

Subj: **LWVGP Voter: August-September 2013**  
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 From: [thevoter@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org](mailto:thevoter@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org)  
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# Grosse Pointe|VOTER

Serving the Communities of  
 Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores,  
 Grosse Pointe Woods, and Harper Woods

## If you print out your Voter to read...

### Print out these documents too

[2013-2014 Calendar](#)  
[Mums Sale Order Form](#)

## Coming Up Activities Save these Dates:

Sat, Sept 14, 9 AM-1 PM  
 Annual Mum Sale  
 at West Park Market, GPP  
[Print out your presale order form here](#)

Thurs, Sep 19, 5:30-8:00  
 Coney Island Caper Kickoff  
 at Tompkins Center  
 Windmill Pointe Park, GPP

## Coney Island Caper

Plan to attend our  
 great "New  
 League Year  
 Kickoff" with a  
 party and  
 fundraiser at



**The Tompkins  
 Center at  
 Windmill Pointe Park  
 Thursday September 19th  
 5:30 to 8:00 P.M.**

All the Cones you can eat!  
 Sell your tickets!  
**\$35.00 for adults/\$5.00 for children  
 10 and under**

August-September Issue

## From the Prez

Lets get the new LEAGUE Year started!

Please join us at the kick-off party and fundraiser at the Tompkins Center in Windmill Pointe Park: Coney Island Caper! We are taking a little different approach this year to start off the year. We thought we would have some fun, invite our friends and families and potential new members to a party to highlight League activities. Please contact Jan Wells or Aphie Roumell for ticket costs and information.

Local elections will dominate this election season. Susan Leithauser-Yee, VP Voter Services and the Voter Services committee will be organizing candidate forums for the contested races and present candidate guides via Vote411. Steve Trowbridge will be our local Vote411 guru with the preparation of local candidate questions and answers for your information.

Our tradition Mum Sale is Saturday, 14 September from 9:00am til 1:00 pm at West Park Market. Please order early by calling Betty Ruud or Sharon Ruggioli. Remember: WE WILL DELIVER the mums to you if you cannot make it to the market! We will be going to the same grower as last year with those beautiful and healthy plants at a bargain. (The pre-order form is in this newsletter.) And don't forget the wonderful brownies and cookies that Sharon will have ALSO at a bargain. Volunteers at West Park are needed-please give Betty a call.

The Membership Leadership Development Program (MLD) is starting to become part of our League culture in all of our activities. See the related article in this newsletter.

Wilhelmina Giblin, VP of Program and Lynne Pierce, Off-Board Program Director have developed a great program this year. Very interesting and topical presentations have been planned in conjunction with other community organizations. Please print the calendar that is part of this newsletter and post it on your refrigerator. [You can go to our website](#) for more details as they develop. I am looking forward to a wonderful year and I am looking forward to be spending it with YOU and your friends and family.

In League,  
 Christina Schlitt  
 President, LWVGP

Bring your friends and family!

Hope to see you there!!

For more tickets or information please call 313.884.6904 or 313.881.8844

## Annual Mum Sale

**Saturday, September 14**  
**9 AM until 1 PM**  
**West Park Market on Kercheval, GPP**

You can also preorder: Call either Betty (313. 499.4095) or Sharon (313.882.5132)

The cost is \$7.00 for 9" plants

Let Betty know when/if you can help at the sale.

Will deliver- let us know!

[Order forms can be printed out here](#)

## LWV 2013-14 Program Committee and Schedule of Events

[Print out a copy of our calendar here](#)

VP of Program: Wilhelmina Giblin, Co-chair: Lynne Pierce

Committee Members: Mary Vitolins, Carol Todd, Betty Ruud, Sharon Ruggioli, Judy Morlan, Jan Wells, Cynthia Warner, Christina Schlitt (president)

**September 14, 2013-** Mum Sale, Grosse Pointe Park- West Market (please confirm with the time with Betty Ruud)

**September 19-** Fundraising Event, 5:30 PM- 8:00 PM, Tomkins Center  
 Chairs: Aphie Roumell, Jan Wells

**October:** Candidate Forums

**November 12:** Community Meeting, 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, the Garden Center

Topic: Community and Economic Development  
 Chairs: Wilhelmina Giblin, Sharon Ruggioli

**December 10:** Holiday Party, 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM, Ardmore Café, 26717 Little

## VOTE411

[Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) is an electronic voter guide LWV Michigan adopted in 2012 as a primary voter education tool. Information on local elections is assembled by local leagues. As with our traditional print voter guides, we ask candidates to present their biographical information and platform in their own words.

