

From: League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe <thevoter@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org>

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

Subject: LWVGP Voter: November-December 2019

Date: Tue, Oct 29, 2019 6:36 pm

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

Thursday, November 21, 7 p.m.

Gerrymandering, Redistricting, and the Census

Wayne County Community College,
Harper Woods campus

Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.

Holiday gathering at the home of Sue Acton. Details below.

Wednesday, January 29, 6:30 p.m.

Annual program planning at the Annex, GP Unitarian Church. Details regarding registration in the next *Voter*.

Gerrymandering, Redistricting, and the Census

Join the LWVGP on Thursday, November 21, at 7 p.m., at the Wayne County Community College Harper Woods Campus (old Beacon East Theatre, at Vernier and Beaconsfield Rds.) for a presentation on Gerrymandering, Redistricting, and the Census.

The presentation uses materials developed by LWVMI, and this is a great opportunity to learn what is happening in Michigan. Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the LWVMI case [Read more in this Detroit Free Press article](#). So now, the Citizens' Redistricting Commission will redraw districts. See the info below regarding applying for the commission.

Be sure to attend, and bring a friend. This presentation is at the core of what LWV stands for - fairness in voting!

President's Message - VOTE Nov. 5

What a fantastic Candidate Forum season this has been. Hats off to Judy Florian and Sue Acton for quarterbacking these with seeming effortless aplomb.

As we come to Voting on November 5, it's important that you are aware and educated on the Grosse Pointe School System millage proposals. Your Board unanimously voted to support them. I wrote a letter to the editor of the Grosse Pointe News that was published in the October 17 issue. If you have any doubts, please do your homework. If these millage proposals don't pass, it will be catastrophic to our schools and our community.

Please remember, also, that we will have an outstanding program on Thursday, November 21 covering Gerrymandering, Redistricting, and the Census. Look for more information further in this *Voter*.

On Wednesday, December 11, we will have our Holiday gathering. Details below.

Last, but certainly not least, look for more information shortly after Christmas about the Annual Program Planning/Chinese Dinner meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 29. Calling this Program Planning is a misnomer and misleading. These January meetings are all about Advocacy. This year's meeting will be our response to directives from National. We haven't heard yet what they are asking us, but it certainly will have something to do with the 100th Anniversary of the League.

A warm welcome to our new members, and remember that this is a volunteer organization. Please find an activity that interests you and volunteer.

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

RDC- Redistricting Commission Info.

Are you or someone you know interested in applying for the new Redistricting Commission? Applications are now available online at www.redistrictingmichigan.org. All applications must be printed and notarized before returning to the Michigan Department of State by June 1, 2020.

Holiday Party Details

This year's LWVGP Holiday gathering is at the home of Sue Acton, 8 Lakeside Court, in Grosse Pointe (NOTE: almost directly opposite GP Beaumont Hospital).

Members are encouraged to attend and bring their spouse or significant other or even a good friend.

The cost is \$5 per person, payable at the door. That helps cover the cost of paper goods and soft drinks.

Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert type dish.

If you care for some wine or beer, BYOB.

Please RSVP by Friday, December 6, to Vicki Granger by [clicking here](#), or email Vicki at grangergpw@aol.com with the number attending and what you plan to bring.

Membership Notes

Once again, thanks to all of you who have paid your dues for the year. For those few who have yet to pay, we remind you that your dues are necessary to the continuation of League activities. You can find membership forms [here](#).

This is an important year for the League, as we head into the centenary of our existence. We are sure you will not want to miss the opportunity to support our activities as we mark this important milestone and continue our activities to inform and educate voters.

On the plus side, we have four new members to welcome - Bruce Kopf, Mary McAdam, and Anne and John Roberts. Welcome to all of you. We look forward to your participation in our activities.

- Sarah Coats and Laurie Coplin,
Membership



City residents Marvin and Aralynn Vinande with Mary Morshead.

Whirlwind of Candidate Forums

September and October were very busy months for Voter Services! We had a very ambitious schedule, conducting 5 candidate forums for contested races in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. Here are some numbers: 32 candidates, 27 League volunteers, 365 attendees, 7-1/2 hours of questions...The details are summarized below.

Harper Woods Forum-September 23, 2019

All 5 candidates for Harper Woods City Council participated in the forum at the Mary Ellen Stemple University Center. A total of 62 people attended the forum, including League volunteers. This venue was provided free of charge by WCCCD.

