

Subj: **LWVGP Voter: April 2015**  
 Date: 3/25/2015 3:02:56 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
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LWVMI's Presentation: Aspects of Proposal One: Tues, April 14th, 7:00 at Ewald Library

# Grosse Pointe **VOTER**

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

## Printouts for your Voter

[Annual Brunch/Meeting RSVP Form](#)

[Join the League! Membership Form](#)

## Activities this Month

### **Tues, Apr 14, 7:00 pm**

*LWVMI Proposal 1 Presentation*  
 Ewald Branch of the GP Library  
 15175 E Jefferson, GPP

### **Thurs, Apr 16, 7:00 pm**

*Discussions Meeting Regarding  
 Amending the Constitution*  
 The home of Ann Nicholson

### **Sat, May 9, 8:30 am**

*Annual Spring Brunch & Meeting*  
 Country Club of Detroit  
 220 Country Club Dr, GPP

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

## GPPSS Superintendent Search

On March 17th, League members Peggy Hickey, George McMullen, and Connie Frey attended 1 of 20 focus group sessions set up by School Exec Connect, the firm hired to facilitate

## **April 2015**

### **Presidents' Letter**

The immediate focus of our League has been the preparation of our 2015/16 Budget and of the slate of nominees for open League positions. As required by our Bylaws, this information is available in this newsletter in preparation for our Annual Meeting in May. An enormous thank you to Margit Jackson and Vicki Granger and their committees for their thoughtful suggestions and selections. [To review the League's budget, click here.](#)

**LWVMI** has prepared an excellent factual [Power Point on Proposal 1](#), a complicated ballot issue designed to raise additional tax money for road and bridge repair and change the sources of some of the money which supports education, among other things. (And a one page handout can be found [here](#).) *The League has not taken a position on Proposal 1* because it touches several of our State Positions in different ways.

**State Voter Services Director Eva Packard will give this presentation in Grosse Pointe next month:**

**April 14, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Ewald Branch of the Library**  
**15175 E. Jefferson**  
**Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230**

This is a great opportunity to see the proposal broken down into its many parts. Guests are welcome.

Once again we congratulate our Women's History Month honorees Ruth Cain, Judge Lynne Pierce, and Emily Fijol. Mary Sue Coleman and Beth Chappell received their honors in absentia. The League was proud to recognize them as representatives of the many accomplished women in Michigan.

Our League year will wrap up on **May 9** with our Annual Meeting. This

the district's search for a new GPSS superintendent.

Results from the focus groups and the over 700 community surveys will help SEC narrow the field of applicants to the 20 best candidates to be interviewed. In mid-April the 5 or 6 candidates will be brought to the board for review. After the board selects 2 or 3 to move forward in the process, the names will be made public. The final candidate will have a second interview with the board, prepare a writing sample, and be interviewed by community groups. Final selection is expected by early May.

Connie Frey  
Education Director

## LWVMI Convention Update

Several members have indicated their interest in attending the LWVMI State Convention **May 15-17 in Kalamazoo.**



We have money set aside in our budget to help with registration fees. There are two pre-convention workshops on Friday afternoon. "Growing the League" concerns membership; the second is entitled "Speaking out for the Environment". For additional information on the agenda for the weekend visit [LWVMI.org](http://LWVMI.org). If you plan to attend, please notify one of the Presidential Team.

*Michigan Leagues' State Convention will be held at the Four Points Hotel in Kalamazoo. The Grosse Pointe League is entitled to 6 delegates for the business meeting, but all members are welcome to attend.*

**Thank you for the  
LWVGP Ed Fund**

is an opportunity for members to give directions to the Board for the upcoming year, so think about that, and get your reservation in. [You can print it out here](#)

It has been an honor this year to serve on the Presidential Team. Your life will be enriched through involvement with the League's mission.

Many thanks to all of you,  
Sharon Riley  
Presidential Team

## Amending the Constitution: Discussion Meeting April 16th

During 2015, the LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Committee will conduct a study and member agreement on amending our nation's Constitution.

There are two ways to amend the Constitution. Congress may propose amendments to the states for ratification, or legislatures of 2/3 of the states may ask Congress to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution. Amendments proposed by either method must be ratified by 3/4 of the states.

