



The Voter Newsletter **December 2020 - January 2021**

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

Save the Dates

LWVGP Holiday Gathering

Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 7 p.m. via Zoom. You will receive a separate email with registration information about the fun evening with LWVGP members.

LWVGP Program Planning meeting (Chinese dinner)

Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 7 p.m., via Zoom. You will receive a separate email about registration information for this annual event where we consider proposed positions from the state league. This year the topic for consideration is the "lame duck" sessions in the MI legislature.

President's Message

Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, Americans voted in record numbers on November 3rd. To quote Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson "excellent work by 83 county clerks, over 1,500 city and township clerks, tens of thousands of poll workers who staffed polling places and counted ballots from dawn to dusk, and a record-breaking 5.5 million voters who exercised their fundamental right to vote even in the midst of a pandemic, including over 28,000 who registered and voted on Election Day."

We had many League members serve as poll workers as well as absentee ballot counters in our community. I am so proud of our many members who worked the polls and also rose to the challenge to educate voters during this election season. Our program, Making Your Mail in Ballot Count was a great success, with 40 people in attendance. Special thanks to Mary Ellen Brayton for developing this program. The

video recording was viewed by over 60 people on our [YouTube Channel](#). Our Vote411 video, developed by Mary Zahler, was also helpful to voters who could view their ballot on-line before voting. We also educated voters in our community on the location of drop boxes for their absentee ballots. The Grosse Pointe News printed an article, with photographs, and it was also posted on our Facebook Page, reaching over 4,000 people! Voter education is a centerpiece of our League and we rose to the occasion!

Several League members volunteered for the LWVMI Post-Election Observer Corps for the Wayne County Board of Canvassers. The Board "canvasses" elections by carefully reviewing and authenticating various forms and certificates completed to document the vote cast at the polls. The Wayne County group, chaired by Paula Bowman, Northwest Wayne County League, viewed via Zoom or attended in-person sessions to review how the Board of Canvassers works. For me, it was a very interesting process and educated us all on what happens after Election Day! Thanks to the following members who volunteered for the Observer Corps: Sue Acton, Mary Ellen Brayton, Lauri Kingsbury, Laura Larson, Judy Masserang, Joan Morris, Lambro Niforos, and Mary Zahler.

I am pleased to announce that Ann Nicholson has graciously agreed to serve as our League's Historian. Ann has handled our archives in past years. If you have any documents or other items related to our League History, please contact Ann.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) sponsored a program on October 22, *Weaving the Fabric of Diversity*. It was an excellent program attended by about 35 people. The recording of this program is available on our [YouTube Channel](#).

Our Program Committee, Valerie Kindle, Carol Todd and Denise Allen, presented a great virtual program, *Some of Life's Challenges in the Coronavirus Community* on November 11. Although we experienced some technical difficulties with people connecting to Zoom, the recording is available to view on our [YouTube Channel](#).

The City of Grosse Pointe Park requested the League's assistance with a vacancy on their City Council - see the **Voter Services** report in this newsletter. I am so pleased they reached out to the League and we were able to provide them with our expertise. A special thanks to Sue Acton (Moderator), Steve Trowbridge (Timekeeper), and Mary Zahler (Producer), for their hard work on this project.

As always, I invite you to attend our future Board of Directors meetings, the 3rd Tuesday of the month (no meeting in December). Also, feel free to contact me if you have issues of concern or items of interest. Wishing you all a very safe and healthy holiday season!

Judy Florian, President
League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe

Making Democracy Work (MDW) Grant Update

Our League was awarded a \$400 Making Democracy Work Grant through the LWVMI, funded by LWVUS. This grant focused on Election Protection efforts for the August 2020 Primary and November 2020 elections. Election Protection and Voting Rights are the heart of the League of Women Voters. For 100 years, we have been encouraging informed and active participation in government. We accomplish these goals in collaboration with other organizations. We work for diversity, equity and inclusion to extend traditional and important LWV Voter Services to reach more voters and to gain more voters in historically disenfranchised communities.

We are fortunate the LWVMI applied for and received these grant funds to assist local leagues in their Election Protection efforts.

The goals of the grant were as follows:

- Education for voter protection to monitor implementation of Proposal 3 of 2018
- Education for election protection through engagement with county and local clerks
- Increased visibility of Vote411, expanding media and social media engagement

The LWVGP implemented the following to accomplish these goals.

