

The Voter Newsletter
August 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

August 26: Annual Member Picnic, 6-8 pm, Neff Park, GP

October 1: Join or Die movie event, 5:30 pm, The War Memorial

October 5: LWVGP 75th Anniversary Celebration, 4-6 pm, Country Club of Detroit, GP Farms

President's Message

Greetings, folks!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have expressed your condolences to my husband, Ray Andary, and me. Our son, Ray Jr's, untimely death has been a shock to both of us. We are slowly, but surely, getting our feet back on the ground, but the process of grief cannot be rushed.

I especially want to thank the board for picking up the pieces when I was unable to carry on. They rallied for the annual meeting and have kept us afloat since then. I truly appreciate the special people we have on the board and the committees that have helped in so many ways.

Ray and I will be at the annual picnic, and we look forward to seeing everyone in person. We hope to be prepared to carry on with our duties by then. After all, what the League does is so important! Our accomplishments are a continued source of pride and appreciation.

Hope to see all of you soon!

Lynne Pierce, President





Annual Membership Picnic

Tuesday, August 26, 6-8 p.m.

Neff Park, 17350 E Jefferson Ave, Grosse Pointe [MAP LINK](#)

You're invited! Here are the details for our annual membership picnic.

Date: Tuesday, August 26

Time: 6-8 pm

Where: Neff Park, 17350 E. Jefferson Ave, Grosse Pointe

We look forward to seeing everyone at beautiful Neff Park for our Annual Picnic. We welcome both our long-time members and especially hope that **new members** will attend.

During the picnic, you'll have the chance to socialize, meet the new members of the Board of Directors, hear about upcoming events, and learn more about how you can become active in our various efforts.

Cost: \$11/person, which includes the main dish, drinks (tea, lemonade, wine,) and paper products. We ask that you please bring a side dish or dessert (with serving utensils) to share.

All attendees must RSVP AT THIS [LINK](#) so that we can give the list of names to the park gate. Attendees must also pay in advance. ****If you are bringing a guest, please account for that when you pay.**

Payments must be received by Monday, August 18. Payments can be made via PayPal or personal check (see below).

- Click [here](#) to use PayPal.
 - Select OTHER for the amount
 - Use the DROP DOWN menu to select LWVGP Picnic
- **Mail a check**, payable to *League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe*, to 32 Lake Shore Road, GPF, 48236. Please add **Picnic** in memo section.

Our annual tradition is to take a group picture. Want to be included? Arrive before 6:10 pm and wear red, white or blue. If you're late, you'll miss your chance, so please be on time!

Questions? Please reach out to Diana Domin at DianaDomin@sbcglobal.net

We hope to see you on August 26th!

The Program Committee

Annual Meeting Highlights

A total of 53 members and guests attended our annual meeting on June 10 at the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church.

Vice President of Program, Dawn Drozd, convened the meeting in the absence of President Lynne Pierce.

Paula Bowman, our keynote speaker and outgoing Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Michigan, provided an excellent presentation on Advocacy and Action: LWVUS and LWVMI.

After her presentation, Paula recognized the LWVGP Belle Ringer Award recipients: Liz Martin, Advocacy, Loren Manino, Other-Bylaws, Cathy McAdam, Membership/DEI and Julianne Phillips, Voter Service.

Treasurer Carol Lufburrow briefed attendees on the new dues structure and Dawn highlighted our many successes this past year.

Members unanimously approved retaining all of our current positions for this year.

Certificates of Joy were presented to Catherine Dumke and Carol Lufburrow for their outstanding and ongoing efforts in the transition to the new dues payment system.

Judy Morlan was recognized as a Lifetime Member, effective July 1, for her membership of 50 years.

Congratulations to our newly elected board members:

- Secretary: Ruth Hoover
- Acting Director, Programs: Kathy Rogers (board appointed 5/25)
- Director, Voter Services: Holly Cory
- Director, DEI: Martha Hutting
- VOTE411 Coordinator: Ray Andary
- Chair, Nominating Committee, Diana Domin

Farewell and thanks to the departing board members:

- VP of Program: Dawn Drozd
- Director, Voter Services: Julianne Phillips
- Director, DEI: Cathy McAdam
- Director, Membership: Marge Freundl
- VOTE411 Coordinator: Sarah Coats

Transitioning to a new position on the board:

- Judy Masserang, Director of Membership

A special thanks to Program Committee Lead, Jan Ryndress along with Dawn Drozd, Geri LaPratt and Mary Zahler for their help with the work on the annual meeting.

Also thanks to Judy Masserang for securing a new location at the last minute due to parking issues.

