

Monday Mar 19th, 7:00 PM
Rev Faith Fowler at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church

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:

Mon, Mar 19

7:00 p.m.

**Rev. Faith Fowler of Cass Community
Social Services**

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church
16 Lake Shore Dr
GPF, MI 48236

*** [Print out the flyer here](#) and post it at your
place of worship or the community board of your
favorite coffee house or ice cream shoppe!

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

April 26: Save the Date

The Coney Caper Is Back!

The tickets will be mailed out soon for our second Coney Caper, our Coney Island hotdog fundraiser. It will be at the enhanced **Tompkins Center at the Windmill Pointe Park on Thursday, April 26, 5:30-8:00**. Bring your family and friends, meet your elected officials and support the League! Proceeds will support our League activities and the Promote the Vote petition drive.



Vote 411

The Vote 411 Wayne County races will be County Executive, all 15 County Commissioners and some Wayne County Circuit Court Judges and some Wayne County Probate Judges. The Wayne County Leagues will meet Sunday afternoon, **March 4**, to plan

March 2018

From the Prez...

It's VOLUNTEER TIME!!

It's time to shine and make a difference. Promote the Vote has a path to get on the 2018 ballot. We need volunteers to assist in gathering the necessary signatures as the current and next step in the process. Vicki Granger, Sue Acton and Mary Jo Johnson are leading the way for LWVGP. See more in this Voter for how to get involved.

I don't want to detract from the plethora of activities that are in progress or upcoming. *Please take the time to read this entire Voter.* Many members are involved in the various activities: from High School Voter Registration, Vote 411 activities, the upcoming fundraiser - Coney Caper, etc. Be assured that we will welcome any of you that want to join in these fun and rewarding activities

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

March 19th: Rev Faith Fowler

Tiny Homes and Other Programs Making a Big Impact

March will bring another program featuring a strong voice from our community who is making big changes in small ways.

Reverend Faith Fowler is Senior Pastor of Cass Community United Methodist Church and Executive Director of [Cass Community Social Services \[CCSS\]](#) a non-profit that provides food, healthcare, housing and employment to those suffering from poverty in Detroit

Most notably, she is creating a [Tiny Homes](#) community on a 2.5 acre block of land owned by CCSS, an effort that will allow homeless to rent a home

and coordinate county wide. Sue Acton would love to have some company at the meeting. Contact Sue at vote411@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org. No experience necessary!

High School Voter Registration

Lunch time Voter Registration campaigns have already been scheduled at **Grosse Pointe South (April 17)** and **Grosse Pointe North (April 18)**, and we have contacted both University Liggett and Harper Woods High for scheduling dates. This is a lot of fun and the students are very enthusiastic.

To volunteer, contact Judy Florian at voter_service@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org.

State League's Workshops

LWVMI will hold two Regional Spring Workshops - the closest one to us will be in **Ann Arbor on Saturday, April 28, 9:30-3:00**. There will be workshops on Promote the Vote Petition Drive, the gerrymandering lawsuit, the redistricting proposal and League basics. With so many important initiatives, it should be a great day. Our League has budgeted money to cover registration and lunch for 6 members, so let Tom Wells know if you are considering attending.

LWV National Convention

The 53rd national convention, "Creating a More Perfect Democracy", will be **Thursday, June 28-Sunday, July 1** at the Hilton Hotel in downtown **Chicago**.



Our League is entitled to 2 official delegates in addition to our President, Tom Wells, who will be attending the convention in another capacity. Our League budgets money to help defray expenses, and this is an ideal opportunity to be a part of the excitement generated at a national meeting. Let Tom know if you are even **CONSIDERING** going so that you are on his radar. Any member is eligible.

and eventually own it. Also, **Cass Green Industries**, a subsidiary of CCSS, is creating jobs while promoting sustainability. Former homeless are collecting tires and other material dumped in the city and creating key chains, doormats and even Christmas decorations for sale through an online store. And CCSS's growing fundraiser, **Empty Bowls**, is raising money along with awareness of hunger in our community.



