



The Voter Newsletter February 2022

*Serving the communities of
Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park,
Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, and Harper Woods
Since 1950*

Calendar

- Thursday, February 3** - Observer Corps Orientation, 7 p.m., via Zoom.
Wednesday, February 9 - Program on What U.S. History Do We Teach in Our Schools, 7 p.m., via Zoom.
Monday, February 14 - LWVUS celebrates 102 years! Happy Birthday!
Tuesday, February 15 - LWVGP Observer Corps Committee and Observers Meeting 6 - 6:45 p.m., via Zoom.
Tuesday, February 15 - LWVGP Board Meeting, 7 p.m., via Zoom.
Monday, February 28 - LWVGP DEI Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., via Zoom

President's Message

History. We are living in times that will be in our history books. Thank you for being part of it as we continue to march toward a more perfect union. The results of your efforts abound:

What U.S. History Do We Teach in Our Schools? Have you signed up for our February public program? We promoted this DEI initiative to our own League and to our partner, the Grosse Pointes & Harper Woods NAACP, first, but there may still be spaces available to reserve your spot for this Zoom presentation and ask your own questions. If no space remains, watch for it on our YouTube channel after February 9. Find out the facts before your next teacher conference or Board of Education meeting. Sign up via our website at lwvgrossepointe.org

This month, our league, at its Program Planning meeting, voted to support the nationwide Campaign for Making Democracy Work. If the majority of leagues in the country support this mission when the LWVUS national convention meets in Denver in June, all leagues will continue to have a focus on voting for the next two years. Our league also voted to support a focus on Climate Change and DC Statehood as we believe both are important issues grounded in voting rights. As we create our own history, we recognize that there are plenty of voting issues remaining.

Speaking of voting issues, let's NOT make history this month. The petitions for Secure MI Vote are still out there and you DON'T have to sign. This is your reminder that this petition is all about voter suppression and will be hijacked by the Michigan Legislature and approved without the possibility of a veto and without the possibility of a new referendum to quash it, due to the one-year appropriation clause. Tell a friend.

Why LWV opposes the SecureMI petition

<https://lwvmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/PR-SecureMiVote10-11-21.pdf>

**** MORE to come to the membership this week
about how LWVMI will be working to ensure voter rights.**

As we recognize Black History Month, let's take a moment to recognize that our own LWV members, both on and off the DEI committee, work tirelessly to ensure that our league honors its commitment to diversity in all its forms. For those ready to take a first step while discussing a great book, join with LWVGP and our partner, the GP Public Library and their "Thoughts to Action Book Club" on Thursday evenings. Sign up [HERE](#) to join the discussion.

And finally, it's a birthday month The LWV will be 102 on February 14. Celebrate the long history of the women who fought for voting rights before us and recognize our part in continuing to make historic change.

Sue Acton, President LWVGP. shacton@gmail.com 313 434-5768

President Acton Speaks at GP Sunrise Rotary

President Sue Acton and Membership Director Marge Freundl attended a Sunrise Rotary Club meeting at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House Activity Center on January 25, 2022.

Sue presented information on the League including local activities and LWV positions.

Rotary members participated live and virtually, and were very engaged with several good questions and positive feedback.

We also received commitments for a new LWV membership and a donation. An offer was extended to return if the Rotary members would like an update.

If you belong to a local group that may be interested in learning about LWVGP, please



contact Marge or Diana Domin, Membership Directors, to arrange.

Program on Feb. 9: Last Call to Register for "What History is Being Taught in our Schools"

LWVGP VP for Programs Joan Richardson has lined up an interesting panel for this presentation. More details and the registration link are on the home page of our website at <https://lwvgrossepointe.org/>

- Registrants will receive an email this week, notifying them of their registration for the live presentation. The Zoom link will be sent on Feb. 9.
- Waiting list registrants will receive an email this week, notifying them of their wait list status, and that they will be sent a link to the video on Feb. 10.

Annual Program Planning - What's Next

Our annual program planning on January 11 was fruitful! President Sue Acton is preparing our LWVGP responses to LWVUS. Thanks to Marge Freundl, Diana Domin, Lauri Kingsbury, and Judy Florian who are helping Sue prepare the report.

At the June 2022 national convention, delegates will determine the focus of LWVUS for the next two years, based on local league responses.

About the LWVUS National Convention

This year's LWVUS convention is in Denver, June 23 - 29, and will be a hybrid! This means that while we can send delegates in person, or virtually, more people will be able to see what's going on at the national level. More information as the spring approaches.

Voter Services Update: New YGO Ready

While it has been cold, the Voter Services team is hot! The group gathered to organize the distribution of the YGO - Your Government Officials, and now there are hundreds of these brochures throughout the community - at libraries, city halls, and more. [A copy is also on our website](#), under the Voting tab, Contact Your Local Officials.

Thanks to these members who assisted at the home of Mary Garlough in early January: Diana Domin, Catherine Dumke, Lauri Kingsbury, Nancy Labadie, Laura Larson, and Judy Masserang.

Voter Services will be working on high school voter registration projects in the spring, as well as continuing efforts with city clerk engagement prior to the elections.

New Board Member

Susan Stanley has taken on the Assistant Treasurer role for LWVGP.

We thank Sandy Barrett who assumed this role two years ago when the late George McMullen became ill. Sandy's family commitments have increased recently, but we know she continues to support the work of LWVGP.

