

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club

.....serving the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and Detroit's East Side

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

January, 2009

Message from the President

I want to welcome the nearly 200 new members who joined our club last year. Our Club had 100 percent of its endorsed candidates elected in last November's 2008 election. What an amazing year. Our club opened and operated its first campaign office, and helped elect our District's first Democrat to the Michigan House of Representative from Grosse Pointe, Tim Bledsoe. It doesn't stop there. District resident, Judge Diane Hathaway was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court, and longtime Grosse Pointe Woods Municipal Judge Lynne Pierce was elected to the Wayne County Circuit Court. Locally, Tim Killeen was re-elected to the Wayne County Commission, while Judy Gafa was elected to the Grosse Pointe School Board. Best of all, we will see a change in Washington, D.C. with the inauguration of Barack Obama as our new President of the United States. The club's amazing year was topped off by a memorable victory party at the Old Pointe Bar. Check out the pictures at our website, www.gpdems.com.

To finish 2008, we should be very thankful that President George W. Bush finally "saw the light" and allowed our automobile companies to have their loans to survive these difficult economic times. President Bush split from his own extremist Republican Senators and finally did the right thing.

We now have a new year ahead of us, and we have more work to do. For starters, I am very pleased to report that our club's finances are stable and healthy, thanks to Treasurer Hugh Moore and the new memberships. During 2009, your board will begin to recruit even more new members, create an email notification list, plan insightful speakers and events for the general meetings, recruit candidates, and organize our efforts for this year's local government elections. I want to thank club Vice President Laurie Arora for her service and hard work for the club. She is taking a well deserved break from the board to work on other political

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Mark Your Calendar Now!

General Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 2008
7 p.m.

Grosse Pointe War Memorial
Reception Room

Guest speaker:

Brian Dickinson
Detroit Free Press

Brian will discuss media coverage
of state politics and the
Michigan Supreme Court

We will have a Board of Directors Election at this meeting. Judge Roger LaRose of Harper Woods District Court will administer the oath to the new board.

ATTENTION

PRECINCT DELEGATES:

13TH District Convention
Saturday, February 7, 2009

Registration begins at 8:30 am, and the convention
begins at 10:00 am.

**Location: IBEW Local 58, 1358 Abbott (east of
Trumbull, enter parking lot on Porter).**

All precinct delegates elected August 2008 are
eligible to participate.

Harry goes to College

By Harry Kalogerakos

Anyone who spent time in the Grosse Pointe Dems campaign headquarters this fall saw the signs on the wall reading "Send Harry to College." Thanks to the voters in Grosse Pointe and the rest of Michigan, I got to go back to college. When Barack Obama won the vote in Michigan, I became a member of the Electoral College.

The Electoral College convened in Lansing on December 15th. While electors gathered in state capitals around the country, we met on the floor of the State Senate and began the process of casting our votes for president and vice president.

Lt. Governor John Cherry presided over the proceeding. Following remarks from Governor Granholm and Senator Stabenow, the actual ceremony began. We took the oath of office. (People wanted me to promise that I would not be a faithless elector. That was never a worry. Even if I was inclined to vote for someone else, state law requires that all Michigan Electors have to vote for the winner of the popular vote in this state.)

Next came the best part, it was time to vote. We cast written votes, first for Barack Obama for president, then Joe Biden for vice-president. After proudly casting our votes, we all needed to sign the "Certificate of Votes for President and Vice President." There were six copies. Two remain in Michigan, and the rest go to Washington. One of those will be stored in the National Archives. (The certificates from all 50 states can be found at: www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college).



Harry signing the Certificate of Votes (left); Obama ballot (right)

It was a great honor to be chosen by the 13th District Democratic Organization to serve as its Elector. Experiencing the pageantry of the Electoral College, especially in such a historic election, will be a memory that I will always savor. ●

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 2009, 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 2009, so don't delay **RENEW TODAY!**

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. ●

Welcome new members!

Without your support, we would not have had such a successful 2008. 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.