Susan Leithauser-Yee and Steve Trowbridge have been working diligently over the past few weeks gathering and entering data as well as learning how the system works. The VOTE411 project is moving forward on schedule. As of Monday, August 19, 2013, most of the candidates for mayor, city council, or municipal judge have been invited to submit biographical information, present their qualifications for serving, and to identify the most pressing issues that they would face if elected. Despite the fact that some communities have no challengers - Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe City - are examples, we will send reminders to those candidates who do not respond initially. The deadline for candidate responses is September 23 and we have set September 27 as the date for publication.

Steve Trowbridge,  
 Vote411 Off-board Director

## Voter Services Article for August Voter

Each of the six cities our League covers will hold a local election in November. In three of these cities, however, there are no challengers running for office. City council and mayoral Incumbents will run unopposed in Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Shores.

Our League will hold candidate forums for Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Woods and Harper Woods candidates in early October. Depending on the progress of GP School Board discussions, a school technology millage proposal may also be on the November ballot. If that is that case, we will make best efforts to hold a community meeting to provide information about that proposal. **Volunteers will be needed to assist with each of the forums. Please contact Susan Leithauser-Yee if you are interested in volunteering.**

Unlike many larger cities, the financial compensation for city council members and mayors in our area is very modest. Thus, there is little to no financial incentive for seeking office in the Grosse Pointes or Harper Woods. It would seem that it is an act of love or sense of community responsibility or both! Hats off to all!

As reported in LWVGP's 2013 Your Government Officials, compensation is as follows.

City	Population*	Mayor	City Council
Grosse Pointe	5,421	\$ 0	\$0
Grosse Pointe Farms	9,479	\$900	\$600
Grosse Pointe Park	11,555	\$0	\$0
Grosse Pointe Shores	3,008	\$0	\$0
Grosse Pointe Woods	16,135	\$6,000	\$3,750
Harper Woods	14,236	\$2,700	\$2,400

Mack, SCS, 48081

**January 15, 2014:** Program Planning Meeting, 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM, home of Ann Nicholson

Chairs:

**February 19:** Community Meeting, 7 PM- 9 PM, Grosse Pointe Park Ewald Library,

Topic: Women in the Military: Sexual Harassment and other Challenges  
Chairs: Lynne Pierce and Betty Ruud

**March:** Running and Winning Workshop- Date/time TBD  
Chair: Judy Gafa

**April 3:** Community Meeting/ panel discussion, 7:00 PM, location to be determined

Topic: Public Education  
Chairs: Carol Todd, Mary Vitolins

**April 10:** Consensus meeting on Public Education, 7:00 PM, location to be determined

Chairs: Carol Todd, Mary Vitolins

**May 3:** Annual Meeting, 9:00 AM, Country Club of Detroit  
Chairs: Christina Schlitt

## Membership and Leadership Development Program

Imagine IF...

- Your League was growing in membership and funding
- Your League had its own coach for support, ideas and guidance
- You and Your League leaders had training and mentoring before leading
- Our League's voice was as strong and powerful as our reputation in all communities across the United States

As the threats to our democracy continue to grow, so does the need for stronger Leagues across the country to help combat those threats. This is where the nationally developed and sponsored Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program plays a

Detroit 706,585 \$158,558 \$73,181

\* Population data is per 2010 census.

Our much larger neighbor, Detroit, had over 50 city council candidates and 16 mayoral candidates compete in its August 6th primary. LWV, together with UM Dearborn and other non-profits collaborated to film short interviews with candidates, which were posted on MIVote.org. The interview guidelines were based on LWV forum guidelines. LWVGP member, Susan Leithauser-Yee, participated in the interviews as a timer.

## Welcome Two New Members

Welcome to the following people who joined our ranks over the summer. Look for them this fall at the September 19th Coney Island Caper and in October at Candidate Forums. Introduce yourself and find out why they joined the League; tell them why you joined and what you like about LWV.

