

**The Voter Newsletter**  
**March - April 2021**

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

**Calendar Notes**

**Thursday, March 11, 7 p.m.**

Learn about the changing roles of women through art, presented by the DIA. This program is sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Public Library. [Register here](#)

**Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 7 p.m.**  
LWVGP Board meets via Zoom.

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 7 p.m.**  
Dana Paglia King will speak on how COVID-19 has affected homelessness. [Register here](#) for the presentation.

**Tuesday, May 11**  
LWVGP Annual Meeting

**May 21-22**  
LWVMI Convention (see President's Message)



**Changing Roles of Women in America**

Presented by Connie Corrigan  
Docent, Detroit Institute of Arts

Join us as we honor the 100th anniversary of women's voting rights by exploring both works by suffragette artists and art which exemplifies the challenges women faced before the adoption of the 19th amendment.

Detroit Institute of Arts docent Connie Corrigan will discuss the roles of women throughout history through the perspective of art and artists.

**Thursday, March 11  
7 p.m.**

Please register for this Zoom presentation on the library events calendar. A link for the event will be emailed to you shortly before the event begins.

[www.grossepointelibrary.org/events](http://www.grossepointelibrary.org/events)

Grosse Pointe Public Library  
Women's Equality, 1975  
Marisol  
French. Image courtesy of the Detroit Institute of Arts

**President's Message**

The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MIICRC) is moving full steam ahead with the process of redrawing the maps for both Congressional and State districts. I am pleased to announce that four of our members have stepped forward to serve on the Communities of Interest (COI) team. Thanks to Lauri Kingsbury, Carol Lufburrow, Judy Masserang and Cathy McAdam for volunteering to work on this project. We will provide further updates on the work of the MIICRC as it becomes available.

Local leagues will be holding town halls during April to educate communities about the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting

Commission, focusing on public participation, especially as it relates to "Communities of Interest". More details to follow.

Thanks to the over 29 members who participated in our Lame Duck Study during our program planning meeting on January 26. I was impressed and humbled by the participation and excellent feedback all provided. A final report of our discussion has been submitted to the LWVMI for their use in establishing a possible advocacy position.

*DEFENDING DEMOCRACY* is the theme for the League of Women Voters of Michigan's 2021 Biennial Convention. The convention will be held virtually this year and will run from 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 21, through 5:00 on Saturday, May 22. It will include all the features you are used to seeing at an in-person convention: plenaries, workshops, awards, panel discussions, and even a silent auction. Our League can send 6 voting delegates to the convention. The cost is \$75 for delegates and \$35 for non-delegates. If you are interested in attending the convention, please let me know. The 2021 convention will be fully accessible to voting delegates and non-voting members.

I was pleased to attend a virtual webinar sponsored by LWVUS: *Voter Registration: Maintaining Our Momentum* on February 11. There was excellent information on initiatives from local leagues on voter registration during the pandemic. Also presented were strategies on how to motivate voters during a local election year.

Your Board of Directors continues to do excellent work related to programs, membership, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, communications, maintaining our financial records, working on voter services initiatives, and streamlining our job descriptions and other working documents of the League. If you'd like to attend our virtual Board meetings, they are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting is March 16, 7:00 p.m. Please let me know if you'd like to attend so we can send you the Zoom link.

In the meantime, stay safe and get those vaccines!

Judy Florian, President  
League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe  
[jflo@comcast.net](mailto:jflo@comcast.net)  
313-402-6786

## Voter Services Notes

### Your Government Officials (YGO) Brochure

Our 2021 brochures are ready to be disseminated throughout the Pointes and Harper Woods. Because of Covid restrictions, we have ordered only 2,000 at this time. Thanks to Sandy Barrett, Marge Freundl, Mary Jo Johnson, and Val Kindle for their help in distributing them to city halls, high schools, and libraries!

### Upcoming Elections

This year we could have government elections in May (proposals) and August (primary) and will have a local election in November (general). There have been several LWVMI Voter Service meetings, attracting 50 or more members from throughout the State of Michigan. Topics have included working with local clerks, Vote411 changes, voter registration and the election process.

Mary Zahler, LWVGP VP for Voter Services

## Learn about Advocacy on the state level

### LWVMI Advocacy Committee Invites YOU to Learn More

What kind of advocacy is LWVMI doing on Line 5 and other environmental issues, voting rights, prison reform, education, gun safety? How can you advocate in your own community? Come join the LWVMI Advocacy Committee on Zoom, March 23, at 7 p.m. to discuss these issues and more.

If you're interested, contact President Judy Florian for more information.

NOTE: This information was included in the most recent LWVMI newsletter, [League Links](#).

## March Program Focus: Covid and Homelessness

The guest speaker for our March 23, 2021 program is Dana Paglia King, MSW candidate at Wayne State University's School of Social Work. Dana currently works as a Housing Resource Community Coordinator, where she helps clients advocate for mental health services, primary care physicians, and long-term housing supports, among other needs.

