

# Grosse Pointe *VOTER*

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

## Activities This Month:

**March/April 2017**

### From the Prez...

**Wed, April 12, 7:00**  
**Rescheduled GPPSS Diversity  
Plan Community Forum**  
Pierce Middle School  
15430 Kercheval, GPP

I am thrilled to report that as of March 31, 2017, our membership has reached 140. And we are adding continuously. In that total are 27 Macomb members.

**Mon, April 17, 7:00**  
**LWV Redistricting Process Training**  
472 Shelbourne, GPF

For you newbies, Welcome. It's also important that we make sure you are engaged and getting what you want from the League. Please fill out the survey when you receive your new member packet. And if you need anything, please reach out to another member, and that includes me.

**April 20-21**  
**Voter Registration in GP High  
Schools during lunch hours**

The rescheduled **Grosse Pointe School System forum on diversity - "Raising Global Leaders" - has been rescheduled for Wednesday, April 12th, at Pierce Auditorium from 7 to 8:30.** It's important that the community knows and understands this plan and the issues that surround it. We need to have a strong attendance, so if you have the time, please do attend.

**Tues, April 25, 7:00 pm**  
**Current Challenges to the Great  
Lakes**  
222 Cloverly, GPF

Several of our new members are also members of WE GP. To introduce our membership to this group, be sure to see the article elsewhere in this Voter.

**Thurs, April 27, 7:00 pm**  
**MCVS Meeting**  
Mt. Clemens Library  
150 Cass Avenue  
Mt Clemens, 48043

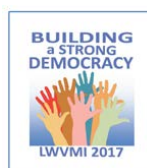
**Sat, May 13**  
**Annual Spring Breakfast  
Meeting**  
Country Club of Detroit  
220 Country Club Dr, GPF

I had the opportunity to visit the National LWV office in Washington D.C. It's exciting to know that local Leagues around the country have also experienced an increase in membership. The League is also working on changing and transforming. We don't know exactly what that looks like yet, but the word is that across the country, local Leagues and leadership began trying new ways to engage people, shaking up their structures to work more effectively and demanding that the national board provide the leadership to change what needed to be changed to make this organization charge into the 21st century. Stay tuned!!

*Keep reading below for additional details. Hope to see you there!*

## **April 25: Current Challenges to the Great Lakes**

The challenges facing the Great Lakes and their surrounding states are many. This presentation will take a critical look at the situation and will include up-to-the-minute information.



Remember that the State LWV Convention is from **May 19th to the 21st** in East Lansing. Everyone should have received the Michigan Newsletter which extends an invitation to any member. If you want to go, or want more information, check out the website for the State, [www.lwvmi.org](http://www.lwvmi.org).

See you all at our **Annual Meeting on May 13** at the **Country Club of Detroit**.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is a federal funding program that has enjoyed bipartisan support during an era when the political parties find little to agree on. But announced in March, the President proposes eliminating the program in favor of other budget priorities.



What are the critical threats facing the Great Lakes including Lake St. Clair? What impact has the GLRI had? Is this program of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) still beneficial?

Come and hear the perspective of [Krista Grimm](#), President of the [Lake Michigan ILO](#), who is an experienced urban planner from Illinois, with extensive interest and knowledge of the Great Lakes.

The meeting will be held at

**Tues, April 25th**  
**7 pm**  
**Ann Nicholson's home**  
**222 Cloverly, GPF**

Please RSVP so we can anticipate the number of attendees.  
Call 313 884-4637  
or email [Ann409@aol.com](mailto:Ann409@aol.com)

## **April 12 -RESCHEDULED- GPPSS Diversity Plan Community Forum**

The Grosse Pointe school district has a vision of "One GP -- where everyone learns, every day," and as stated in its Strategic Plan, has a commitment to:

*Diversity* -- respecting differences among individuals and groups;  
*Equity* -- creating opportunities and challenging discrimination; and  
*Inclusion* -- where everyone can participate regardless of the groups to which they belong.

The district has drafted a diversity plan with these values, and wants to engage the community in the process. The forum to present the GPPSS Diversity Plan has been rescheduled for

Tom  
C. Thompson Wells, Jr. President  
The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe

## **May 13: Annual Spring Breakfast Meeting Just Around the Corner**

Mark your calendar and send in your reservation early for our Annual Spring Breakfast Meeting.

**Saturday, May 13**  
**Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.**  
**Country Club of Detroit**  
**220 Country Club Drive, GPF**

A beautiful buffet breakfast will be served at 9:00, followed by our speaker, **Judy Karandjeff, President of the League of Women Voters of Michigan**. Her topic, "**Protecting Our Democracy**", will include an update on current proposed legislation of interest to the League.

Judy has a long history of volunteering with the League, both in her Lansing Branch and at the state level, where she was legislative Chair 1981-83 and Advocacy Chair the four years prior to becoming President. She is extremely knowledgeable about Michigan politics and speaks throughout the state on the need for redistricting reform. Long a civil rights and women's activist, Judy has a master's of Public Administration and was Executive Director of the Michigan's Women's Commission and Planned Parenthood Affiliates and Advocates of Michigan.

Following the speaker will be the Annual Meeting where members elect officers, approve next year's budget and propose program ideas.

To reserve, please send a check to LWVGP for \$20.00 to Aphie Roumell, 125 Tonnacour, GP Farms, MI 48236 by May 6.

[Print out your reservation form here.](#)

Valet parking will be available.

## **April 17: LWV Redistricting Process Training**

The LWVMI is providing a training session for interested individuals who would like to be able to present the League's position on Michigan's redistricting process. It will be at Jan and Tom Wells home on **April 17th from 7 to 9 pm**. Please call Tom or Jan to RSVP so they can plan on the number of attendees. Their home phone to call is 313-884-6904. Address is 472 Shelbourne, Grosse Pointe Farms.

## **High School Voter Registration**

We will once again offer voter registration sign up at both GP North and South high schools. The dates, times and locations are listed below:

**Thursday, April 20**  
**GP North HS**  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Lobby outside the Student Union

**Friday, April 21**

**Wednesday,  
April 12  
7:00 pm  
Pierce  
Middle  
School  
Auditorium  
15430  
Kercheval, GPP**



A panel of experts with local ties will follow the presentation by GPPSS' Directors of Curriculum. The discussion will be moderated by the non-partisan League of Women Voters.

Principals, clergy, municipal leaders and the public are all invited.

[Print out the flyer here](#)

### **LWVGP Annual Budget Review**

In preparation for our Annual Meeting in May, and as required by our Bylaws, the annual budget is available for review in this newsletter.

[To review the League's budget, click here.](#)

### **Membership Matters**

A Get Acquainted reception for new members was held in my home on March 29, 2017. New members and on/off board members enjoyed a lively discussion and refreshments. League President, Tom Wells, discussed the importance of engaging new members in activities of interest, membership recruitment and retention. Tom reported that the average age for league members nationwide is 74 years; therefore our league is very happy that we have recruited several younger members who can support the league's vision and public policy positions for years to come.

New members were asked to share their reason for joining the League; reasons include voter services and becoming more knowledgeable about the political process, and community education. Some new members have already agreed to participate in fundraising, membership and the Observer Corp. Attendees also

**GP South HS**  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Main hallway

I am seeking volunteers to help with this effort. Please let me know if you are available for either a half or full shift and which day. Thanks in advance for your help.

Judy Florian  
VP for Voter Services  
LWVGP

### **Program Planning Report**

Unfortunately for our League, most of our carefully laid plans for the celebration of Women's History Month, were cancelled due to horrendous weather!! March 8; Raising Global Leaders Forum, in conjunction with the Grosse Pointe Public School System, March 11; THE RICHMOND ROSIES; The movie, and March 16: Luncheon and tour of The Rivers, all were cancelled. However, the new member reception, on March 29, did indeed take place at the home of Wihelmina Giblin. It was a lively affair, and much enjoyed by everyone.

April will see more League activity. **The Global Leaders Forum has been re-scheduled for April 12, at the Pierce Auditorium. 7:00 P.M.** The League will be moderating this forum, and the topic for discussion will include the District Diversity Plan, which will affect all the Grosse Pointe Public Schools. The GPPSS' Directors of Curriculum and Superintendent Dr. Gary Niehaus will present along with a panel of experts in the field. The panel will take written questions from the audience, similar to our format for all of our forums. GPPSS is seeking broad based community feedback on this topic. Please attend and bring your friends and neighbors. This is a great opportunity to have some impact on public school policy.

On **April 25**, the League is presenting a program titled **CURRENT CHALLENGES TO THE GREAT LAKES**. The meeting will be held at **7:00 P.M., at Ann Nicholson's home**, 222 Cloverly, GPF. Our speaker will be [Krista Grimm](#), the current President of [Lake Michigan ILO](#) (Inter-League Organization). The program was arranged by Judy and Gordon Morlan, our erstwhile Environmental specialists! Clearly, with the threat of huge governmental spending cuts, we need to mobilize to protect our Great Lakes. Please help us to further their efforts on our behalf.

We will have our **Annual Spring Breakfast Meeting on May 13, at the Country Club of Detroit**. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to meet all of our recent new members! The event will begin at **8:30 A.M. with registration, with breakfast being served at 9:00**. Our speaker will follow breakfast. There will be a short Q and A after her presentation. We are so fortunate to have **LWVMI President, Judy Karandjeff**, as our speaker. She will address us on "Protecting Our Democracy". Given the divisiveness of our current national political situation, we are seeking suggestions for The League to support our state and our country.

Please RSVP with your check for \$20.00 to Aphie Roumell by May 6. [Print out and your registration form here.](#) Valet parking will be available.

We hope to see you all at these events!

Jan Wells and Aphie Roumell  
VP Co-Chairs for Program

expressed concern regarding redistricting and the upcoming census in 2020. Mary Morshead, discussed the role of the Observer Corp and the need for the league to review it's process to maximize volunteers' time, and information that is obtained at City Council meetings, and whether the information is relevant for league action. Mary was encouraged to discuss this issue at the next board meeting.

Please welcome additional new LWVGP members, Marisa Conte, Rebecca Fannon, and Lisa and Michael Elias.

I encourage all members to attend our **Annual Spring Breakfast Meeting, Saturday, May, 13, 2017 at the Country Club of Detroit.** An announcement can be found in this newsletter and [you can print out your RSVP form here.](#)

Wilhelmina Giblin,  
Membership Director

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*Do you know a family member or friend who is thinking about joining?*  
[Hand them one of our membership forms to mail in!](#)

*Learn all about the League.*  
[Check out the LWV's New Member Handbook here.](#)

*The League of Women Voters encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government; works to increase understanding of major public policy issues; and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League is strictly nonpartisan, neither endorsing candidates nor supporting political parties. The LWVGP, in both its values and its practices, reaffirms its commitment to diversity. Membership is open to men and women of all ages.*

## Macomb County Voter Services

Greetings from MCVS!

A sure sign that our membership is growing is the fact that we have had to move to a larger room at the Mt. Clemens Library! At last count, we have 27 members in the Macomb unit!

Not only is membership increasing, but, we also have some very passionate people taking the lead with various projects. Our internal membership survey has revealed MCVS has a wide variety of expertise in the areas of outreach, management, education, budgeting, communications and legal.

The survey results have led to the formation of a Planning Team focusing on short-term and long-term goals for our group. The Planning Team will meet separately to set goals and develop strategies for meeting LWV objectives. Our PR Chair has been busy with keeping our Facebook page updated and providing ideas to make MCVS better known in the community. One example is for members to adopt a library in order to develop rapport with the many libraries located within Macomb County.

Our Fundraising Chair has already taken advantage of the League's Fundraising 101 module and has ideas to help us get started building funds. Our Observer Corps Chair has attended a city council meeting in Macomb County and has developed a list of the meeting dates and times for all Macomb County city/township council meetings. She is encouraging interested members to join the Observer Corps to help keep our eyes and ears on issues throughout the county.

We have a lot of work to do in preparation of the 2017 and 2018 elections! VOTE411 and Candidate Forums are high on our to-do list.

All are welcome to attend our meetings, especially those living in Macomb County. Please join us for our monthly meetings held on the **4th Thursday of the month, 7PM. We meet at the Mt. Clemens Public Library, 150 Cass Ave., Mt Clemens.**

**Next meeting is April 27, 2017.**

### WE GP - Welcoming Everyone Grosse Pointe

*Note: Several of our new members are also members of WE GP. Since WE GP is a new organization, members may be interested in the following brief description of its inception and philosophy.*

A new organization might hope for a modest turnout for their first event...unless that new organization is "Welcoming Everyone Grosse Pointe" (WE GP). In which case, more than 1200 people might show up...which is exactly what happened when WE GP hosted a March for Peace on January 21 of this year. As a sister march to the hundreds of marches happening across the country on that day, WE GP's March for Peace was a resounding success, with more than 1200 residents peacefully marching down Kercheval Avenue ending with a candlelit rally at the corner of Kercheval and Wayburn.

WE GP is a non-partisan community based organization that is dedicated to the protection of civil and human rights as well as providing opportunities for community members to have productive dialogue and find common ground on critical issues. What started as a small and informal [Facebook group](#) quickly grew, with hundreds of Grosse Pointers and residents of the surrounding communities joining the cause since its inception. WE GP is now forming a board of directors



and steering committees and will be launching a membership platform at the end of April.

## League Links

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

Want to check LWVGP's calendar for the latest updates?  
[Click here!](#)



[LWV Grosse Pointe](#)  
[LWV Michigan](#)  
[LWV United States](#)

["Like" the LWVGP on Facebook! And check out our activities here!](#)

[Join the League! Print out our membership form to mail in](#)

[New Member Handbook](#)

League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe, 32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

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