

The Voter Newsletter
April 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

April 13: LWVMI Statewide Observations Corps Zoom, 3 p.m.

April 19: LWVGP Board Meeting Zoom, 7 p.m.

April 25: LWVGP DEI Committee Zoom, 7 p.m.

April 30: LWVMI Spring Workshop Zoom, 1 p.m.

May 10: LWVGP Membership Committee Zoom, 7 p.m.

May 18: LWVGP Annual Meeting - location TBD

** visit the [Membership Events](#) only page on the website, under About Us



Above: March 23, 2022 Program at GP United Methodist
LWVGP President Sue Acton, GP City Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak, HW Mayor
Valerie Kindle, GPP Mayor Michele Hodges, LWVGP VP Program Joan
Richardson.

President's Message

Inspiration. Where do you find your inspiration? As a member of the LWV, I hope you are finding non-partisan, political inspiration in everything we do.

- I was inspired by the support for our women mayors at our recent program and for the leadership they demonstrated. I also found joy in working together and meeting together, *in person*, under the leadership of our Program Directors. [View the recording](#) of the evening on our YouTube channel. The message is very much worth your time.
- I've been inspired by watching our membership grow steadily, month-by-month, as our community is protecting our democracy by pro-actively promoting voter education and participation.
- I've been inspired by the success of our Nominating Committee in bringing a complete slate of (outstanding, IMHO) nominees. We are grateful that so many excellent candidates want to join our leadership team.
- I've been inspired by our reinvigorated Observer Corps, our new Climate Change Action Group, and the continuing support for our DEI Committee and our Voter Services offerings. These are open to all members, please call the directors to join in.

I'm hoping *you have already been inspired* to step beyond BEING a member. While we appreciate all our members, even those who watch as others "take a turn" in leadership, we need many more of our members to "DO DEMOCRACY" this year. Democracy is a participation sport and now is the time more than ever. Here are three places we need your help.

- **Promote the Vote 2022.** See PTV2022 below – both our League leadership and the LWVMI are calling for "all hands on deck."
- **Voter Registration at GP North.** See Voter Services below for your chance to register High School seniors on Friday, April 29.
- **Candidate Forums.** It's not too early to think about Candidate Forums. It's at the core of what we do and new members work with a seasoned crew. Dates in June TBD based on candidate applications.

And finally, in an effort to continue inspiring you to "DO DEMOCRACY" this Spring, there are two education/training opportunities coming up (see below). Both of these are for LWV members; if you want to bring a guest, ask them to [become a member](#) first.

LWVMI Spring Workshop, April 30, 1 pm-3:15 pm. Join members from local Leagues from across the state to get the knowledge and tools to advocate effectively. [Register here.](#)

LWVGP Annual Meeting, May 18. Save the evening now and plan to be inspired. First, our program offering is all about the Freedom to Read (see below). Participating actively in our annual meeting follows. We review where we've been and plan where we are going next. Voting is a highlight: for both our new leadership (see the Nominating Committee report below) and the budget (coming next month).

Inspired by all you do,

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



Promote the Vote 2022 (PTV2022)

<https://promotethevote2022.com/>

PTV2022 is a ballot initiative sponsored by Promote the Vote and **14 partners** (including LWVMI) to change the Michigan Constitution. This ballot proposal will enshrine in our constitution some of the things that make our elections secure and fair already, especially some rights that some current voter suppression bills and petitions are trying to take away this year.

Across the state, PromoteTheVote and its partners need to get 425,000+ signatures by mid-July to put a Michigan Constitutional Amendment on the ballot this November. This is a huge undertaking and LWVGP is committed to gathering at least 1,000 signatures - that's 100 petitions. If everyone in LWVGP circulated just **one** petition, we would reach our goal!

We will need you whether you are able to take one petition to your book club or whether you are able to get 200 signatures by choosing a street location or event. Details, instructions and petitions are on the way. You'll get a separate email about this as soon as petitions arrive. Think about whether you will get 10 or 200 signatures, then email me at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com

– Vicki Granger, LWVGP Chair, Promote the Vote 2022

Voter Services: Student Voter Registration, Candidate Forums

Student Voter Registration is always an exciting event as we register students who are at least 17 ½ years old. This will be the first time since 2019 that we have been able to do these events in person.

We will hold an in-person Student Voter Registration event at Grosse Pointe North High School on Friday, April 29, 7:45 a.m.-12:20 p.m.. Voter Services

Director Mary Garlough is handling this event. We still need volunteers, so please contact Mary if you're available.

We will not conduct voter registration activities at Grosse Pointe South and Harper Woods. Both schools have signed up for the Secretary of State's MI Vote Matters High School Registration Challenge and will be doing their own events this year.

