

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:

January 2017

From the Prez...

Wed, March 8, 7:00

Raising Global Leaders - A Community Forum

Pierce Middle School Auditorium
15430 Kercheval, GPP

Sat, March 11, 12:00

The Richmond Rosies viewing

GP Woods Branch Library
20680 Mack Ave, GPW

Save the Date: March 16

Luncheon & Tour of The Rivers

These certainly are not dull times. I think it is important for me to clarify what the League being "non-partisan" means. Certainly, it does not mean that we do not have opinions (sometimes strong ones) or the ability to act. Our heritage is that almost 100 years ago, our founders risked their lives to act. Being meek and mild is not in our DNA.

Here is the definition from the dictionary of "partisan": a strong supporter of a party, cause, or person.

Synonyms include: supporter - follower - adherent - devotee - champion - fanatic - fan

As reference, an excerpt from the LWVGP Non-Partisan Policy states:

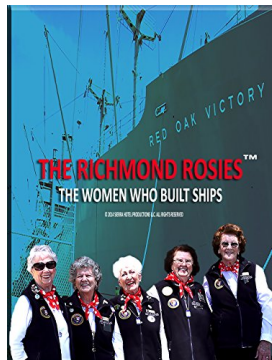
Keep reading below for additional details. Hope to see you there!

March 11 Showing of The Richmond Rosies

"The Richmond Rosies" is a film about the women who worked in the shipyards during WW2.

In honor of Women's History Month, it is being

presented at the GP Woods Branch Library. LWVGP is a cosponsor along with AAUW.



"The purpose of the LWV is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The LWV is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate; it is political in that it takes positions on selected government issues after member study and agreement.

"The LWV recognizes the role of political parties in our form of government and believes that participation in the activities of political parties is an essential ingredient of its citizen responsibility. The LWV urges its members to be politically active."

Also important to be aware, LWV's board members have additional restrictions for guaranteeing that their actions adhere to the League's nonpartisan policy. And don't forget, while individual members' informed and active participation is encouraged, only the Board may speak for the League as an organization.

So be active and don't back off from having opinions, expressing them, and working to further them in the political arena!! Recognize that in the election process, the League can't endorse candidates or parties but can work diligently promoting its issues. And this does not mean that we are silent or inactive when those candidates become our elected officials.

Sat, March 11

12:00 noon

GP Woods Branch Library

Program Room

20680 Mack Ave

GP Woods, MI 48236

Feel free to contact me if you have any doubts on what is or is not appropriate.

Tom

C. Thompson Wells, Jr. President

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe

LWV US Statement on Immigration

Mar 8: Raising Global Leaders - A Community

[The League of Women Voters](#)

president, Chris Carson, issued the following statement in response to President Trump's immigration ban:

The League is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants.

The LWV supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants. Moreover, the Trump Administration's orders are of dubious legality.

It is simply wrong, and a perversion of the American system of justice, for the Executive Branch to refuse to obey federal court orders.

The LWV is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration, based on religion. The Trump Administration's orders appear to be targeted at Muslims and immigrants from majority-Muslim nations.

We would like to remind all our members that we are faced with many challenges to our positions and the League is involved in serious efforts to address them. Among these, we spent last weekend anticipating the issuance of an Executive Order investigating 'voter fraud'. We continue to monitor this situation and are ready to issue a statement if that occurs. We also continue our efforts to lobby on ACA in Congress. Everybody in the country is scrambling to keep up.

Chris Carson, President/Chair
League of Women Voters of the United States

Membership Matters

We hosted a New Member Orientation at our recent Program Planning meeting/Chinese Dinner on January 19, 2017. Eleven new members were in attendance.

Please welcome the following new members that have joined the League as of 11/30/2016:

Allison Baker, Janine Lanza, Kelli Unkel, Susan Acton, Carol Lufburrow,

Forum

Mark your calendars for Wednesday evening, March 8! Our League has partnered with We GP and the Grosse Pointe Public School System to

present a community forum on the existing training for staff and students concerning cultural responsiveness and anti-bullying.

It will be:

March 8, 7:00 pm
Pierce Middle School Auditorium
15430 Kercheval, GP Park

The evening will begin with a presentation of the District Diversity Plan by Director of Pre-K through Elementary Education Keith Howell and Director of Secondary Education Maureen Bur.

A League moderated panel will feature the following experts in this field:

Dr. Agustin Arbula - Michigan Department of Civil Rights
Greg Bowen - local parent/NAACP
Anthony Lewis - Michigan Department of Civil Rights
Mark McInerney - Attorney, Clark Hill
Ginni Winters - Wayne County RESA

The panel will take written questions from the audience, similar to Candidate Forums.

GPPSS is seeking broad-based community feedback on their Diversity Plan. Please come make your thoughts, ideas and/or concerns known!

