

Grosse Pointe *VOTER*

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



Upcoming Events

Friday, February 14
100th Anniversary of LWVUS

Wednesday, February 19
LWVGP Board Meeting at 7 p.m. in the
GP Central Library Program Room

Thursday, March 19
Women's History Month speaker at 7 p.m.
at Wayne County Comm. College.
LWVGP member Julie Baumer will be
discussing the Michigan Innocence
Project.

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.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The League of Women Voters, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism. LWV recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision

President's Message

On February 14th, we have a National "Day of Action" to celebrate the founding of the League on that date 100 years ago. Look for ways to participate further in this newsletter.

The Equal Rights Amendment has now been accepted by the required $\frac{3}{4}$ of the States. Now we need Congress to eliminate the deadline that was in the original wording of the amendment. Be sure to take action as encouraged by National. If you missed it, here is a [link](#) to the "Take Action" page.

A "shout out" to Sue Acton who organized the creation and printing of the "Your Government Officials" for this year, and then hosted the party for members to sort the 7,000 YGO's for distribution. See more below.

And another "shout out" to Vicki Granger, Val Kindle, and Wilhelmina Giblin who put on the Annual Program Planning Meeting on January 29. Regrettably, I was on a ski trip and had to miss this, but feedback is that it was a well-attended and inspiring meeting.

Lots more to do and see for this month. Read on.....
Tom

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

Happy 100th Birthday LWVUS!

Join LWVGP in celebrating the 100th birthday of LWVUS - founded on February 14, 1920! Our own LWVMI turned 100 in 2019 - a full year ahead of the national organization.

To recognize this 100th birthday, all local leagues are asked to participate in a Day of Action. While there are many options, we are choosing to put posts on our Facebook page at [INSERT LINK](#) from our members. These posts will contain the members' own words as to why she or he joined LWV! We'd also like to include pictures whenever possible.

To participate, [follow this link](#) and join in the celebration.

Look for a letter to the editor from President Tom Wells about the importance of LWVGP.

Call to ACTION!

We Need To Persuade the War Memorial to Install Bird-safe Glass

Even though this is not an issue in which the League would typically be involved, it is near and dear to my heart and I hope you will indulge me.

Each of us can play a part, on the local level, in addressing a much larger, even global, concern. The War Memorial is planning a major expansion in the coming year. From the architectural drawings released

making, and subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds.

Inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs, and therefore, LWV will in both principles and practices promote the inclusion in participation in any activity of LWV all persons whatever their gender, race, socio-economic status, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

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

by the War Memorial, it looks as if the addition will be all glass, which would be a disaster for birds.

The project has many worthy goals, including preserving the historic Alger House. The War Memorial's leadership has stressed that they are committed to an environmentally-responsible design. An essential element of that design, however, must be preventing bird deaths from window strikes, especially when the project appears to involve a new building section with many windows.

Preventing window strikes is especially critical given the War Memorial's location on the shores of Lake St. Clair. Each spring and fall, billions of migrating birds fly between North America and their winter homes, mostly in Central and South America. Here in Michigan, we're fortunate to be at the intersection of the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways, two migration "superhighways" that bring hundreds of bird species - many of them threatened or endangered - through our state. Migrating birds coming through Michigan typically land on the shores of Lake St. Clair and the other Great Lakes to rest their weary wings and fuel up for the next part of their long journey.

Sadly, many birds will die after flying into windows. Window strikes can occur on any building type, but are most common at the level of one to three stories. One study estimates that close to one billion birds die each year in window strikes. That's an alarming and unacceptable loss, especially when even common bird species are in decline. According to findings published in the September 2019 issue of Science magazine, North America has lost three billion birds since the 1970s. It's critical that the War Memorial renovation be designed to prevent window strike deaths.

We urge you to attend the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council Meeting on February 10, 2020, 7 p.m. to voice your concerns and encourage the War Memorial leadership to consider bird-safe glass in the design. The CEO of the War Memorial, Charles Burke, claims he wants the project to be sustainable. Not only should it be sustainable, but it should also be responsible!

