

Subj: **LWVGP Voter: November/December 2012**
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Grosse Pointe|VOTER

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

If you print out your newsletter,
 click this link and print this
 document too:

[Reservation form for the Program
 Planning Italian Dinner](#)

Coming Up Activities: Save these Dates:

Jan 24, Thurs

6:00 pm
 at Kay Felt's home
 Italian Dinner Program Planning
 Meeting

Feb 21, Thurs

7:00 pm
 at Woods Library
 Discussion of Lame Duck session
 with Amanda Van Dusen

Mar 7, Thurs

7:00 pm
 at GP War Memorial
 Rochelle Riley of Detroit Free Press

Keep reading for more details.
 Hope to see you there!

Program Planning Meeting

Plan to attend our annual Program
 Planning Meeting, Thursday, January
 24th at 7:00 pm.

As well as providing food and
 fellowship, (this year we're serving
 Italian) we will work on League

December-January Issue

From the Prez...

The League advocates as situations arise and if there is a
 position in place. During this Michigan Legislature lame-duck
 session actions, the LWVMI had ample opportunities for
 advocacy-as frustrating as the end results may have been.
 From a note in response to that conveyed frustration to
 LWVMI President, Susan Smith, she responded thoughtfully.
 This is part of that response:

*" Former U.S. Congresswoman Lyn Rivers, a Democrat,
 spoke at an Ann Arbor Area League event last Tuesday night.
 She talked about the fact that when one party controls the
 House, Senate and Governorship, as the Republicans do in
 Lansing right now, there is no negotiation. The party in control
 can do whatever it wants. It makes it very frustrating for those
 in the minority as well as the constituents."*

But please-PAY ATTENTION. It is our right and our responsibility

My Christmas wish to you is health and happiness and joy to
 you and yours. Please have a Merry Christmas and Happy
 New Year and the best for all of the holidays and traditions
 you embrace.

And my thoughts and prayers go out to the Newtown,
 Connecticut victims and families that suffered the horrific
 events of Friday, 14 December.

In League,
 Christina Schlitt
 President

Program Report

As we become more and more embroiled in holiday preparations,
 there seems to be less and less time for our other important
 activities! As I write this, I am horrified by the number and

programming. We will be at the home of Kay F. Refer to your directory or call (313) 881-6343 for directions.

[Please print out this reservation form and mail to Peggy.](#)

LWVGP MEMBERSHIP: We Need Your Input

In 2004 - 2005, LWVGP created a Long Range Planning Committee, which presented an extensive report in 2005. The document was intended to be a living document, to help the LWVGP Board prioritize its goals.

During the summer of 2012, our Long Range Planning Committee - Vicki Granger (chair), Christina Schlitt, and Judy Morlan - met to review the document. Happily, a lot of the items identified several years ago have continued to be strengths, such as Voter/Candidate Forums, while some of the weaknesses identified several years ago continue to present challenges, such as member retention.

Part of the planning process to ensure the future vitality of LWVGP is gathering input from our membership via a "SWOT Analysis" on our organization's **Strengths** and **Weaknesses**, as well as **Opportunities** and **Threats**.

In early January 2013, all LWVGP members with emails will be sent a link to a brief online survey. Those who do NOT have emails will be provided with a hard copy at the Program Planning Meeting (Chinese/Italian) dinner in January.

We will compile all responses and report recommendations to the board in February 2013.

- Vicki Granger, Long Range Planning Committee Chair

2013 Your Government Officials Pamphlets

Your Government Officials 2013 will be available to all members at the Program Planning Meeting on 24 January thanks to Flo Rhodes for editing and **Jim Odell of Pointe Printing** for printing 7000 copies of

substance of the bills being introduced and passed in our lame duck congress. The League of Women Voters nationwide are mobilizing to protect our citizens and democracy from extreme partisanship and divisiveness. After our Program Planning Dinner, aka Italian Dinner, in January we will be focusing on political issues of the day, not only for women but for all citizens.

Our Italian Dinner (formerly referred to as the "Chinese Dinner") will be held on January 24, at the home of Kay Felt. Valet parking will be provided, and Kay's home is handicapped accessible. We will begin at 6:00 P.M. If anyone would like a ride, please contact me and it will be arranged.

In February, we are fortunate to have Amanda VanDusen come and speak to us on issues of the day. Her suggested topic "The Michigan Legislature's Lame Duck Legislation; what happened and what does it mean?" will inform and enervate us to continue our mission, as well-informed members of the League. Amanda is currently the first, ongoing, female partner with Miller Canfield, in downtown Detroit. Please join us for a very enlightening evening. We will meet at the Woods Library, February 21, at 7:00 P.M.

