

From: League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe <lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com>

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

Subject: LWVGP Voter: January-February 2020

Date: Thu, Jan 2, 2020 10:36 am

Grosse Pointe *VOTER*

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



What a Party!

Many thanks to Sue Acton and her husband Bob for opening their lovely home for an LWVGP holiday party! We had a full house, including several of our new members, along with delicious food. Most importantly, we had the opportunity to socialize with like-minded folks!

Because you are asked to RSVP online whenever possible for events, it was very easy to send out a day after email to find the owner of a loving serving piece.

We would like to get the December 2020 holiday party on the calendar NOW, if possible. Contact [Vicki Granger](#) if you are interested in hosting this great bunch!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 29, 6:30 p.m.
Annual program planning at the Annex, GP Unitarian Church. \$15/person includes dinner (spaghetti, pizza, salad, rolls, soft drinks).

Please register via paper, and remember to enclose your check. Send checks to Vicki Granger, 2073 Norwood, GPW. [Click here for the registration form.](#) If trouble accessing form, [contact Vicki.](#)

President's Message

As I pen this on Christmas Eve, I feel blessed that we can be part of this wonderful organization. Many of you may not know that National has spent lots of time and money studying the League from all levels. The result has been to embrace a Transformation. This has been in process, mainly at the National level so far, for the last two years. We should see a lot of the impact of the transformation this coming year.

What is the transformation and why is it transpiring?

- The League membership had dropped significantly.
- Volunteerism has changed over the past few decades.
- Since 1990, over 15 Voting Rights Organizations have been established.
- The population has continued to become increasingly racially diverse.

At a recent National Council, state and national League leaders embraced a call to action for the League network to strategically align behind the mantle of "Defenders of Democracy."

Adopting a story that is clearly understood externally, aligning the efforts of the extensive network around a narrowly focused body of core work, and developing the internal mechanisms both to share innovations taking place and to aggregate the data necessary to create the compelling narrative are all high priorities for the League network to address in the framework for change.

The Transformation Roadmap outlines the following:

- Clear Strategic Focus: A compelling mission, inspiring vision, and core programmatic effort to realize the mission and vision.
- A healthy League network: Organize and align resources and capacity to optimize mission impact with each level - national, state and local - taking on an appropriate role.
- Culture Change: create a culture that is welcoming, inclusive, trusting, and attuned to the needs of today's volunteers.
- Sufficient resources: Ensure that the League has the robust technology, communications, revenue, and staffing to effectively and efficiently attract members, supporters, and allies to accomplish its important core work.

Our new Strategic Focus:

- Our Vision: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

Need a ride? League Taxi Service available! Contact Jan Wells at 313.884.9604 and don't miss the fun!

Friday, February 14
100th Anniversary of LWVUS

Membership Hits 109

The League heads into 2020 with a membership of 109!

Welcome to new members Julie Baumer, Kenn Gafa, Kathy Gardner, Lauri Kingsbury, Laura McEnery, and Margaret Weertz.

Look for an email from the Membership chairs in January to confirm your contact information before our Directory is printed. Happy Holidays to our wonderful members!

- Sarah Coats and Laurie Coplin,
Membership

Tracking Our Members

Fran Schonenberg

I received a nice note from Fran Schonenberg's son, Bob, saying that she is well and her old cheerful self in her new home near her family in Connecticut. Her memory issues continue, but she enjoys seeing her family and now has four great grandchildren! She is not well enough to respond to cards, but enjoys receiving them from her old friends.

Her address is 196 Jerry Browne Rd.,
Unit 3401, Mystic, CT 06355.

-Ann Nicholson

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.

- Our Mission: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy
- Our Value Statement: The League believes in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

I look forward to the upcoming Transformation work that will encompass much of 2020. The complete treatise can be seen on the LWV National League Management site.

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



Marge Freundl, Tom Wells, and Mary Zahler.

Annual Program Planning Meeting is Jan. 29

Join LWVGP on Wednesday, January 29, at the GP Unitarian Church's Annex for our annual program planning meeting. This is a dinner meeting, and includes a delicious offering of food from The Pepperoni Grille. Details on the registration form. [Click here](#)

This year, we will be focusing on the national questions. We will focus on the first two questions, and the board will address the other two questions at its February board meeting. To learn more, [click here](#).

Our DEI Committee will also be making a presentation, including a video, followed by a discussion. See the DEI article below.

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



New members Sandy Barrett and Irene Shelley.

Voter Services

Your Government Officials Brochure (YGO)

The new Your Government Officials-2020 brochure will be printed in January. Please contact Sue Acton if you can help with the counting and distribution of 7000 brochures to libraries, City Halls, churches, schools and other gathering places in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

Promote the Vote has Impact on November 2019 election

Preliminary information from the Michigan Secretary of State shows that Michigan voters took advantage of the new Promote the Vote constitutional amendment. Within 14 days of the November 5 election, 2,022 Michigan voters registered to vote and voted, with over 1,131 registering and voting on Election Day!

