

From: League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe <bcschlitt@aol.com>

To: league <league@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org>

Subject: Grosse Pointe VOTER June- July 2012

Date: Sat, Jun 23, 2012 7:45 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

Membership Dues by July First!



The Annual Breakfast Meeting was a good opportunity to bring someone you think might be interested in League. The beautiful setting of Lochmoor Country Club, a breakfast buffet and time to socialize, hearing from our State League President, and then conducting LWVGP business in anticipation of the next League year made for a good glimpse into League.

Letters went out in late May reminding members to pay their dues before summer activities take over. For your convenience, a remittance envelope addressed to the Grosse Pointe War Memorial was enclosed.

Enclosed also was a Member Questionnaire that can be used to update the organization on your interests and experience.

Without the remittance envelope, simply mail to 32 Lake Shore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Individual \$60
Household (second person at same address) \$30
Student \$25

Jo Ann G. Kelly
Membership Director

June-July Issue

2012

From the Prez...

The National Convention this year was held in Washington DC from 8-12 June 2012.

Michigan had 19 delegates with two from the Grosse Pointe League: Martha Shumaker and me. Eboni Lamar, a Grosse Pointe member, was a delegate for the state League. So we were very well represented.

The National League has three program items that the 800 plus delegates voted to support:

1. Continue support of the current LWV positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.
2. Concurrence with the Sentencing Policy position of the LWV District of Columbia as follows: Sentencing Policy-The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.
3. The LWVUS board recommends a comprehensive program to educate members and communities on the issue of campaign finance in order to inform our education and legislative efforts as needed. This effort will build on the work of Leagues and the LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force.

The delegate body also voted to support a resolution for the LWVUS Board to "advocate strongly for all appropriate duly-considered measures which may include, but not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which: are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters."

Campaign Finance reform was such a prevalent focus at convention, a panel of speakers devoted to the topic included Eleanor Clift, Newsweek Political Reporter and The McLaughlin Group Panelist; Mickey Edwards, Director of the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership and former Congressman (R-OK); and Trevor Potter, President and General Counsel of the Campaign Legal Center and former chair of the Federal Election Commission. Needless to say, there discussion was informative and thought provoking.

To that end, the LWVGP Program Committee (led by Jan Wells, VP

www.vote411.org

VOTE 411

VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It was launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) at the national level in October of 2006. The Michigan LWV will use the website for the first time in 2012 to disseminate information previously included in print voter guides, on our local league websites and on the State level website. Given new districts and contests at the local, State and national level, this tool is especially helpful during the 2012 election season.

The candidate information is available now for the August 7th Primary Election. Go to

www.vote411.org

Voter Services VP
Susan Leithauser-Yee

Welcome New LWVGP Board Members

Welcome new board members:

Flo Rhodes-Director of Voter Services

Flo is a new member to LWVGP, but was very active in her home League in Wisconsin.

Susan Leithauser-Yee-Vice President of Voter Services

Susan has moved up to the VP role from 2 years as the Director of Voter Services.

Jan Wells-Vice President of Program

Jan has moved back to the board to oversee League programming.

Ann Nicholson-Vice President Administration

Ann has enthusiastically agreed to continue in this role.

Mary Zahler-Treasurer

Mary has also endorsed another term as our chief financial board member.

Meredith Burkhard-Assistant Treasurer

Meredith has also agreed to continue for another term.

Program) has scheduled the topic of our Kick-Off meeting (Wednesday, 19 September, 7:00 pm at the GP War Memorial) to be in support of the LWVUS initiative to inform and educate members and the community on campaign finance reform. MARK your calendar!

US Attorney General, Eric Holder gave an inspiring speech and wholeheartedly supports the League and its efforts.

Plenary sessions were scheduled to meet the business matters of the League-refer to details at www.lwv.org. An informative workshop was help for the entire delegation to provide tools to take back to local Leagues that are "Power Tools You Can Use to POWER the VOTE" to work from a place of our collective and community based strengths to service voters with fact-based information.

As busy as we were in absorbing all the LWVUS provided, we still a little time to tour the area around the hotel. Walking tours to DuPont Circle and Embassy Row on Massachusetts Avenue and the brownstones between was a dimension beyond the usual monument tours. The beautiful old row houses are for multiple purposes: embassies, art galleries, private homes and clubs to name a few... Seeing these historic buildings (most were built between 1847 and 1895) was a treat in itself; but we had the opportunity to go inside one of the mansions owned by the Women's National Democratic Club (WNDC) for dinner. The WNDC is where First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt gave her radio speeches. Her granddaughter and great-granddaughter are members of this private club formed in 1922. Local League members that were members of the WNDC hosted the event as well as served as our walking-tour guides.

The permanent staff of the LWVUS was so impressive. The people that man the day-to-day functions of the League are very polished, educated, friendly professionals.

So back from convention-inspired and ready to share the enthusiasm and resources that the Nation League has promised to pass along. Look for more information and action alerts in support of campaign finance reform.

In League, Christina Schlitt

Pictures from the National Convention



We thank you for your commitment to the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe and look forward to a fun and challenging new League year. Your contributions will make a significant difference to the mission of the League.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board will meet Thursday, 9 August at 7:00 pm at Central Library-Friends Room. Please go to the website to review minutes.

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.



CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM-What YOU Can Do!

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The Greek Embassy, on Embassy Row.



Michigan delegation, including LWVMI President Susan Smith at left.



The U.S. Marine Band and Color Guard at the opening session.

Member News

Please join me in wishing long-time, active and insightful LWVGP member, **Ann McCleary**, good fortune in her new venture. Ann has purchased a new condominium in Falls Church, Virginia and will be moving there at the end of July. Ann will be near her daughter and her daughter's family. She is also planning to explore Washington DC by the "Metro" and to join the Falls Church LWV.

League Links

[LWV Grosse Pointe](#)

[LWV Michigan](#)

[LWV United States](#)



Good Luck, Ann. We will miss you!

Sadly to say our very active and enthusiastic fellow member, **Fran Higbie**, passed away following complications from surgery May 10, 2012. Fran brought so much joy and knowledge and hard work to the League for many years. We honored her with a commemorative certificate at the Annual Meeting in May. She will be missed and it will take a very long time to fill the holes she left.

Charles Collinson passed on May 9, 2012. Charles' attention to the actions by council members and school board members was a League trait he perpetuated very well. Charles would always have a list of questions to challenge candidates at forums. Charles will be missed.

[Forward email](#)



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