The assistant treasurer handles our "Action Log," which is the process LWVGP uses to keep track of money in (memberships and donations), and make bank deposits. This person works closely with the Treasurer. Welcome to the board, Sue!

Successful Donation Drive

Thanks to our members and all those who contributed to LWVGP in our recent fundraising drive. These donations will assist us with our efforts to continue to inform our communities on candidates for office and officials in office plus the assistance needed to draw new district maps.

LWVGP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; your dues and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Treasurer Carol Lufburrow has issued everyone a letter confirming the dues and donations received over the calendar year 2021. These letters were emailed to you from our league Gmail account; you should have received them no later than Monday, January 31. In situations where an email hasn't been provided, hard copy letters were dropped off to the street address on record.

If you did NOT receive your letter, please notify [Carol via email](#) so she can re-issue your letter.

Observer Corps News: Another Training Feb. 3

Our LWVGP Observer Corps is up and running! A second orientation/training session will be held this Thursday, February 3, via Zoom.

Contact Observer Corps Co-Chair [Lauri Kingsbury](#) to sign up 313.854.0147



Even if you don't plan to be an observer due to other commitments, consider joining the orientation session anyway to learn more - the Open Meetings Act, how the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is an important aspect of our local governments, and more.

Quarterly Catchup

The Observer Corps Committee and Observers will meet (via Zoom) for a quarterly sharing session on Tuesday, February 15, from 6 - 6:45 p.m., prior to the LWVGP Board Meeting at 7 p.m.

The group will share experiences and trade ideas for strengthening our efforts to make sure we are keeping our local government entities transparent!

Note!!

This November, LWVMI will be recruiting League members to observe County Boards of Canvassers as they certify election results of the November 8th General Election.

The knowledge you gain from our orientation session will be valuable when watching these Boards of Canvassers meetings.

Membership Continues to Grow

We continue to add new members as members of our community recognize the importance and value of LWV in ensuring voter rights. We are up to 105!

Our Membership Directors, Marge Freundl and Diana Domin, offered a second 21-22 new member orientation via Zoom a few weeks ago.

Sad Note

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Myrt Everett earlier this month. Myrt was a long-time LWV member, and was President of our LWVGP 1969-1971. Among her many accomplishments, Myrt attended the first International Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995. [Read more](#)

The LWVGP Board approved memorial donations to LWVMI in memory of Myrt, Fran Schonenberg (who passed late 2021), and Ann Kondak (who passed in September 2020). All three were "giants" in our LWVGP.

DEI News

Thoughts to Action Book Club

This book discussion group, led by GP Librarian Annie Spence, will be meeting the 4th Thursday of the month, at 7 p.m. The next round began Thursday, January 27. Contact [Marge Freundl](#) for more information.

Local Positions: Education

The LWVGP Board has approved the establishment of an exploratory committee to evaluate our current local position on Education. The position hasn't been

updated in several years, and the board agreed it is time to take a look, see what the national and state positions are, as well as other Michigan league positions, and make a recommendation to move forward or affirm the position as it stands.

The position reads:

- Support the concept of community education.
- Support and encourage the public schools to provide an appropriate class size for effective teaching, provide an adequate school social worker program, meet the needs of children with special requirements.
- Support Wayne County Community College.

The LWVGP Board would particularly like to have LWVGP members who also have children in school to participate.

How Does This All Work?

Establishing a position is the first step in developing advocacy. This group will first be reviewing the national and state positions, as well as other local positions. The next step is to gather input on what other pieces might be part of our local position.

- For example, if members thought that there should be llamas on school grounds, the first step would be to study the issue, pros and cons, and propose this position.
- After the members approved the position, then the advocacy would begin, for example, supporting a ballot proposal to establish a llama barn at each elementary school.

While talking about education is one thing, consider "walking the talk" and becoming involved in beginning a systematic evaluation of our local positions.

Contact Vicki Granger via lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com

Board - through June 30, 2022

Executive Board Elected

- President: Sue Acton *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Vice President: Program Joan Richardson *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Vice President: Voter Services Mary Zahler *term to expire June 30, 2022*
- Secretary: Judy Masserang *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow *term to expire June 30, 2022*

On-Board Directors Elected

- Director (Voter Services) Mary Garlough *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Director (Membership) Diana Domin *term to expire June 30, 2022*
- Director (Membership) Marge Freundl *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Director (Program) Catherine Dumke Derbyshire *term to expire June 30, 2022*

On-Board Directors Appointed by the President for one-year terms

- Sue Stanley - Assistant Treasurer

- Wilhelmina Giblin - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair
- Vicki Granger - Communications, Voter Co-Editor, Observer Corps Co-Chair
- Lauri Kingsbury - Nominating Committee Chair, Observer Corps Co-Chair

Off-Board Directors Appointed by the President for one-year terms

- Judy Florian- Publicity, Voter Co-Editor
- Connie Frey - Education (Observer Corps)
- Kathy Gardner - Webmaster
- Ann Nicholson - Historian

Nominating Committee Lauri Kingsbury (chair), Mary Garlough, Joan Morris

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 **ages 16 and older**.

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/>

Twitter: [@LWVofGP](https://twitter.com/LWVofGP)

Blog: <https://leagueofwomensvotersgrossepointe.blogspot.com/>

LWVGP on YouTube

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

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