

Tues, Feb 12 * Pierce Middle School * 7 pm - the latest news about the GPPSS school funding featuring Dr Gary Niehaus

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:

Tues, Feb 12

7:00 pm

GPPSS Dr. Gary Niehaus

Pierce Middle School

Auditorium

15430 Kercheval

GP Park 48230

[Check out the flyer here](#)

Sun, Mar 10

1:00 champagne

2:00 curtain

**LWV Detroit's Spring
Fundraiser *The House on
Poe Street***

Detroit Repertory Theater

13103 Woodrow Wilson St.

Detroit 48238

[For more info, see the flyer](#)

Tues, Mar 12

7 p.m

Step Up & Serve Panel

Ewald Branch of GP Library

15175 E Jefferson Ave

GP Park, 48230

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

January 2019

From the Prez...

The **Chinese Dinner/Program Planning meeting** was a rousing success. The Golden Chopsticks restaurant delivered on time with many tasty morsels. See elsewhere in the letter on the Program Planning portion of the evening.

We are trying something new this year with respect to the **Membership Directories**, which are now available. We are making the Directory available electronically. [You can download a PDF version here](#) and either keep it available for reference on your computer, or print all or a portion of it. We will also keep it updated as we add members, members move, etc. If you want a printed copy, we will be happy to make one available to you. Please contact Sarah Coats sarah.coats@hotmail.com; (313)286-1901.

We are trying to **work with other nonprofits** in the area to make our programs available to their members, and vice versa. For example, we are sharing the [Flyer for the February 12th forum](#) at Pierce Middle School (see more elsewhere in this Voter) with as many members of nonprofits as possible. If you are a member of an organization that you think would be interested in sharing or collaborating with us, please let me know motsllew@aol.com; (313)886-8400.

Tom

C. Thompson Wells, Jr. President

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe

Looking for Volunteers to Help at the Feb 12 Forum

We are looking for volunteers to serve as greeters, question gatherers and sorters, and LWV ambassadors at our upcoming forum. Your assistance would be appreciated from 6:30 to 9pm at Pierce Middle School on Feb 12.

Please contact Sarah (sarah.coats@hotmail.com / 313-286-1901) if you are able to help. Thank you!

Tues. Feb 12: Q&A about GPPSS Bond Implementation

Do you have questions about the school improvement bond issue approved by Grosse Pointe voters in November?

Membership Matters

Please welcome new members:

Deb Frantz, Lisa Wenger,

Karen Feldman, Mary

Wells. Mary Ellen Burke,

Mary Garlough, Adura

and Robert Calhoun,

Deborah Trotter

(student), Mark

Wollenweber, Joan

Richardson, Margaret

D'Angelo, and Nancy

Patek

Wilhelmina Giblin, Co-Director for Membership, held a reception for new members in her home on December 3, 2018. New members had many questions regarding how the league functions and the process by which issues are brought forward to the general membership and the state league. New members expressed concern about voter apathy, are interested in volunteer opportunities to assist with candidate forums, collaborating with Wayne County Community College and serving on the league board of directors in the future. Several new members attended the Program Planning meeting and found it to be very informative.

If you are a new member and have not returned your New Member Survey, please do so. This will assist the board of directors in identifying volunteer opportunities for you to participate in a variety of league activities.

You are also encouraged to attend the league meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 7 PM, Pierce Middle School auditorium. Please refer to the details in this newsletter.

Wilhelmina Giblin, Co-Director, Membership

Do you know a family member or friend who is thinking about joining? Hand them one of our [membership forms](#) to mail in!

2019 Your Government Officials Now Out

Elections bring change and the LWV-GP keeps up with it all. "Your Government Officials" is our annual brochure for the communities of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods. It has been produced with all the updates from the

Dr. Gary Niehaus, Superintendent of Grosse Pointe Public Schools, will answer questions about the bond and its implementation.

We will use a candidate forum format with written questions. This is a free public event, so send the attached flyer to friends who may be interested.

Thank you, Sarah Coats and George McMullen for organizing this.

**Tues, February 12
7 p.m.
Pierce Middle School Auditorium
15430 Kercheval
GP Park 48230**

[Check out the flyer for additional details](#)

Tues. Mar 12: Step Up & Serve Panel Discussion

We are finalizing the program open to the public on **Tuesday, March 12, at 7 p.m., at the Ewald Branch Library in GP Park**, featuring several LWVGP members who are also elected officials.

The program is "Step up and Serve." Each panelist will be talking about his/her journey to elected office, and offer some ways to become involved in the local community.

LWV Detroit: Sun, Mar 10: Theater Matinee Fundraiser

[LWV Detroit's](#) fundraiser will be a matinee performance of *The House on Poe Street* at the [Detroit Repertory Theater](#)

**March 10, 2019
Champagne reception 1:00, curtain 2:00**

**Detroit Repertory Theater
13103 Woodrow Wilson St.
Detroit, MI 48238**

TO ORDER TICKETS:
Send a check made payable to:
LWV Detroit to PO Box 2503, Detroit, MI 48202
Donations are not tax deductible

Ticket Levels: *MARYANN MAHAFFEY* \$25, *FRIDA KAHLO* \$50, *ERMA HENDERSON* \$75, *ARETHA FRANKLIN* \$100, *ROSA PARKS* \$500

[For additional details, check out the flyer](#)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee consisted of: Chair: Jan Wells, and Committee Members: Judy Florian, Val Kindle, Deb Sloss, Peggy Hickey.

recent election. In mid-January 7000 copies were distributed to 64 different locations: city halls, schools, libraries, realtors and community organizations.