Mary Carney Johnson (Mary Jo)  
309 Piche St.  
Grosse Pointe Farms  
313/884-5495

Margaret J. Navarro (Peggy)  
31916 Williamsburg St.  
St. Clair Shores  
586/294-5368

## Yesterday, today and tomorrow...

Barbara Thompson, Lifetime LWV Member, former LWVGP President has written her memories of the beginning years of the League in Grosse Pointe. She has graciously agreed to allow us to reprint her memories. The first installment follows in this August 2013 issue of the Voter. Subsequent installments will follow. The entire paper is on our web page at [www.grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org](http://www.grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org)

### *Partial History of the Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters*

[Compiled and presented by Barbara R. Thompson (Mrs. Joseph P.) for a membership meeting at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial in 1987. Submitted for the League's files at the request of President Janet Vanderpool. Subsequently presented at a new and prospective members meeting on March 19, 2008.]

What you will find in print about why the League was organized in Grosse Pointe is: "It was started to meet the communities own needs." I'll tell you a bit more specifically . . . Grosse Pointe was, for years, where city folk came to drink, gamble - and "What have you"(!), in addition to the family Sunday outings of which one reads.

But the raucous days were gone. Well, almost. The Park was a village

vital role. To build and enhance the Leagues' strengths, specially trained coaches within the League are trained to help all Leagues reach the goals of the MLD program.

The Membership Leadership Development program was reintroduced at the LWVMI Convention this past May. The workshops generated a great deal of attention as illustrated by the number of League members who attended the pre-Convention Workshop (25) plus the Saturday afternoon workshop during Convention (another 25)! The LWVMI board is committed to this program for the development and strengthening of our local Leagues. I will be working to implement the program across the state.

The first step is to identify local Leagues who would like to be a part of the program. Those Leagues who choose to participate will be assigned a coach who will provide on-going support to local Leagues by sharing membership and leadership development practices that have been successful when used by other local Leagues across the country.

The second step is to identify coaches who would each work with two local Leagues. Coaches will receive training, later in the year, from our LWVUS Shur Fellows who have been trained by LWVUS in how to provide support to local Leagues.

Our plans are to recruit, train and nurture a strong Michigan MLD coaching network. Once we have recruited the coaches, we will organize a training session with our LWVUS Shur Fellow mentor.

Christina Schlitt, VP Membership  
LWVMI

## The "Ask"

Have you asked someone to join LWV recently? League membership nationally has begun to grow after many years of decline. Is it the dysfunctional Congress with which ninety-some percentage of the country is fed up? Is it the politically charged social climate in which we can barely discuss things about which we feel

and a township. Few people bothered to vote. Just complained, that one of their officials ran a gambling establishment kitty-corner from The Old Place.(1)

A respectable village officer approached a resident and "doer", Lillian Pear, to suggest that she start a League. This was 1950. Within two years it was at peak membership - almost 400 women.

The way they cleaned up Grosse Pointe Park was to get people registered and out to vote. They didn't confine efforts to the Park. In 1952, 87.5% of those registered actually voted. (In the Shores two people refused to register, spoiling their 100% record!)

The Park voted in city government, getting rid of the township-village combination which confuses many people to the point they don't get interested, and of course compromises the prestige of office-holding.

No one used the term "Voters Guide" for the first such publication, but the paper called their pioneer effort in compiling candidates' views "one of the most complete and unbiased reports to ever reach our desk."

Regarding the change to city government, the candidates were interviewed by the entire League as a body!

The organization was called "The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe Park" because the national organization required a League to be organized on the smallest unit of government; a special dispensation was given to do Voter Service work in all the Pointes. After eight years - 1959-the national board made a policy change so we could be "LWV of Grosse Pointe".

New Leagues are required to do a publication about their own communities. We've had another name change here: the first effort was "This is Your Grosse Pointe". (Which came first, the television program "This Is Your Life" or our book??) Subsequent issues have been "Know Your Grosse Pointe".

Another name evolution has been seen in candidates' "airings". The first time I find the League inviting people running for office to speak, the term "Town Meeting" was used. On one of those earliest occasions, a town crier - properly garbed as a Colonial-rang a bell and "cried" the notice of the meeting!

In 1960 I see the term "Voterama", although that may not have involved candidates; new citizens, new residents, were registered to vote, and voting machines were explained.

"Rally" was used for a few years, and "Candidates' Fair" was applied for state and federal legislative candidates. (The name "fair" probably describes them well, because there was a booth for each office.)

