



*The Voter Newsletter*  
**May - June 2023**

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

## **Calendar**

*All LWVGP Meetings and Programs are at 7 p.m.*

**May 11** Zoom call for Convention attendees 7pm - *Planning for Convention*

**May 17** LWVGP Annual Meeting - 7 pm GP Memorial Church, Fellowship Hall

**May 19-21** LWVMI Convention at Kellogg Center, East Lansing

**June 17** Pride Parade Table - GP Village

**June** LWVGP Board Meeting - TBD

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

## **President's Message**

**Priority** This message is a thank you note for making the LWVGP a priority in your life. Whether your focus as a member includes volunteering a lot or a little, attending our programs, advocating for change, or becoming more informed through our newsletters, this priority is valued. Here are a few highlights that are a result of this.

- **Our Program Committee** and our Board of Directors have prioritized planning a terrific Annual Meeting for all our members on Wednesday, May 17, 7 pm at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. Details are below. Caring about gun safety and learning how to work toward that might be your priority for the coming year. Please remember this is our Annual Meeting so we want a large proportion of our members ready to vote on nominations, a budget, a revised library position and plans for the new year. Please make it a priority, we would love to host ALL of you - and even your guest(s).

- **Our DEI and Program Committees** made it a priority to inform our members and guests about Health Equity in Michigan with a panel discussion on April 26 at Wayne County Community College in Harper Woods. If you made it a priority to attend, you came away with a new appreciation for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and its work in challenging inequities. See report below with link to the Health Equity Report. They offered to highlight successes and remaining gaps as part of our League commitment to DEI.
- Our **Voter Services Committee** has been active with high school voter registration as a priority. They have lots of volunteers for the high school voter registration efforts in May.
- Our **Observer Corps** continues to prioritize providing information to the board about activities in our local governments. More information below.

As I write this, the American Library Association (ALA) has just released its [Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2022](#). It's a record list of 13, because four books tied with 48 challenges each. It's also the highest total since the ALA started keeping records 20 years ago. Neither is something to be proud of. But because LWVGP members made it a priority, our recommendation to change the State's library position statement is going to the LWVMI convention May 19-21. With this change, LWV members all over the state can speak out against political interference for all library resources, just as all our LWVGP members have done since January.

As part of our "lobbying" to get the state library position amended, we would like to donate an auction item of a basket of banned books. If you have some banned books from the above list or any list on the ALA [website](#) and are willing to donate, we would love to have your item(s). Contact us via [lvvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lvvgrossepointe@gmail.com) and we will arrange to pick up! **Please let us know by Monday, May 8.**

Speaking of the LWVMI Convention, I would like to thank in advance, all the members of the LWVGP who have made League management, education, advocacy, and fun a priority by agreeing to be voting delegates (seven this year as a larger League) or non-voting delegates at the convention in East Lansing. Whether representing LWVGP or LWVMI, their dedication is appreciated. Dawn Drodz, Judy Florian, Marge Freundl, Connie Frey, Wilhelmina Giblin, Carol Lufburrow, Judy Masserang, Cathy McAdam, Julianne Phillips, Lynne Pierce, Sue Stanley, Mickie Verderbar, Tom Wells, and I will bring you more information from a jam-packed weekend when we return.

Sue Acton, President, LWVGP, [shacton@gmail.com](mailto:shacton@gmail.com) 313 434-5768

## Equity and Minority Health Program



Above: LWVGP members Wilhelmina Giblin and Cathy McAdam, Chair of the LWVGP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. With Cathy is her service dog Betty!

Approximately 25 people attended the April 26th program at Wayne County Community College titled *Equity and Minority Health*. The COVID-19 pandemic illuminated pervasive inequities among racial and ethnic minority populations but also presented opportunities for change.

The excellent panel of speakers included Jacquetta Hinton, Health Equity Specialist, Michigan Department of HHS, William Marshall, epidemiologist from the Office of Equity and Minority Health, Ponsella Hardaway, Executive Director, Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES) and Chardae Brockman, Program Director, Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH).

- [Slide Presentation](#)
- [Health Equity Report](#)

At right: LWVGP members at the April program. (From Left) Diana Domin, Lauri Kingsbury, Joan Morris and Mary Jo Johnson.



## Preview: LWVGP Annual Meeting on May 17

All members are invited to attend our LWVGP Annual Meeting on May 17, in the Fellowship Hall at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (next to the GP War Memorial). Our speaker is AnneMarie Rogers of Moms Demand Action who will speak about that group's work to fight for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence.

At the annual meeting, the membership will vote on:

The slate of candidates as presented by the Nominating Committee. [Read more](#) on our LWVGP website Blog.

- VP Programs: Dawn Drozd (2-year term)

- Director, Programs: Joan Richardson (1-year term)
- Director, Voter Services: Julianne Phillips (2 -year term)
- Director, Membership: Jaime Rae Turnbull (2-year term)
- Secretary: Judy Masserang (2-year term)
- Nominating Committee: Laura Larson, Chair, Judy Gafa, Committee member; an additional member is approved by the Board of Directors (1-year terms for all)

The 2023-2024 LWVGP budget [View the budget](#)

An affirming vote of the LWVGP local positions, including the amended library position approved by the membership at the January 2023 Program Planning meeting. [View local positions](#)

## Voter Services

Voter Services has a busy month ahead, with both high school voter registrations **and** observers at the Wayne County Board of Canvassers following the May 2 elections.

**High School Voter Registration** We are registering students at GP North on Monday, May 1, and at GP South on May 15. Thanks to Jaime Rae Turnbull who is providing cookies!

### **Wayne County Board of Canvassers**

A total of 68 Michigan counties have elections on May 2; in Wayne County, there are six elections involving city/township charters and school board millages. The Board of Canvassers will meet after Election Day to review and canvass the results.

We encourage members of the Observer Corps and other members to volunteer to attend the canvass meetings. It is anticipated there will be relatively low voter turnout, resulting in shorter than normal meetings.

The Sign-Up-Genius (SUG) is ready for volunteers to sign up for shifts to observe the Board of Canvassers. See below:

- No password or access code is needed to sign up.
- The start date, time and place of the BOC are all noted on the green text block when you open up your county.
- There are 2 spots for every shift in case you want to partner up. Partnering is **not necessary**, but the second slot has been added in case volunteers want to use it.
- Two attachments are in the green text block when you click on a county ---

the county list of elections and the Guidance (labeled "May 2023 SUG Attachment Final"). Since LWVMI is not offering any new training this cycle, volunteers read this guidance. A link to a past training is there plus the Shift Report Form link, which is also here: [Shift Report Form](#)

Here is the signup link for May BoC observations. Click [HERE](#).

### **Local League Legislative Interviews**

LWVMI has asked local Leagues to conduct interviews of state elected officials, the purpose of which is to build relationships and *listen*, not educate or advocate. The interviews cover five areas: environment, education, public health and safety, criminal legal reform, and priorities. We have been asked to coordinate with other local League chapters where the legislator's district covers more than one local League's area. We overlap districts with both the Macomb and Detroit Leagues. We will conduct interviews with the following:

- Senator Kevin Hertel, Michigan Senate District 12 (covers the Grosse Pointes and portions of Macomb County)
- House Speaker Joe Tate, Michigan House District 10 (covers portions of the Grosse Pointes and Detroit)
- Representative Veronica Paiz, Michigan House District 11 (covers portions of the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods, and Macomb County)

The interviews need to be completed by October 1, 2023. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee for these interviews, please contact Lauri Read at [lauri.read@gmail.com](mailto:lauri.read@gmail.com).

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

The LWVMI Membership Leaders' Network featured the topic *Having Difficult Conversations*. Presenter Freda Sampson provided suggestions for talking with those who are not like-minded with you. The link to the presentation and slides is below. Be sure to enter the passcode to access.

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- [Presentation Link](#)
- **Passcode:** z1FSb.fu

## **Membership Committee**

Welcome to the following new members

- Mickie Verderbar, GP
- Rebecca Hicks, GPW
- Diana Parlove, GP
- Irene Correia, GPF
- Belinda Krencicki (rejoined), GP

## Positions and Advocacy

We now have Observers in all six communities! LWVGP members attend meetings at city councils, planning commissions, library boards, Great Lakes Water Authority, and other public entities.

### **LWVGP Library Advocacy Position**

We have two public libraries in our community - Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe. At the January 2023 annual program planning meeting, members approved updating and strengthening our position on public libraries. **Marge Freundl**, Observer at GPPL board meetings, informed them about it and where it was welcomed with approval. **Dawn Drozd** spoke about it at a recent Harper Woods Library Board meeting; members replied that League support was “gratifying.” **Wendy Saigh** and **Connie Frey** continue to attend school board meetings where book challenges and bans at school libraries are an ongoing topic.

### **Water management infrastructure projects**

**Joan Hall** reports from the Farms about their \$40 million water management infrastructure improvement project. These meetings are well-attended by residents, with sometimes spirited discussions. **Julianne Phillips** now listens in at Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meetings. The April meeting ran more than two hours; it included a detailed presentation from consulting engineers on a proposed water management project. **Catherine Dumke** noted in a recent Woods council meeting that insurance payments for flood damage in 2021 were “slow in coming.” **Melissa Levasseur** attends Great Lakes Water Authority meetings which are well-run with strong attendance from community members. Data collection continues, a necessity for federal infrastructure improvement funding.

### **Emerging topic of public interest and possible Social Policy Advocacy issue**

Prudence Cole-Klimisch, president of The Helm, spoke at the Farms City Council meeting in March and the Shores meeting in April. **Joan Hall** and **Julianne Phillips** reported summaries of her presentations. Ms. Cole-Klimisch is asking city councils to explore a six-community agreement to help fund The Helm. At both meetings, Observers reported that several questions from council members about equitable disbursement of revenues. She has future presentations

scheduled for GP City, the Woods, GP Park, and Harper Woods. Observers in all six communities will keep a sharp eye on these discussions.

### More Observer news

Things are quiet at Grosse Pointe City meetings where **Andy Dervan** represents LWVGP. **Dawn Drozd** took note of a long-standing and bitter noise complaint at a recent Harper Woods City Council meeting. **Catherine Dumke** at the Woods City Council meetings reports that, although public attendance is low and residents sometimes mistake the public comments portion of the agenda for a Q & A session, council members are responsive to their concerns.

**Contact LWVGP!** To reach anyone on the board, with a question or a suggestion, or to volunteer, use the [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com) email address - your email will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

## Board through June 30, 2023

### Executive Board Elected

- President: Sue Acton *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- President Elect: Lynne Pierce *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Vice President Programs: Joan Richardson *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Vice President Voter Services: Lauri Read *term to expire June 30, 2024*
- Secretary: Judy Masserang *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow *term to expire June 30, 2024*

### On-Board Directors Elected

- Director (Voter Services) Mary Garlough *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Director (Membership) Catherine Dumke *term to expire June 30, 2024*
- Director (Membership) Marge Freundl *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Director (Program) Dawn Drozd *term to expire June 30, 2024*

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

- Sue Stanley - Assistant Treasurer
- Cathy McAdam - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair
- Vicki Granger - Communications, Voter Co-Editor, Observer Corps Co-Chair
- Lauri Kingsbury - Observer Corps Co-Chair
- Melissa Levasseur - Environmental Network

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

- Judy Florian- Publicity, Voter Co-Editor, Facebook
- Connie Frey - Finance Committee
- Kathy Gardner - Webmaster
- Sarah Coats - Vote411 Coordinator
- Annie Spence - Historian



**Nominating Committee** Judy Gafa (chair), Laura Larson, Marge Freundl

## **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](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com)

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

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

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

**LWVGP on YouTube**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPPhDvUY\\_2SB30w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPPhDvUY_2SB30w)

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

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