



The Voter Newsletter
July 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.

LWVGP Board Meeting - July 18, GP Memorial Church

LWVGP Picnic and group photo - August 30, Neff Park, GPC, at 6 p.m.

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

President's Message

Transitions. Over the past two years of my tenure, I have chosen a word or theme for each message. You may have noticed some themes: History, Power, Communication, Inspiration, and Voting. Today I circle back to where I began two years ago: Transitions.

We are a fortunate League as we make way for new leadership, new ideas, and a new vision. So congratulations, Lynne Pierce, on being the next one to steer this ship. I am thrilled at the way you have started the process. Let me share two examples to hint at what's to come.

- Lynne led the small group that took the position statement our League approved in January to the LWVMI in May. (You remember, the one that permits us, as a League, to make known our opposition to political interference in our library resources.) Leagues all over Michigan can speak out as well. Our efforts were so successful that you'll be hearing about our NEW board recommendation creating a position statement to speak out against political interference in our school's libraries soon. Also, we have been asked to take the library position nationwide: to the LWVUS convention next year. Big impact.
- Lynne has already begun steering us in the direction of a greater focus on Advocacy by: (1) continuing to be involved with our library and school library position development, (2) creating a new committee for Advocacy, and

recruiting the talented Lauri Kingsbury to chair it, and (3) working with LWVMI leaders on how to develop a 501(c)4 LWVGP to accompany our existing 501(c)3. You'll be hearing more about how that benefits us later this summer.

For just a moment, I want to look back at a terrific two years. I am very grateful for the members of this League who have helped us grow (literally and figuratively). We are 138 members strong as I write this, and we are a League that relies on its members, through its committees, for its success.

We are changing the world one day at a time through our collective action. Highlights of the past two years abound. We have put on timely, relevant, and informative Programming for our members and the public, conducted Candidate Forums for all levels of government, Observed and reported on scores of local meetings, conducted a Petition Drive for Proposal 2, registered hundreds of voters, helped with a dozen elections, monitored canvassing and expanded our commitment to DEI. Add our work on Vote411, GOTV, YGO, New Member Orientation, Leadership Training, MICRC, the beginnings of a Speaker's Bureau, plus those that work to make sure our finances are accurate, rosters are maintained, newsletters are written, publicity happens, and you'll see why I admire all of you so much.

We are having a lot of fun doing it together. We want to connect with our members for work and play. We added an Annual Picnic and Photo Opportunity last August. We repeated a Holiday Party and Cookie Exchange in December. We shared a dinner in January as we gathered for the annual focus on issues we call Program Planning. We acknowledged our successes and looked to the future at our Annual Meeting (with cake to celebrate).

E.B. White said this first. *"I get up every morning determined to both change the world and have one hell of a good time. Sometimes this makes planning my day difficult."*

It's been my mission statement. I think we just made it OURS. Thank you for making it so.

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



May 2023 LWVMI Convention Highlights

Attendance: LWVGP had the highest attendance of any local League in Michigan, with 15 members in attendance as both voting and non-voting delegates. Thanks to these members who attended the convention:

- Sue Acton
- Irene Correia
- Dawn Drozd
- Judy Florian
- Marge Freundl
- Connie Frey
- Wilhelmina Giblin
- Carol Lufburrow
- Judy Masserang
- Cathy McAdam with her service companion Betty
- Julianne Phillips
- Lynne Pierce
- Sue Stanley
- Mickie Verdebar
- Tom Wells

These members are pictured above. Not pictured: Dawn Drozd.

Convention Auction LWVGP contributed more items than any other league with donations from Sue Acton, Judy Florian, Vicki Granger, Lauri Kingsbury, and Lynne Pierce, along with book contributions from numerous members. The silent auction winners paid over \$500 for these items - about 1/8 of the total received by LWVMI.

LWVGP Library Position Adopted Unanimously



LWVGP presented the ONLY position statement amendment recommended by the LWVMI board and adopted unanimously at the convention. This is our position on public libraries, adopted by our own LWVGP membership at the January 2023 Program Planning meeting.

With the adoption of this position, all Leagues throughout the state can now speak out against book bans at public libraries. In fact, the Marquette League made use of the position a few days later! [Read more](#)

We had a table of banned books, resources on book bans from the American Library Association (ALA) and stickers *I Read Banned Books*.

Thanks to the committee that created our position presentation: President-Elect Lynne Pierce, Judy Florian, Marge Freundl, Vicki Granger and Lauri Kingsbury.

Lynne Pierce is pictured above at the convention podium.

Sue Acton is pictured below at our LWVGP display table that helped educate delegates about our proposed public library position.





LWVMI Convention Awards

Eva Packard Voter Services Award: This is a new LWVMI award, named for the late Eva Packard, a longtime League member who was extremely active and instrumental in Voter Service activities, specifically securing Vote411 for LWVMI and local Leagues. Our own Judy Florian won this award, and Judy is so very deserving! She serves as the LWVMI Vice President for Voter Services, a position she held in our own League before taking on the role of President. In the past two years, she has led Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts, distribution of the statewide printed Voter Guide, connected the Voter Service Network across Michigan with monthly meetings, worked with coalition partners on clerk engagement and election protection activities, collaborated with the Muskegon Intermediate School District on the 19th Amendment Project with 4th grade students and served as LWVMI Lead for the MI Vote Matters High School Registration Challenge with the Michigan Department Of State (MDOS).

Judy is pictured above between LWVMI Co-Presidents Christina Schlitt (a past member and President of LWVGP) and Paula Bowman.

Belle Ringer Awards: The Belle Ringer Awards are named after Florence Belle Brotherton, the first president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. Each

local League may nominate one person in each of the four categories, and each person does indeed receive a small bell! Congratulations to the following League members who received the Belle Ringer Award.

Advocacy-Lauri Kingsbury: Lauri has been instrumental in resurrecting our Observer Corps, providing training for observers, as well as developing structure, reporting forms and quarterly meetings to significantly enhance our local reputation. Lauri is now taking on a new role as Chair of our new Advocacy Committee.

Voter Services-Mary Garlough: Mary's efforts as Director of Voter Services included organizing the LWVMI Get Out The Vote (GOTV) project, engaging with local clerks to update our annual *Your Government Officials* brochure, sending out absentee ballot applications, and conducting excellent high school voter registration activities.

Member Recruitment and Engagement-Marge Freundl: Marge's strongest contributions to our League have focused on new members, as she calls every new member to welcome them to our League, orients them to the value of the League through a new, virtual New Member Orientation Program and follows up with all members with creative ideas for Community Engagement. She has also served on our DEI Committee

Financial Management/Fundraising-Carol Lufburrow: Carol's financial experience and expertise have provided us with balanced budgets, essential reporting requirements, fundraising letters, and donor acknowledgements, resulting in a great financial position for our local league.

Program: Annual Picnic and Group Photo-August 30

Dawn Drozd, VP for Programs, and Joan Richardson, Director of Programs, are planning a variety of programs for the 2023-2024 year, beginning with a picnic/photo op on August 30. A sign-up form will be sent to members in August.

Finance

Treasurer Carol Lufburrow reports that Connie Frey completed her review of the 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022 Financial Statements, plus the footnotes that accompany them, and found no errors.

Voter Services

LWVMI Local League Interviews of State Representatives, Senators

LWVMI has asked local Leagues to conduct interviews of state elected officials 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 are coordinating with other Leagues (Detroit and Macomb) to set up interviews with the following:

- Sen. Kevin Hertel, Michigan Senate District 12 covers the Grosse Pointes and portions of Macomb County (LWV-Grosse Pointe and LWV-Macomb)
- Rep. Joe Tate, Michigan House District 10 covers portions of the Grosse Pointes and Detroit (LWV-Grosse Pointe and LWV-Detroit)
- Rep. Veronica Paiz, Michigan House District 11 covers portions of the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods, and Macomb County (LWV-Grosse Pointe and LWV-Macomb)

Candidate Forums

Only one local community has a primary on August 8; Grosse Pointe Park has seven candidates vying for six spots on the November 7 ballot for three council seats. LWVGP is asking candidates to complete questions for our [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) site.

As the Voter goes to press, filing deadlines for candidates in our various communities are later this summer.

For the full candidate list, check the Wayne County Election Information site at this link:

<https://www.waynecounty.com/elected/clerk/election-information.aspx>

LWVGP will be conducting candidate forums in September for those communities with competitive races on November 7.

Membership News

LWVGP Membership at 138!

Our LWVGP membership stands at 138, which includes 3 Lifetime members.

New members include:

- Irene Correia (GPF)
- Paul Giblin, GPC
- Rebecca Hicks (GPW)
- Loren Mannino (GPF)
- Elizabeth Martin (GPF)
- Diane Parlove (GPC)
- Kathy Rogers, (GPW)
- Wendy Soubel (GPF)
- Joanne Thomas (GPP)

We are sorry to report that longtime LWVGP member Stuart Dow passed away June 1, 2023, after a long illness.

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

Board through June 30, 2024

Executive Board (Elected)

- President: Lynne Pierce
- Vice President Programs: Dawn Drozd
- Vice President Voter Services: Lauri Read
- Secretary: Judy Masserang
- Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow

On-Board Directors (Elected)

- Director (Voter Services): Julianne Phillips
- Director (Membership): Catherine Dumke
- Director (Membership): Jaime Rae Turnbull
- Director (Program): Joan Richardson

On-Board Directors (Appointed by the President)

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

Off-Board Directors (Appointed by the President)

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

Nominating Committee Laura Larson (chair), Judy Gafa, (additional member to be appointed by the board)

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)

LWVGP on YouTube - no subscription necessary
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w

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

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