This is an excellent opportunity to learn current policy and how it fits in to not only the legal requirements but also the information our students need to succeed in the wider world. Bring your friends!

Program Planning Report

Our meeting on January 19 was a great success, due to the planning and attendance of so many of our members. Many thanks to Judy Morlan, JoAnn Kelly, Mary Vitolins and Mary Jo Johnson who stepped in to help arrange the evening when my friend and co-chair, Aphie Roumell, fell before Christmas and broke her hip. She has had two surgeries and is back at The Rivers for a second round of rehab. Cards and calls are most welcome!

The meeting room at the GP Woods Community Center suited our group perfectly. The staff was most helpful with arrangements, set up and take down.



The purpose of this program was to review LWV Michigan positions. Sylvia Sanders, Connie Frey, Ann Kondak, and Ann Nicholson reviewed state and local positions on Social Policy, Education, Environmental Issues and Government respectively, giving examples of how these positions are used. They brought our local positions, which resulted from studies this League has done in response to local issues through the years, into their discussions as well. Many members participated in the ensuing discussion, and signed up to help with various projects.



Deborah Sloss, Lauri Read, Kate West Adams, Rachelle Koester, Jeanette (Jen:) Evans, Susan Lawlis, Sara Havlik, Jason Havlik, Jennifer Munson, David Munson, Elizabeth (Betsy) Fortuna, Charles Fortuna, Jeremy Henner, Cheryl Pavic Henner, Michele Lindsay, Laura Rooney, Laura Burns, Elizabeth Newhart, Colin Moulder-McComb, Helen Hannigan, Belinda Krencicki, Elena Kerasiotis, Susan Jagoda, Laurie Copin, Irene Halajko and Carol Klenow.

Let's give a special Shout Out to Vicki Granger who recruited most of these new members.

Please let me know if I misspelled your name or if your name was not included in this article.

And don't forget to return the membership survey. We try to keep an up to date file of skills and interests of our members and how they are able to participate in League activities such as committees, candidate forums, special projects, etc.

Again, welcome to the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe.

Wilhelmina Giblin,
Membership Director
313-886-8432

Do you know a family member or friend who is thinking about joining?

[Hand them one of our membership forms to mail in!](#)

Learn all about the League.

[Check out the LWV's New Member Handbook here](#)

History of the Lake Erie Basin Committee (LEBC)

This is part 2 of a 3 part summary of the history of the [Lake Erie Basin Committee's](#) work. Recently disbanded, it has much to be proud of

Remember Carolyn Moore, founder of LEBC? In 1969 she gave a special report to the International Joint commission emphasizing the need for implementing a phosphorous control to minimize its presence in detergents by 1972. On December 3, 1969, she delivered a statement before the IJC saying "drilling for gas and oil in Lake Erie is contrary to the public interest. Pollution can occur from such activities. We lack the means to cope

Thank you to all who participated in this event. Now all we have to do is implement some of these ideas.

There is no meeting in February.

March 8 the League is co-sponsoring an informational meeting for the community on school policies on diversity and bullying.

Celebrate Women's History Month on **March 11** by attending THE RICHMOND ROSIES, a documentary on women's contribution to the war effort in the 1940's. It will be shown at noon at the Woods Branch Library; our league is co-sponsoring this with AAUW and guests are welcome.

On **March 16** long time member Myrt Everett will sponsor a luncheon and tour of The Rivers. Details will be forthcoming.

Some of us participated in the WOMEN'S MARCH on January 21. It was a great day for human rights, with emphasis on the pink side.

Jan Wells & Aphie Roumell
Program Chair

Taxation & Budget/Gov't Finance Position Consensus

There was a great turnout of over 20 members for the Nov. Taxation and Budget LWVMI position consensus meeting at the home of Jan and Tom Wells. Jan also secured the projector and screen for the power point that facilitated the discussion. Ann Nicholson provided background on the role of consensus in this restudy of a state position. The process began when the delegates at the 2015 state LWV convention approved this restudy as part of the '15-'17 program.

Questions were provided to discover members' opinions about proposed changes to the current position. Pro and con statements show different points of view to encourage members to express their opinions about different government finance issues. Reaching consensus does not mean vote counting.

In most areas the group answered positively to the questions. There was no consensus (neither being for or against) the question about adding a sales tax to more service categories. Now 34 out of 164 potential categories are taxed. For some questions there was specific concern with certain word choices, although there was agreement with the basic idea.

Our answers to the questions and comments will be sent to the state office where all the reports reflecting the participants' input will be used to develop the final wording of the position. Then the position becomes a part of the '17-'19 program to be voted on by the delegates at the May 2017 state convention.

Macomb County Voter Services Report

MCVS is off to a great start this year with an increased interest in meeting the voter education needs of our communities! We know this because there is quite an increase in membership and attendance! The bulk of our membership attended our last meeting on January 26th as well as the addition of six new faces. We had to ask the library for more



with it . . . We are opposed to drilling." That year she received the National Conservation Award given by General Motors.