Pictures from the 2025 LWVGP Annual Meeting



Paula Bowman with LWVI Belle Ringer awardees Liz Martin, Cathy McAdam (with her service dog Betty), Loren Mannino, and Julianne Phillips



Laura McCourt, Micki Verderbar, Kathy Rogers and Sue Acton



Wilhelmina Giblin with 50 year Lifetime Member Judy Morlan



Judy Morlan, Mary Morshead and Mary Vitolins



Catherine Dumke and Carol Lufburrow with their "Joy"certificates



Nicole Castka and Mary Ellen Burke



Vicki Granger, Nominating Committee Chair, with some of our newly elected officers: Holly Cory, Ruth Hoover, and Kathy Cernok



Celebrating our Past, Present and Future: 75th Anniversary Event

The 75th Anniversary Committee is working tirelessly on plans for our 75th Anniversary celebration! Mark your calendars-you won't want to miss this event! Here are the specifics:

Date: Sunday, October 5
Time: 4-6 pm (program begins at 4:45 pm)
Location: Country Club of Detroit

This is a formal event and a fundraiser for our League. The cost is \$75/person, which includes a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres. Our guest speaker will be Barbara McQuade, former US Attorney, author and University of Michigan Professor. Invitations will be sent to all members, as well as public officials, at the end of August, with a **September 15th response deadline**. We hope you will attend and support our 75th anniversary event!

We are seeking sponsors to offset the costs associated with our 75th anniversary event. If you know of individuals who may be interested in serving as a sponsor, please contact Judy Masserang at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

Member Spotlight: Patti Cardoze

Patti is a lifelong Grosse Pointer. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Wayne State University.

She has spent her entire career in academic healthcare, serving in an administrative executive



role in the Wayne State University Department of Neurosurgery for over 20 years. In 2012, she transferred to Beaumont/Corewell Hospital as the System Director for Radiation Oncology at Royal Oak, Troy and Dearborn. Patti directed these departments not only through mergers, budget realignments and the COVID-19 pandemic, but was also instrumental in the planning and development of new radiation campuses in Lenox, Michigan and the Proton Center in Royal Oak. She retired in 2021.

Patti and her husband Rick have a combined family of four children. They also have a five month old English Shepard puppy named Paxton.

Patti has many interests including cooking, gardening, drawing and biking, but her greatest enjoyment comes from time spent with her four, soon to be five, grandchildren.

Patti joined the League of Women Voters in 2023 amid the heightened tensions and partisanship in national politics, but also due to the increasingly charged political climate surrounding the Grosse Pointe Public School System (GPPSS). She is a member of our Observer Corps, where she attends the bi-weekly GPPSS Board of Education meetings. She also served as our Assistant Treasurer.

Insights from two of our members who work with Patti:

Carol Lufburrow, Treasurer: "Patti brings her diligence, kindness and understanding to her role as Assistant Treasurer, making her an invaluable member of our League."

Liz Martin, Director, Observer Corps (OC): "When Patti first joined the Observer Corps, she actually volunteered to observe the GP school board meetings, one of the most challenging venues for the OC. Her keen insights, as well as her sense of humor, make her an invaluable asset to our group and the League as a whole."

LWVUS Unite and Rise 8.5

This is a pivotal moment for our democracy—and we need your voice and your action.

The League of Women Voters US has created the Unite and Rise 8.5 Initiative, a bold nonpartisan project rooted in the League's mission to empower voters and defend democracy. Unite and Rise 8.5 will activate 8.5 million voices through civic engagement, education, and collective power.

Why 8.5?

This is the estimated number of voters it would take to bring about change through nonviolent protest. This is based on this findings from the Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights: "Nonviolent protests are twice as likely to succeed as armed conflicts...and those engaging a threshold of 3.5% of the population have

never failed to bring about change.” 8.5 million is the estimated 3.5% of eligible voters.

Note: This campaign ties in with Voter Services as we work to educate voters and ensure access to voting. This campaign also ties in with Program as we present educational programs on issues, and those proposals LWVMI may or may not support.

What can you do right now?

Respond to LWWUS Action Alerts and share with friends. Find the alerts [here](#).

How do LWV members maintain our nonpartisanship while working on Unite and Rise 8.5?

We are nonpartisan, not neutral or silent. When democracy itself is under threat, voter access is restricted or misinformation spreads. The League has a responsibility to speak out clearly and forcefully. Our nonpartisan commitment means the League acts based on our policies and principles, not because of political parties. We advocate for fundamental rights and freedoms regardless of which political party is in power or which officials are responsible. We focus on issues, not affiliation. We hold true to our mission without being beholden to any political agenda.

Your participation will help strengthen our community, amplify voter voices, and protect the integrity of our elections.