City of Grosse Pointe Shores- October 7, 2019

Only 1 candidate agreed to participate in this forum. The other candidates were unavailable due to travel/other reasons. League rules require at least 2 individuals participate in the forum. Therefore, this forum was cancelled. This is the first time in the League's recent history that a forum was cancelled.

City of Grosse Pointe Park-October 8, 2019

All 5 candidates for Grosse Pointe Park City Council participated in this forum at the Grosse Pointe Park Courtroom. A total of 98 attended the forum, including League volunteers. This venue was provided free of charge by the City of Grosse Pointe Park.

City of Grosse Pointe Farms-October 15, 2019

All 10 candidates for Grosse Pointe Farms City Council participated in this forum. There were 6 candidates running for a partial term and 4 candidates running for a full term. A total of 65 attended the forum, including volunteers. The forum was held at Brownell Middle School, which provided audio support/room at a cost to the League.

City of Grosse Pointe Woods-October 17, 2019

Lake Michigan Regional Annual Conference Report

Many of our members may not know that we are, as a Local League, a member in what is known as an ILO (inter league organization).



The Lake Michigan Regional League is made up of the following members: The State Leagues of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin; and all the local Leagues in those States. Hence, we also are a member.

LWVLMR promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in governments and acts on selected governmental issues affecting the Lake Michigan watershed. We support preserving and enhancing the environmental integrity and quality of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Ecosystem. We support the attainment and maintenance of high-water quality standards throughout the Great Lakes Basin, with emphasis on water pollution prevention. Water conservation should be a high priority of all governments in the Basin.

On Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26, I ventured to Lakeside, Michigan for the Annual Meeting of the LWVLMR. This was my fourth time representing our local league. I encourage any of our members with any interest in our environment to join me and/or actively participate in this ILO. It is very informative and rewarding to know yet another of the League's tentacles is working hard to make a difference. And, as you can imagine, they/we can always use volunteers that want to help.

The main emphasis this year was on PFAs and the Sixth Great Lake, the groundwater of Michigan.

PFAs are really scary. One of the presenters likened it to as dangerous to humankind as Climate Change. Our understanding and identification of the thousands of PFAs is in the infant stage. The subject is way too extensive for me to give a comprehensive report here. I encourage any and all to go online and read about them. They began manufacturing these as far back as the 1940's. One commonly known product with PFAs is Teflon. Nonstick products are

All 5 candidates for Grosse Pointe Woods City Council participated in this forum at the Woods Courtroom. A total of 101 attended the forum, including League volunteers. This venue was provided free of charge by the City of Grosse Pointe Woods.

City of Grosse Pointe-October 22, 2019

This was a combined forum for Grosse Pointe City Mayor (2) and Grosse Pointe City Council (5). All 7 participated. A total of 67 attended the forum, including League volunteers. We thank the Alliance at the Unitarian Church, for providing this venue free of charge to the League.

We have received many positive comments from the community about the forums. It is clear they appreciate this service the League provides.

These forums were successful due to the large number of volunteers who assisted us. Without these volunteers, we would not have been able to pull this off! Some volunteers participated in more than one forum, which was critical to our success. A very special thanks to the following members who provided their support to our forums!

Sue Acton, Laurie Arora, Sandra Barrett, Mary Ellen Brayton, Sarah Coats, Laurie Coplin, Joanne Difazio, Diana Domin, Karen Feldman, Marge Freundl, Mary Garlough, Wilhelmina Giblin, Mary Jo Johnson, JoAnn Kelly, Val Kindle, Belinda Krencicki, Mary Morshead, Marcia Powell, Joan Richardson, Irene Shelley, Deb Sloss, Carol Todd, Steve Trowbridge, Jan Wells, Tom Wells and Mary Zahler.

We also owe many thanks to our videographers: Brandon Wortman (GP South student), Nat Morris and Steve Geresy. We were also very pleased to use our new audio equipment for these forums. It worked out extremely well. Thanks to Mike Florian for providing training to Tom Wells, who served as our technician for the forums.

- Judy Florian
VP for Voter Services

Voter Services Team Rocks!

Sue Acton sent this thank you to our Voter Services team following SIX candidate forums.

Laurie Arora, Sandra Barrett, Mary Ellen Brayton, Sarah Coats, Laurie Coplin, Joanne Difazio, Diana Domin, Karen Feldman, Judy Florian, Mike Florian, Marge Freundl, Mary Garlough, Wilhelmina Giblin, Mary Jo Johnson, JoAnn Kelly, Belinda Krencicki, Val Kindle, Mary Morshead, Marcia Powell, Joan Richardson, Irene Shelley, Deb Sloss, Carol Todd, Steve Trowbridge, Jan Wells, Tom Wells, and Mary Zahler

We finished our last Candidate Forum last night and I wanted to say one more "Thank You" for joining Judy and me on this wild ride.