One-third of those registering on Election Day were 18-21 years old and more than half were 30 years old or younger. In addition, 314 people aged 60 or older registered and voted during the 14-day timeframe.

With additional education and awareness about the new law, these numbers should only increase for the 2020 election.

March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary

The 2020 Presidential Primary is designated as a "closed primary", which means those participating in the election must choose a Democratic, Republican or no-Presidential Primary (local issues only where applicable) ballot when voting absentee or at the polls on Election Day. While a voter must select a specific party ballot, there is no political party registration in Michigan's voter registration system.

The Presidential Primary is a reimbursable election. This means counties will be reimbursed for the cost of producing ballots and other costs directly associated with conducting the election.

On-line Voter Registration System Goes Live

The Secretary of State announced in November 2019, that the Online Voter Registration website is live and available. It can be found at www.Michigan.gov/Vote by selecting the "Register to Vote" option located

on the left panel of the page. The tool can also be reached directly by going to www.Michigan.gov/VoterRegistration. Residents across the state can take advantage of this convenient way of registering to vote. Current voters can easily change their address using this website. Registering to vote has never been easier and can be accomplished by navigating five easy screens:

- Welcome screen
- Qualifications
- Personal Information
- Address
- Congratulations screen with receipt option

To use this convenient website, visitors must currently have a Michigan Driver's License or Personal Identification Card and qualify to vote in the state of Michigan (i.e. Citizen, age, residency).

New Absentee Ballot Envelopes

The Bureau of Elections Forms Committee, comprised of local and county clerks, is working with the Center for Civic Design to redesign the absent voter ballot envelopes. The previous design was encountering more and more issues with the United States Postal Service (USPS) and sometimes the misdirection of ballots. The primary purpose of this redesign was to prevent those issues and to prevent the disenfranchisement of voters. The new design has a more modern look and feel including a few small details that should have big impacts on voters properly returning their ballot and process efficiencies. This includes the following:

- The voter's signature on the backside of the envelope, the side they will see when sealing the envelope. November pilot jurisdictions noted a significant decrease in unsigned envelopes.
- The ballot label will be on the backside of the envelope, allowing staff issuing ballots and election inspectors processing ballots on Election Day to view the ballot number without flipping over the envelope.
- Clear language (when not prescribed by law) to explain delivery options.
- A smaller size, which has been requested by USPS as the former size was the maximum for first class mail. This allows for better automation and easier handling by carriers.

- Judy Florian
VP for Voter Services



Dynamic in red! Margit Jackson, Diana Domin, and Ann Nicholson.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update

As you may be aware, the national League of Women Voters began an initiative regarding diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in 2018. Local leagues were asked to participate.

Over the past several months, I have included links to LWVUS website regarding this topic in our newsletters. I hope that you have watched these videos.

To continue this effort, the DEI committee will host a discussion regarding this topic at our Program Planning meeting January 29. This discussion will include a video regarding one aspect of DEI that will further educate, enlighten, and provoke discussion around this topic. We encourage members to embrace our commitment to DEI.

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

- Wilhelmina Giblin, DEI Director



Longtime members Mary Jo Johnson and Jan Wells.

The 2020 Census and Redistricting

As part of a grant from LWV, LWVGP hosted a second public meeting this fall, this time on the 2020 census and the redistricting questions facing Michigan.

The event at Wayne County Community College attracted several members of the public, along with our own LWVGP membership.

The presentation included two powerpoints prepared by LWVMI.

Earlier this fall, a speaker addressed the issue of Voting Rights. See more information on voting rights in Judy Florian's Voter Services article.

- Vicki Granger and Val Kindle, Program



Stu Dow along with Vicki and Mike Granger.

Legends & Legacies: JoAnn Kelly, Lifetime Member

JoAnn Kelly knew about the League long before she was old enough to vote. Her Aunt Jean had a cadre of interesting friends who advocated for important changes through the League of Women Voters, and young JoAnn was fascinated by their activities.

When she came to Detroit with her husband and young family in 1968 she decided to join the Detroit League, a dynamic force in the city with an office downtown. The structure of a national, state and local organization attracted her. Her first League job was organizing a candidate forum. One of the candidates was John Kelley, a familiar name in Michigan politics for decades after.

When she and her husband, Jim, moved to Grosse Pointe a few years later she transferred her membership to the Grosse Pointe League. She served as Membership Vice President, President, and has been a contributing member to many committees. As Program Vice President she organized the study on Immigration, and started what became a series of Town Hall meetings on local issues. She is a skilled moderator for panels and candidate forums.

After retirement she and Jim began to spend the winter months in Florida, where she has become interested in the Sarasota League. The Florida State League is very active and JoAnn works on issues of gun violence both there and on the Michigan League Advocacy Committee.

Like her Aunt Jean, JoAnn has met many interesting women and found a venue for advocating on issues important to her through her League work. The Grosse Pointe League is lucky to have such an articulate, thoughtful life member.

- Ann Nicholson



Blondell Doughty and JoAnn Kelly



["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](#)

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

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