

**Thurs, April 5: "Promote The Vote" Meeting  
Info&Training For This Very Important Ballot Proposal**

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**Thurs, April 26: Coney Caper Fundraiser**

# 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:

**Thurs, April 5**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Promote the Vote  
Meeting**

GP Central Library  
10 Kercheval Ave, GPF

**Sat, April 14**

**1:00 pm**

**LWV Macomb County  
"1918" Tea**

**Guest Speaker Elizabeth  
A. Homer**

Robert A. Verkuilen Building,  
Entrance E

21885 Dunham Road  
Clinton Twp, MI 48036

**Thurs, April 26**

**5:30 - 8:00 pm**

**Coney Caper Dinner  
Fundraiser**

Tompkins Center  
Windmill Pointe Park  
14920 Windmill Pointe Dr,  
GPP

[Print out your RSVP form here](#)

**Sat, May 12**

**Registration opens at  
8:30/breakfast at 9:00  
Annual Breakfast  
Meeting**

## *April 2018*

### **From the Prez...**

Your Local League did something that hasn't been done as long as I have been a member. At the Board meeting last Wednesday, March 21st, we approved sending \$1,000 of our reserves to the State League to assist in the [Gerrymandering Lawsuit](#), *League of Women Voters of Michigan v. Johnson* ([Check out the press release here](#)). I am so proud of this Local League. Our members are engaged and doing such good work.

Speaking of engaged, Sharon Ruggioli, who is an outstanding baker, has offered, and the Fundraising Committee has agreed, to accept her kind and generous offer to supply cookies and brownies for the **Coney Caper**. And please note that the event is **Thursday, April 26th**. So now along with all the Coneys we can eat, we'll get Sharon's wonderful cookies and brownies.

Interesting that the League got an email from a concerned citizen about making sure our High School Students know about Voter Registration and absentee voting. Again, with the erstwhile efforts of Judy Florian, Sue Acton and their committee, we are set to do just that. If you're interested in participating, contact Judy or Sue. See more in this Voter.

As I get more involved in the National League, as the Budget Chairman, I get to see what great work is happening at all levels to transform the League at all levels, Local, State and National. It truly is exciting to be part of this fabulous organization.

Speaking of the State, be sure to read the Promote the Vote information elsewhere in this Voter, provided by that committee, made up of Vicki Granger, Mary Jo Johnson and Sue Acton.

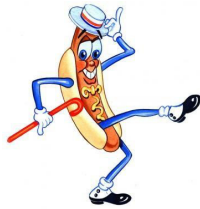
Be sure to check out all the current options in the Voter to get engaged and involved. I look forward to seeing you at these wonderful ongoing opportunities to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy.

Country Club of Detroit  
220 Country Club Dr  
GP Farms, MI 48236  
[Print out your RSVP form here](#)

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

## **April 26: The Coney Caper Is Back!**

The tickets have been mailed out for our second Coney Caper, our Coney Island hotdog fundraiser. It will be



**Thurs, April 26  
5:30-8:00 pm  
Tompkins Community Center  
Windmill Pointe Park  
14920 Windmill Pointe Dr  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI  
48230**

Bring your family and friends, meet your elected officials and support the League! Proceeds will support our League activities and the Promote the Vote petition drive.

Misplaced your mailing?  
[You can also print out this reservation form and mail it in](#)

## **LWV Macomb County "1918 Tea" Fundraiser**

Macomb County LWV's hosting a "1918" Tea with Guest Speaker [Elizabeth A. Homer](#)

**Sat, April 14  
1:00 pm  
Robert A. Verkuilen Building,  
Entrance E  
21885 Dunham Road  
Clinton Twp, MI 48036**



Tom

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

## **Promote the Vote Ballot Proposal**

The League of Women Voters believes voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. It is why LWV was founded over 98 years ago.