Grosse Pointe has changed in many ways for the better in the past few years, and one of the most important ways is that we are seeing a much stronger commitment to "Democracy in Action." Here are some great examples:

- Council seats and even Mayoral seats are being challenged much more than in even the recent past.
- Every one of "our" six cities had a challenged race.
- GP City even had two challenged races.
- GP Farms had TEN candidates for four seats.
- Women and minorities are candidates in almost every race. (It will even happen in GP Woods someday.)

replete with them. It is good to know that we have people that are devoting their full time to understanding more about them and figuring out how to minimize or eradicate them.

Michigan Groundwater is another example of poor stewardship. The water lying under the ground in Michigan is roughly equal to the volume of water of Lake Huron.

Needless to say, I came away from this annual meeting with more understanding of these two issues, and am anxious to let others know of the peril.

- Tom Wells

Voter Holiday Schedule

This *Voter* is for the months of November and December. Note the holiday party at Sue Acton's on December 7, then jump forward to January 29 for the program planning meeting. We will send out the next *Voter* after Christmas to give you details about the January meeting.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a joyful holiday season as this busy 2019 draws to a close.

- Ann Nicholson and Vicki Granger,
Voter Editors

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](#)**

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.

When there are contested elections, the candidates need a stage from which to speak and voters need a place to make their voices heard. The LWVGP provided this space. It doesn't happen without dedicated volunteers who are willing to say "Democracy is important" and "Sure, I can do that!"

Thank you for being one of those people. Each night needed 12-15 volunteers, a truly daunting task to organize, especially when we were aiming for six Forums. But because you all volunteered, some of you more than once, every Forum was staffed well, some newbies were trained, and as a League we are stronger for it.

Judy and I were delighted with your professionalism and your willingness to rise to the challenge.

Next year we will celebrate 100 years as the LWVUS. Please continue to join us in our educational programs, our celebrations, and in the many ways we support the League of Women Voters at all levels.

Please also check out Vote411.org and VOTE November 5 (or earlier if you like),

Thanks again,
Sue Acton, Voter Services



Voter Services Team Heads Judy Florian and Sue Acton.

DEI

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) webinars and TED talks that have been available to you to view have common themes: privilege, power, and the socioeconomic of marginalized individuals, and communities. Communities and organizations that understand these concepts recognize the effects of privilege and power on those without privilege and power; they denounce racism, support full participation of its citizens and members, and share power. That is the goal of the League of Women Voters. Our board of directors is developing an DEI Action Plan for the organization and will be shared with members in the not to distant future.

Privilege is defined as access to or enjoying advantages simply by membership of a particular group or identity; these rights are often unearned and/or underserved. This is different from privileges given to us by our parents or employer. Those with privilege often do not recognize it, or do not admit they are privileged. The privileged have more power than the non-privileged. Researchers suggest that there are dimensions of privilege depending on the circumstance or situation. Implementing a diverse, equitable and inclusive organization can equalize the playing field so that anyone can enjoy the benefits and responsibilities identified in our organization or community.

To equalize the playing field also requires that someone among the privileged stand up and change policies or their behavior; if not, circumstances will not change, i.e. inequities and exclusion of membership in our organization will persist, lack of opportunity in employment, housing, and inequitable treatment by those in power, and other benefits, will continue. It is suggested that we look within ourselves and determine where is our privilege and how does it affect our daily decisions. For example; if you are a privileged individual, have you used a handicapped bathroom stall or parking space for no purpose; this obviously hurts those who have physical impairments. Some communities have instituted policies to even the playing field. For example in San Francisco, it is advertised on buses, and expected that able-bodied individuals will not sit in a seat designated for the elderly or handicapped person; some riders will call you out if you sit in a seat designated for the elderly or handicapped persons.

For the next two weeks, consider thinking about your privilege and how you use it; how can you extend privilege to those without it? Consider sharing your thoughts with me. I would like to post them anonymously in the next Voter, or if you choose I can share your name.

- Wilhelmina Giblin
DEI Director, LWVGP

Upcoming DEI Webinars

October 30, 2019 [Register](#)
November 21, 2019. [Register](#)
December 19, 2019. [Register](#)



["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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ league@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by thevoter@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!