Rev Fowler will be joining us on

Monday, March 19
7:00 p.m.
Grosse Pointe Memorial Church
16 Lake Shore Dr
GP Farms, MI 48236

Please mark your calendars and come learn how this remarkable woman is changing the landscape of Detroit.

***[Print out the flyer here](#) and post it at your place of worship or the community board of your favorite coffee house or ice cream shoppe!

"Promote the Vote" Amendment Ballot Proposal

Recently, LWVMI announced it was joining with other entities throughout Michigan to support the "Promote the Vote" ballot proposal. This proposal represents the core of the League's purpose and values. The League of Women Voters believes voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. It is why LWV was founded over 98 years ago.

A core committee of Sue Acton, Mary Jo Johnson, and Vicki Granger is meeting on Saturday, March 3, at the Woods Branch Library (Program Room) to plan how our LWVGP can be involved in "Promote the Vote."

This will involve some voter education on the aspects of the ballot proposal, which includes allowing "no reason" absentee voting, straight party voting, allowing people to register within two weeks of an election (not the current 30 days), and more. For the full explanation of the ballot proposal, see this [link to the PDF of the Powerpoint](#) on our own LWVGP website.

LWVMI will be providing the petitions, and we will need to train circulators so that petitions will be valid. This isn't complicated, but we do need to have separate petitions for each county. This all needs to be done by June - the collection of over 400,000 signatures from registered Michigan voters.

We will know more once we meet on March 3, and develop an action plan and timeline.

If interested in becoming involved in some way - whether it is circulating petitions, hosting a gathering in your home to educate

More information is available at the LWV.org convention page.

More Election Winners!

Congratulations to LWV members Vicki Granger and Lauri Read for winning their bids for City Council seats.

Lauri will represent Grosse Pointe Park voters on their City Council. Her committees include: Beautification Commission, Public Safety Committee, and the Communications Committee.

Vicki has been a Council Member of the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council for many years and once again won the confidence of Woods voters. Her committees include: Community Events Committee, Construction Committee, Pension Board & Retiree Health Care Trust Fund, Planning Commission, and Public Relations Committee.

They are already hard at work to ensure their communities run smoothly.

Harper Woods Mayor Ken Poynter is also a member of our League, and we congratulate him on his continuation in that office.

Our sincerest apologies for last month's incomplete list.

Joining the League Family. Getting to Know Our New Members: Marge Freundl

In this and upcoming newsletters, we plan to introduce and highlight our newer members.

Marge Freundl first joined LWV in the UP over 45 years ago. Originally from Downriver, she has lived in Tennessee, Ohio, and for the last 29 years in the Pointes. She is a Registered Nurse, retired from St John and the VA Healthcare System, works part time as a Healthcare Coordinator for a religious congregation and as a volunteer at Cabrini Clinic in Southwest Detroit.

Welcome Marge!

Legends and Legacies Barbara Thompson

friends and neighbors about this ballot proposal, helping to distribute petitions to circulators and collecting them, writing articles for the local papers - we need YOU. If every member circulates petitions and gathers at least 50 signatures, that would be nearly 5000 signatures right there! A goal of 10,000 signatures from the GP's is certainly an attainable goal as we look to partner with other community organizations.

I hope you are as excited as we are about getting this proposal on the ballot, and then working to ensure its passage in November by a majority of voters.

Please contact Sue Acton at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com and get in on the ground floor of this exciting effort!

Why Consensus?

Every one or two years, local Leagues are asked to respond to questions on a particular topic for the national or state league to form a "position". We generally are asked to respond by "consensus", "concurrence" or a request for a "study" on the issue.

"Consensus" refers to an agreement among a substantial number of members, not just a simple majority, reached after sustained study and group discussion. It is not determined through a vote of the membership. Every member is encouraged to participate and comment during a consensus meeting. We are asked to seek broad areas of agreement of the membership. In the past our league has hosted educational meetings to determine consensus and/or comprehensive articles have been emailed to members prior to the consensus meeting(s).

Consensus is a prerequisite to the LWV taking any position on national, state, or local governmental issues. Consensus also determines what action, if any, is to be taken on the item. No Action is taken when consensus has not been reached.