Candidate Forums for the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods School Boards, along with our State Representatives, will be conducted this year. Forums won't be scheduled until we determine how many candidates have applied to run for office: the deadline to apply is April 19. Our LWVGP forums for these elections will take place in June for the August Primary, and in September for the November General Election. We eagerly anticipate that our forums will be in person. We will need moderators, greeters, question gatherers and question sorters. Please contact Mary Zahler or Mary Garlough if you would like to help with the forums.

-- Mary Zahler, VP Voter Services, 313-701-5860 maryzahler@hotmail.com

-- Mary Garlough, Director Voter Services, 313-530-4698 marygarlough@gmail.com

Program Notes

Our May 18 Annual Meeting Program, *The Freedom to Read: Who Decides What You Can Read?* with featured speaker, Jessica Keyser, Director, Grosse Pointe Public Library. She will speak on the topic of how our local libraries make decisions about what books go on the shelves and which ones don't. We will also explore recent issues related to banning books in other communities.

More information on the meeting location and a registration link will be in the May Voter newsletter.

– Joan Richardson, VP Program
and Catherine Dumke Derbyshire, Director Program

Membership News

Congratulations

Joan Richardson is the co-author of a recently published book, *Equity Warriors*, about how to advance equity and raise the achievement of all children. Read more at the [publisher's website](#) (Joan is shown at right as she moderated the March 23 Panel.)



Applause! Applause!

Laura Verbeek is appearing in the Grosse Pointe Theatre's production of "I Hate Hamlet," which opens on April 1 at Parcels Middle School. [Ticket info.](#)

Joining is easier than ever!

Visit the Membership page on the website and note we have updated our PayPal instructions. Please note that PayPal offers LWV a lower rate because we are a non-profit, so when someone clicks the button to join and pay via PayPal, the screen shows the word "Donate." This is common with other groups, such as the Soroptomists. Our membership grows every month and we truly need all hands on deck for our efforts to preserve voting rights, for our Voter Services candidate forums, for our Observer Corps, our Membership Committee, our DEI Committee, and for our Climate Change Action Committee.

Membership Directory

Members will receive a separate email with a link to the Membership Directory. Please bookmark the link. The document is continually updated as new members join or contact information changes, but the link remains the same.

Sad News

Longtime member Mary Younke passed away March 4, 2022. Until recently, when Mary moved to The Rivers in Grosse Pointe Woods, she had been an active member. [Read more](#)

Nominating Committee Report

Our LWVGP Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of candidates to the LWVGP Board at its March 2022 meeting. These nominees will be voted on at the LWVGP Annual Meeting. Kudos to our hard-working Nominating Committee: Lauri Kingsbury (Chair), Joan Patrick Morris and Mary Garlough. Read more about each nominee on the [LWVGP Blog](#).

President-Elect: Lynne Pierce

VP Voter Services: Lauri Read

Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow

Director (Program): Dawn Drozd

Director (Membership): Catherine Dumke-Derbyshire

Nominating Committee Chair: Judy Gafa

Nominating Committee: Laura Larson

DEI Highlights

League member Cathy McAdam served on the March 8, 2022 panel sponsored by the Detroit League of Women Voters titled *Voting Access: The Disability Story*. Items discussed included challenges disabled voters face at the polls, including

bringing a friend to assist with voting and disrespect/lack of empathy by some poll workers. [Here is a link](#) to the presentation.

TEDTalk Video recommended by the DEI Committee

This video, *The Urgency of Intersectionality*, suggests that we boldly look at the reality of race and gender bias and understand how the two can combine to create even more harm. Kimberlé Crenshaw, Professor of Law and UCLA Law School, uses the term *intersectionality* to describe this phenomenon; If we can't see the problem, we can't fix the problem-need action and transformation. [Here is a link](#) to the TEDTalk.

Observer Corps

LWVGP Observer Corps members now attend city council, school board, library board, and water board meetings. Members describe council meetings as “generally well-run” and “could be better attended by residents.”



Discussions center on “mundane,” “nuts and bolts” issues. There are interesting developments we are keeping our eyes on: master plan reviews, redevelopment discussions, stormwater management, and ongoing discussions at GP School Board meetings.

The Observer Corps is looking for more observers. We would like to observe meetings at all city councils, with enough observers so that we can continue observing during vacations and other “time off.”

Join our dynamic Corps! Contact Observer Corps Co-Chair Lauri Kingsbury at lauri.kingsbury@icloud.com or 313.854-0147.

– Observer Corps Co-Chairs Vicki Granger and Lauri Kingsbury

Climate Change Action Committee Holds Initial Meeting

Our LWVGP Climate Change Action Committee is rarin' to go! Read more on the [Blog at this link](#).

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: lwgrossepointe.org

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

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

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

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