In addition to other topics, the League study will explore the process for proposing a convention, a process which has never been successfully invoked, in order to determine whether LWVUS would support such a convention and if so, under what circumstances.

Judge Lynne Pierce and Ann Nicholson invite members to join them on **April 16** for dessert and coffee to informally discuss the issues involved in calling a Constitutional Convention. To prepare go to [lww.org](http://lww.org), click on "members", then click on "our work" - suggested reading is short and easy to follow.

The meeting will be at Ann Nicholson's, 222 Cloverly, Grosse Pointe Farms, from 7-8:30. Please email or call Ann so she knows how much coffee to make.

## Save the Date! May 9th - LWVGP Brunch

The LWVGP Annual Brunch & Meeting is scheduled!

**Saturday, May 9th**  
**Registration begins at 8:30 am**  
**Country Club of Detroit**  
**220 Country Club Drive**  
**Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

The speaker will be Dr. Sandra Robinson, Provost of the Mary Ellen Stempfle University and Distance Learning Center of Wayne County Community College.

Our League has long had a representative on Wayne County Community College District's Eastside Advisory Council, and it's time we became more acquainted with the new educational opportunities available to people of all ages through WCCCD. Have you noticed the new WCCCD buildings on Vernier? Do you know the educational possibilities these buildings represent for students in our area? And for retired people too?

## Support

Our list of Donors to the Ed Fund in the previous Voter should have also included:

Diana Domin  
Don & Sue Dungan.

Our apologies for the oversight and thank you so much for your support!

## Legislator Interviews

Within the next six weeks volunteers from our League will interview the State legislators from our districts to understand their positions on specific educational and energy issues that may come up in the next legislative session. They will also be asked about their particular interests and concerns. Thanks to all who participate in this fun and interesting process.

## Grosse Pointe Shores City Council Observer Report

A new video screen will be installed in Grosse Pointe Shores Council chambers to allow for video arraignments. This will result in avoiding the cost of transporting those charged to the courtroom. Chief John Schulte stated that the video equipment can be used for other issues when not in official use. According to the *GP News* these video screens will be going into court/council chambers across the state.

George McMullen  
Observer Core

## Membership Matters

AND THE WINNER IS:  
At this point we have a four-way tie for the winner of our Membership Contest. Each of the contenders has brought in one new member. If one of these folks brings in a second new

**Dr. Sandra Truitt Robinson**, Provost of the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center and its neighbor on Vernier, the Center for Distance Learning, is the featured speaker. Dr. Robinson has had a distinguished career in public education and was recognized nationally for developing and implementing innovative magnet programs at Martin Luther King High School in Detroit. Under her direction the University Center has secured partnerships with several colleges and universities so that students can complete degrees and access graduate level courses without having to leave the region. Distance learning, dual enrollment and webinars are opportunities not available twenty years ago - and what can students expect twenty years from now?

Registration begins at 8:30. Breakfast will be served at 8:45. The cost is \$26. Please send you registration form in to Mary Jo Johnson before April 25 if at all possible. The absolute deadline is May 4.

See you there!

[Print out your reservation form 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.](#)

## LWVGP Nominating Committee Report - March 2015

*Like many organizations, the League of Women Voters faces many challenges in finding qualified members to take on leadership positions. Fortunately, the members of our Grosse Pointe group recognize the importance of the League's mission to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, to work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through advocacy and education. There are many more members not listed here, who serve the LWV in various capacities, whose tireless efforts on behalf of the League make our organization a strong group, recognized in the community for our important role in democracy.*

*The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe:*

### **Executive Board:**

**Presidential Team - Judy Morlan, Ann Nicholson, and Mary Zahler** have agreed to continue for an additional year.

*Term expires June 30, 2016.*

**President Elect - Tom Wells.**

*Term expires June 30, 2016.*

*NOTE: Tom continues as Treasurer for 2015 -2016. The term as President runs from June 30, 2016 to June 30, 2018.*

**Vice-President Program - Aphie Roumell and Jan Wells.**

*Term expires June 30, 2017.*

*Continuing positions - expire June 30, 2016.*

**Vice President Voter Services - Carol Todd**

**Treasurer - Tom Wells**

**Secretary - Martha Shumaker**

member by May 1st, she will get the full hundred-dollar gift certificate to [Da Edoardo](#) restaurant. Or maybe you can get in the race by urging those couple of friends who seem interested in the League to join now.