Whether you're an experienced volunteer or newly engaged, there are meaningful roles for everyone. From canvassing and tabling at local events to participating in educational sessions or sharing resources online, your involvement matters.

Let's Unite. Let's Rise. Let's move forward—8.5 million strong!

Join us. Be part of the movement. Together, we rise.

LWVMI has created a Unite and Rise 8.5 Network. Vicki Granger is representing LWVGP as our point person for this initiative. Additional information will be forthcoming!

Membership Update—ChapterSpot

The individual dues renewal process in ChapterSpot is working well. There are a few exceptions, but overall, it's been a smooth process.

Family membership renewals, however, are not working smoothly. Until LWWUS and their system developer can improve the process, we recommend that you send your next dues payment directly to LWVGP. This way, we can ensure you and your family member's dues are properly credited.

Our League membership is 154 strong! We hope everyone finds the information we provide helpful and informative. It is important for you to know of League activities and future election proposals coming in 2026. An informed community is essential to ensure the best choices are made for you and your family.

Finally, just a gentle reminder: if you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do so. We depend on your support, financial and practical, to make our efforts meaningful and impactful for everyone. If you have questions, please contact Catherine Dumke at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com. Please put membership in the subject line.



LWVGP Member Nicole Castka Sworn in as Wayne County Judge

On June 23, LWVGP Member Nicole Castka was sworn in to the Third Circuit Court Bench of Wayne County in a ceremony held at the Criminal Justice Center in Detroit. MI Governor Whitmer appointed Castka to fill the term of a sitting judge who resigned.

“I am so deeply honored and grateful for the trust put forth by Governor Whitmer and her office to give me the opportunity to serve the citizens of Wayne County in a much deeper capacity than I have been able to in my private practice,” said Castka. “I will ensure that all parties appearing before the bench will be treated with dignity and respect and that justice will be upheld.”

Photo: Judge Nicole Castka (center) with Judges Regina Thomas and Chief Judge Patrica Perez Fresard. Judge Castka is wearing a replica of one of the judicial collars worn by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Celebrating Women's Equality Day



Registration is open for the 2025 Women's Equality Day celebration hosted by AAUW of Michigan. The annual luncheon event will be held at **St. Mary's Cultural & Banquet Center** in Livonia on Saturday, August 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Join AAUW of Michigan to honor and celebrate women's accomplishments. The event will feature inspiring speakers, delicious food, and a chance to connect with like-minded individuals. Let's come together to commemorate the progress made towards gender equality and work to finally pass the Equal Rights Amendment!

Don't miss this great opportunity to celebrate the 105th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, women's rights, and the achievements and contributions of women!

Register at this [link](#) to attend. **Registration closes on August 18.**

LWVGP Represented at Annual GP Pride Parade

A special thanks to LWVGP members who represented our League at the June 21st Pride Event in Grosse Pointe. Our table provided voter education materials on voter registration in addition to information on how to join the League.



Jan Ryndress, with husband John McLellan, and Micki Verderbar served as the set up team.



Marge Freundl, Jane Rousseau, and Martha Hutting.

New Advocacy Position: The Federal Judiciary

Earlier this month, LWVUS announced the adoption of the Federal Judiciary Position.

LWVGP and 320 more local Leagues in 45 states and D.C. participated. Because this position was developed using grassroots discussion and study, it is now officially one of our advocacy positions and allows the League to act on legislative and executive efforts toward reformation.

Our new Federal Judiciary Advocacy Position includes clear, unequivocal statements on

- ethics and an enforcement process with penalties for judges and Justices who fail to comply;

- standards for recusal and public disclosure of the rationale for this;
- respect for stare decisis (precedent);
- independence from political and popular opinion;
- court documents available to the public.

[Read the position here.](#)

“Nevertheless, she persisted.” Our telephone calls, emails and postcards to elected officials may feel insignificant in the onslaught of national and state news. Showing up at a rally may seem inconsequential. Avalanches build momentum slowly, one pebble striking another one.

Perseverance sets LWV apart from other groups. LWVGP has 75 years of momentum and we’re stronger than ever.

Together, we’re keeping our democracy alive.

Pictured below are members of the LWVGP committee that provided input into the study: Advocacy Chair Lauri Kingsbury, Ruth Hoover, Nicole Castka, Marge Freundl, Vicki Granger and Joanne Geha Swanson.



Member Recognized as Notable Leader

LWVGP member Prudence Cole-Klimisch was named the Notable Leader in Philanthropy by Crain’s Detroit. Prudence, a member of the Board of Directors of The Helm, was recognized for her leadership in pursuing the senior services millage, estimated to generate more than \$1 million annually for seniors in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods communities during the next six years.

Congratulations, Prudence!

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

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Email: lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com

Website: lwvgrossepointe.org

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

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

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