LWVMI has joined with other entities throughout Michigan to support the "[Promote the Vote](#)" ballot proposal. This proposal represents the core of the League's purpose and values. For the full explanation of the ballot proposal, see this link to the PDF of the [brief PowerPoint on our own LWVGP website](#).

A core committee of Sue Acton, Mary Jo Johnson, and Vicki Granger is spearheading our LWVGP efforts to "Promote the Vote."

We have copies of the petitions, have printed brochures explaining the ballot proposal, and have directions for circulators.

We are holding an information and training session

**Thursday, April 5  
7 p.m.  
GP Central Library  
10 Kercheval Ave  
GP Farms, MI 48236**

At this meeting, which is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, we will present a brief powerpoint about the ballot proposal, review the directions for circulators, and distribute the petitions. We hope to see MANY of our members there.

We hope that EVERY LWVGP member will become involved in some way - whether it is circulating petitions, hosting a gathering in your home to educate friends and neighbors about this ballot proposal, helping to distribute petitions to circulators and collecting them, writing articles for the local papers - we need YOU. If every member circulates petitions and gathers at least 50 signatures, that would be nearly 5000 signatures right there! We all belong to other community groups. Taking your petitions to your card club, your church group, the Rotary meeting - all are sources of signatures! We want to be organized and not duplicate efforts. A goal of 10,000 signatures from the GP's is certainly an attainable goal as we look to partner with other community organizations.

***This all needs to be done by June - the collection of over 400,000 signatures from registered Michigan voters.***

Join us for an informal hour of coffee, tea, punch, & desserts to commemorate "1918", the year Michigan women won the right to vote in state elections. We welcome teacher, historian, and author of *Pioneers, Reformers, and Millionaires* Elizabeth A. Homer.

For \$12 tickets, contact [lwymacomb@gmail.com](mailto:lwymacomb@gmail.com) or call 810 892 3875.

For additional information, [check out the flyer here](#).

Check out the Macomb County's [Facebook page](#)

## High School Voter Registration

City Clerks or their deputies will be in attendance at the three high school voter registration days in April.

Students who will be 18 by the next election date are eligible to register. Students may register without a photo ID but cannot apply for an absentee ballot until they have either voted in person with a photo ID or shown that ID to the City Clerk where they are registered. *Students are advised to bring a photo ID when they register at school to avoid confusion.*

The following members have volunteered to help at the lunch time registration:

### April 17 - Grosse Pointe South

Sarah Coats, Mary Morshead, Sue Acton, Tom Wells, Judy Florian

### April 18 - Grosse Pointe North

Valerie Kindle, Laurie Coplin, Sue Acton, Tom Wells, Judy Florian

### April 24 - Harper Woods

[Here is the link to the Google Form to sign up](#) for our LWVGP "Promote the Vote" effort.

We also have a [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) devoted to Promote the Vote. Please like the page, and share the posts there on your own page and with other groups you are involved with.

We hope you are as excited as we are about getting this proposal on the ballot, and then working to ensure its passage in November by a majority of voters.

Please contact Sue Acton at [lwygrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwygrossepointe@gmail.com) and get in on the ground floor of this exciting effort!

Sue Acton, Mary Jo Johnson, Vicki Granger

## Annual Meeting is Saturday, May 12!

**Chastity Pratt Dawsey** will speak on the Education Crisis in Michigan.

Ms. Pratt Dawsey has had a distinguished career in journalism which included ten years covering Detroit Public School issues for the *Detroit Free Press* before her current job with *Bridge Magazine* covering urban affairs in Michigan.

Only 29% of Michigan 4th grade students are at or above reading proficiency level vs 36% nationally. Eighth grade students are also behind the national average in math. Even suburban schools like Grosse Pointe are lagging. In 2003 Michigan's white higher income students ranked 17th in the nation for 4th grade reading. by 2015 they ranked 50th.\*

Ms. Pratt Dawsey will not only give us the facts, but she will also share with us solutions that have succeeded in Boston, the state of Tennessee, and other locations. She will also explain why this an economic as well as a social problem for the future of the state of Michigan.

