



The Voter Newsletter
January - February 2021

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

Calendar Notes

Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 7 p.m.

LWVGP Program Planning Meeting (*see story below for details*)

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Happy 101st Birthday LWV!

Wednesday, February 27, 2021, 7 p.m.

LWVGP Speaker: Daniel Baxter, Wayne County Administrator (*see DEI report for details*).

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 7 p.m.

Dana Paglia, who is part of the Governor's Task Force for Homelessness, will speak on how COVID-19 has affected homelessness.

Tuesday, May 11

LWVGP Annual Meeting

May 21-22

LWVMI Convention (*see article re LWVMI Awards*)

President's Message

Who knew after a record number of ballots were cast in a secure and fair November election that our country would be facing such turmoil? The LWVUS made a precedent-setting move by calling for the 45th President to be impeached and immediately removed from office. This action was extraordinary, but necessary. The League is a non-partisan organization and this action was not a political one. It was an action to 1) Protect the integrity of the Office of the President; 2) protect the democracy of our country and 3) maintain and uphold the Constitution.

I am extremely proud of all of our members who stepped up during the "Election Season" to participate in the many activities to educate voters. You truly demonstrated an incredible commitment to our mission and I really appreciate it!

The Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC) is busy at work as they review the process for redrawing the maps for Congressional and State districts. LWVMI is asking for each local league to recruit 3-4 members to work on the Communities of Interest (COI) project. A Community of Interest is a group of people who share a common bond: economic, ethnic or cultural. Local league members will be trained by LWVUS and play an important role in the redistricting process by identifying Communities of Interest, learning the "Representatable" software in drawing district maps and how to testify at public hearings. This is an exciting and historic time for Michigan, and I hope you will step forward to participate. Please let me know as soon as possible if you'd like to serve.

We have many activities planned for you in 2021 (see related articles in this newsletter). Due to the continued pandemic, our programs will continue to be conducted virtually. I hope you will sign up to participate in our annual Program Planning meeting on January 26, 7 p.m. There is a lot to discuss and we always appreciate your input on these issues.

On behalf of the League, I also want to extend a big THANK YOU to the following members who have sent donations to our League this past year: Sue Acton, Sarah Coats, Andrew and Linda Dervan, Connie Frey, Wilhelmina Giblin, Cheryl Ann Harvey, Katherine Kerwin, Mary Morshead, Ann Nicholson, Lambro Niforos, Lynne Pierce, Marcia Quilter, Florence Rhodes, Sharon Ruggioli, Mary Vitolins, and Margaret Weertz. Your donations make a big difference in our ability to conduct League activities and we sincerely appreciate it! A letter itemizing the tax deductible contributions made to LWVGP, including membership dues, will be sent to all members no later than January 31, 2021.

We are saddened by the news of the recent deaths of two of our members, Elizabeth (Eleanor) Marsh and George McMullen. Although Eleanor wasn't actively involved, she very much supported our work. George succumbed to a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was a very active follower of our League and mission. They will both be missed.

If you'd like to attend the February virtual board meeting on February 16 at 7 p.m., we will be happy to send you the meeting link. In the meantime, please contact me if you have questions or concerns. I also hope you're able to get your Covid-19 vaccine soon! Stay safe.

Judy Florian, President
League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe
jflo@comcast.net

Program Planning Meeting is Jan. 26: LWVMI Lane Duck Study, LWV Positions

At our Planning Meeting, on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. via Zoom, President-Elect Sue Acton will be presenting the LWVMI Lane Duck Study. **Members should review the study at this link**

<https://lwvmi.org/member/documents/LaneDuckStudyPacket2020.pdf>

At this meeting, we will also review current LWVMI positions. Local leagues are asked for their input, and may suggest that LWVMI affirm or update the current positions, study a new issue, or concur with another League's position. **Please review the list (link below) and be prepared to offer comments or suggestions.**

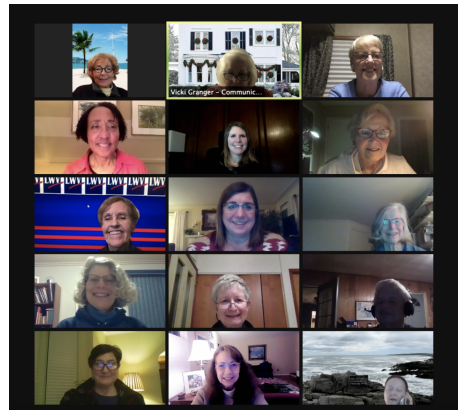
<https://lwvmi.org/positions.html>

Many members have already registered for this Zoom meeting, but there is still time to register! **Register at this link.**

All registrants will receive the ZOOM link on Tuesday afternoon.

LWVGP Board on Zoom - see photo at right

The LWVGP Board continues to meet regularly via Zoom. We also use Zoom for committee meetings, programs, and quick conversations reviewing documents or plans for upcoming events.