Prior to discovering social work, she earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from WSU and spent time volunteering at Gleaners Community Food Bank in Detroit. Her undergraduate capstone project was on improving current systems for chronic homelessness in Detroit. Dana was awarded the 2020 Student Leadership in Diversity Scholarship by the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

[Register here](#) for the program which is via Zoom. Registrants will receive the link the DAY of the program.

## Membership at 98!

Our LWVGP is pleased to have 98 members supporting our mission of strengthening democracy.

Welcome to two new members who recently joined: Wendy Saigh and

her daughter Ally!

Wendy Saigh has lived with her husband and three children in Grosse Pointe Woods for over 25 years. She has always been a regularly active member of the community. She joined the League because she would like to help raise voter awareness in the community and increase voter registration.

Ally Saigh is a graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School and is currently a sophomore at Molloy College, Long Island, NY. She is a goaltender for Molloy's field hockey team. Her major is Political Science, with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Business. She joined LWV because she is interested in politics. The League seemed to be a good fit for her so she decided to join at the same time as her mother. Ally would like to volunteer her time to help increase voter engagement.

### **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**

### **Speaker Challenges LWV to consider a new paradigm**

Our February 24, 2021 LWVGP Zoom program targeted the use of data to strategize in promoting a diverse membership. We were joined by representatives from other SE Michigan Chapters. Our guest speaker was Daniel Baxter, presently Special Administrative Consultant to the Detroit City Clerk.



He described early 20th century US population shifts from the South to North for job opportunities, known as the Great Migration. Changes in Wayne County US Census data were compared from 2000 to 2010, with nearly a 25% overall population decline with movement to other parts of Michigan and out of state. Racial composition changes over that decade were compared in the cities of Grosse Pointe Farms and Dearborn. GPF experienced a reduction in the white population with an increase in Black and Asian-Americans and other non-white citizens. In contrast, Dearborn had an overall increase in population, notably in white (including Arab American) and Black residents, and a decrease in

the population of persons identified as "two or more races."

Mr. Baxter proposed strategies to help the League become a more diverse and welcoming organization:

- Forge new relationships with community organizations (churches, colleges, and universities, within and contiguous to the city). "Go where the people are whom we want to recruit";
- Expand use of technology (TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat);
- Work with city clerks to identify then reach out to newly registered voters and provide education;
- Develop short, succinct messages. Our targeted populations have multiple priorities and like short presentations. Mr. Baxter presented a brief 1-minute **LWV video**;
- Review our branding for possible changes;
- Use word of mouth recruitment. Use our children and grandchildren as sounding boards for suggestions on how to recruit a younger, more diverse population (what are their specific needs? how we can relate those to registering and voting?);
- Be more aggressive in our approach to voter apathy; relate apathy to threats to our democracy.

Mr. Baxter responded to many questions, and concluded with these thoughts: we are trying to create a new League, and we need a new approach for this new paradigm, with the goal that everyone who is eligible is registered and everyone who is registered votes. Exercise your right to vote and keep your community's condition in shape.

View the presentation on our **LWVGP YouTube Channel**.

### **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](mailto:stormmimi@yahoo.com).

-- **Wilhelmina Giblin**, DEI Director

## **LWVGP Book Club Discussing History Through Different Lens**

In October 2020, our Chapter's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee sponsored the program, "Weaving the Fabric of Diversity," led by Dr Anthony Riegel of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. This was followed by a query of our membership to determine interest in forming a book study group. Dr Riegel volunteered to facilitate a discussion of Howard Zinn's **A People's History of the United States**.

A group of 21 Grosse Pointe and Detroit League of Women Voters members, plus a few additional participants, began its biweekly discussion in January. Dr. Riegel is helping us examine US history from an alternative lens, a view not traditionally seen in our educational system. The descriptions of racism, economic status, and the conquering of native Americans have caused us to examine past

misperceptions, hard truths, and offered an opportunity for sharing deeply felt experiences. It is a privilege to share and listen to the relevance of this history for real-life situations today.

This book is not an easy read, and if left to my own devices, I would have given up! The group discussion brings poignant examples of racism experienced today and underlines the truth of white privilege. As of mid-February, we've moved through the Spanish and English settlements in the New World to early wars and the American Revolution. We will soon be reading about women as "the intimately oppressed," "the other Civil War," and then progress into more current history.

Cathy McAdam, DEI Committee

## **LWVGP Website: Lots of Information!**

Several months ago, we transitioned to a NEW website for our LWV Grosse Pointe. Find the site at [www.lwvgrossepointe.org](http://www.lwvgrossepointe.org)

Please visit and see all the information there, including the link to register for our March program, links to our YouTube Channel with videos of past events and candidate forums, and more!

Thanks to our website manager Kathy Gardner, a member of the Communications Committee, who maintains the site.

## **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.

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.

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

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

**Email:** [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com)

**Website:** [lwvgrossepointe.org](http://lwvgrossepointe.org)

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

**LWVGP on YouTube**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY\\_2SB30w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w)