This year, look at your copy for electoral changes primarily in State of Michigan officeholders and local school boards. There are some minor updates in other elected offices. The sections on 'Absentee voting' and 'How to register to vote' have been updated due to the passage of "Promote the Vote" last November.

Look for the new brochures all around town. Or you can print out a personal copy on your own:

[Outside Page](#) [Inside Page](#)

Further, many thanks to Marge Freundl, Mary Garlough, Wilhelmina Giblin, Vicki Granger, Ann Nicholson, Steve Trowbridge and Tom Wells for packaging these brochures for delivery. Many hands made light work.

"*Making Democracy Work*" is more than a slogan. We produce these brochures, and put them on our website, trusting that many (maybe you?) will make the phone calls and send the emails to effect real change. Once a week? Once a month? Make a difference today!

Sue Acton
Director, Assistant
Voter Services

Sincerest Thanks

Earlier this year at membership renewal time, the following members provided additional financial support to

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate to the membership. Nominations from the floor are allowed at the Annual Meeting

President: Tom Wells, term expires 2021
1st VP Program: Val Kindle, term expires 2021
Secretary: Diana Domin, term expires 2021
Membership: Sarah Coats, term expires 2021

Director: Vicki Granger, term expires 2021
Director: Laurie Coplin, term expires 2021

Nominating Chair: Peggy Hickey, term expires 2020
Nominating Committee: Mary Jo Johnson, term expires 2020
One position open

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Wells
Nominating Chair

Legends and Legacies Meet Ann Kondak, Lifetime Member

Ann was a part of many important Detroit League initiatives as well as holding various offices.

As a student at Wayne State, Ann Kondak worked on the student newspaper with a lively team of students interested in social justice. In 1954 a friend suggested she attend a League of Women Voters meeting and she found herself amidst a group of intelligent women trying to find solutions to problems they saw in Detroit. Here was an opportunity to continue learning and to act.

At that time the Detroit League was very large and members belonged to a unit. Ann's first unit was East Afternoon. She decided to start an East Evening unit, and one of the items they studied grew out of McCarthyism. The National League prepared materials for a community program called the Freedom Agenda, which focused on constitutional issues. Her unit held many successful community meetings, as did Leagues throughout the U.S.

Ann became interested in the Juvenile Court system in the 1960's. At that time a child brought into state care for any reason was treated as a juvenile delinquent. There was serious overcrowding for children in custody, and a lawsuit was heard by Judge Charles Farmer, who formed an advisory committee to study all areas where juveniles were impacted by government. Ann was one of two League members on this committee. Judge Farmer eventually ruled that the State was bound to keep the neglected youths out of detention facilities and provide proper, timely care for all in its jurisdiction.

The Detroit League was much smaller when a court decision in the late 1990's stopped the automatic renewal of absentee ballots. The League, knowing that this would primarily affect the elderly, realized that many of those voters would not notice the new rules until they could not vote in the next election. The League first

the LWVGP's Education Fund:

Laurie Arora
Andrew and Linda Dervan
Connie Frey
Cheryl Harvey
Peggy Hickey
Tim Killeen
George McMullen
Ann Nicholson
Sharon Ruggioli
Steve Trowbridge
Mary Younke

These contributions support our educational activities and are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

2019 Membership Directory Available

[An electronic version can be found here](#)

If you would like a print version of the membership directory, please contact Sarah (sarah.coats@hotmail.com) or Wilhelmina (stormmimi@yahoo.com).

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.



notified all Detroit absentee voters of the need to initiate renewal of ballot requests, then began working with the Michigan Secretary of State to establish the renewal form for continued requests for absentee ballots applications that is currently used.

In the 1970's Ann earned a Master's degree in Library Science and began work in a law firm. Her League background in government and politics was invaluable to her in her work. During her many years with the League she has enjoyed working with so many women interested in social justice like she is. Her current interests revolve around water issues in Michigan, especially the pipelines under the Straits of Mackinac.

January Program Planning Meeting

After an excellent Chinese Dinner League members divided into groups to review Michigan State positions in the areas of Government, Environment, Education and Children, and Social Services.



-photo by Connie Frey

The group discussions were led by Vicki Granger, Carol Lufburrow, Connie Frey and Wilhelmina Giblin respectively. The task was to determine if the positions would allow LWVMI to advocate on emerging issues in Michigan.

No group recommended substantive changes to any position, but there were several comments to forward to the Michigan Board for their consideration.

Thank you to our moderators and to Jan Wells and Peggy Hickey for the interesting discussions and the great food.

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](#)