Hoping that March will come in like a lion, and go out the same way!, Rochelle Riley has agreed to speak to us on a variety of topics, both local and national, which are of great interest to us all. Ms. Riley is a very talented, and objective, columnist for the Detroit Free Press. Her perspective is humanitarian and measured in nature. If you are not familiar with her column, watch for it in the daily paper. We are very fortunate to have her as a featured speaker. The meeting will be open to the public (bring a friend), and held at 7:00 P.M., on March 7. We will meet at the War Memorial, so we will have lots of room for members, their guests, and the public.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year! Happy Holidays☺.

Jan Wells

Vice President, Program

New Membership Directories

LWVGP Members: Please note that the new directory will be available to all members at the January 24th Program Planning Dinner Meeting. Please see the sign up form in this issue- complete it and send to Peggy Hickey as soon as you can. Hope to see all of you at this meeting. The menu will be Italian instead of the usual Chinese.

Recommendation to Change Bylaws

the annual brochure. We will need your help at the meeting to take multiple packs for distribution to our community.

LWVGP Holiday Dinner



Peggy Hickey, Christina Schlitt, Ann Lawson, Flo Rhodes, Ben Rhodes



The evenings entertainment, Bellringers Group Classical Bells

Archiving Along

Sylvia Sanders, Judy Morlan, Christina Schlitt and Ann Nicholson have been sorting through boxes of historical documents over the last two months. The Grosse Pointe Historical Society no longer had space to store archives for community groups, and returned LWVGP's archives to us last year. After much thought, the committee determined that the archives should consist of Board minutes, end-of-year financial reports, Annual Reports, Membership Directories, Know Your Grosse Pointe books, Your Government Officials, founding documents, and papers relating to special studies and projects LWVGP has done through the years.

If you have information stashed away relating to any LWVGP special study or project, perhaps it belongs in our archives. Contact a committee member and we will have a look.

At the National Convention in June our President learned that our League is not alone in having wonderful members to work on projects, but many fewer members able to take on longer term commitments. Leagues have responded in different ways, some very radical, but our League's Board is taking the moderate step of recommending the elimination of the job of Administrative VP and reducing the number of elected directors from six to four, and appointed Directors from seven to five. This will streamline our Board while still allowing for many members to take part in League policy decisions.

The Board is using this opportunity to recommend other updates as well. The changes are in red. Please read through the recommendations and be ready to vote at the Program Planning Dinner Meeting (formerly referred to as the Chinese Dinner) in January. You may direct questions to Ann Nicholson at ann409@aol.com (884-4637).

Article IV Board of Directors

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, six **(four)** elected directors, and not more than seven appointed directors. Three **(Two)** directors shall be elected . . .

Section 6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. ADD **(Members may attend electronically or by conference call provided every member can hear every other member.)**

Article V Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of LWVGP shall be a President or Co-Presidents, a first Vice President, a Second Vice-President, **(eliminate third Vice President)**, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at the Annual Meeting and shall take office immediately. The officers shall also include a President-Elect who shall be elected in even-numbered years for a one-year term. The President or Co-Presidents, the first Vice-President, **(eliminate third Vice President)** shall . . .

Section 3. The Vice Presidents. The three **(two)** Vice Presidents, in order of their rank, shall . . .

Section 5. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be custodian of League funds and shall disburse same only upon the order of the Board. He or she shall present statements to the Board at regular Board meetings and an Annual Report to the Annual Meeting. A budget Comparison report shall be submitted to the Board and the membership semi-annually. The President shall appoint a Director to collect and deposit all moneys due and submit a report of same to the Treasurer.

This updated description reflects recommended best practices from LWVMI and our current practice.

Article VI. Financial Administration

Section 5. **(eliminate)** Audit. An annual independent audit shall be made and presented to the membership at the first general meeting following the annual meeting.

Replace with Section 5. Verification. The President shall appoint a

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.



person or persons to verify consistency within the Treasurer's records annually. A report to the membership shall be presented to the membership by February 1.

This change in terminology is recommended because the terms "audit" and "review" have very specific accounting definitions now, and our League neither needs nor can afford these professional services. This change in wording does not change the practice we have maintained for many years.

Article X. National Convention, State Convention and Council, and ILO Convention

Article X. National Convention, State Convention and ILO Convention

Eliminate Section 3, and any other mention of State Council, which no longer exists. Re-number Section 4 to be Section 3.

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