

Sat, May 12, 8:30 AM
Annual Breakfast Meeting
Country Club of Detroit, GPF
[Print & Return Your RSVP Form](#)

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:

Sat, May 12
Registration opens at
8:30/breakfast at 9:00
Annual Breakfast
Meeting

Country Club of Detroit
220 Country Club Dr
GP Farms, MI 48236
[Print out your RSVP form here](#)

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

Joining the League Family. Getting to Know our New Members: Sue Acton

Susan Acton joined the League in 2016. At a friend's suggestion she jumped right in and joined the Board in 2017 as the Director, Assistant -Voter Services, working closely with Vice President of Voter Services, Judy Florian. She has worked on updating the League's vote 411 database, candidate forums, high school voter registration drives, the Petition Education initiative,

May/June 2018

From the Prez...

A shout out to our two Voter Services stalwart workers, Judy Florian and Sue Acton. They put together three High School Voter Registration events; April 17 at South; April 18 at North; and April 24 at Harper Woods. We now have 118 new registered voters!

The Promote the Vote petition gathering continues. It is not too late to be a signature gatherer. Contact Sue Acton to get petitions.

Our donation to the State League was warmly received with a nice letter from Judy Karandjeff, the State President, in acknowledgement.

We have an outstanding speaker, thanks to Stu Dow, for our Annual Meeting on May 12. Stu Dow took Jan and me to a presentation at the DAC about the current state of affairs/progress with the Detroit School System where Chastity Pratt Dawsey was one of the speakers. She has great background and insight about the Detroit School situation. As we all are so keenly aware, we need the School System to thrive for the Detroit comeback to continue. Be sure to sign up for this and look for more info elsewhere in this issue of the Voter.

As the fiscal year winds down, I want to thank all those volunteers that have made this local League so vibrant and successful. You make this job easy.

Tom

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

Annual Meeting is Saturday, May 12!

Chastity Pratt Dawsey will speak on the Education Crisis in Michigan.

Ms. Pratt Dawsey has had a distinguished career in journalism which included ten years covering Detroit Public School issues for

and Promote the Vote project. Sue says these activities "are exactly what I hoped to be doing as a member of the LWVGP".

Sue has worked in corporate finance, mortgage banking and education. She currently works part time as the Outreach Coordinator for Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and also substitutes in the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods school districts. She is also a member of the Junior League. Sue and her husband love to travel and spend time with their grown children.

Welcome, Susan!

Lifetime Member Series: Myrtle Everett

Myrt grew up in Grosse Pointe and graduated from Grosse Pointe High School. She met her husband to be, Bob Everett, when she was 14 years old! She left Grosse Pointe to attend Wellesley, but returned home after graduation and married her sweetheart. She and Bob stayed in the community and raised their three children here.

Myrt was active in community life from the beginning, and joined the League of Women Voters in the tumultuous 60's. She was active on several committees and served as president 1969-71. In the late 70's she and Bob traveled with an "interest group" of dentists to China and soon began leading educational groups to China, then Cuba, and Russia. At that time U. S. citizens could only travel to those countries as a member of an educational affinity group. She said her favorite

the *Detroit Free Press* before her current job with *Bridge Magazine* covering urban affairs in Michigan.

Only 29% of Michigan 4th grade students are at or above reading proficiency level vs 36% nationally. Eighth grade students are also behind the national average in math. Even suburban schools like Grosse Pointe are lagging. In 2003 Michigan's white higher income students ranked 17th in the nation for 4th grade reading. by 2015 they ranked 50th.*

Ms. Pratt Dawsey will not only give us the facts, but she will also share with us solutions that have succeeded in Boston, the state of Tennessee, and other locations. She will also explain why this an economic as well as a social problem for the future of the state of Michigan.

Sat, May 12

**Registration opens at 8:30, breakfast at 9:00
Country Club of Detroit
220 Country Club Dr
GP Farms 48236**

Cost: \$25.

Make checks payable to LWVGP and send to League of Women Voters, 32 Lake Shore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

[Click here for a registration form.](#)

Guests are welcome.

* BridgeMI.com

Promote the Vote Ballot Proposal

Promote the Vote! Proposal information and petitions are available from Sue Acton.

Please contact Sue at PromoteTheVote@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org

or through the Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lwvgp/about/>. Like the page and share our posts on your own page and with other groups you are with.



LWVMI has joined 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. For the full explanation of the ballot proposal, see this link to the PDF of the [brief PowerPoint](#).

Voting Technology - Paper vs. Electronic

Barbara Simons, a pioneer in computer science at IBM Research, has devoted her retirement to convincing election officials that electronic voting systems are too hackable to be safe.

After the "hanging chad" problems in the 2000 election, electronic systems began to gain favor in the U.S. Simons, who understood the vulnerability of electronic technology, began to "make a pain of herself" warning that software could be manipulated to rig

groups to travel with were funeral directors - they really appreciated getting away from work. After Myrt and Bob wound down their business, Myrt became more active again in AAUW, where she also served as president.

Myrt now lives at The Rivers and is grateful to have enjoyed such a busy and interesting life. She invites her old friends to come and visit.

New Address & Well Wishes

We were sorry to hear from Eric Schonenberg that his mother, a long time member and past LWVGP president Fran Schonenberg, is moving to a life care community in Connecticut, close to family. Her new address is

196 Jerry Browne Road
Unit 3401
Mystic, CT 06355

Fran's memory issues may prevent her from corresponding well, but she would greatly enjoy cards and letters from all her friends in Grosse Pointe, where she has lived for so many years and where she made *so many contributions*.

