

**Don't Forget: Thurs, Jan 19: Chinese Dinner/Program Planning Meeting
In the GP Woods Community Center @ 6:30**

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:

December 2016

From the Prez...

Thurs, Jan 19, 6:30 pm
Chinese Dinner/Program Meeting
GP Woods Community Center
20025 Mack, GPW
[Click here to print out your RSVP form to return along with your \\$12 check](#)

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

New Meeting-Time for MCVS

Please join with us to further our voter education efforts in Macomb County!

We meet at **7 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month** (previously we met on Mondays) at the **Mt. Clemens Library, 150 Cass Avenue (48043)**

Membership Matters

Please welcome new members (through 10/31/16): Gerald Demaire, Terry Gibb, Pi Irwin, Zsombor Zoltan, Sarah McIntee, Emma McIntee, and Jackie Moase-Burke.

I encourage all our new members to attend the January 19 program planning meeting at the GP Woods Community Center.

[Print out your reservation form here](#)

Wilhelmina Giblin

WELCOME - As I write this, I am thrilled to announce that we have had 25 new members in the last month! Most of these are from a new organization that was started as a Facebook entity (called Pantsuits Nation, it has over 3.5 million followers nationally). The Grosse Pointe group formed a separate Facebook page and has over 900 local followers. Vicki Granger is our cheerleader in encouraging them to join us. They are now working on forming a nonpartisan action group that includes many of our principles and concerns. Their new name is "**We GP.**" One of the results of this connection is that we are working on a presentation for our February meeting concerning how the GP School system is/should be handling diversity and bullying. Stay tuned for more info or contact Vicki or myself for additional details.

VOLUNTEERING - For new members and old, I remind everyone that we are an all-volunteer organization. The more volunteers we have, the more we get done and the more impact we have. I believe that if our members only want to support us with their checks, that is fine. But we do need help. With that in mind, there are two ways to get involved: first, wait for the phone to ring and be asked; and secondly, let someone know you want to be involved. My contact information is: (cell phone, which I also use for texting) 886-8400; email is motsllew@aol.com. Feel free to contact me at any time. My phone is on from 7 am to 9ish pm 7 days a week. And lastly, if you volunteer for something and find it doesn't suit you for any reason, let me know and I pledge to find a replacement for you.

Check out our Webpage (grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org) and you will find all sorts of information on what we do. Just to name a few, we have the following committees or areas that use/need volunteers: Communications; Publicity; Natural Resources; Observer Corps.; Program; Voter Services; Fund Raising; Outreach; Board of Directors; Officers; Nominating; Membership; and Long Range Planning.

Lastly, I wish everyone a Happy New Year!!!!

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

Program Notes

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!](#)

Get Well Soon!

We are sorry to report that Aphie Roumell had a nasty fall just before Christmas and is still recovering. We wish her a happy and active new year!

Well Wishes

Long time member Betty Ruud has moved to Sunrise of Bloomfield Hills, 2080 S. Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. Drop her a note!

Story of the Lake Erie Basin Committee (LEBC)

This is part 1 of a 3 part summary of the history of the Lake Erie Basin Committee's work. Unfortunately, it has just disbanded, but it has much to be proud of.

[Lake Erie Basin Committee, 1968-2016 \(from A Short History of the Lake Erie Basin Committee of the League of Women Voters, 1968-1993\)](#)

When Carolyn Moore lived in North Dakota in the 1950's she participated in an inter-League study of the Red River. The times, they were a changing . . . and there was a new interest in things like water quality and air pollution. Carolyn moved to Ohio in the early '60's, bringing her expertise to a study of the Ohio River Basin that Ohio Leagues were doing. As she learned more, she became concerned about Lake Erie, and asked a LWVUS staffer what could be done. She was told "it takes just one interested person to start", so that's what she did. She wrote to Leagues in the Lake Erie Basin and set an organizational meeting for March 3, 1963. Fifty-five women from 28

Our Christmas program was a smashing success!! Thanks to Aphie's daughter who sponsored us, and to Aphie for following up on all the details at the Little Club. The Club was truly a holiday wonderland, with all of its Christmas finery. Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the holiday merriment.

Our Program Planning Program is scheduled for **January 19, 2017**. The dinner meeting will start at **6:30 P.M.**, with the planning session to take place immediately after dinner. Ann Nicholson has graciously offered to conduct the planning meeting. She is one of our resident experts on this endeavor. This will be a special meeting, because we will be hosting many of our newest members, and it will be the first time they will have input for next year's programs.

The meeting will be held at the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center in the Park room. Chinese fare will be served. The fee will be \$12.

Please RSVP to Jan Wells at 884 6904 by January 12 and/or [mail-in your RSVP form](#). You can print out the form here. Looking forward to seeing many of you in January!!

Jan Wells and Aphie Roumell
Program

Michigan League Positions and Program Planning

Each January our League holds a special meeting to review the positions of our organization at either the state or national level. These positions form the basis of the League's ability to testify for or against proposed legislation, and are usually written in general language reflecting the consensus of the membership around the country.