LWVMI Convention News

The LWVMI welcomes all members to the virtual LWVMI State Convention, May 21-22, 2021. This is a great opportunity to learn from members and guest speakers about issues important to Michigan. More info will follow on how to virtually attend. Save the date.

The convention is also a celebration of the accomplishments of local League members. How does the state know whom to honor? We tell them who has done significant things within our league! There are three awards for significant service and tenure in the League.

- The Belle Brotherton Award for outstanding leadership, accomplishment and inspiration.

- The Helen Milliken Leadership in Civic Engagement Award for providing citizen information and encouraging informed voters.
- The Maryann Mahaffey Community Service Award for outstanding community commitment.
- AND there are many Belle Ringer Awards to acknowledge any LWV member's support of League priorities in any of four areas: Advocacy, Voter Service, Member Recruitment & Engagement, and Strategic Planning and/or Fundraising.

Please be a nominator. Check the link below to the LWVMI Awards Nomination Packet. All the qualifications for each award are listed.

Send the name of the person YOU think should be honored, which award, and why, to Sue Acton (shacton@gmail.com) today (or by February 15). Our board will consider the multiple requests we hope to receive and make the nominations to LWVMI.

Thank you, in advance, for making this happen!

<https://lwvmi.org/member/documents/ConvenAwrds2021.pdf>

-- Sue Acton, LWVGP President-Elect

Voter Services Report: YGO Brochure Updated

Our annual brochure, *Your Government Officials (YGO)*, has been updated to reflect results from the November election and will be ready for distribution in February. Due to COVID-19 building restrictions, Voter Services will be distributing fewer copies this year. Packets will be distributed to all City Halls, Libraries, the Board of Realtors, and the Chamber of Commerce. The YGO PDF will be posted on our LWVGP website in late January.

Mary Ellen Brayton, LWVGP Director, Voter Services

Nominating Committee Offers Slate

The LWVGP Nominating Committee has offered the following slate of elected officers and Directors, to be elected at the LWVGP Annual Meeting on May 11.

The following members are nominated for positions

- VP for Program: Joan Richardson (2-year term)
- Secretary: Judy Masserang (2-year term)
- Directors: Marge Freundl, Deborah Trotter (2-year term)
- Nominating Committee Chair: Lauri Kingsbury (1-year term)
- Nominating Committee Member: Joan Morris (1-year term)
- Note: The third member of the Nominating Committee is appointed by the Board.

Thanks to Nominating Committee Chair Mary Jo Johnson, and committee members Mary Morshead and Wilhelmina Giblin. They worked diligently to make sure the nominees had information about board member responsibilities, as well as the job description.

Local League Membership at 95

Through mid-January, LWVGP now has 95 members.

Welcome to our new members

Sara Koch lives in Grosse Pointe, and has two children. She and her daughter Becca, a junior at Grosse Pointe South heard about LWV through the school board election and wanted to get involved in voter education. Becca Koch is involved in the school paper, and after writing some stories on student involvement in elections, knew she wanted to be part of something beyond this election cycle. She wrote: "I cannot wait to be a part of this group this year!"

Membership Directory

Our Membership Directors Sarah Coats and Laurie Coplin have been diligent in maintaining our membership information, both in the national database and in the "living document" that is our Membership Directory. The most up-to-date LWVGP Directory will be linked in an email sent separately to all paid members.

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

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Report

Book Discussion Group Starts Jan. 27

Earlier this year, the DEI Committee sponsored a chapter presentation by Dr. Alex Riegel, from the GP Unitarian Church, on "Weaving the Fabric of Diversity." Click [here](#) to see the video. An outgrowth of that presentation was the suggestion to begin a book club to discuss diversity topics.

The LWVGP Book Discussion Group will begin meeting on Wednesday, January 27, via Zoom, to discuss the book, "A People's History of the United States," by Howard Zinn. Dr. Riegel will be leading the discussion, via Zoom, every two weeks. Key points from the meetings will be shared with League members.

Speaker Addresses Demographic Data on February 24

Daniel Baxter, Director of External Affairs for Wayne County, is scheduled to speak to LWVGP on February 24, 2021, at 7 p.m., via

Zoom. His topic is "How to Use Wayne County Data to Help the League Become a More Welcoming Organization."

This talk was postponed from last Fall as Mr. Baxter, an elections expert, was heavily involved in managing the November election and follow up challenges in Detroit. We look forward to his presentation.

Please [register at this link](#).

Join the DEI Committee

Consider joining the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. Contact DEI Committee Chair Wilhelmina Giblin for more information at stormmimi@yahoo.com.

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

Americans Need to be Actively Engaged

Sue Acton shared a recent quote on Twitter, from Walter Shaub, attorney and formerly Director of the United States Office of Government Ethics (January 9, 2013 to July 19, 2017):

"If the last four years has taught us anything, it's that Americans need to be actively engaged in the work of democracy. I hope you'll continue supporting the watchdog groups that fight corruption and defend democracy."

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 (Membership) 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**

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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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