

From: League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe <thevoter@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org>
To: league <league@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org>
Subject: LWVGP Voter: January-February 2013
Date: Sat, Jan 19, 2013 1:00 pm

Grosse Pointe|VOTER

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

January-February Issue

If you print out your Voter to read... first be sure to click below and answer our very brief survey. It will help with our strategic planning. Results will be shared with the membership in an upcoming newsletter. (Additional details are further in the newsletter.)

[LWVGP Survey](#)

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

Feb 26, Tues

Candidate Forum for the GP Farms City Council Special Election

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!

From the Prez...

Happy New Year!

The Program Planning meeting we called the Chinese Dinner will have another menu item this year: Italian food. The new Your Government Officials (YGO) and our membership directory will be distributed at this meeting. Many thanks to Flo Rhodes for updating the YGO and having it ready for Jim Odell of Pointe Printing to run the 7000 copies that we distribute to our community. JoAnn Kelly worked diligently in updating our membership directory with an added feature this year. JoAnn has added the year that you joined the League next to your name. Please review it and if it is incorrect let her know.

However, program planning will be the focus, with state positions to be reviewed and discussed. As a reminder, at the annual meeting last May, we decided to form a study group to review our local education position with advocacy in mind. There have been so many influences, actions and new state bills introduced since May, we have not met. Now that LWVMI is planning to review their education position, the LWVGP study group led by Ann Nicholson will meet at the program planning meeting to review state proposals, our position, current laws, proposed laws with the aim of developing a direction for us to take.

Jan Wells and Aphie Roumell are developing the programs for the balance of this League year. In February, Amanda VanDusen will speak to us about what just happened during this lame duck Michigan legislative session on Thursday, 21 February at the Grosse Pointe Woods library. Bring a friend!

We are excited and very fortunate to present Rochelle Riley with the Friends of the Library on Thursday, 7 March. This meeting will be at the GP War Memorial and also make a point to bring a friend!

In the meantime, LWVGP is working to organize a candidate forum with arrangements by Voter Services Director, Flo Rhodes at the beginning of February for the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council Special Election. The election will be 26 Feb... The candidates are: Elizabeth Vogel and Joe Ricci. Flo has stepped up to fulfill Voter

Program Report

We will begin our new year with our Program Planning Dinner at the home of Kay Felt. The meeting will start at 6:00 P.M., and we will be served a delicious Italian dinner. Please mail your check for \$12.00 to Peggy Hickey for your reservation. I hope to see you all there. If anyone needs transportation, please contact me and I will arrange it. There will be valet parking and Kay's home is handicapped accessible. We are encouraging any guests who may be interested in learning about the workings of the League.

On February 21, we will host Amanda Van Dusen, who is currently a partner with the prestigious law firm, Miller Canfield. The meeting will be at the Grosse Pointe Woods Library, and will begin at 7:00 P.M. Ms. Van Dusen will speak to us about the very current issue of lame-duck legislation, and its long term effects on all the citizens of Michigan.

Ms. Rochelle Riley will be our featured speaker on March 7, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Again the program will begin at 7:00 P.M., and Ms. Riley will speak to us about the past and present political, educational, and economic influences on our diverse metropolitan population. She is a major human interest columnist for the Detroit Free Press, and a tireless champion of our city. Please invite family, friends and acquaintances to this event; we are very fortunate to have her as a speaker.

Christina, Aphie and I are planning a meeting in April which will focus on education. We will use the state's position to build a program which will, in turn, benefit our community. We welcome any members who would like to have input on this most important issue.