LWVGP needs members who want to work on Candidate Forums, on upcoming studies of public policy and on all sorts of activities that make our League both fun and relevant to our community. For your friends and neighbors frustrated by the current state of our Democracy, the League offers an opportunity to make a difference.

Be a winner and do the ASK. (Remember anyone who joins now gets a nice break. Dues paid now cover the remainder of this League year as well as all the next year too.) Print the membership form attached to this Voter and invite a community-minded friend to join the League.

Jo Ann Kelly  
Membership Director

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

## Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence Visits Grosse Pointe

**Brenda Lawrence**, former Mayor of Southfield and our brand new Representative to Congress, spoke to the [Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce](#) on March



12. Our League is a member of the Chamber, and several of our members took advantage of this opportunity to meet Rep. Lawrence.

Her first District Office has opened in Southfield, and she plans to open an auxiliary office at the Samaritan Center on Conner in Detroit. Her district, which stretches from southwest Detroit to Keego Harbor, is

### On-Board Directors:

**Director Membership** - Christina Schlitt and Wilhelmina Giblin.  
*Term expires June 30, 2017.*

Continuing positions - *Term expires June 30, 2016.*

**Director: Assistant Treasurer** - George McMullen

**Director: Running and Winning** - Monica Bihar-Natzke

**Director: Voter Services** - Flo Rhodes

### New Off-Board Directors

**Director Fundraising** - Joan Morris. *Term expires June 30, 2017.*

**Director Vote 411** - Sue Uhl. *Term expires June 30, 2017.*

### Continuing Off-Board Directors

**Observer Corps** Mary Morshead

**Voter Tech Support, Webmaster** Beth Martin

**Voter Editor** Ann Nicholson

**Publicity/Facebook** Laurie Arora

**Email Blasts/Facebook** Vicki Granger

**Program Arrangements** Mary Jo Johnson

**Education** Connie Frey

**Natural Resources** Gordon Morlan

**Long Range Planning** Vicki Granger

**LWVGP Telephone** Evelyn Montgomery

**Historian** Sylvia Sanders

**Nominating Committee Chair** Vicki Granger

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Vicki Granger, Nominating Committee Chair*

*Nominating Committee: Jo Ann Kelly, Ann Nicholson, Mary Morshead, Judy Gafa*

Note: We are pleased to be breaking the "lipstick ceiling" with the nomination of Tom Wells, our current Treasurer, as President-Elect. Tom is the first male to serve our group in this capacity, but our LWVGP has several men who support the League and take on leadership roles. Our presidential team of Ann Nicholson, Judy Morlan, and Mary Zahler will be guiding Tom through the coming year.

Our thanks and appreciation to Sharon Riley, who has chosen not to continue with the Presidential Team. We know Sharon will be continuing to contribute her talents to our LWVGP in other ways. Our thanks and appreciation to outgoing Vice President for Program Wilhelmina Giblin. Wilhelmina is a past President, and has served our League in many capacities. She is taking on Membership, along with another past President, Christina Schlitt. Thanks and appreciation to Jo Ann Kelly, another past President, who will be assisting them in the transition.

Finally, thanks to the Nominating Committee. Everyone contributed to the work of identifying potential leaders for our LWVGP, taking the time to contact individuals, and sharing information about the "portfolio" for potential positions. While Nominating can sometimes be very challenging, it is also very rewarding to talk with so many wonderful LWVGP members and to "nudge" them along the path of taking on leadership responsibilities.

### **LWV Detroit State (MAL) Unit**

The new LWV Detroit Unit was just recognized by LWVMI State Board.

an area of tremendous ethnic and economic diversity.

*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.*

Their contact is: [lwvdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:lwvdetroit@gmail.com).

Management Team:  
Spokesperson/Convener - Suzanne Cleage  
Money Person/Treasurer - Valerie Ash  
Member Coordinator - Cheryl Bukoff  
Voter Services Coordinator - Carol Banks

## 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](#)

### [Forward email](#)



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