**Sat, May 12**  
**Registration opens at 8:30, breakfast at 9:00**  
**Country Club of Detroit**  
**220 Country Club Dr**  
**GP Farms 48236**

Cost: \$25.  
Make checks payable to LWVGP and send to  
League of Women Voters, 32 Lake Shore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

[Click here for a registration form.](#)

Guests are welcome.

\* [BridgeMI.com](http://BridgeMI.com)

## Gun Violence: Enough is Enough

Sue Acton, Valerie Kindle, Mary Morshead, Tom Wells, Judy Florian

Thanks to everyone - this is a fun event!  
Judy Florian, Voter Services

## State League's Workshops

LWVMI will hold two Regional Spring Workshops - the closest one to us will be in **Ann Arbor on Saturday, April 28, 9:30-3:00.**

There will be workshops on Promote the Vote Petition Drive, the gerrymandering lawsuit, the redistricting proposal and League basics. With so many important initiatives, it should be a great day.

Our League has budgeted money to cover registration and lunch for 6 members, so let Tom Wells know if you are considering attending.

## LWVGP Updated Non-Partisan Policy

Recently, LWVMI revised its non-partisan policy, prompting our own LWVGP Board to consider reviewing our own policy, which has been in place for several years.

Notably, the LWVMI policy allows certain board positions to seek elective office. Accordingly, a committee of Ann Nicholson, Beth Martin, and Vicki Granger reviewed our existing policy, the LWVMI policy, and the policies of various LWV branches around the country. They presented a revised policy to the LWVGP Board via email for review and comment, and then provided the final policy for approval at the March Board meeting.

Maybe you participated or witnessed or just paid attention to the media coverage of the "March For Our Lives" rallies on March 24th led by the Parkland, Florida students and others who were energized by the February massacre of seventeen students and faculty at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Since that awful day, at least five more school shootings have taken place!

"We have a lot of people who are inspired" said Kobey Lofton, a student from Chicago's South Side who traveled overnight to Washington with 12 busloads of fellow students for the D.C. rally.

Our young people are inspired to make a difference. They are demanding an assault weapon ban, prohibition of sales of high-capacity magazines and universal background checks. And, very importantly, they are registering to vote.

Aaron Ghitelman, a spokesman for HeadCount, a nonpartisan group that usually focuses on registering people at concerts and music festivals, reported that in a matter of hours the group registered nearly 5,000 people, many of them millennials, at the D.C. march.

Reportedly 90% of the D.C. participants were adults and 25% of these were people who had never before taken part in active protest. After so much tragedy in the twenty years since Columbine High School, people are energized to make a difference. Watch for notices of events young people are planning for April 20th in memory of those killed at Columbine.

Getting people informed, active and out to vote is League 101. We can join our young people and others to say "Enough Is Enough". I hope you received by email the March 14th Call to Action from LWVMI President Judy Karandjeff about the March 24th marches and the League's positions on gun safety. (See my Gun Violence article in last month's Voter to review these very useful LWVUS positions on which we base action.)

Please watch for further Calls to Action from LWVMI and join the building numbers of Americans who are determined to Make a Difference on this serious public-safety issue.

Enough!  
Jo Ann Kelly  
LWVMI Advocacy Taskforce

## March for Our Lives

Several League members participated in March for Our Lives on March 24. The march in Grosse Pointe was led by middle school students in a plea to adults to take steps to end gun violence, especially in schools.

Participants marched from Richard to Defer, where students thanked the crowd for coming and urged everyone to contact their legislators!



A copy of the policy is online on our [LWVGP website](#).

Find links to your government officials at [LWVGP Government Links](#).

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate to the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 12, 2018. Nominations from the floor are allowed at the Annual Meeting.