In January of 1970 a New York subcommittee member stated at a hearing to permit deep well disposal that "in all cases where the state is considering granting a deep well permit, the public welfare must be considered first; economic advantages to industry must take second place. The cost of safe guards must be built into the costs of the products. If people want the advantages of a technical, industrialized society, they must be willing to pay for them."

The Lake Erie Letter, published up to three times annually from 1969-1988, focused on a single water related issue each time. Topics ranged from oil and gas drilling to river dredging to disposal of toxic waste. In 1973 LEBC reorganized into three regional subsections. Total membership that year was 69 Leagues in 5 states representing about 7800 members. During this time 9 Leagues in Wayne and Oakland County formed a River Rouge Basin Committee to study wastewater pollution and flooding problems.

LEBC continued to testify at public hearings on pollution abatement, power plants, energy, landfills, ground water issues, coastal management, and water diversion using the positions arrived at in 1967.

Next month: Into the 1990's

To the Archives!

The Grosse Pointe League has donated most of its archival material to the [Bentley Library at the University of Michigan](#). Many Leagues in Michigan have archival material there, and together we add to the many resources of the Bentley related to Michigan history.

Our next donation will be later this spring, and will include files on the following:

Studies:

- Consolidation of the 5 Grosse Pointes (1958-59)
- Measuring Quality in Education (1974-76)
- Youth Services in Grosse Pointe Public Schools (1970-75, 1950's)
- Land Use - local (1976-95)

chairs and may need to use a larger room for future meetings. It's a very good sign!

We began the year by supporting the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice by attending its 30th Annual Martin Luther King Dinner on January 16, 2017 in Macomb Twp., MI. It was a wonderful salute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our focus for now is going to be on operations and organization. There is an interest in developing a Communications Team in order to facilitate the promotion of future projects. We hope to develop both internal and external communication databases and flowcharts. This will make the planning and promotion of events easier to implement. Three new members, Jackie Moase-Burke, Carol Klenow and Marisa Conte have offered to head up this team.

In addition to a Communications Team, we have identified a few supporting roles that may be beneficial in facilitating our meetings and projects: Fundraising, Events Planner (Arrangements) Membership, Observer, Public Relations, Secretary, Voter Services and VOTE411. During its November 30, 2016 meeting, the LWVGP Board voted Kathy Poore in as the Director of MCVS. Nance Halle has offered to chair VOTE411, Terri Serra has offered to assume the role of recording secretary, Nancy Duemling has offered to serve as Membership Chair, and Katherine Labuhn has offered to chair Public Relations.

Of course, we still plan to carry out the core functions of the MCVS unit: VOTE411, Candidate Forums, High School Intervention, Redistricting and Voter Registration. Nance has already begun the process of identifying communities with upcoming elections and will lead the effort to get those candidates in the VOTE411 system this spring.

There is an interest in working with other organized groups in the community. We hope to set up a system to facilitate that effort as well.

Our next regular meeting is on February 23rd, 7PM at the Mt. Clemens Public Library at 150 Cass Ave, Mt. Clemens.

[Check out MCVS Facebook page](#)

Vote 411.org Election Report

I am pleased to report the following information from Megan Brown, Elections Coordinator for the National [LWV](#).

[VOTE411](#) was a huge success, with nearly 6 million sessions from Jan 1st through Nov 8th, and over 2.7 million of those sessions included the online voters' guides. That represents a 279% increase in sessions nationwide to voters' guides on VOTE411 as compared to 2012, the last comparable election.

The LWVUS promoted VOTE411 throughout 2016 and undertook an outreach program during the final months leading up to Election Day through their new customized widget, social media promotion and much more. They rely on the localized candidate information in every local community where Leagues develop voters' guides. Megan recently surveyed all local leagues asking them to describe the ways they spread the word about VOTE411 in their communities. We participated in the survey and look forward to receiving the results.

[Voter Service in Michigan](#)

- Local Library Position Study (2006)
- Recreation in Grosse pointe (1967-69)

Lake Erie Basin Coalition (1979)
 Pesticide Information Team (1993-95)
 Library Expansion Building Advisory Committee (1988)

If members would like to review any of this material before it goes to Ann Arbor, please contact Ann Nicholson.

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.



In Michigan, use of Vote 411 in 2016 was 2.4 times the use in the previous presidential election. Every League had increased users; overall there were 218,066 sessions. Leagues in Michigan also held more than 130 candidate forums.

Vote 411 provided information on national and state races to all Michigan voters. Those areas with local Leagues could also get information on races from county officials to school boards in their area.

A special thank you to Carol Todd for serving as Director of Voter Services this past year and for providing such helpful information to voters in our area!

Judy Florian
 Director of Voter Services and Vote 411

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!](#)

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[New Member Handbook](#)

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

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