Message from the President (cont'd from page 1)
 adventures, but she assures me that she'll still be around for us.

On February 7th, the 13th District will have an election for its chairperson. The board voted to endorse Cecilia Walker for re-election. Cecilia has worked tirelessly for the 13th District, and has been an effective manager of the organization. When the board endorsed Cecilia, it wanted to see the following issues addressed in the upcoming term: (1) ensuring that the 13th District is a free-standing organization, and not the "political front" of any office-holder or candidate; (2) that there is not a perceived notion that endorsements must be paid for in order to be obtained; (3) our club members and First District residents must be placed in positions of actual decision-making in the 13th District Executive Committee to have inclusion and diversity within it; (4) that any differences in endorsements and positions between our club and the 13th District will be mutually respected. I believe that Cecilia will diligently address these issues, and continue to be an effective leader for us and the 13th District. I would urge all precinct delegates to attend the 13th Convention and support Cecilia Walker for Chairperson.

In closing, I wanted to thank the board for all of their hard work during the past year, and I would urge you to support the board's slate for 2009. If you are interested in serving on a committee or want to help in anyway, please contact me at garybres@msn.com. Remember to pay your dues so we can keep our club functioning.

-- Gary Bresnehan --



Shail and Laurie Arora with Mayor Ken and Kimberly Cockrel at the GP Dems November 2008 Fundraiser at the Blue Pointe, where the Mayor spoke briefly about the challenges ahead for the region and the need to work together to solve our common problems.



After congratulating Judge Pierce on her election to the Circuit Court, Club President Bresnehan proclaimed "Yes, there are Democrats in Grosse Pointe, and they are rapidly multiplying!"



2009 Slate of Officers and Executive Board

President	Gary Bresnehan (GPC)
Vice President	Meggan Pope Morlan (GPP)*
Treasurer	Hugh Moore (GPF)
Secretary	Larry MacDonald (GPW)
Member	Reginald Alexander (DET)*
Member	Doug Barnes (HW)
Member	Margaret Beck (GPF)*
Member	Dellashon Dicresce (Detroit)
Member	Ann Eatherly (GPP)
Member	Margaret Flanagan (GPW)
Member	David Greenspan (GPF)
Member	Jackie Kalogerakos (GPF)*
Member	Kevin Keveney (HW)
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	Jerry Nehr (GPW)
Member	Carol Romano (GPP)
Member	Frank Romano (GPP)
Member	Betty Rudd (GPP)*
Ex-Officio	Tim Bledsoe (GPC)*
Ex-Officio	Tim Killeen (DET)
Ex-Officio	Marianne McGuire (DET)
Past president	Harry Kalogerakos (GPF)
* new member	

Check out our website:
[**www.gpdems.com**](http://www.gpdems.com)
**for up to date information on
 events of the Club and how you
 can get involved!**

2009 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 .

Sat. February 7th, 13th District Convention, Registration: 8:30 a.m., Convention: 10 a.m., IBEW Local 58, 1358 Abbott (east of Trumbull, enter parking lot on Porter).

Sat, February 21th, State Party Convention, Cobo Hall, Detroit.

Tues, February 24th, general meeting, 7 p.m., Grosse Pointe War Memorial, Speaker: Brian Dickinson, Detroit Free Press.

Tues, March 24th, board meeting, 7 p.m.

Tues, April 21st, general meeting, 7 p.m.

Tues, May 19th, board meeting, 7 p.m.

June, club picnic-date, place, and details to be announced

Tues, September 15th, board meeting, 7 p.m.

Tues, October 20th, general meeting, 7 p.m.

November, club fundraising event at the Blue Pointe, details to be announced.



Harry Kalogerakos and Tim Killeen at the Obama inauguration; Obama limo photographed from the Willard Hotel by Laurie Arora

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club Membership Application/Renewal

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

Jackie Kalogerakos
136 Mapleton Rd.
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

OR

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, 2008 will be for the 2009 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