



The Voter Newsletter January 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

Tuesday, January 11 LWVGP Program Planning

Monday, January 17 MLK Day [Learn more about Voting Rights](#)

Wednesday, January 19 LWVGP Monthly Board Meeting

Thursday, January 20 LWVGP New Member Orientation

Monday, January 24 LWVGP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Thursday, January 27 Thoughts to Action Book Club

Wednesday, February 9 LWVGP Program open to the public: *What U.S. History Do We Teach in Our Schools?*

*** Unless noted, all programs are at 7 p.m.*

President's Message

Organization. January is often a time for “getting our house in order.” That works for a League too. First, this is the month we consider the organization, direction, and purpose of the National LWV at our Annual January Program Planning meeting. It’s a great way to be inspired to start the year. *See Program Planning article in this newsletter.*

Local organization matters too!

- I recognize our help in organizing a VERY successful outcome to the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC). Our members helped drive the ballot proposal, educated the public before and after the vote, encouraged citizens and local governments to provide input on the proposed maps, and supported local MICRC meetings. WOW! Take a bow, LWVGP and the members who dedicated so much to this. *See the article in this newsletter.*
- Voter Services just completed our annual “Your Government Officials” brochure which organizes all the changes in our local governments following the November election.
- The Program Committee has organized some excellent programs including a joint effort with our DEI group in February about our schools.

- Our Observer Corps not only had a very successful training session in November for new Observers who will keep us updated on local issues in government, but word of this success spread to another League, Oakland Area, who requested our services.
- Does this inspire you to bring a friend along? Are you a new member who missed the November Orientation? We have another New Member Orientation coming up and you will be contacted by our Membership Co-Directors Marge Freundl and Diana Domin.
- Finally, in case this leads you to think we are only about work, organization and achievement, enjoy these pictures from our December cookie exchange. It was so much fun to (finally) gather face to face. And the cookies, candy and bread were delicious!

Hoping to see you all on Zoom on January 11th.

Sue Acton, President LWVGP

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- *Above:* LWVGP members gathered at the home of Pres. Sue Acton.
- *Below left:* Sue Acton, Kathy Gardner, Judy Masserang, and Marge Freundl.
- *Below right:* Sue's outdoor fireplace kept the group warm and toasty.



Annual Program Planning Meeting is January 11

It's a Zoom meeting on January 11 at 7 p.m. for the entire LWVGP membership. Pre-COVID, it was also a chance to have dinner together. But dinner or not, we have a lot to talk about because this is a National LWV Convention Year. We get this chance to learn about and impact the National agenda only every other year. The League calls it Program Planning and discussions take place all over the country in January through March to prepare for the biennial convention in Denver. We encourage you to attend and share your thoughts.

We will also include an update from our LWVGP Committees – a report about our own LWVGP Program Planning. We'll compare our accomplishments and plans to the Strategic Plan we adopted in June 2020. (hint: it's a great story).

Please register your intention to attend; you will receive the Zoom link the day of the meeting. [Register here](#)

Redistricting Commission Adopts Fair Maps

On December 28, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) adopted three map plans for the U. S. House, state Senate, and state House. These are the first maps in our state's history drawn using the fair and transparent redistricting process approved by more than 2 million voters in 2018. This is an historic time, as citizens, not politicians, drew and chose the political boundaries for our Legislature and U. S. House.

The Commission worked tirelessly this year drawing maps, conducting public hearings and revising maps based on the public's comments. The proposed maps each bear the names of trees found in Michigan's forests, orchards, and backyards.

The final maps selected are as follows:

- 13 Congressional Districts: Chestnut
- 38 State Senate Districts: Linden

- 110 State House Districts: Hickory

Here is a link to the maps.

https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/0,10083,7-418-107190_108607---,00.html

A constitutional majority of two Democrats, two Republicans, and two unaffiliated members was needed to formally adopt the map plan.

We are pleased that members of our League were actively involved in the Redistricting Process from the very beginning. First, our League participated in the petition drive in 2018 to get Proposal 2 on the ballot. Initiated by Voters Not Politicians, our League members assisted with securing more than 425,000 signatures from registered Michigan voters to allow the proposal to appear on the ballot. In addition, Our Communities of Interest team, Lauri Kingsbury, Carol Lufburrow, Cathy McAdam and Judy Florian, worked with local citizens and organizations this past year to define communities of interest and assist with map drawing. Sue Acton, Laura Larson, Judy Masserang, Marge Freundl and Mary Rouleau also worked at a Public Hearing at the TCF Center in October.

There is expected legal action before these maps become law. We will provide additional updates when available.

Time is Running Out to View Exhibit

Don't forget-the traveling version of the [Smithsonian exhibit, *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America*](#) is still at the GP War Memorial Carriage House through January 8.

