

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club

.....serving the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and Detroit's East Side
P.O. Box 36881, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
February 2010

Message from the President

Our club made more impressive strides in 2009 with the elections of Laurie Arora to the Grosse Pointe Park City Council and Ted Metry to the Grosse Pointe Woods Municipal Court. In both races, our club endorsed and supported these highly qualified candidates to local offices. Congratulations to them both, and we look forward to working with them. We ended 2009 with another very successful fundraiser at the Blue Pointe in Detroit that featured Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh and new Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon. We had another tremendous turnout, and had in attendance Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks-Kilpatrick, Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway, and numerous state and local elected officials, as well as long-time members of our club. The club finished the year with a solid financial position. Many thanks to Treasurer Hugh Moore for keeping our finances and reporting records in order.

Now that 2010 is here and we face a very tough campaign to continue the progress we've made in the last two years, I would urge you to please renew your annual dues with the form included on the back of this newsletter. Your dues fund club activities such as the picnic, general meetings, newsletters, website, and most importantly, campaign activities in the First House District and GOTV efforts. Please renew today, and get your family and friends to join us too! You can always go to our website at www.gpdems.com for information and updates on our club's activities and events. Plus, check-out the photos from our recent events.

Our first order of business for 2010 will be our general membership meeting (see the announcement) where we will elect a board for 2010 (see the slate). Also, at this meeting our club will hold a forum to

~ Cont'd on pg 3 ~

**Mark Your Calendar
Now!**

General Meeting

Wednesday, February 24, 2010
7 p.m.

Grosse Pointe War Memorial

Featuring:

A forum on the new fiscal realities for our local governments. Local elected officials will discuss tax and consolidation options to address our budget deficits.

The panel will include:

Harper Woods Mayor Ken Poynter; Gary Bresnehan, member of the GPC citizens' committee; and GPP Councilwoman Laurie Arora

- also -

Board of Directors Election will be held. Judge Ted Metry will be on hand swear-in the new board after the election

BLEDSOE ANNOUNCES BID FOR RE-ELECTION

State Representative Tim Bledsoe (D-Grosse Pointe) has announced his intention to run for a second term in the Michigan House of Representatives. Bledsoe became the first Democrat to hold the First District House seat in 2008.

“We’ve worked hard representing the people of the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods, and northeastern Detroit, both locally and in Lansing,” Bledsoe said. Tim was one of the leaders in the successful effort to pass a ban on smoking in public places into law in late 2009. His ban on legislators becoming lobbyists immediately after leaving office passed the House with bipartisan support early in 2009, but has failed to see action in the Republican-controlled Senate. Tim is also leading an effort to establish a July 1st budget deadline and amend legislative term limits, both of which require constitutional amendments.

“I’m particularly proud of our constituency outreach effort in the district, perfect attendance in the legislature, and frugal office budgeting. We visited more homes last year than any other representative (over 20,000), did not miss a single roll-call vote in 2009, and returned over \$15,000 in unspent office allotment to the state (the 5th highest of all members). 2010 is going to be a tough year for incumbents, but I think I have a strong record to show the voters of HD1.”

To help in his reelection bid by holding a reception in your home for friends and neighbors, please email Tim at tbledsoe@comcast.net. The Grosse Pointe Democratic Club has endorsed Tim Bledsoe for reelection.



JOIN THE PARTY!

Grosse Pointe Dems make your voice heard and our voice stronger in the Michigan Democratic Party. Party rules state that in order to vote at any convention, caucus or meeting of the MDP at any level, a person must be a member of the MDP for at least 30 days prior to that convention, caucus or meeting. Precinct delegates, candidates and elected officials are exempt from the 30 day advance membership requirement. However, precinct delegates, candidates and elected officials must be a member of the MDP in order to vote at any of these events. Membership levels begin at \$10.00 for students and retirees and \$20.00 for a basic membership. Join or renew online by credit card at www.michigandems.com or print a form from the site to mail in a check. A financial contribution is not required to join the MDP.

IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

Time to renew your membership in the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club. All memberships coincide with the calendar year. Therefore, if you have not paid through 2010, your membership has expired. Your mailing label will indicate if your dues are current by the year listed to the right of the label. By renewing your membership now, you receive the following benefits:

- ~ the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club newsletter, which keeps you abreast of club events and activities
- ~ An invitation to attend our general membership meetings where we host informative and engaging speakers
- ~ Admittance to the club’s annual picnic
- ~ Enjoy fellowship with other members
- ~ Volunteer opportunities
- ~ The satisfaction of supporting Democratic candidates and the Democratic community.

We’re looking forward to an active 2010, so don’t delay **RENEW TODAY!**



**GET READY FOR THE 2010 GROSSE
POINTE DEMOCRATIC CLUB CAMPAIGN
HEADQUARTERS**

Our first ever campaign headquarters was so successful that we’re going to do it again in 2010. The first step towards an office will be a fundraiser to cover the cost of the office and supplies. Plans haven’t being completed, but they’re taking shape.

- Date: late March or early April
- Cost: \$50.00 per ticket; \$250.00 for sponsor level; \$500.00 for host level.
- Special Guest: TBA (in 2008, it was Senator Carl Levin)
- Place: a local home – it could be at your home. If interested, contact Tim Killeen at timk@bikerider.com

Watch for more details as they become available and make plans to help Democrats to victory in 2010.