Fran was one of the founders of SOC and was instrumental in organizing recycling here. She served both on Grosse Pointe Farms City Council and the Detroit Area Council on Aging. She has been a cheerful community activist and a wonderful friend to so many of us.

Tea, Anyone?

A few members of the Grosse Pointe League braved the

elections. A long time member of the League of Women Voters, she attended a National Convention to speak out against the League's position endorsing electronic voting. Progressive organizations like the League had endorsed paperless voting because it offered greater access to voters with disabilities.

At the peak of electronic voting in 2006 about 40% of registered voters used paperless machines. When Simons was able to convince the California Secretary of State on the insecurity of those machines, other states began to take notice, and security issues began to be taken more seriously.

There are still 13 states using paperless voting.

Last July she addressed a hacker conference and presented them with 4 voting machines, 3 still in use. Within hours the hackers had discovered vulnerabilities in all 4. She now runs a non-profit, [Verified Voting](#), to convince election officials that with current technology the only truly invulnerable ballot is a paper one, and that counting machines should be audited to make sure they are functioning properly.

Adapted from ["Guardian of the Vote: The Computer Scientist Who Prefers Paper" by Jill Leovy, The Atlantic, Dec. 2017](#)

City Clerk Project

At the Program Planning meeting in January members agreed to conduct a short survey of our local City Clerks to find out more about the voting process from an administrative point of view. Peggy Hickey, Mary Morshead and Ann Nicholson interviewed City Clerks from Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Woods, Harper Woods, Grosse Pointe Park and St. Clair Shores. Although the conversations were informal, we all included the topics of expansion of the absentee ballot, the time allowed for overseas voters, maintenance of voter lists and availability and training of precinct workers. A priority of the State Elections Commission is to shorten wait time, and several clerks noted that lifting the special requirements for absentee ballots would not only be helpful to voters but also shorten lines at the polls.

Overseas voters must apply to vote absentee like anyone else, but they can ask to receive their ballot via email. The ballot must be printed out and mailed back so voters must think ahead, but the current 45 days seems adequate.

Maintaining voter lists runs quite smoothly in this day of computers. If a voter moves within Michigan, her voting record moves with her once she re-registers. One clerk pointed out that it is always wise to keep your proof of registration until you have actually voted, just in case there has been a delay in the registration moving through the system.

We all learned a lot about voting technology, special needs voting, the need for and training of precinct workers and the meticulous record keeping required.

[For the full report click here.](#)

rainy weather on April 14 to attend the delightful tea organized by the Macomb League. About 50 women were there to celebrate women's suffrage and to hear about the move toward voting rights for Michigan women. Big posters showed that Macomb County voted firmly against women having the vote in state and national elections, although many communities had granted the privilege for local elections already. Advertisements supporting suffrage in the papers featured industrialists like Henry Ford and other prominent people. We all learned about Michigan and women's history and enjoyed a cup of tea as well!

Membership Committee Report

The Membership committee met to review recruitment and retention strategies recommended by LWVUS to local Leagues. The average age for a League member nationwide is about 70 years. Effective strategies to also recruit persons between the ages of 18 and 55 will vary by age group, and need to be consistent throughout the year.

The committee agreed that new members should be assigned a mentor, and that members who have not renewed their membership will be contacted to encourage them to renew or support League activities.

The Membership Committee includes Sara Coats, Vicki Granger, Mary Vitolins, Irene Shelley, Margaret Freundl, George McMullen, Carol Todd and Wilhelmina Giblin. The Committee's full report will be shared with the Board of Directors.

Student Voter Registration Campaign a Success!

Voter Services conducted our third annual Student Voter Registration Campaign for high school seniors at the following locations:

Grosse Pointe South
April 17, 2018

Grosse Pointe North
April 18, 2018

Harper Woods High School
April 24, 2018

We had a great turnout of enthusiastic seniors who were excited to register to vote! The total registrations were as follows: GP South-50, GP North-55 and Harper Woods 13, for a total of 118 newly registered voters! The students received information about how to vote absentee, since most of them will be off to college in the Fall. We also provided a copy of the LWV brochure and Your Elected Officials to each registrant.

Maria Mitzel, Director of Student Activities at GP South, Peggy Bonbrisco, Director of Student Activities at GP North and Sydney Bland, Harper Woods were extremely helpful in promoting our campaign to the students, as well as handling logistics at the schools. They all expressed gratitude to the League for providing this opportunity for their students and would like us to continue this on an annual basis. Due to the low number at Harper Woods, are hoping to enhance our efforts by providing more educational information to their seniors on the importance of voting.

We were pleased to have City Clerks from Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Woods, Grosse Pointe Shores and Harper Woods on site. I was also deputized by both Grosse Pointe City and Grosse Pointe Park, which allowed me to certify applications for their students.

A very special thanks to League members Sue Acton, Sarah Coats, Laurie Coplin, Mary Morshead, and Tom Wells for their assistance with this important activity!

Judy Florian
VP for Voter Services

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](#)



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.

["Like" the LWVGP on Facebook! And check out our activities here!](#)

[Join the League! Print out our membership form to mail in](#)

[New Member Handbook](#)



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

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