- Engaged local clerks with election protection information; assisted the GPFarms clerk with mailing absentee ballots for both the August Primary and November General elections; worked with clerks to secure poll workers for elections.
- Promoted Vote411 on Facebook, Webpage, and various media articles in the GP News, GP Patch, and Grosse Pointe Times.
- Developed a Vote411 video to educate voters on how to review their ballots prior to Election Day; promoted Vote411 in GP Public Library newsletter.
- Sponsored a program, *Making Your Mail in Ballot Count*, to emphasize the proper procedures for absentee ballots; promoted drop boxes in our local jurisdictions to increase awareness of their locations.
- Conducted lawn sign fundraiser to promote Vote411.org.
- With the ACLU, addressed and mailed 2500 postcards to Michigan voters in high risk and disenfranchised areas.

We are pleased with the leadership and support provided by Christina Schlitt, LWVMI President, during all phases of the MDW grant and the opportunity to participate in this initiative.

Voter Services Report

Grosse Pointe Park City Council - We ran three interview sessions to fill a vacancy for the Grosse Pointe Park City Council. Thanks to our Moderator Sue Acton and Time Keeper Steve Trowbridge.

Election Workers - Thank you to LWVGP members who worked the polls, were LWV observers at the Wayne County Board of Canvassers, posted important election information on social media, and distributed Know Your Voting Rights and Voter Guides.

Your Government Officials- Voter Services will be updating the League's popular "Your Government Officials" brochure. This means that we will be contacting national and state offices plus every Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods government, Grosse Pointe Schools and two library systems to insure that our contact information is current.

-- Mary Zahler, VP Voter Services

Membership

Welcome to new members:

- Linda Austin
- Katherine Kerwin
- Anastasia Koutsopoulos
- Nancy Labadie
- Frank Pardo

For anyone who has not yet renewed, dues are

- \$60 Individual
- \$90 Household of 2 or more at the same address
- \$5 Student

There are two ways to renew your membership:

1. Print the [renewal form](#) from our website, on the [Membership](#) page, and send, along with your check to LWV Grosse Pointe, 32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms 48236
2. Pay online, via [PayPal](#) . If paying via PayPal, individual membership is \$62., to cover PayPal fees.

There are several members who have not renewed their dues. **The deadline to renew is December 15, 2020.** If we don't hear from you by that date, you will be removed from our records. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sarah Coats, LWV Director - Membership
Laurie Coplin, LWV Director - Membership

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Report

- The DEI Committee organized a program for members and the community on Thursday, October 22, 2020.: Weaving the Fabric of Diversity. Our speaker was Dr. Alexander Riegel, minister from the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. Dr. Riegel discussed the benefits of articulating a positive vision of diversity, which should serve as the foundation of a new understanding of our common humanity, and how historical narratives have determined the current and future state of our society. Members from other local leagues were invited and participated in this discussion. A video recording of the October presentation can be accessed through our LWVGP YouTube Channel.
- The DEI Committee is identifying organizations in the community that promote social justice for potential partnerships with LWVGP.
- Each member is encouraged to participate in discussions and offer suggestions that will help us become a more welcoming organization. A book discussion group is being considered. Watch for announcements on future activities in the Voter.
- The League of Women Voters Michigan emailed all members a DEI survey this week. If you have not already completed the survey, please be sure to complete the survey at this [link](#)
- Members are encouraged to register for the LWV national DEI webinar for the year, on November 19, 2020. [Register Here](#)

-- [Wilhelmina Giblin](#), DEI Director

LWVGP Mission

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.

LWVGP 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 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.

LWVGP Directory

Executive Board Elected

- President: Judy Florian *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- President-Elect: Sue Acton *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- Vice President: Program Valerie Kindle *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- Vice President: Voter Services Mary Zahler *term to expire June 30, 2022*
- Secretary Diana Domin *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- Treasurer Carol Lufburrow *term to expire June 30, 2022*

On-Board Directors Elected

- Director Voter Services Mary Ellen Brayton *term to expire June 30, 2022*
- Director Membership Sarah Coats *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- Director Laurie Coplin *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- Director Program Carol Todd *term to expire June 30, 2022*

On-Board Directors Appointed one year terms, appointed by the President

- Sandy Barrett - Assistant Treasurer
- Wilhelmina Giblin - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Vicki Granger - Communications, Voter Co-Editor

Off-Board Directors Appointed one year terms, appointed by the President

- Margaret M. Freundl - Publicity, Voter Co-Editor
- Connie Frey - Education
- Kathy Gardner - Webmaster
- Ann Nicholson - Historian
- Mary Jo Johnson - Nominating Committee
- Ed Trowbridge - Phone

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

Non-Partisan Policy

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

Email: lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com

Website: lwvgrossepointe.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVGP/>

LWVGP on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w

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