Gratiot County Democratic Party

General Membership Meeting | April 20, 2026 | Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02

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) - P

Introduction of Guests:

- Kelly from the nurses' union spoke about their efforts to advocate for fair contracts and safe staffing levels.

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was accepted as submitted by unanimous consent.
Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was circulated and will be approved at our next meeting.

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

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
    - MDP Messaging
        - The Michigan Democratic Party State Nominating Convention was held Sunday, April 19, 2026 at the Huntington Center in Detroit.

          Key 2026 Michigan Democratic Convention Results:

          - Secretary of State: Garlin Gilchrist II won the nomination, focusing on election security.
          - Attorney General: Eli Savit defeated Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald, securing the nomination.
          - U-M Board of Regents: Progressive Amir Makled upset incumbent Jordan Acker, running alongside incumbent Paul Brown.
          - Other Endorsements: Incumbent Trustees Brianna Scott and Kelly Tebay Zemke secured endorsements for MSU Board of Trustees, while Shereef Akeel and Richard Mack won nominations for the Wayne State University Board of Governors.

          The convention, noted for record attendance, saw widespread successes for candidates backed by the party's progressive wing.

- 2nd Congressional District (MI2CD) Update
    - Dan Greening discussed his analysis of the 20 counties in the CD2 as presented in a "field book" - this is a guide that can be used by candidates who might be visiting a county to help them connect with and motivate voters.

- Gratiot County DEMS Update
    - The new member proposal was presented by Christie and the group discussed. Under the proposed membership plan, members are asked to renew based on one of the following "levels"
        - Sustaining Member - $1000 per year or $84/month per year
        - Paid Member - $50 or more per year
        - Volunteer Member - no cost; volunteer members will be asked to work at least 4 hours per year in our office or at our events
        - Subscriber - subscribers are not official GCDP members, but receive our newsletter and other communications
        - (Sustaining Members and Paid Members will receive a GCDP t-shirt as part of their membership)

      This will be sent out to members via email in the next couple of days
    - April 18 we had a precinct delegate training meeting at our office., It was very successful. We are creating a precinct delegate plan that will be helpful and useful. We will have another training session this Saturday.
    - Bobenal building issues - Brent continues to work to make contact with our landlord to understand our utilities bills.
    - New tables have been purchased.
    - Upcoming Events:
        - Drinks with Dems - ABC - 7:00 - May 19
        - Book Club - The Vacation - May 2 at 10:00AM. This pairs well with a viewing of Stephany Slaughter's "Did You Guys Eat" on Thursday April 23, 6:00, Isabella County Comm on Aging.
        - Resist Saturday - 10:00 AM - Precinct Delegate Training
        - May Ladies' Tea - May 2, 2026
    - By-laws/Governance/Book Club - no report
    - Elections Committee - no report
    - Community Outreach - October 15 - Fall Harvest Dinner/Candidate Information Dinner at Masonic Pathways.
    - Events/Logistics - no report
    - Finance/Fundraising - Brent DeVries
        - Brent is working with Liz to train her to be our bookkeeper.
    - Marc Raycraft - PR
        - 5K Fun Run/Walk - August 22, 2026 - planning is underway
        - May 23, Saturday - Highland Festival Parade - we will participate as we have in the past

- Caroline DeGraaf – Membership – Membership letters coming out soon
- Betty Apple – Resolutions/Petitions – no report

Unfinished Business

- Nancy O'Brien – we have sent out 300 postcards and a collection was taken for postage
- She has more postcards that can be sent to Moolenaar

New Business

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15

Next Meeting: General Membership Meeting – Monday, May 18, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory