

Subj: **LWVGP Voter: March-April 2013**
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 From: thevoter@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org
 To: league@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org

Grosse Pointe|VOTER

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

Coming Up Activities: Save these Dates:

If you print out your Voter to read...

[First be sure to click the reservation form for the May 4 Annual Breakfast.](#)

Wed, April 24

7:00 pm
 at Brownell Middle School
 Discussion on Public Education with Dr Thomas Harwood,
 GPPS Superintendent, and Amber Toth, of The Center for
 Michigan (thecenterformichigan.net/)

Sat, May 4

8:30 am
 at Detroit Yacht Club

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

From the Nominating Chair

An urgent call to all League members- We need your help in a number of tasks during the year. Your dues help to finance the league at the local, state and national level. However, your passion and talents and some of your time are also needed during the year to educate the community regarding public policy issues.

Please consider a nomination to **Vice President Program**- this job affords you the opportunity to help decide what programs the League sponsors each year. This only requires about 2-3 hours of your time each month during about 7 months of the year. You will have a committee of volunteers to assist you.

Also consider serving as the **Arrangements Director**- this person identifies the locations to host meetings, sends out meeting announcements and collects the reservations, greets members at the meetings. Most of this job can be done at home or on your computer. We host about 3-4 events a year that will require your time. Other volunteers work with the Arrangements Director.

We need volunteers to serve on the **Nominations Committee for 2013-2014**. Again, this is a short-term assignment only requiring a few hours of your time for a few months. Most of this work is done via telephone and computer.

Volunteers are also need to organize the **Running and Winning Workshop for 2014**.

Help support your League and volunteer for one of these important tasks. Please send me an email or call me if you are interested in helping support one of these activities.

Thank you.
 Wilhelmina Giblin, Chairperson
 LWVGP 2012-2013 Nominating Committee
 313-886-8432

March-April Issue

From the Prez

Thanks to Jan Wells and Aphie Roumell and Peggy Hickey, we have had some interesting meetings.

On Thursday, February 21, 2013 the League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe hosted Amanda Van Dusen, who is currently with the prestigious law firm, Miller Canfield. The meeting was at the Grosse Pointe Woods Library. Ms. Van Dusen spoke to us about the lame-duck legislation, and its long term effects on all the citizens of Michigan. The meeting was very interesting and well attended.

Ms. Rochelle Riley was our featured speaker of the League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe on Thursday, March 7 at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. We partnered on this event with the Grosse Pointe Public Library Friends' of the Library. Ms. Riley spoke to us about the past and present political, educational, and economic influences on our diverse metropolitan population . We were very fortunate to have her as our speaker and thanks to members of the Friends of the Library, the attendance was fantastic!



Representative Brian Banks with members of the Observer Corps: Betty Ruud, Pat Freiwald, Mary Morshead, and Sharon Ruggioli

LWVGP Voter Services and the Observer Corps conducted Legislative interviews this month. The LWVMI encourages local Leagues to hold an informal interview sessions with new and current state legislators to develop a working relationship with them and to find out their views on many positions we hold of interest. We also invited them to join LWVGP.

On Friday, 8 March, Representative Brian Banks from the 1st District met with Mary Morshead, Sharon Ruggioli, Bob Bradley, Betty Ruud and Pat Freiwald to discuss positions of interest. On Monday, 11 March, Representative Alberta Tinsley-Talabi of the 2nd District, met with Mary Morshead, George McMullen, Pat Freiwald and Betty Ruud. We had very good coffee conversations at the Caribou Coffee in Grosse Pointe Woods. Check their web sites for their regularly scheduled coffee hours to express views of your own interest. We will be meeting with Senator Bert Johnson in April.

Campaign Training for Women

[For information on an all day event at Grand Valley State University to encourage and equip women for careers in the political field, click here](#)

Sunshine Week in Michigan - March 10 to 16, 2013

This is a week to take note of how open and accessible our government is at all levels: what the challenges are and how they might be met. We all believe in transparency as an ideal, but in reality it is often not realized.

As part of this year's observation, Michigan's Secretary of State Ruth Johnson says she is working with lawmakers to draft legislation for changes in campaign finance. Such changes would make reports of campaign contributions available online within three days and would require electronic reporting for both state and local government candidates and also for committees established to campaign for or against ballot questions. Currently, reports are only required annually and just before and after elections.

Other issues in Michigan deal with the costs of obtaining and copying documents that citizens ask for through the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Act that was created in 1976.

