

Subj: **LWVGP Voter: August 2015**
 Date: 8/27/2015 10:12:58 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
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Sept 16: LWV's Special Evening with DFP's Stephen Henderson!

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

[Join the League! Membership Form](#)

[Annual Meeting for LWVLMR Conference Flyer](#)

Activities This Month

Wed, Sept. 16th

7:00 pm

LWVGP Kick-Off Meeting

Stephen Henderson of the *Detroit Free Press*

Unitarian Church

17150 Maumee

GP, 48230

Tues, Sept 29th

7:30 pm

GP Park Candidate Forum

Municipal Building, in the Courtroom

15115 E Jefferson

GP Park, 48230

Thurs, Oct 1st

7:30 pm

GP Shores Candidate Forum

Neighborhood Club

17150 Waterloo St

GP, 48230

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

September Kick-Off!

Attend LWVGP's Special Night with a Distinguished
 Voice of Detroit!

**September 16, 7:00
 Unitarian Church
 17150 Maumee, GP 48230**

An evening with
Stephen Henderson of the *Detroit Free Press*.

Mr. Henderson, the DFP Editorial



August 2015

Presidents' Letter

Summer is winding down, but your LWVGP Board has been "reviving up"! Challenging and enlightening plans have been put in place for the coming year. We hope you will be as excited as we are.

Stephen Henderson, *Detroit Free Press* Editorial Page Editor, will be the featured speaker at the Kick-Off Meeting on **Wednesday September 16th. The site is the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church at 7 P.M.** The title for his presentation is "Detroit: Bringing Its Success to the Neighborhoods". There will be time for a Q and A, so have your questions ready. Since Detroit and the Grosse Pointes are closely related, there is great interest in what is happening in Detroit. We look forward to seeing you on the 16th.

With the recent revival of the "Redistricting" issue in the U.S., which you have been reading and hearing about, the League of Women Voters in Michigan has stepped forward to present a series of informational Town Meetings around the state. There has been a tremendous flurry of interest among all the Leagues and other groups to sign up. Ten very well informed speakers are available. LWVGP has signed on and the meeting will be scheduled this fall. In Michigan, as in many states, voting districts are determined by the political party in power after each 10 year census. Gerrymandering voting districts has been happening for a very long time, The party redraws districts to favor it's own candidates. There are other ways to determine those districts, and several states are using different methods. This is what the Town Meeting is all about!

Autumn is for candidate forums. This is what the League does...helping to inform citizens about candidates so their voting experience is a knowledgeable one. There are only 2 contested elections this year so we will host 2 forums. Read further for dates and times. Additionally, Carol Todd, our Vice President of Voter Services, would appreciate help staffing the events. Please contact her if you can volunteer.

There are two topics that the LWVUS have chosen for consensus this year. There is an article elsewhere in the Voter about the consensus on "Amending the Constitution". The 2nd topic is "Money in Politics", which focuses on campaign finance reform. [Rich Robinson](#), of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network and Michigan's foremost authority on this issue, will be our November speaker.

Fall is a time for cooler weather, increased opportunities and a revival of energy. LWVGP is looking forward to seeing you soon!

Page Editor, is a native Detroiter and a graduate of University of Detroit Jesuit High School and the University of Michigan. He also serves as host for "American Black Journal" and a contributor for "MiWeek".

This past year he received a 2014 Pulitzer Prize and 2014 Scripps Howard Award for Commentary.

Mr. Henderson is first and foremost a citizen of Detroit, then of Michigan. His topic for the evening: **"Detroit: Bringing Its Success to the Neighborhoods"**.

Our League is co-sponsoring this event with the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church Alliance. It is a gift to the community, so please pass the word and plan to attend with guests!

See you there,
Jan Wells, Aphie Roumell,
Vice Presidents for Program

Annual Meeting for the LWV Lake Michigan Region

The [LWV Lake Michigan Region](#) will hold its annual meeting and conference on **September 25-26 in Glenview, IL**.

Speakers will include:

Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis
Conservation Ecologist, The Field Museum
Co-Chair: Chicago Wilderness Climate Change Task Force

Molly Flanagan
Policy Director, Alliance for the Great Lakes
Former Senior Program Officer
Environmental Program, Joyce Foundation

[Click here to see the flyer about the event.](#)

Judy and Gordon Morlan attended this meeting in Traverse City last fall and found it to be exciting and informative.

