Gratiot County Democratic Party

General Membership Meeting | June 15, 2026 | Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03.

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

Leadership Roll Call

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

Introduction of Guests

- Tyler Landgraf - Dem candidate for MI State Senate District 34

Secretary's Report: The secretary's reports from April and May were approved by unanimous consent.
Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.

Committee Reports

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

- Michigan Democratic Party Update
  - MDP Messaging
    - Curtis Hertel messages:
      - The Motor City Pride Parade was well-attended
      - The MI Senate recently passed a package to make housing more affordable for working families.
      - MI Senate Dems have introduced legislation to promote gun safety.
  - Rural Summit
    - Dan will present tomorrow his research and his Gratiot County Field Book.
    - June 16 - Rural Summit - Christie has a Zoom link to their 7PM meeting
- 2nd Congressional District (MI2CD)
  - June 13, 2026 meeting and ice cream social - Luke and Dan attended. Luke reported that many candidates were there, giving them the opportunity to network.

- Gratiot County DEMS Update
    - GCDP has made a donation to Luke del Castillo's campaign. Dan pointed out the value of early campaign donations.
    - No Kings Celebration (June 14, 2026) was a success. We streamed the RiseUpSingOut concert and got to know some of our candidates.
    - Office location 2026 - We are looking for ideas for options for places to rent if we decide to move our office.. We renew our lease at the end of this year.
    - Office Manager - We are looking for an Office Manager and developing a job description for this position.
    - Campaign buttons for candidates - We will be making buttons for our candidates, selling them in the office, and giving the proceeds to the candidate.
    - Upcoming Events:
        - Drinks with Dems - June 16 - 7:00 ABC
        - Resist Saturday - June 20
        - Bonfire - Saturday, June 20
        - Precinct Delegate Meeting - June 24 - 6PM at the office
        - Resist Saturday - June 27
        - Coffee with the Dems - July 7
    - By-laws/Governance/Book Club - Nancy O'Brien
        - Next Book Club will be July 11 where we will discuss *The Paris Architect*.
    - Elections Committee - Cindy Austen and Nancy Allen
        - They are working with precinct delegates. The job of a precinct delegate is really just about talking to people. You can attend their next meeting June 24 at 6PM at the office if you are interested.
    - Community Outreach - Nancy Gott
        - Ballyhoo gift certificates have been purchased by individuals to give to kids in the summer reading program.
        - Nancy has spoken to Alma VFW about providing red, white and blue cupcakes for their Fourth of July events. She has also contacted other veteran organizations.
        - Fall Harvest Dinner - Fall Harvest Dinner/Candidate Information Dinner will be October 15 at Masonic Pathways. Candidates will be invited to speak. This dinner will be a way to reach out to many people, spread the message, have a nice event, promote candidates, honor local volunteers and make some money.
    - Events/Logistics - Renee Faustman - no report
    - Finance/Fundraising - Brent DeVries
        - We will be separating Finance and Fundraising. We need a new fundraising chair to coordinate fundraisers.
        - 5K Road Run - We are collecting sponsors and now need to encourage people to sign up to run. Please contact anyone you know who might be interested in participating. Let Marc Raycraft, Nancy Allen, or Lisa Gregory know if you have questions.

- Marc Raycraft – PR
  - 5K Fun Run/Walk – August 22, 2026 – planning is underway. A motion to have this event was passed with unanimous consent.
- Membership – Caroline DeGraaf – no report
  - Al reported that the membership committee is working to limit emails, and he is working with Caroline on sending a weekly email with our events and information.
- Betty Apple – Resolutions/Petitions – no report

Unfinished Business

- Monetary donation to Ithaca High School (Aiden Brewer) – GCDP has asked for his group's budget so that we can set up a fundraiser to support his group.
- The Executive Committee is still working on updating committee descriptions.

New Business

- WAVE discussion – Resist Saturday on this topic was very good. This list is very good (better than the VAN list) so we are excited about using it. Cindy made a motion to buy a subscription to WAVE Michigan for this year. Nancy Allen seconded. The motion carried.
- Rural Urban day is coming up – Karol Davidson is in charge of volunteer workers.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33.

Next Meeting: General Membership Meeting – Monday, July 20, 2026 .

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Gregory