Sometimes in those early years a prominent man from the community would be invited to moderate. (I knew those women when I joined in the League's third year and I'm sure they did not feel inadequate! I suspect they were just being politic.)

For 25 years "Candidates' Forum" seems to have been in use. (I sort of hanker for that "Town Meeting", don't you?)

The War Memorial Center has been the usual hub of League activities. Until 15 years ago the Board met there, switching to homes as a cost cutter. Now the Public Library meeting room is used. And since about

great concern? Is it because people care about their communities and want to be involved? Is it because people want to make a difference?

When surveyed, new members nearly always report that they joined the League because someone asked them to. People like to be invited.

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe has a great leadership team in place. We have a fun party and moderately priced fund raiser to kick off things this fall and a calendar of programs for the upcoming year that is interesting and challenging. We have a history of making a difference in our community. We want to keep LWVGP strong and effective. To do that, we need new members.

I'm urging all members to make a special effort NOW to do the "ASK". Ask a friend, a neighbor, a colleague, a relative to come to a League event and to join. Ask someone you've asked before--maybe this is a better time. Ask people who like to socialize, like to eat--we do lots of those things.

There is no League in St. Clair Shores, nor in any other Macomb County community. The Detroit League dissolved two years ago. Ask folks who care about good government to join the League regardless of where they live. People need the "ASK".

Jo Ann Kelly  
Membership Director

p.s. Dues were due in July. If you've not paid your dues for the 2013/14 League year, please do so by sending your check to our box at the War Memorial: 32 Lake Shore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. (\$60/individual; \$90/household; \$25/student).

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government.*

*It influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

*Membership is open to men and women citizens of all ages. With 800 affiliates across the county, the League is one of the nation's most trusted organizations.*

1983 Board meetings have been scheduled in the evening rather than morning. Monday AM, 9:00, was the first Board time. (2) Then Wednesday morning.

There have always been from two to six (yes, six!) study groups, meeting almost monthly during the school year. They gathered mornings, afternoons and evenings in various parts of Grosse Pointe and were scheduled regularly on the same day, same week, in the same home. Always there was at least one evening unit for the few who worked and the several whose husbands "baby-sat".

Each one had a "unit leader" until perhaps the last dozen years, and one of the Board Portfolios was "Unit Chairman" who coordinated the unit organization.

In December the format was changed because that was the month for a "joint unit meeting". The traditional plan for the December Joint Unit prescribed an evening holiday tea in a member's house (decorated at some inconvenience early in the month!). The program itself was traditional with us - on Continuing Responsibilities". (If the person seated beside you laughed at my reference to "CR's" , she's belonged for a LONG TIME!) There were subjects no longer on current agenda, but which had been studied in the recent or distant past to the point of consensus. Examples were Support for the United Nations, advocacy for Item Veto, opposition to Constitutional Limits on Tax Rates and on treaty-making powers of the President and Congress. "D.C. Home Rule" was a perennial CR in the earlier years; others concerned state and local study subjects of the past. The task of the chairman of this Christmas-time program was to update the membership on the entire list of our Continuing Responsibilities, keep us awake to enjoy holiday cookies and tea or coffee - and leave us with the feeling that, dear as some of these positions were to our hearts, we'd be inundated if the list were to grow any longer.

The October General Meeting was, for the first dozen years at least, "U.N.Day" - officially October 24, anniversary of the signing of the charter. And this was always held jointly with the American Association of University Women. Usually we had a luncheon and an outstanding speaker, often a Wayne University professor. Of course it was held at the War Memorial, where both the League and AAUW "hung their hats".

Next installment will be with the 1960's...

## **Celebrating 93 Years of the Power of the Vote**

### **LWV Grosse Pointe Marks Women's Equality Day, Anniversary of the 19th Amendment**

August 26 marks the 93rd anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. This year, the League of Women Voters honors Women's Equality Day through a continued focus on protecting the voting rights of all eligible voters.

"Now is a critical time to do all we can for voters. Earlier this summer, a key part of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), known as Section 4, was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court," said LWV League president, Elisabeth MacNamara.

"Our foremothers understood that voting provides citizens the ability to



have an impact on the critical issues facing their communities."  
"Women's Equality Day is the perfect time to celebrate and protect that right."

## League Links

[Want to contact one of your government officials? Click here!](#)

[LWV Grosse Pointe](#)

[LWV Michigan](#)

[LWV United States](#)

[Forward email](#)



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