-- Judy Florian

Consensus at Program Planning

Over 30 LWVGP members were present for the January 2020 Program Planning meeting. The DEI Committee led off with a presentation (see the DEI update below), followed by a review of the first two questions posed by national. The group reached consensus on the following:

Do you support the proposed program focus, continuing the Campaign for Making Democracy Work?

Program planning allowed for the introduction of additional topics, and Sue Acton urged the group to support ERA, and the removal of the deadline for this amendment to pass. Read [more](#) at [lwv.org](#)

Voter Services Has Busy Month

Your Government Officials (YGO)

A very special thanks to Sue Acton for handling the updates to the YGO brochure for 2020. The updates included changes based on the city council elections in Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes, along with the new mayor elected in Grosse Pointe City. We are so grateful to the following members who organized and distributed 7000 brochures to various locations: Julie Baumer, Laurie Coplin, Joanne Difazio, Marge

Freundl, Mary Garlough, George McMullen, Ann Nicholson and Marcia Powell.

Absentee Ballot Processing for Presidential Primary

- When applying for an AV ballot, the voter must select a ballot type (Democrat or Republican) in writing.
- Candidates may "withdraw" their candidacy between now and the primary. If a voter cast his/her ballot for a candidate that withdrew, the voter may request a new ballot until 4 p.m. March 9.
- If a voter applies for an AV ballot in person at the clerk's office, the voter must either present picture ID or sign the Affidavit of Voter not in Possession of a Picture ID form and receive a ballot. Picture ID isn't requested if the person applies for the AV ballot by mail.
- Clerks are encouraged to establish a relationship with their local post office. Local clerks who have intentionally reached out to their local post master to have conversations about the mailing and return of absent voter ballots have noticed better service for them and their voters.

News Update: Testing Voting Equipment- A Vital Piece of Security

Preliminary voting equipment testing will begin with clerks soon. Local election commissions are responsible for conducting accuracy tests in accordance with the procedures established by the Secretary of State. All clerks have access to an online course to review before they begin testing. The Public Accuracy Test must be conducted by a quorum of the Election Commission no later than Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Consider becoming an Election Poll Worker

This is a critical time when our clerks need workers to help at the polls. Here is information about what the job entails. I can speak personally that serving as an Election Inspector at the polls is very satisfying. With the addition of our new Voting Rights in Michigan, it is even more critical that we have League members take on this important task.

The City of Detroit, along with the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods, are all seeking Poll Workers and Absentee Ballot counters. Here is an update from the City of Detroit and their needs.

Minimum qualifications: Must be at least 16 years old and if 18 or older, must be registered to vote in Michigan. Can't be a candidate or have an immediate family member who is (except precinct delegate candidates can work in precincts other than their own). Must indicate party affiliation, independent not an option.

- Electronic Poll Book Inspectors will be paid \$240 for each Election Day which will include a mandatory 3- hour training session. Election Day work will run from 6 a.m. until about 9 p.m. depending on whether voters are in line when polls close at 8 p.m. and how long it takes to perform closing tasks. Training times for this job for the March 10 primary are from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 12 at WCCC (801 W. Fort), and Monday, February 17 at WCCC East, (5901 Conner).
- Absentee Counting Board Inspectors will be paid \$175 for Election Day work including a mandatory 3 -hour training session. Work will begin at 6 a.m. and last until the last ballot is counted. Training times for these jobs for the March 10 primary are Monday, February 19 at WCCC East, (5901 Conner).