Our Annual meeting will be held on May 4, at the Detroit Yacht Club. Again it will be a breakfast meeting. Details to follow in subsequent Voters.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Wells, Vice President

Services task while VP Susan Leithauser-Yee is reveling in her new grandmother role in Cincinnati. [Keep checking our website for time and location details](#)

This is a busy time of year on another level as well. The nominating committee and the budget committee are meeting to fulfill their designated tasks. If you would like to offer suggestions to either committee, we wholeheartedly invite you to do so. Connie Frey is the chair of the budget committee and Wilhelmina Giblin is the chair of the nominating committee. When the nominating committee calls, please give serious consideration to accepting the role they are inviting you to step into. Your League is as strong and active as you can make it. Any time and effort you can contribute is VERY much appreciated. Connie will share with the budget committee any and all of the recommendations that she receives. This is your budget and you will be voting on it at the Annual Meeting Saturday, 4 May

The LWVMI convention is the weekend of 17-19 May and it will be in Lansing. The theme is "Advocacy: Powering Our Voices." This is an interesting focus considering the current political climate. Mark your calendar and plan to be there if you can to use your voice. As a member of the convention planning committee and the budget committee, I can tell you it promises to be an interesting convention.

Just a note: LWVMI has been setting up judicial campaign finance reform forums with some local leagues. Northwest Wayne County LWV has one scheduled 12 February at Schoolcraft Community College. Oakland County LWV has one scheduled for 11 March, location to be determined. Justice Marilyn Kelly and Rich Robinson will be the speakers. More details to follow, or go to their websites for further information. I know this topic is of interest to our members and community.
Thank you.

In League,
Christina Schlitt

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 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.](#)

Strategic Planning Survey

Dear LWVGP member,

LWV Support for Eliminating Time Limit on the Equal Rights Amendment

The Equal Rights amendment remains unfinished business for the Constitution. For this reason the LWV of Northwest Wayne County is urging Leagues across the nation to adopt a support position for Congressional legislation that would eliminate the time limit on the ERA and allow it to be ratified by three more states rather than starting over.

The ERA was introduced into Congress in 1923. It was approved by two-thirds of both houses of Congress 49-years later in 1972. It was then sent to the states for ratification. However, Congress attached a seven-year time limit in the proposing clause. When it became clear that the necessary three-fourths of the states would not ratify within seven years, Congress extended the time limit by a little over three-years to June 1982.

By that date the ERA was ratified by 35 states - three states short of the required 38. It appeared that the amending process would have to start over - that is the ERA would have to be re-approved by Congress by a two-thirds vote and that the states that had ratified would have to re-ratify.

This belief changed in 1992 when the ratification of the 203-year old Madison Amendment was accepted by Congress to become the 27th Amendment. ERA supporters asked why an amendment concerning Congressional pay raises should be allowed 203 years while the ERA, an Amendment guaranteeing that "Equality of rights ...shall not be denied on account of sex," be given a mere ten.

Thus the Three-state Strategy was developed in 1993. Since then efforts to ratify the ERA in unratified states have been taking place in seven states.

Justification for this approach can be found in a legal brief entitled "Why the Equal Rights Amendment Remains Viable and Properly Before the States" by Allison L. Held, Sheryl L. Herndon, and Danielle M. Stager.
scholarship.law.wm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1271&context=wmjowl

This brief justifies the Three-State Strategy for three reasons.

Several years ago, LWVGP went through a Strategic Planning process in order to assess our organization and make recommendations to strengthen and improve LWVGP. Now it's time to assess where we are in 2013!

Please take a few moments to answer this online questionnaire - results will be shared with the membership in an upcoming newsletter:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LJ3JVZH>

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

NOTE: Hard copies of the survey will be made available at the Jan. 24 Program Planning Dinner for those who do not have email.

Yours, in League,

Vicki Granger
LWVGP Strategic Planning Chair
grangergpw@aol.com
313.460.5250

Membership Memos

A big WELCOME to new member Joan Hopcian (605 Notre Dame, Grosse Pointe 48230; phone: 313/882-4747) Joan will join us for the Italian Dinner Program-Planning Meeting on January 24th, so make a point of meeting her then. Thank you, Joy Johnson for bringing Joan into the League.