Sunshine Week coincides with James Madison's birthday, was launched in Florida in 2002, and became an annual national observance in 2005. There is a wealth of information online about the history and activities of organizations from news media to civic and educational groups promoting transparency in government.

Members of GPLWV have also had interviews with state representatives Brian Banks and Alberta Tinsley-Talabi and will be interviewing state senator Bert Johnson next month.

Annual Breakfast: May 4

Detroit Yacht Club,
Trophy Room, 2nd Floor
Belle Isle
One Riverbank Drive
Detroit, MI 48207
Registration begins at 8:30
Cost is \$22

[Click here to get a reservation form! Send in by April 27](#)

Public Education: Finance, Structure and the Future

When: April 24
Where: Brownell Middle School Auditorium
Time: 7:00

Speakers:
Amber Toth from
[The Center for Michigan](#)
who will describe its newly published report, "The Public's Agenda for Public Education, How Michigan citizens want to improve student learning," and
Dr. Thomas Harwood,
Superintendent, Grosse Pointe Public School System, who will update residents on current legislative proposals impacting local school districts.

Mark your calendars and tell your friends!!

Report from Administrative Vice President



Alberta Tinsley-Talabi

Please make sure you complete the reservation form included in this newsletter for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, 4 May. It will be at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. Try to send it in now before it slips your mind and we start reminder calls!

You will receive reports from the budget committee and the nominations committee via an email blast for each. Please take the time to review them carefully and respond to the respective committee chairs that will be noted on each document.

Still going strong in our programming this year, we will host a town hall meeting Wednesday, 24 April at the Brownell Middle School Media Center to present the latest information on the public education issues on financing, structure and goals. We are fortunate to be able to feature Dr. Harwood, Superintendent of the Grosse Pointe School District and Amber Toth from The Center of Michigan, a non-partisan organization that has been conducting "Community Conversations" on the topic around the state. Refer to their web site at thecenterformichigan.net. Also, please refer to the article in this news letter by Ann Nicholson about the meeting.

In League,
Christina Schlitt
President

Program Report

The Program Committee is in the process of arranging a meeting focused on EDUCATION, for April 24. It will be held at Brownell School, in the Media Center, beginning at 7:00 P.M. and ending at 9:00 P.M. Ann Nicholson, and her committee, are spearheading this effort, which promises to be very enlightening, both locally and state-wide.

On May 4, we will host our Annual Meeting at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. We are hoping to have Senator Gary Peters as our speaker. Registration will begin at 8:30 A.M., with breakfast, business meeting, and speaker to follow. Please use the reservation form in the March Voter to confirm your attendance. Carpooling will be available, for those who would care to avail themselves of the option.

The meeting with Rochelle Riley was very entertaining and extremely well attended. Thank you to all those who attended and/or participated.

Jan Wells, VP Program

I delivered LWV archives through April 2009 to the Bentley Historical Library, and have updated subsequent years. We are still looking for copies of The Voter from March, 2009, then May-Dec, 2009. These are the first electronic issues.

Sylvia Sanders now has material for the scrapbooks and we will begin working on putting that in order in April.

The Education Committee has begun to organize a Town Meeting on developments in public education. Amber Toth from the Center for Michigan and Dr. Harwood, Superintendent of GPPSS, will be speaking. It will be at Brownell on Wednesday, April 24. Further details have yet to be determined.

Connie Frey attended a State Board of Education forum on schools of choice in Ann Arbor on Monday, March 11, 2013.

Ann Nicholson

Advocacy: Powering Our Voices

FIRST CALL TO STATE CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MICHIGAN

Lansing, Michigan
MAY 17 - 19, 2013

In accordance with the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Michigan, I hereby issue the first call for all recognized local Leagues to send delegates to the thirty-first biennial State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Michigan to be held May 17 - 19, 2013 at the Radisson Hotel, Lansing, Michigan.

Susan Smith
President

This year's Convention in our State Capital promises to be informative, productive and fun. State Convention provides us with an opportunity to conduct important business of the state League as well as an opportunity to participate in workshops, learn more about the League and renew friendships with League members across the state.

Delegates will:

- Adopt the 2013-15 state program, including any state studies
- Adopt the LWVMI budgets for the next two years, including the per-member-payment
- Elect LWVMI Officers and members of the Board of Directors
- Consider Amendments to the LWVMI Bylaws, if proposed

Leagues may send as many delegates as allowed by their membership count. (See the attachment, "Determining Delegates, Convention 2013"). Sending your full quota, will assure your members full representation of their views.