Want to know more? Contact our Natural Resource Director, Gordon Morlan at NaturalResourceChair@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org

"Amending the Constitution" Consensus due Dec. 1st

At the 2014 National LWV Convention three study topics were chosen, each interacting with the other.

The topic of "*Redistricting*" is being studied at the state level and our League will be a part of that study.

The other two topics, "*Money in Politics*" and

Judy Morlan
Presidential Team

Candidate Forums for the Pointes Have Been Set

Two candidate forums have been booked as there are 2 cities with contested municipal races: Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Shores. The candidates from the other Grosse Pointe cities and Harper Woods are not being contested.

GROSSE POINTE PARK

Tues, September 29th
7:30 pm until 9:00 pm
Municipal Building, in the Courtroom
15115 E Jefferson
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

The candidates who filed for Council are:
Daniel E. Clark, Barbara Detwiler, John Chouinard, Edward V. Keelean, and William P. Shield, Jr.
The mayoral candidate, Robert Denner is running uncontested.

GROSSE POINTE SHORES

Thurs, October 1st
7:30 pm
Neighborhood Club
17150 Waterloo St
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

The candidates for the Shores are:
Paul Thursam, Robert Gesell, Douglas Kucyk, Rebecca Booth, and Tina Ellis.
The mayoral candidate, Ted Kedziarski is running uncontested.

Both forums will have audience-generated questions with time for each candidate to give their responses. The audience will also be able to listen to each candidate's opening and closing statements.

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial will film each forum. These films will be shown on the War Memorial's local channel at a future date.

LWV Macomb County Voter Services

The LWV - Macomb County Voter Services held their first recruiting meeting on Aug. 6. This well-attended meeting included the mayor of Mt. Clemens, the Warren city council president, a representative for the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (possible partnership), the Macomb Twp. Clerk, a representative from the MSU Extension Macomb (possible partnership), among others. All attendees were supportive and concurred with the need for Voter Services and Education in Macomb County .

Invitational flyers were distributed to the many parts of the very large Macomb County . Kathy Poore was instrumental in sending out emails and following up with phone calls to city officials. This will help be the start of our outreach email list for future activities.

Christina Schlitt gave an overview of LWV and areas of responsibilities.

Nance Halle gave a very interesting vision of our "path forward." This includes the likelihood of taking on candidate forums and Vote411 activities for Sterling Heights . While we are still researching, it's possible that all seats are up for re-election! That means there could possibly be an entire new mayor and council! We will be looking for support from LWVGP.

"Amending the Constitution", require our League to come to consensus.

Our League held an informational meeting in April to review how the Constitution can be amended and how this process has unfolded in the past. The answers to the consensus questions will create League policy on when we might support an amendment; under what circumstances we would support a Constitutional Convention; and if our policy on those two aspects could be set aside in favor of our policy on a particular issue.

To read the consensus questions and a brief pro and con for each question, click LWV.org. The consensus meeting will be in October; meeting details will be published in the September Voter.

Sad News about a longtime LWVGP member

I'm so sorry to have to report that our friend and long time member, Kay McDonald, has passed away. She joined the League after she retired from the Math Department at Wayne State and had a grand time, especially with Voter Services. Voter Guides, Candidate Forums, Voter Registration -- she would gather her buddies and they did it all. She was President of the League from 1989-93, and then continued to be active with the Educational Foundation. She was tough, funny, interested and interesting. She was a wonderful friend and we will miss her.

Ann Nicholson

Health Care Decision

In June The Supreme Court clarified those eligible for government subsidized health insurance. If you or someone you know needs more information about this decision go to HealthCare.gov/decision.

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.



Martha Shumaker and Tom Wells (president-elect LWVGP) were also in attendance.

Since the initial meeting there have been further emails and interest generated for Macomb County Voter Services.

Democracy is not a spectator sport!

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Rivera
LWV - Macomb County Voter Services
lvmacomb@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/lwvmacombcounty

Membership Matters

Membership Dues Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that if you have not paid your dues for the new fiscal year, please mail your check by September 1, 2015. Your dues helps the League to host educational and informational programs in our community. Please mail your membership check today.

Thank you.
Wilhelmina Giblin, Co-Director, Membership

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

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](#)

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