The exhibit explores the origins of American democracy, the struggles to obtain and keep the vote, the machinery of democracy, the right to petition and protest beyond the ballot and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Several of our members have visited the exhibit and highly recommend it.

The exhibit is free, but you must register for a specific time. Go to this link:

<https://www.warmemorial.org/voicesandvotes>



Voter Services Update: New YGO Ready

Thanks to our Voter Services Director Mary Garlough who has updated the 2022 Your Government Officials (YGO). This is a listing of all our local, state, and national elected officials. This brochure is distributed to local city halls and libraries, as well as other public places. Pick up some extras to give to friends

too. Knowing who to contact is a first step in advocacy. They will be available at these locations after January 10.

The YGO is also available on our website, under the Voting tab, at this [link](#). We encourage you to download your copy from our website. Contact [Mary Garlough](#) if you are interested in helping with distribution.

LWVGP is working with GP South High School, which has signed up for the MI Vote Matters High School Registration Challenge. This initiative, co-sponsored by the Secretary of State and Michigan Department of Education, encourages high schools across Michigan to help connect students with their right to vote through civic education and nonpartisan voter registration drives. Schools can strive for the highest voter registration rate and earn recognition from the Secretary of State for the percentage of eligible seniors who have registered or pre-registered.

Registration events will take place during the Spring.

February Program Focuses on Education

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe will be hosting a program: *What U.S. History Do We Teach in Our Schools?* via Zoom from 7 - 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9. The program will also be recorded for future viewing.

Learning the story of our country is a crucial part of every child's education. But which story do we tell and who decides? Our program committee has assembled a panel of speakers to help attendees learn more about the state's history standards which guide curriculum for all Michigan public schools and, in particular, what children are learning about American history in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools.

We will invite members of the community to submit questions and also will accept questions during the program.

Observer Corps News

- **Where are the LWVGP Observers?** Our revitalized Observer Corps is now paying attention to city council and other meetings in our community: Joan Hall at the GP Farms Council, Dawn Drozd at HW Council, Melissa Levasseur, Deb Sloss, and Laura VerBeek at GP Park Council. Catherine Dumke attends GP Woods council meetings. Melissa also attends Great Lakes Water Authority meetings. Connie Frey continues to monitor the GP School Board meetings.
- **Training Session Will Be in February** We're taking our show on the (virtual) road! Oakland Area LWV asked us to provide training for their newly formed Observer Corps. Co-chair Lauri Kingsbury will conduct a training session for Oakland Area League members sometime in February. Oakland Area co-presidents Maria Woloson and Jim Treharne generously reserved four seats for GP League members.

If you are interested in joining LWVGP's active and engaged Observers, please contact [Lauri Kingsbury](#)

New Members Orientation is January 20

New members, as well as existing members, are invited to learn more about LWVGP and opportunities to become involved with our LWV mission *Empowering voters. Defending democracy.*

Be sure to contact [Marge Freundl](#) to be on the list for the Zoom link for the new member orientation.

DEI News

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee has changed its meeting to the 4th Monday of the month, at 7 p.m. The group's next meeting is Monday, January 24, 2022. Contact [Wilhelmina Giblin](#), DEI Chair, if interested in participating.

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 begins Thursday, January 27. The book to be discussed has not yet been determined. Contact [Marge Freundl](#) for more information.

Supporting LWVGP

Our thanks to the following who have generously donated to LWVGP during our fall finance drive.

- Susan Acton
- Laurie Coplin
- Catherine Dumke
- Judy Florian
- Aimee Fluitt
- Marge Freundl
- Connie Frey
- Wilhelmina Giblin
- Mary Jo Johnson
- Judy Masserang
- Marcia Powell
- Joseph Sarnecki
- Steve Trowbridge
- Mary Zahler

If you haven't donated yet, please think about a contribution soon. While we are meeting on Zoom, for which we pay an annual fee, there are expenses, such as the printing of Your Government Officials (YGO) brochure that is being distributed to local city halls, libraries, and other locations accessible to the public. Our LWVGP only keeps \$5 of each member's dues amount. The rest goes to LWVMI, which is working diligently with other nonprofits to preserve voting rights, and to LWVUS, which continues to work actively on the Making Democracy Work efforts.

The League of Women Voters is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donation is tax-deductible as permitted by law.

Check our website for [Donation](#) details.

Seeking Members for Board Positions

Contact Nominating Committee Chair Lauri Kingsbury, lauri.kingsbury@icloud.com, if you are interested in serving on the board as an elected officer or director.

Our LWVGP needs YOU to consider taking on a more active role in ensuring we meet our mission.

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

- Sandy Barrett - 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

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

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

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

LWVGP on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w

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