Gratiot County Democratic Party
General Membership Meeting | February 16, 2026 | Minutes
Meeting Held at our Office on Wright Ave., Alma, MI

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

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

Gratiot County Convention
-Election of County Convention Chairperson to reside over the GCDDP Party Convention. Nancy O'Brien was appointed president for the county convention by unanimous consent.
– Lisa Gregory was elected secretary for this meeting by unanimous consent.
- Christie Freestone was unanimously elected Female Alternate for the MDP State Central Resolutions Committee.
- Resolutions to take to State Central Committee - none offered
-2026 MDP State Convention (April 19, 2026)
Who will attend? Dan, Sarah, Dennis, (Caroline will put out an email and you can respond if interested)
Gratiot County has 14 votes
- Adjournment - 7:15

The General Membership meeting was recalled to order by Chair, Christie Freestone at 7:15 PM.

Leadership Roll Call
Christie Freestone (Chair) - P
Dan Greening – (Interim Vice-Chair) - (Zoom) P
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.

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

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
  - MDP Messaging
    - Trump has threatened to block the opening of Gordie Howe Bridge.
    - MI Democratic Party is sponsoring an on-line training for people who want to run for political office. We have many positions in our county that are open. https://www.gratiotmi.com/DocumentCenter/View/10838/Candidates-for-the-2026-Election-Cycle?bidId=
    - There also are positions open on county boards and commissions https://www.gratiotmi.com/Search?searchPhrase=application%20for%20appointment&pageNumber=1&perPage=10&departmentId=-1
    - Michigan Democratic Party State Nominating Convention - contact Christie if you are interested in attending
      - Dinner the night before the convention
      - 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.

- 2nd Congressional District (MI2CD) Update
  - MI2CD meeting -
    - 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/0/q/0
    - The website is being redesigned
    - People are analyzing issues and putting together balanced analyses of issues to provide to candidates
  - The 2nd CD is encouraging us to have forums. Christie asked for suggestions for forum topics. Dan recommended inviting candidates to these meetings.

- Gratiot County DEMS Update
  - We continue to work toward recruiting and supporting candidates (deep canvassing, Resist Saturdays)
  - Resist Saturdays will now be held twice a month.
  - The Mission/Vision/Goals Committee has another meeting scheduled.

Committee Reports:

- By-Laws/Governance/Book Club | Nancy O'Brien
    - By-laws were refreshed in 2023. They have been sent to the Michigan Democratic Party for review
    - *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult will be discussed at the March 8 book club
- Candidates/Elections | Al Bartholomew - no report
- Community Outreach | Nancy Gott
    - Nancy wants to thank everyone for the great support and donations to the baby pantry drive
    - The Palentines party was also a great success - thank you Nancy!
- 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 -
    - We did not send out January letters - Caroline is working on a plan to address 2026 membership
- Public Relations | Marc Raycraft -
    - Marc proposed having a 5K race at his house (run/walk) this summer
    - The race will be held on a Saturday in August
    - Please let him know if you are interested in helping
- Resolutions/Petitions | Betty Apple - No report.

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

- Brent asked if we want to renew our Chamber membership for $265. It was agreed by unanimous consent to do this. Brent will send it in tomorrow.
- March 28 No Kings Protest - more information will be shared.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15.

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

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory