



## **MI3CD Democrats Meeting Minutes**

**March 31, 2025**

- I. Call to Order - 7:05pm
  - A. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call of Officers
  - A. Present: Chair Donna Secor Pennington, 1st Vice Chair Gary Stark, Secretary Chris Herweyer, Treasurer Richard Williamson
  - B. Absent/Excused: none
- III. Credential Report & County count
  - A. Linda Riepma reported that 23 MDP members from 3CD are present - 3 from Ottawa, 5 from Muskegon, 15 from Kent.
  - B. Linda Riepma confirmed a quorum was present (10/19 district committee members and officers)
- IV. Approval of Agenda - Approved as distributed by unanimous consent.
- V. Program/Guest Speaker - MDP Chair Curtis Hertel
  - A. MDP Chair Hertel shared that his team is actively working to hold town halls in Republican districts across the state called "The People's Town Hall". One of these was recently held in the 10th Congressional District with Senator Chris Murphy and Congressman Maxwell Frost.
  - B. His team is also working hard to prepare for our 2026 midterm elections, which will be one of the most important in our lifetimes. For the first time in MI history, we have open races in all of our statewide offices, plus our entire state legislature up for election. He emphasized the work of Project 83 and our year-round organizing, working to expand that through fundraising to increase our presence across the state early.
  - C. His focus will be to protect all our current seats, win back the State House, and flip a couple US House seats and looks forward to working with 3CD to continue this good work.
  - D. Chair Hertel will also be attending the MDP Rural Caucus' Rural Summit in April. It will be April 10-12. Learn more here: <https://mdpruralcaucus.com/rural-summit/>
- VI. Approval of Minutes (2.22.2025) - Approved as distributed by unanimous consent.
- VII. Officers Reports
  - A. Chairperson - Donna gave a quick introduction of herself and has served 3 terms as a vice chair of previous iterations of her congressional district's leadership, but

this is her first term as chair. She is President of the Progressive Democratic Women's Caucus of Muskegon County and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2024.

- B. 1st Vice-Chair - Gary gave a quick introduction of himself and served the previous two years as chair of the 3CD Dems and has also served as Chair and 1st Vice Chair (currently) of the Kent County Democrats.
- C. Treasurer (financial report - approval) - Richard gave a quick introduction of himself and is in his second term as Treasurer of 3CD. He also gave an update on the current financial standing of the 3CD administrative and state accounts. \$1300 in State, a little less in Administrative (6 recurring donors). He encouraged others to consider becoming recurring donors for the 3CD Dems. You can donate at <https://michigansthird.com> or directly at this link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/3dcd>.
- D. Secretary (correspondence) - Chris gave a quick introduction of himself and is in his first term as Secretary of 3CD. He is also currently serving as Secretary of the Kent County Democrats.

#### VIII. Reports of Committees

- A. Fundraising - Richard reiterated the current state of 3CD's fundraising and gave shoutouts to our current recurring donors.
- B. Communications - Linda Riepma shared our progress over the last 2 years to update our website and improve our newsletter. Over the last 2 years, our newsletter list has over tripled in size to over 1000 recipients.
- C. Political Organizing - Sarah Woolsey gave an update on our Congresswoman Hillary Scholten's activities. She held two town halls last week on Thursday, March 27 in Grand Rapids and Friday, March 28 in Grand Haven. The town halls were livestreamed and can be found on her Facebook page: "Rep Hillary Scholten". She is currently serving on the Transportation and Small Business Committees in Congress this term. She is currently the Vice Chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus and was appointed to the Steering and Policy Committee. Today is also the FEC fundraising close of books day for her reelection campaign.

#### IX. Old business - none

#### X. New business

- A. Election of Second Vice-Chair - After the initial elections at the February MDP Convention, we can select additional vice chairs for 3CD. Ellen Beal nominated Pam Redd, seconded by Richard Williamson. Nominations closed. Pam Redd was elected 2nd Vice Chair by unanimous consent.
- B. Approval of By-Laws to Submit to MDP - Scott Urbanowski moved, seconded by Gary Stark, to approve the by-laws of 3CD with no changes from the previous term. Discussion ensued. By-Laws were approved by unanimous consent.

#### XI. County Reports

- A. Kent - Kent Dems Chair Kim Gates gave an update on what the Kent Dems are up to. Their standing committees have been adding a lot of teams and caucuses within the party. Outreach has grown substantially in the last few years. They now

also have an events calendar on the website that can be found at: <https://kentdems.com/events/>. Their gala is coming up on Saturday, May 17 and State Senator Mallory McMorro is their keynote speaker. You can [purchase tickets here](#).

- B. Muskegon - Muskegon Dems Chair Susan Fabrick gave an update on what the Muskegon Dems are up to. Their partner groups like Indivisible and Muskegon Pride have become a lot more active and they've been seeing a lot of outreach opportunities across the county. Their gala is coming up on Friday, May 2 and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson is their keynote speaker. You can [purchase tickets here](#).
- C. Ottawa - Linda Riepma gave an update on what the Ottawa Dems are up to, including the fact that for the first time in their history they contested every county commission race in 2024. With Ottawa being split between 3 congressional districts, they have a lot of work on their hands.

XII. Good and Welfare

- A. Wendy Winston shared a signup link for the Hands Off rallies happening on April 5th. You can [sign up here](#).
- B. Jeff Winston shared that for MDP Legacy Dinner award nominations, Donna, as Chair, has the authority to submit nominations to MDP. Each congressional district gets one awardee for volunteer of the year and that person will get a free ticket for themselves and a plus one. MDP will also accept nominations for the Young Dem award.
- C. Jeff Winston also shared the importance of also focusing on local impacts. He encouraged people to stop saying his name. Blame the Republican Party at-large because that helps us beat up the Republican brand. It's not Trump or Musk, it's Republicans.
- D. Richard Williamson shared that the 30th State Senate District currently held by Republican Mark Huizenga is going to be the most important race to determine control of the State Senate in 2026. Your impact at the state level in West Michigan will be greatest in that district next year.
- E. Scott Urbanowski shared that there are a number of odd-year municipal elections coming up in 3CD this year in Kentwood, Grandville, East Grand Rapids, and also a number of millage elections. It's important to pay attention to the elections you may have coming up this year depending on where you live. He also expressed the importance of 3CD reading an Indigenous Land Acknowledgment at our meetings.
- F. Comfort Love shared that she has been working with Comms folks from other county parties to try and come together on the work we are doing collectively to increase our overall outreach and impact. She also shared that Kent Dems are working on putting together some merchandise as well to help fundraise for the various county parties.

XIII. Adjournment - Mary Bouwense moved that the meeting adjourn at 8:58pm, seconded by Richard Williamson and approved by unanimous consent.