The 2013 Membership Directory is hot off the press and will be distributed at the January 24th meeting. Any Directories not picked up that night will be mailed before the end of the month. Included this year, is a notation of the year each member joined the League. When you receive your Directory, please check it for the accuracy of your contact information as well as the notation on the year you joined and let me know of any discrepancies--preferably by email or by phone--both are in the Directory.

This winter is a great time to recruit new members. Bring an interested friend or colleague, family member or neighbor to the Program Planning Dinner Meeting or any of the outstanding meetings planned for each month this winter. In addition to evening meetings, check out afternoon Hot Topic Meetings planned for most months this winter. Do give me the names and contact information for prospective members you would like to receive information on League and I will mail them that along with an invitation to become a member. We do often hear that people didn't join LWV because no one asked them!

Jo Ann Kelly
Membership Director

Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters Board Meeting of Nov. 14, 2012

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:10. Present were Christina Schlitt, Mary Zahler, JoAnn Kelly, Jan Wells, Peggy Hickey, Flo Rhodes

1. There is no time limit in the Constitution for ratifying amendments
2. The time limit has already been changed once
3. The ERA time limit is in the proposing clause and not in the Amendment.

Meanwhile, activists began working for Congressional legislation that would accept the ratification of the ERA once three more states ratified. In 2009, this approach was replaced by efforts to remove the ERA time limit all together. Justification for eliminating the time limit may be found in a legal brief entitled, "Why Time Limits on Ratification of Constitutional Amendments Violate Article V" by Mason Kalfus University of Chicago Law Review No.2 (Spring 1999), pp 437-467.

Kalfus argues that time limits are a disruption in the "balance of power" created by Article V for the amending process by denying states the opportunity to fully consider an amendment. Time limits allow Congress to be cavalier in proposing amendment because they enable Congress to propose an amendment and reap political gains from doing so while avoiding political pressure and accountability for passing the amendment.

He further states that a time limit would not be permitted by the Supreme Court today, "in light of the Court's recent statements on the importance of strict maintenance of constitutional power structures."

In March 2013, bills to eliminate the ERA time limit will be introduced into both houses of Congress. In addition, ERA ratification bills will be introduced in 2013 into the following state legislatures: Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, and Virginia.

It is our hope that the LWV will join the many organizations, including AAUW, BPW and NOW, that are in support of this legislation. PLEASE WRITE YOUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

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.

Meredith Burkard and Martha Shumaker. Excused were Ann Nicholson and Susan Leithauser-Yee.

2. Minutes of September, 2012 were approved.

3. Treasurer's report-Mary Zahler-Checking account balance--\$4,971.43. Reserves--\$17,696.00 Total assets--\$22,667.43. Also the report of financial condition was presented and reviewed.

4. Program-Jan Wells-Review of the past year-candidate forums, viewing of the Iron Jawed Angels, and our annual Christmas party. On January 24th. the Program Planning Meeting will be held at Kay Felt's house and in Feb. Ms Amanda VanDusen will speak to us on the subject of women in the political and economic process and the recent lame duck legislative session.

5. Administration-Judy Morlan, Sylvia Sanders and Ann Nicholson are working on sorting through the League's historical records.

6. Voter services-There will be a candidate forum on Feb. 26 for the potential 9 candidates running for the Farms City Council seat. Steve Trowbridge has agreed to take over the maintenance of the Vote411 and the upcoming voter's guide,

7. Membership-JoAnn Kelly-Our count is down this year for a number of reasons. The new Directory will be available at the dinner meeting in Jan. Alice Jennings has accepted the student's rate for her dues.

8. The Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for its Pointer of Distinction Awards that will be presented on Jan 29. The Board unanimously recommended Christina Schlitt.

9. President's Report-Christina Schlitt-(1) We need to start the education study. (2) DMA meeting is on Nov 17. (3) Voter articles need to be in by Fri. the 16. (4) numerous kudos for those who worked on the election.

10 No old or new business.

Adjournment-8:35

Martha Shumaker, Secretary

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.

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

 LWV Logo

League Links

[LWV Grosse Pointe](#)

[LWV Michigan](#)

[LWV United States](#)

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