LWVMI Convention 2013

Weekend of May 17-19 in Lansing
LWVGP qualifies for 6 Delegates: The president and 5 more members

Why attend?

- Skill building through the workshops on Saturday and an



Rochelle Riley



Amanda VanDusen

Michigan Environmental Council Southeast Michigan Regional Meeting

LWVMI is a member. Please consider attending or pass to an interested member.

Thanks,
Suzanne Dixon, Director of Natural Resources LWVMI

**Michigan Environmental Council
Southeast Michigan Regional Meeting:
Wednesday, April 3, 2013
MSU Detroit Center, 3408 Woodward Avenue,
Detroit 48201**

MEC has set a date for the annual MEC regional meeting of Southeast Michigan member groups! Please mark Wednesday, April 3 on your calendars to gather with us in Detroit for networking, lunch, and a lively discussion of the environmental issues of the day.

We anticipate the events will run from 10 a.m. until shortly after 2 p.m. and will be held at the MSU Detroit Center, 3408 Woodward Avenue, Detroit 48201 [map]. Amy Mangus, coordinator of environmental programs at

- additional pre-convention program on Friday about Advocacy and the other about League recruiting, training, retaining and developing leadership
- Energizing-Motivating-Inspiring by sharing ideas with other Leagues
 - Education-learn more about the League
 - Action/Change is possible
 - Advocacy-learn about the hot issues and how to advocate through current positions
 - Membership/Leadership Development and succession planning
 - Strategic development
 - Fundraising ideas
 - Social-meet other local League members-enjoy the banquet and speaker
 - You will have a chance to have a say in the direction LWVMI will take

Let me know by the first of April if you would like to participate as either a delegate or as an attendee.
Thanks,
Christina

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.



League Links

[LWV Grosse Pointe](#)

[LWV Michigan](#)

[LWV United States](#)

the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, will speak with us about "green space and green infrastructure" in Southeast Michigan and its role in improving our quality of life and contributing to vital communities. A panel of experts will tackle that topic following Amy's presentation, touching on some of the terrific work happening across the region in places like Campus Martius, the Detroit Riverfront and the Metroparks system, among many others. In addition, there will be ample opportunity to:

- Hear from other member groups in the region about their issues and priorities
- Network with friends and allies
- Hear from lawmakers and their staffs
- Ask how MEC can help your organization better achieve its goals

Please attend -- your key volunteers, board members and staff are welcome to participate.

Questions? Call 517-487-9539. We look forward to seeing you!

Call Your Congressmen

On average, nearly 100,000 men, women and children are shot by guns in the United States every year. More than 30,000 are killed. Families and communities are devastated. Since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School even legislators who receive "A" ratings by the National Rifle Association have shown interest in supporting restrictions on the military-style weapons and high-capacity ammo magazines like the ones used in Newtown and Aurora, Virginia Tech and Tucson.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has a long-standing position in support of gun control. Since 1990, we have lobbied in support of banning assault weapons, requiring all dealers to run criminal background checks at gun shows, and opposing laws that grant special protection for the gun industry.

LWVUS and LWVMI are doing their part. Their lobbying efforts need member support, indeed the support of every person concerned about the level of gun violence in our society. With the support of the President, the appropriate legislation is now on Capitol Hill. Urge your legislators to support these three sensible measures for gun safety:

1. Require universal background checks on all gun purchases, S.374
2. Ban military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazine clips, S.150
3. Stop illegal gun trafficking, S.54

The national conversation on gun safety has been robust and welcome. Now that we have a plan for tackling this critical issue, it is up to our elected leaders to keep these reforms moving forward and not get bogged down in the wrangling so familiar to Washington D.C. This will only happen if the American people demand it. The time is now.

Call or email your senators and congressional representative asking them to support the above sensible measures. Ask friends, colleagues and neighbors to do the same-for the sake of our children and our communities.

PLEASE ACT NOW.

Contact information for D.C. legislators representing the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods are listed below. The same information for other areas of Michigan can be found at www.lwv.org and for other states at www.lwv.org. (Writing letters is not encouraged because they may

take up to six week to get through Capitol security screening procedures.)

Senator Carl Levin

313/226-6020, 202/224-6221, or by website:
<http://www.levin.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm>

Senator Debbie Stabenow

313/961-4330, 202/224-4822, senator@stabenow.senate.gov, or by website: <http://www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact>

US Representative Gary Peters:

313/964-9960, 202/225-5802, or by website:
<https://petersforms.house.gov/contact-us-form>

Thank you for acting,
Jo Ann G. Kelly

[Forward email](#)



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