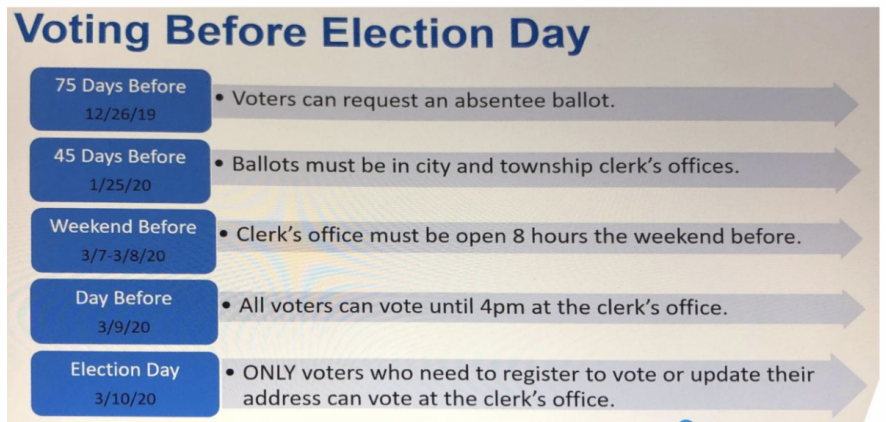
For the above Detroit positions, please contact Deborah Groban Olson, Attorney at Law, PLLC, (313) 331-7821 office. For poll workers in Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes, please contact the local clerk at

the following numbers: Harper Woods, 313-343-2510; Grosse Pointe Park, 313-822-6200; Grosse Pointe, 313-885-5800; Grosse Pointe Farms, 313-885-6600; Grosse Pointe Woods, 313-343-2440; Grosse Pointe Shores, 313-881-6565.

Election Protection & Voting Rights in Michigan Webinar

I participated in the MI-20 Election Protection & Voting Rights Webinar on January 29. This webinar was organized by Lauren Bealore, Michigan Director of America Votes and Sharon Dolente of the ACLU of Michigan. The webinar was part 1 of a series of 3, with the next sessions to be held on February 5 and February 12. It contained excellent information on our new voting rights law and also on the Election Protection Program. The attached slide clarifies the Voting Before Election Day dates for the upcoming Presidential Primary on March 10, 2020.

Judy Florian, VP for Voter Services



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update

At the Program Planning meeting, members listened to a presentation by Wilhelmina Giblin regarding the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiative (DEI), the DEI policy and DEI Action Plan; copies of the DEI definitions and a poem on the value of diversity was distributed. Members also watched the TED talk video "Color Blind or Color Brave"?

The speaker of the TED talk, Mellody Hobson, a businesswoman, described how she and a colleague were mistaken for kitchen help when they arrived at a restaurant to meet another colleague for lunch. Ms. Hobson noted that we all have bias and make assumptions about people we do not know, often based on what we learned during childhood or due to a lack of exposure to other races and cultures.

However, Ms. Hobson noted that for several years, people have attempted to be colorblind and believe that one should not consider race during interactions with people of color. Ms. Hobson argues that when you are color-blind, it gives you a pass to not have meaningful conversations with persons unlike yourselves, and ignore the inequities and challenges that people of color face everyday. These conversations may cause one to feel uncomfortable. However, Ms. Hobson challenges us to be Color Brave. When you are color brave you acknowledge your discomfort talking about race, inequity and privilege in our society. Ms. Hobson emphasized that these conversations can build new and meaningful relationships, and if we permit ourselves to embrace the benefits of diversity, equity and inclusion, to meet persons that do not look like ourselves, we will become a stronger, inclusive and compassionate society. A link to the video is on our Facebook page.

Finally, members were asked to share personal experiences regarding DEI. There were members who talked about their experience with sex discrimination in the workplace, bias in the workplace, bias toward disabled individuals, and bias by the police. Members were also asked why diversity is important to the League of Women Voters.

Additional information regarding the DEI initiative will be included in future Voter newsletters. Please contact a board member if you have ideas to contribute regarding the initiative.

You may view the DEI Policy (at left), [DEI Definitions](#) and DEI Action Plan at your leisure. The [Action Plan](#) is a work in progress and will be updated over time.

If you have not watched a DEI video, please do so. The links can be found at the LWVUS website in the League Management section- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to find the [links to the videos](#).

If you would like to join the DEI Committee, please contact Wilhelmina Giblin, Marge Freundl, Val Kindle, Cathy McAdam, or Laurie Arora.

- Wilhelmina Giblin, DEI Director



["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](#)

[The 2019 Membership Directory](#)