Message from the President (cont'd from page 1)

discuss the new fiscal reality facing our local governments. All of our local governments are collecting less in taxes due to the housing downturn, which, in turn, is causing our governments to drastically cut services and expenditures. We will have a panel of local elected officials and those who have participated on citizen committees to provide us with an analysis of the problem, and what we can do to voice our concerns with our local governments. This should be a very informative meeting.

The new board will continue to work on a new endorsement policy that the club will use for future endorsement decisions, plan and organize a 2010 campaign fundraiser and office, work diligently to re-elect Tim Bledsoe as our State Representative whom the club recently endorsed, and work for our other Democratic candidates this November. Before that, our State Senate seat will be an open race to succeed State Senator Martha Scott who cannot run again because of term limits. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank Martha for all of her support and kindness to our club, and for her diligent work on our

behalf. This August, we can expect a very spirited race to succeed her in the primary, and our club will certainly be engaged in this race. Look for the candidates to be very visible in the coming months.

State-wide, we have all of the statewide offices open this year, including the Supreme Court. With the Republicans on the re-bounce, we must get energized and organized for the upcoming general election. To get us all started early, the state party will hold it's first nominating convention on April 17th at Cobo, on the same day as the annual Jeff-Jack dinner for those state-wide offices not chosen by a primary. Our club will be planning a fundraiser this spring for our campaign office, and for our campaign efforts this fall. Look for more on those very soon, and please plan to attend the party convention.

With so much at stake, it's time to get to work. As always, I welcome your thoughts and participation so please contact me at garybres@msn.com.

-- Gary Bresnehan --



Welcome new members!

Without your support, we would not have had such a successful 2009. We encourage you to stay involved with our club's activities and committees, regularly attend events, and perhaps become a precinct delegate. Contact Gary Bresnehan at garybres@msn.com if you want to be added to a club committee or activity.

2010 Grosse Pointe Democratic Club Slate of Officers

- President Gary Bresnehan (GPC)
- Vice President Meggan Pope Morlan (GPP)
- Vice President Kevin Keveney (HW)
- Treasurer Hugh Moore (GPF)
- Secretary Larry MacDonald (GPW)
- member Reginald Alexander (DET)
- member Doug Barnes (HW)
- member Margaret Beck (GPF)
- member Margaret Flanagan (GPW)
- member David Greenspan (GPF)
- member Jackie Kalogerakos (GPF)
- member Valerie Kindle (HW)
- member Blair Moody (GPW)
- member Brian Moody (GPS)
- member Andrew Morlan (GPP)
- member Gordon Morlan (GPP)
- member Bob Murphy (GPP)
- member Gail Perry-Mason (GPP) *
- member Claude Richards (GPW) *
- member Carol Romano (GPP)
- member Betty Ruud (GPP)
- ex-officio Tim Bledsoe (GPC)
- ex-officio Tim Killeen (DET)
- past president Harry Kalogerakos (GPF)

* new member

Check out our website:

www.gpdems.com

for up to date information on events of the Club and how you can get involved!

2010 Tentative Calendar, locations to be announced unless otherwise indicated, and dates subject to change so please check the website at www.gpdems.com for updated event and meeting information.

Wednesday, February 24th, 7 pm War Memorial, General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 16th, 6:30 pm Board Meeting, Ewald Branch, GP Library, GPP

Saturday, April 17th, Nominating Convention, and Jeff-Jack Dinner, Cobo Hall

Tuesday, May 11th, filing deadline to be a Precinct Delegate.

Tuesday, May 18th, 6:30 pm Board Meeting, Ewald Branch, GP Library, GPP

June, Annual Picnic, Date and Place TBD

Tuesday, August 3rd, Primary Election

Saturday, August 14th, County and District Conventions

Saturday and Sunday, August 28th and 29th, State Convention at Cobo

Tuesday, September 21st, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, Ewald Branch, GP Library, GPP

Monday, October 25th, 7 pm, General Membership Meeting, Venue TBA

Tuesday, November 2nd, Election Day

November, Annual Fundraiser, Date and Place TBD

Tuesday, November 15, 7 pm, Board Meeting, Ewald Branch, GP Library, GPP



Pics from November 2009 Fundraiser



Featured are Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon and Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh. Sworn in to office was GPP City Councilwoman Laurie Arora, and GPW Judge Ted Metry thanked the club for our support. Also in attendance were: Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway, Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks-Kilpatrick, State Representative Tim Bledsoe, County Commissioner Tim Killeen, State Sen. Hansen Clarke, State Rep Bette Cook-Scott, Mayor Ken Poynter of Harper Woods, School Board members Brendan Walsh and Judy Gafa. We also presented the David Greenspan Award to club members Betty Ruud and Carol Romano.



Grosse Pointe Democratic Club Membership Application/Renewal

Return this form with a check made out to the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club to:

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club
P.O. Box 36881
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Date	_____
Amt.	_____
Mem	_____
Merc	_____

Please circle a membership category:

Member: \$15 25 Club: \$25 Sponsor: \$50 Century Club: \$100 Life: \$500

Note: Membership term runs from January 1 through December 31. Dues paid on or after November 1 will count toward the next calendar year. E.g. Dues paid November 12, 2009 will be for the 2010 calendar year.

Name(s) _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____ *Occupation _____

*Employer _____ *Address _____ *Zip _____

___ Do not include my name in published membership lists.

* Required by Michigan Campaign Finance Law