**Judy Florian**  
**Vice President Voter's Services**  
(2 year term)

**Carol Lufburrow**  
**Treasurer**  
(2 year term)

**Sue Acton**  
**Assistant Voter's Services**  
(2 year term)

**Diana Domin**  
**Director**  
(2 year term)

**Deb Sloss**  
**Director**  
(1 year term)

**President-elect**  
open

We also were asked to nominate a Nominating Chair and 2 committee members for a 1 year term: Chair: Jan Wells, 2 committee members: Peggy Hickey and Val Kindle

The committee whose term expires May 12, 2018 consisted of : Chair: Jan Wells, Committee: Ann Nicholson, Vicki Granger, Wilhelmina Giblin, and Sarah Coats

Submitted by Jan Wells  
May 12, 2018

**Bylaws Change Recommended**

## Membership Matters

Let's welcome new members Loren Mannino and Elizabeth Martin.

We are increasing the number of membership committee members to enable us to implement strategies for member recruitment and retention. We recognize that members join organizations for a variety of reasons. Today, individuals are bombarded with emails, catalogs, advertisements and other media messages competing for their time. How does the league gain the attention and interest of multiple generations and stand out from other organizations? This committee hopes to find answers to this question.

If you have ideas for engaging and retaining league members, please join the membership committee. Our next meeting will be held **Wednesday April 11, 2018, 7:30 PM-8:30 PM, Central Library Programs Room, on Kercheval Avenue.**

Please contact me if you have questions.

Thank you.

Wilhelmina Giblin,  
Co-Director Membership

## 2018-19 Budget

The membership will be voting on the 2018-19 budget at the Annual Breakfast Meeting on May 12.

Some of the expenses, such as the website and Voter template, are fixed. Our League budgets some moneys to help pay for delegates to State and National conventions. The non-profit LWVGP Ed Fund reimburses the League for expenses related to educating voters, such as candidate forums and voter registration drives, and pays part of the "per member" payments to the state and national organizations, depending on the resources it has available.

Below is a summary of the budget:

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GROSSE POINTE 2018/2019 BUDGET SUMMARY

#### INCOME

DUES	4,410.00
FUND RAISING	7,500.00
EVENTS	2,900.00
ED FUND PMP REIMBURSEMENT	786.75
GRAND TOTAL	15,596.75

#### EXPENSES

At its March meeting, the Board voted to recommend to the membership to change Article VI Section 2. Dues policy would return back to the wording adopted in the bylaws in May of 2009.

In May of 2017 the membership voted to adopt a proposal to collect dues twice annually, in July and November. This was to give quite a large number of new members who had joined in the fall an opportunity to become a part of League activities before asking for a second dues payment. It did not impact membership retention and is an unnecessary burden for the membership committee, so this Bylaws recommendation would reinstate the payment of dues by July 1.

**Article VI. Section 2. Dues.**

*Annual Dues shall be payable July 1. Any member who fails to pay his or her dues within three months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership roles. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the first member shall pay full dues and each additional member shall pay half the amount of full dues, as determined by the Annual Meeting.*

*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.*

PMP	5,279.00
FUND RAISING	2,500.00
EVENTS	2,750.00
CONVENTIONS	1,650.00
LEAGUE SUPPORT	25.00
BOARD & ADMIN	2,278.00
OPERATING COSTS	580.00
GRAND TOTAL	15,062.00
NET	534.75

For detailed information, [click here.](#)

**Thank you to our Ed Fund Donors!**

The mission of the LWVGP Education Fund is provide objective information to the public and support for educational activities.

We appreciate the generous support in FY 17-18 from these members:

- Andrew and Linda Dervan
- Nancy & William Duemling
- Connie Frey
- Cheryl Harvey
- Judy & Gordon Morlan
- Ann Nicholson
- Lambro Niforos
- Flo Rhodes
- Sharon Ruggioli
- Sylvia Sanders
- Steve Trowbridge
- Mary Vitolins
- Mary Younke

**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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