For instance at our program planning meeting, held in January, we were asked by the state League to respond to the question: Should a person be allowed to apply for or secure & renew a driver's license or obtain an identification regardless of immigration status? We were asked to either: Agree, Disagree, respond No Consensus. League President Tom Wells presented the question for comments and discussion. After the discussion concluded he asked for a show of hands, if members agreed with the question. We did not take a vote, but it was determined by observation that a general agreement and therefore consensus was reached. A Consensus form is then completed and our response forwarded to the state League within a specified time frame.

On other occasions, leagues are asked to review an issue to determine "concurrence" or to recommend a "study" of a particular issue.

"Concurrence" is the act of agreeing with - or concurring with - a statement or position. Groups of LWV members can concur with positions made by any another league, or decision statements by another LWV Board. The other league will provide background

This is the first of an occasional series featuring our four Lifetime Members who have made strong contributions to the Grosse Pointe League. Some are still active and others have health problems which curtail their community activities. We are honored to introduce them to our newer members.

Barbara Thompson joined the Grosse Pointe League over 60 years ago at a time when married women were known by their husbands' names. It was through the League that she learned how to push for political changes locally, and the many League committees taught her about state and national issues of the day. It was her League experiences that gave her the courage to run for School Board, where she eventually served as President.

Barbara wrote a history of the Grosse Pointe League which is still a resource today, and she served as President from 1973-75. She hosted the Afternoon Discussion meetings for many years --she recalls 9 meetings in one particular year!

Despite being homebound Barbara continues to faithfully follow the activities of LWVGP and the Grosse Pointe community. She continues to research candidates and issues and never misses voting in an election. She particularly enjoys seeing and hearing from League friends.

Thank you, Barbara, for many years of service.

Judy Morlan

Observer Corps Update

The Grosse Pointe League has had an Observer Corps since its very beginnings. The role of the Observers has been to attend City Council and School Board meetings as a non-participating observer. Originally these Observers represented the "public eye" on what were sometimes free wheeling public officials. In these days of widespread communication transparency where most business is conducted in committees and reported out on a web site, City Council Observers have had little to do, and at the

information with the pros and cons of the issue and request our concurrence or agreement.

Lastly, a "study" is a defined process lasting one to two years, during which a league will undertake a thorough pursuit of facts and details, both positive and negative. In general, studies are very labor intensive and expensive, and generally initiated by the national league.

Gun Violence: A Public Safety Emergency

Columbine High School, Sandy Hook Elementary, Pulse Nightclub, Charleston Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Las Vegas, Texas Sutherland Springs Church, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School The list is endless, as mass shootings go on and on. Our country is in the midst of a public-safety emergency.

LWVMI has moved to focus greater attention on gun violence and a number of other advocacy issues. Along with several other members from Leagues across the state, I have accepted the challenge of spearheading the GV initiative. Our work will be based on the National League's positions on Gun Control:

- * The LWVUS believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety issue to its citizens.
- * The LWVUS supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens.
- * The LWVUS supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.
- * The LWVUS supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.
- * The LWVUS supports a ban on "Saturday night specials," enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

These are Statement of Position on Gun Control, as Adopted by the 1990 Convention and amended by the 1994 and 1998 Conventions. Nearly thirty years ago! It is time to act. Our children are demanding that we "do something" about gun safety.

Expect Calls to Action on legislation in Lansing and Washington D.C. as we monitor pending bills and seek to make a difference. Seek to stop this epidemic of gun violence by enacting sensible gun safety legislation.

Saddened but Energized,
Jo Ann Kelly

Programs Report: Helping Those with the Greatest Needs

A big thank you to Deb Sloss for arranging Vicki Thompson-San as our February speaker! President of [Samaritas](#), Thompson-Sandy gave us an overview of refugee immigration to the United States and the work her organization is providing to those refugees being resettled in metro Detroit.

February Board meeting it was decided to discontinue observation of City Council meetings. Members interested in representing the League as observers at School and Library Board meetings, please contact Mary Morshead.



LWVGP President Tom Wells and Vicki Thompson-Sandy

It was eye-opening and informative, and we appreciate her taking time to come talk to us.



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.



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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