Gratiot County Democratic Party

General Membership Meeting | May 18, 2026 | Minutes

Meeting held at our office on Wright Ave., Alma, MI

The meeting was called to order at 7:04.

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
Lisa Gregory (Secretary) - P
Brent Devries (Treasurer) - P
Nancy O'Brien (Parliamentarian/Governance) - A

Introduction of Guests

- Luke del Castillo (candidate 92nd district MI house)
- Serenity Salak (candidate 93rd district MI house)
- Aiden Brewer (Ithaca High School) - President of Ithaca High School Youth in Government

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was tabled until the next meeting.
Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.

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

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
  - MDP Messaging
    - Curtis Hertel - All 110 state representative positions have a Democratic candidate running, which is a great accomplishment.
    - The Rural Summit will be June 14, 2026 at the UAW Camp in Black Lake. See Christie if you would like to attend for more information.
    - The Michigan Democratic State Central Committee will meet May 31, 2026 at the UAW Region 1A, 9650 Telegraph Rd, Taylor, MI 48180 11AM. Christie has more information.
- 2nd Congressional District (MI2CD)
  - At their May 9 meeting Dan Greening presented information about the field book that he created for candidates to help them better understand the people in their districts.
- Gratiot County DEMS Update
  - The membership solicitation form has been updated to be sure members "submit" the form after filling it out
  - Christie discussed the changes that the Executive Committee made to the committee descriptions in the bylaws

- Dan is working on eliminating phishers from our mailing list
- The Ladies Tea was a great success
- A Nurses' Association representative spoke with us on Resist Saturday. We have their signs available in our office.
- Dan Greening will discuss his field book at the May 16 Resist Saturday.
- Upcoming Events:
  - Drinks with Dems
  - Ben Ambrose Meet and Greet
  - Alma Highland Festival parade
  - Coffee with the Dems
- By-laws/Governance/Book Club - no report - June 6 book club will discuss *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books*.
- Elections Committee - Precinct Delegates were solicited and the committee was able to get 18 individuals to become candidates for precinct delegates.
- Community Outreach - Our Fall Harvest Dinner/Candidate Information Dinner will be October 15 at Masonic Pathways. Candidates will be invited to speak.
- Events/Logistics - no report
- Finance/Fundraising - Brent DeVries
  - Brent is working with Liz Weaver to train her to be our bookkeeper.
- Marc Raycraft - PR
  - 5K Fun Run/Walk - August 22, 2026 - planning is underway - A motion to have this event was passed with unanimous consent.
  - May 23, Saturday - Highland Festival Parade - We will participate as we have in the past with our float. We will throw beads and dog biscuits.
- Caroline DeGraaf - Membership - So far 57 people have filled out the membership update form. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to do this.
- Betty Apple - Resolutions/Petitions - no report

Unfinished Business

- May 20 - a Meet and Greet with Ben Ambrose will be held at Alma Brewing Company - 5:00-8:00.

New Business

- Interest was expressed in having a voter registration event.
- Pollworker training - Christie talked to Angie Thompson about this training. If you are interested, you can register with your city or township clerk to sign up for training.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30.

Next Meeting: General Membership Meeting - Monday, June 15, 2026 .

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory