



## *The Voter Newsletter* January - February 2024

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

### Calendar

**January 30** Advocacy Seminar, 7-8:30 p.m. GP Library, Woods Branch. [Map](#)

**February 13** Program Planning Meeting, 6-8:30 p.m. GP Unitarian Church Annex [Map](#)

**February 15** LWVGP Observer Corps Quarterly Meeting, 7 p.m. GP Central Library [Map](#)

**February 20** LWVGP Board Meeting, 7 p.m. GP Central Library

*Pictures below from our 2023 Holiday Party, hosted by Sue Acton.*



ABOVE: Diana Domin, Lauri Kingsbury, and Mary Zahler



ABOVE: Judy Morlan, Jo Ann Kelly, Wilhelmina Giblin, Mary Jo Johnson, Gordon Morlan, and Valerie Kindle.

## President's Message



Happy New Year everyone! I hope you had a nice holiday season. I don't know about you, but I am happy to get back to my routine.

This year our focus will be on the upcoming national and state elections. For us, that means registering voters, providing voter information, and Get Out the Vote activities. It may seem a little early to be engaging in this process but with all the changes in the voting laws it is not too early to start planning. Did you know there is a presidential primary in Michigan in February? With the new early voting laws, this means our city clerks must jump into action now! There are many opportunities to assist the clerks; we will be sending these out to you by email as they come along.

Our traditional planning meeting (formerly called the "Chinese Dinner") will be on February 13. We will be focusing on a plan of action for the election. We will divide into discussion groups to brainstorm ideas. You will also have an opportunity to bring up any other position you would like to see us focus on in the upcoming year.

Our new advocacy group is running strong, thanks to our dedicated chair, Lauri Kingsbury. We have a training session set up for January 30. I hope you can come and learn about how we can advocate for our issues.

The 2024 LWVUS national conference is in Washington DC (June 27-30). I am very excited about attending in person. Please **let me know** if you are interested in attending; we will be determining how many are eligible to attend soon. If you would like more information about the conference, check the [LWVUS website](#). NOTE: If planning to attend in person, wait for the GROUP CODE before booking a room. There is also a virtual option.

Our LWV principle for this month is: We believe in solutions for economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, a sound economy, and domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems. What does this mean for us? Our message to our legislators is stop bickering and start cooperating with each other. Get back to trying to work together to address these serious issues. At the state and national level, we have a strong lobbying effort that sends this message. At our national conference, we will have an opportunity to lobby our legislators directly. Every day we lobby to make democracy work.

Now that's defending democracy!

Hope to see you at the February 13th planning meeting and other upcoming events!

Lynne Pierce, President

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## Advocacy

### Save the date!

#### **LWVGP Advocacy Seminar - Taking Action in League**

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Grosse Pointe Public Library-Woods Branch, Community Room

20680 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods

R.S.V.P. to [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com)

Please put **Advocacy Seminar** in the subject line.

Our League was born in advocacy: Votes for women, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Advocacy remains an important part of our public service. Our voters need our fact-based approach to issues of public concern. Advocacy positions are carefully developed and are the foundation for community meetings, letters-to-the-editor, conversations with elected officials, candidate forum questions, and more. Each of these efforts makes our neighborhoods better places to live, work, and raise our kids.

What local issues are important to you? Come to LWVPG's Advocacy Seminar - Taking Action in League on January 30. Contact Lauri Kingsbury, Advocacy Chair, via [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com) Please put **Advocacy Seminar** in the subject line.

*The League never supports or opposes candidates for elected office*

*and does not support or oppose any political parties.*

**Advocacy Myth:** *Advocacy is not important if a local League has a good voter services program.*

- from "League Myths about Advocacy," LWVMI

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## Programs

### **February 13, 2024 - Save the Date: *Position Review and Planning***

- Time and location: 6 - 8:30 p.m., [GP Unitarian Church Annex](#)
- Dinner will be served (\$15 fee per person) will be collected at the door
- Groups will discuss our positions and how we can have the greatest impact on the 2024 election through education, service offerings, etc.
- [Registration link](#) Please register by Feb.10

**March program - *The Danger of Book Bans***, presented jointly with the LWVGP DEI Committee.

\*\* The date for this program is not finalized; members will receive a special email with details. The information will also be posted on our website.

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## Observer Corps (OC)

LWVGP has observers in all six of our communities, AND at the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods School Board meetings, AND at the Library Boards, AND even more! We have a great group of volunteers attending meetings regularly and submitting reports.

- The State (LWVMI) OC Network meeting at 3 p.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2024, via Zoom.
- The LWVGP OC 3rd Quarterly Meeting is at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch.

Contact Observer Corps Co-Directors Sue Acton or Liz Martin at [lwwgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwwgrossepointe@gmail.com) for information.

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## Membership

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Esther Twitty Maxwell - Grosse Pointe Farms
- Mary Beth Kane - Harper Woods
- Margaret Newood, Macomb Township

Members should contact Catherine Dumke, Membership Director, with any data changes - email, phone, etc.

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## DEI Committee Update

The Committee is working on a Youth Engagement Project with Grosse Pointe South High School. The project will include a video recording on new voting rights made by the students. The target date to complete the script, and select students and teachers, is May 1.

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## Voter Services

### Your Government Officials (YGO) Brochure Completed!

Julianne Phillips, Director of Voter Services, with the assistance of several League members, completed the update to the 2024 YGO brochure. This brochure will be distributed to local government offices, libraries, churches, and more. The brochure is also posted on the LWV Grosse Pointe website.



Thanks to Mary Garlough for hosting the following members who gathered to bundle the brochures for distribution: Catherine Dumke, Peggy Hart, Kelly Larson, Carol Lufburrow, Margaret Newood, Ann Nicholson, Julianne Phillips, Jan Ryndress, and Jaime Rae Turnbull.

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## Successful Fundraising Drive Fuels LWVGP Activities

Thank you! During our fall fundraising drive, we raised over \$3,000! These funds, along with two grants we have received from LWVMI, will make a huge difference in our 2024 efforts to engage voters and get out the vote!

Donations are still being accepted! You may donate by check or [online](#).

Contact our LWVGP Treasurer Carol Lufburrow if you have any questions [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com)

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**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, 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 Positions (Appointed by the President)**

- Advocacy Director: Lauri Kingsbury
- Assistant Treasurer: Sue Stanley
- Communications Director, *The Voter* Co-Editor: Vicki Granger
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director: Cathy McAdam
- Environmental Network Chair: Melissa Levasseur
- Observer Corps Co-Directors: Sue Acton and Liz Martin

#### **Off-Board Positions (Appointed by the President)**

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

**Nominating Committee** Laura Larson (chair), Judy Gafa, Julianne Phillips

## 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:** [lwgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwgrossepointe@gmail.com)

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

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

**LWVGP on YouTube - no subscription necessary**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY\\_2SB30w](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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