On January 19 we will review the state positions. Former Michigan League President Sue Smith chairs a committee of members from around Michigan to re-write part of the Taxation and Budget positions. The Grosse Pointe League met in November to review state financial procedures and answer consensus questions. The meeting was well attended and Connie Frey presented the questions with a clear, informative power point. We submitted our consensus report, and the final wording of the position will be sent out before the state convention in May.

The State Board is not recommending re-studies of any positions in the upcoming biennium since it feels the positions are adequate to testify on issues likely to arise. Nationally the League is mostly focused on voting rights and money in politics. In Michigan our Leagues have become more informed on redistricting issues, and we have a strong history of work on environmental policy and juvenile justice.

Our League has local positions, too. Some harken back to the reorganization of Wayne County government, and some reflect environmental work in the Lake Erie Basin. Others responded to local issues like inter-community planning or changes in the library system, so that our League could speak with one voice. Positions are available to read at grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org or lwvmi.org.

Voter Education Presentation Available to League Members re: Gerrymandering & Voting Rights

Leagues representing Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York showed up.

Discussion included 11 reports on "My Area's Chief Water Problems" and the question "What might an Inter-League group do?" Background on other Inter-League River Basin studies -the Missouri, Columbia, Susquehanna, Delaware - informed their discussion. They formed a steering committee and went to work.

The steering committee drew up a plan to (1) build public understanding of Lake Erie water problems (2) work toward possible LWV regional consensus and action in line with LWVUS positions on water (3) prepare and distribute a publication on Lake Erie as it affects the people in the basin. Subcommittees were assigned to research different aspects, and their work, along with selected background material was sent to Local leagues for study and input. The resulting preliminary document, Pollution - the Other Side of Progress, gave members a tool to prepare testimony at hearings, and the consensus process produced a regional position statement in 1967. LEBC raised \$5000 to publish a fully developed book entitled Lake Erie: Requiem or Reprieve?, and sold it for \$1.00 each.

In March of 1967 LEBC organized a two day educational conference entitled Politics of Planning which drew government and industry representatives as well as League members. League sub groups around the area began to specialize in local water issues, such as New York's League testifying against a plan to drill for oil and gas in Eastern Lake Erie.

Next month: Issues of the '70's -- remember phosphate?

Holiday Cheer

The recent presidential and congressional elections and their aftermath have put our national election process and voting requirements and practices in the public spotlight, offering an optimal opportunity for the League to do further voter education in the new year. An informative PowerPoint presentation with script is now available dealing with 2 important current voting issues: Gerrymandering and Voting Rights.

Many citizens may be unaware of how the current extreme gerrymandering of Congressional districts contributes to the political polarization in Washington. Inaction on important problems, political gridlock, and failure of compromise which facilitated government in the past leave many Americans frustrated. Understanding why and how Congressional districts lines are now drawn to the advantage of one party and the detrimental effects on our political process is the first step toward a solution which several states have undertaken.

Voting rights was the focus of the League of Women Voters national convention last May in Washington, DC. The theme, "Making Democracy Work for All" highlighted voter protection and voter suppression. The PowerPoint explores the history of voting rights in America, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the Supreme Court's Shelby decision (Shelby County v Holder) striking down parts of the VRA and leading to a wave of burdensome voting restrictions, some of which have been struck down by federal courts as unfairly targeting minorities.

If members would find this presentation useful for a meeting or other educational purpose, contact Mary Jo Johnson.

Happy New Year from Macomb County Voter Services!

Macomb County Voter Services has come a long way since it's rebirth in April, 2015. At that time, a handful of people met at Maria's Rivera's home to discuss how to organize our unit and set goals. Here we are, 19 months later, with 3 candidate forums, Vote411 (which received more than 14,000 hits thanks to Nance Halle's leadership) and high school outreach under our belts! And, our membership has tripled in number to sixteen!

We have made great strides in meeting with leaders in the community and we are very proud of the work we have accomplished so far. Our team may be small compared to other units, but, we have very dedicated members who follow through on their promises and accept responsibility for their projects.

We also appreciate the guidance provided by Tom Wells and the Grosse Pointe League. Tom attends every one of our meetings and his support has given us a boost of confidence, especially in the early months when only three or four people might attend a meeting!

MCVS will begin the New Year supporting the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice by attending its 30th Annual Martin Luther King Dinner on January 16, 2017 in Macomb Twp., MI. [We'll run an ad in the program's](#) paper congratulating the ICRJ on its commitment to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to promote the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe and MCVS.

We are happy to report MCVS has found a home with the **Mt. Clemens Public Library at 150 Cass Ave, Mt. Clemens** and have monthly meetings scheduled there throughout 2017. **Our unit voted to change its regular meeting date from the first Monday to the fourth Thursday of the month.**



There is much work to be done with voter education in Macomb County and MCVS is up to the challenge! Look out 2017! Here we come!

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](#)



Holiday cheer was had by all at the annual Christmas party in December.

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.



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

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

