance Committee - Brent DeVries - no report.

- Fundraising - Thank you to Bill Weaver and Reg Fleury for returning our cans. It is appreciated!

- Membership | Caroline DeGraaf - no report.

- Public Relations | Marc Raycraft - The 2025 GCDP Picnic will be held **Thursday, August 21** at Raycraft's Farm featuring a taco bar! Marc wants our focus to be on the upcoming election rather than the current legislation that we cannot change.
- Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - Betty says we have a great group who works at the Community Cafe. We appreciate their effort and recognize that volunteer groups such as this promote Gratiot County Democrats in our community.

Unfinished Business

- We are updating our Mission/Vision/Goals. This committee is planning a meeting to continue this work.
- The Scholarship proposal will be tabled until our next meeting.

New Business

- Rank Choice Voting Proposal - We would like our office to be a site where people can come to sign a petition to get this on the ballot. Christie will also ask someone to come speak to us about how this works.
- Upcoming Events - Watch your email and social media for upcoming events.
- "Lights on for Democracy" - our latest fundraising idea. More information is coming soon.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:43.

Next Meeting: General Membership Meeting - Monday, August 18, 2025

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory