

**The Voter Newsletter**  
**March 2025**

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

**Calendar**

March 8: International Women's Day  
March 13: Observer Corps Quarterly Meeting, GP Central Library, 7 p.m.  
March 18: LWVGP Board meeting, GP Memorial Church, 7 p.m.  
May 16-18: LWVMI Convention, Sheraton Airport Hotel, Grand Rapids  
March 26: *Activism 101: Turning Passion into Action*, 6:45 p.m. GP Woods Library

**High School Voter Registration Drives**

April 23: University Liggett High School. 9-10:30 a.m.  
April 24: Harper Woods High School 10-11:00 a.m.  
April 28: Grosse Pointe South High School, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.  
May 1: Grosse Pointe North High School, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

**President's Message**

Greetings, Folks!

We had an exciting and energizing planning meeting on February 4 (see related article below). For those unable to attend, we reaffirmed our support of the current LWVMI positions and voted to ask the State League to consider adding to their agenda a concurrence vote on the issue of *Medical Aid in Dying*.

A position will not move forward without official approval by the LWVMI Board of Directors. If the LWVMI Board approves to place it on the agenda, the delegates will discuss it and vote on whether to adopt it as a state position.

The proposed position would read as follows:

1. The League of Women Voters of Michigan believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill and mentally competent adult to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life.



2. The League of Women Voters of Michigan believes such legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel.

Please email me if you have any questions or concerns about this position. Our delegates will make sure to take them into consideration if we are called upon to vote on this position.

Our national LWV has issued the following oath for our members. It is a powerful statement of support for democracy.

*We do solemnly swear that we will empower voters and defend our democracy. We will faithfully execute our civic responsibility as nonpartisan advocates. We do this fearlessly, reflectively, and collectively. We act from a place of hope and collective power. We affirm that we will work to provide democracy education and election administration support, restore and defend voting rights protection, abolish the Electoral College, protect democracy organizations, and fight for reproductive freedoms. We will not be deterred from these tasks.*

Please go to this [link](#) at LWV.org to learn more about what they are doing on a national level to protect our democracy. I promise-you will be impressed!

As an organization, we advocate with a focus on issues, not on candidates or partisanship. We argue for or against policies, causes, and ideas. We promote or oppose specific legislation and action.

Remember, as an individual, you are free to take whatever action you wish, as long as you are not representing yourself as a League member. The exceptions are those holding the Board positions of President, President-Elect, Vice President for Voter Services, and Director of Voter Services.

Hope to see all of you soon!

Lynne Pierce, President

---

## **LWVGP Program Planning Meeting: Huge Success**

A fantastic group of nearly 40 members attended the League's Annual Planning Session on February 4 at the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lasagna dinner while Lynne shared the purpose of the meeting: 1) Approve or add to the state League's positions, and 2) Plan our activities for the remainder of 2025.

Members were reminded that while we can't take partisan steps as official members of the League; all members are encouraged to be actively involved in voicing their opinions as individuals.

Following the introductory presentation, attendees broke into three groups to identify how to: 1) Better inform/educate adults; 2) Support civics education in our schools, and 3) Take advocacy action (on both new and old positions). The groups passionately brainstormed many creative ideas and will be meeting to put those into action as the year goes on.

If you missed the planning session, there's still time to join one of the committees! Getting involved is a great way to make friends **and** a difference in our world- all on your own schedule - you can be as involved as you want – no pressure.

To learn more, simply pick an interest and contact one of the chairs, who will be happy to share the details of their committee. All three can be reached via email at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com).

- Educating Adults – Dawn Drozd
- Civics Education – Lynne Pierce
- Advocacy – Lauri Kingsbury

A special thanks to Dawn Drozd, VP for Programs, and Committee members Diana Domin, Catherine Dumke, Wilhelmina Giblin, and Geri LaPratt for an excellent program!



Pictured left to right Karen Feldman, Wilhelmina Giblin, Kathy Rogers, Joanne Swanson, Deb Sloss and Deborah Voorhees

Pictured left to right Margrit Poynter, Julianne Phillips, Carol Bendure, Geri LaPratt, Jan Ryndress and Kelly Larson



President Lynne Pierce explains the Program Planning Process.



Penny Pitts and Sue Acton

---

## March Program on Activism

Mark your calendars for our upcoming workshop *Activism 101: Turning Passion into Action*. Wednesday, March 26, 6:45 p.m., at the Grosse Pointe Woods Library.

Caring about an issue is just the beginning—taking action is what creates real change. In this workshop, you'll learn the fundamentals of activism, from organizing campaigns to using your voice effectively.

Whether you're new to activism or want to refine your approach, this workshop will provide practical strategies to help you make a difference in your community and beyond.

Watch for an invitation soon and be sure to tell your friends!

---



## LWVMI Convention Update

The LWVMI Convention will be held May 16-18 in Grand Rapids. This year's convention theme is *Democracy Forever* and is an excellent time to connect with fellow Leaguers, attend workshops to enhance your professional growth, and have fun!

Our local League can send up to 8 voting delegates to the LWVMI Convention.

There will also be a Silent Auction, where attendees can bid on a variety of wares to support LWVMI.

If you are interested in being a voting delegate or would like to donate something to the Silent Auction, please contact Lynne Pierce at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com)

## LWVGP February Board Highlights

The LWVGP Board met on February 18, 2025 at the GP Memorial Church.

### President Lynne Pierce provided the following updates:

- The LWVUS annual survey has been submitted. Members can view the survey in the *Members Only* section of the website at this [link](#). This section is password protected. Members can contact any board member (listed at the end of this newsletter) for the password. Or, they can send an email to [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com) to request the password. **Do not share this password with anyone outside of our membership.** A very special thanks to the following members who assisted with completing the survey: Sue Acton, Dawn Drozd, Catherine Dumke, Judy Florian, Marge Freundl, Lauri Kingsbury, Carol Lufburrow and Judy Masserang.
- LWVMI Program survey was submitted, with a request to support a position on *Medical Aid in Dying* at the State level.
- The 75th Anniversary Committee is making plans for a fall celebration. Stay tuned for more information.
- President-Elect Dawn Drozd resigned from her position. She will continue on our board as Vice President for Programs through the end of her term in June, 2025.

### Treasurer Carol Lufburrow provided the following update on our funds:

- Retained Earnings: \$24,526.06
- Current Available Funds: \$4,323.41

### Other discussion items:

- Appointed Budget Committee: Chair: Susan Stanley; members: Patti Cardoze and Carol Lufburrow, *ex-officio*.
- Reviewed the revised bylaws as submitted by the Bylaws Committee.
- Discussed release of the membership directory. We have not provided a printed directory to members for several years due to cost. The board discussed providing the directory on our *Members Only* section of the website (which is password protected). However, before we do so, we ask members who **do not** want their directory information posted on the website to please contact President Lynne Pierce at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com). Please put *membership directory* in the subject line.
- Approved sending email to local governments (city council, school boards and library boards), inviting them to a parliamentary procedure workshop sponsored by the Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit (a chapter of the National Association of Parliamentarians) on March 29, 2025.
- Reviewed outstanding issues related to the new LWVUS membership dues system. There are still some issues with the transition. If members have questions about the new process, please contact our membership directors, Catherine Dumke or Marge Freundl at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com).

---

## LWVGP Bylaws Revisions

The Bylaws Committee worked over several months to update and revise our bylaws.

The Committee added provisions for electronic/virtual meetings, changes requested by the state and national Leagues and generally tried to provide additional clarity to our organization's methods and procedures.

The Committee believes these revised bylaws will make it easier and more efficient to carry out our mission and to maintain the good governance for which our League is known.

The bylaws require approval of the Board of Directors after providing 30 days notice to the membership. You can review both the current bylaws and the proposed bylaws (with highlighted changes), at the links below. Members are asked to provide feedback on these proposed bylaws **no later than March 25, 2025**. After that time, the Board will vote on the revisions.

- [May 2020 Bylaws](#)
- [February 2025 Proposed Bylaws](#)

Questions can be directed to the Bylaws Committee at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com). Please put *bylaws* in the subject line.

Special thanks to Loren Mannino, Chair and committee members Sarah Coats, Judy Florian, Lauri Kingsbury, and Lynne Pierce for their hard work on this project.

---

## Membership

Welcome to our new member, Joanne Swanson from Grosse Pointe Farms. We currently have 135 members.

There is a new renewal system. Contact Membership at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com) with any questions. There is also an article in the February 2025 *Voter* at this [link](#).

---

## Member Spotlight



Edward "Steve" Trowbridge has been a member of LWVGP since 1989. He joined his wife, the late Pearl Warren, who became a League member "about ten minutes into retirement, Pearl got a call from Kay McDonald and joined."

Steve has worked on a variety of LWV activities, including membership, circulating petitions in 2022 for the Promote the Vote efforts, and serving as timekeeper emeritus for many candidate forums.

He worked at his alma mater, Wayne State University, in the undergraduate admissions advising/counseling office before retirement.

In even election years, Steve helps deliver voter guides. Judy Florian says, "We

can always count on Steve to deliver LWVMI print voter guides and do whatever League tasks we ask. He's a true Leaguer and we are so fortunate to have him!"

Lauri Kingsbury remembers: "I walked into my first LWVGP gathering at the Annual Program Planning meeting, January 2017. I knew no one. Steve walked up to me with his hand outstretched and said, 'I'm Steve Trowbridge. Please eat dinner with me.' I knew I had found the group where I belonged."

Steve continues to belong to the League, inspired by its members passion for important issues.

\*\*\*\* If you have a member that you think should be featured in Member Spotlight, please send the information to the Voter Newsletter Co-Editors, Judy Florian and Vicki Granger at [lvvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lvvgrossepointe@gmail.com)

---

## Advocacy Update

We are the leaders we have been waiting for. We are the cavalry. We defend our democracy. Every action, at every level, strengthens it. Here's what we can do:

Only have five minutes? Respond to Action Alerts from LWVMI and LWVUS. Check your email regularly.

Contact our representatives in Washington, D.C. Voice your opposition to the federal SAVE Act (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility). This act would disallow LWV's voter registration efforts, remove online and mail-in voter registration. The SAVE Act will be up for a vote in this legislative session. Read more at this [link](#). Take Action by going to this [link](#).

Join our Observer Corps to keep eyes and ears on local city councils, school, and public library boards.

Participate in a local study group. Last year, our members made a positive difference in our communities. We approved our Senior Services position and acted on our Water Treatment position.

This is a just a sampling of what LWVGP is doing this year

Saturday, Feb. 22. Our local Federal Judicial Study Group held its first meeting at the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center. Nicole Castka, Marge Freundl, Vicki Granger, Ruth Hoover, Lauri Kingsbury, and Joanne Swanson volunteered to contribute their expertise and time. This is a fast-track study group. We must turn in our findings to LWVUS by April 14, 2025. Local Leagues across the country are participating in this first-ever study of the U.S. Federal Courts. The study's goal is to develop a national advocacy position and present it at the 2026 National Convention for delegate debate and vote.

Member Recommendation from the Program Planning Meeting, Feb. 4, 2025: Form a local study group to look into how money influences our local elections. Informal consensus of our members is that money exerts an undue influence on our local elections. Lots of work is already done. We can build on it for our local group.

If you are interested, please contact Lauri Kingsbury, Advocacy Director, at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com) and put *MIP* in the subject line.

The League of Women Voters Washtenaw County steers a monthly discussion group on this issue which has developed a list of six possible actions at local and state League levels. This includes gathering stories of undue influence in local elections.

In 2016, LWWUS adopted the advocacy position, "Money in Politics" Find it here: LWW, *Impact on Issues 2024-2026*, "Money in Politics", pp. 52-59 (digital version), pp. 48-55 (print edition); Download the PDF at this [link](#).

Defeat that fear and anxiety which threatens to engulf each of us. Local efforts make a difference in our daily lives. Make a difference with us!

---

### **Last Call for Nominations for LWVGP Officers**

As required in our bylaws, the Nominating Committee seeks nominations for the 2025-2027 officers. An email was sent to members on February 11, asking those who may be interested in serving in these important positions to volunteer. The following positions are open for nominations:

- Director of Voter Services (two-year position)
- Vice President of Program (two-year position)
- Secretary (two-year position)
- Membership - Director (two-year position)
- Nominating Committee Chair (one-year position)
- Nominating Committee member (one-year position)

We have some members who have indicated interest. We ask that if there are others willing to serve to please contact Vicki Granger, Chair, Nominating Committee, **no later than March 1**. You can indicate your interest by sending an email to [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com). Please put *Nominating Committee* in the subject line.

---

### **Voter Services**





YGO bundlers, pictured left to right, Jane Rousseau, Ann Nicholson, Annie Spence, Carol Lufburrow, Kathy Rogers, Penny Pitts, Martha Hutting, Marcia Powell, Judy Masserang and Julianne Phillips.

---

Several volunteers (pictured above) gathered on January 29 to bundle and tag 6,000 **Your Government Officials** (YGO) brochures for several locations around the community. Almost half were delivered by these volunteers; the rest were brought to the Program Planning meeting on February 4 to be delivered by attendees. This important publication is now in the Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Universe! The YGO is also on our website at this [link](#).

Voter registration drives are scheduled at our local high schools. See the dates and locations below. Julianne Phillips, Director of Voter Services, will set up a SignUp Genius for members who want to help. Stay tuned!

- April 23: University Liggett High School. 9-10:30 a.m.
- April 24: Harper Woods High School 10-11:00 a.m.
- April 28: Grosse Pointe South High School, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- May 1: Grosse Pointe North High School, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

---

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

---

**Board through June 30, 2025**

**Executive Board (Elected)**

- President: Lynne Pierce

- Vice President Programs: Dawn Drozd
- Vice President Voter Services: Sue Acton
- Secretary: Judy Masserang
- Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow

**On-Board Directors (Elected)**

- Director (Voter Services): Julianne Phillips
- Director (Membership): Catherine Dumke
- Director (Membership): Marge Freundl
- Director (At-Large): Gerianne LaPratt

**On-Board Positions (Appointed by the President)**

- Advocacy Director: Lauri Kingsbury
- Assistant Treasurer: Patti Cardoze
- Communications Director and Parliamentarian: Judy Florian
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director: Cathy McAdam
- Environmental Network Chair: Melissa Levasseur
- Observer Corps Director: Liz Martin

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

- Finance Review Coordinator: Connie Frey
- Historian: Annie Spence
- Vote411 Coordinator: Sarah Coats
- Webmaster: Sue Acton

**Voter Newsletter Co-editors:** Judy Florian and Vicki Granger

**Nominating Committee:** Vicki Granger (chair), Anastasia Koutsopoulos, Diana Domin, and Judy Masserang

---

## **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/>

**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  
US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!