

COMING UP

General membership meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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**14th Congressional District meeting, 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13,** hosted by the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club at Wayne County Community College, 19305 Vernier, Harper Woods.

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Michigan's presidential primary, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 8.

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**Spring general membership meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 12,** Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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Garage sale to benefit the GP Dems, May 20-21, at the home of Margaret Beck, 445 Moran, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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**Annual picnic, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, June 16,** Windmill Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Park.

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14th Congressional District meetings, 11 a.m. second Saturday of the month at rotating locations.

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**For updates, go to [gpdems.com](http://gpdems.com) and like us on Facebook.**

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Gearing up for new year Educating voters will be one of our priorities in '16

**H**appy new year, everyone! We finished 2015 with a great fundraiser at Bogart's in Detroit, where we had a big turnout.

I want to thank Margaret Beck and everyone who volunteered, State Rep. Jeff Irwin from Ann Arbor who was our featured speaker, and all of you who attended or sent a contribution.

I want to again congratulate our club secretary Larry Macdonald on receiving the David Greenspan Award, and thank him for all the hard work he has done for our club and Democratic Party candidates.

We hope to return to Bogart's in November for this year's fundraiser.



Gary Bresnahan

### This is why elections matter

Now that 2016 is here we have a lot of work to do. The Republicans have really made it difficult for us.

Late last year the Republican Legislature abolished straight-ticket voting along with other anti-democratic measures that will make it more difficult for people to vote, handing an advantage to right-wing special interests.

Even though Michigan voters twice voted down the straight-ticket voting proposal, Republicans ignored the will of the people – again – and passed the law anyway.

We will have to emphasize to our Democratic Party voters that they need to vote for every race on the ballot. It will be imperative to educate our voters so we can succeed in future elections.

This is another reason why elections truly do matter, and we need to continue to work hard and win them.

Our presidential primary will be March 8, and the club will have representatives from the major presidential candidates at our Feb.

9 membership meeting. You can get ideas on how to become involved with your preferred candidate, or it could help you decide who to support.

Regardless of who wins the nomination, we must come together and unite behind our nominee to win this important presidential election in November.

Our party's national convention will be July 25-28 in Philadelphia. If you would like to be considered for a delegate position, go to [michigandems.com](http://michigandems.com). Pull down the Our Party tab to National Convention.

The club will again do its part by opening a campaign office in our community. We will have a fundraiser this spring to help support the effort and are scouting locations. We hope to partner with our presidential nominee's campaign or the state party to staff and operate the office. We will provide you with more details in the spring.

### Full steam ahead!

For 2016 we will have a full schedule of events and opportunities for you to be involved. We will have membership meetings on Feb. 9 and April 12 at the War Memorial in Grosse Pointe Farms, and will host the 14th Congressional District meeting at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Wayne County Community College campus on Vernier in Harper Woods. I want to thank Val Kindle for making arrangements for the meeting.

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Larry Macdonald, center, club recording secretary, grillmaster and all-around go-to guy, received the David Greenspan Award at the annual fundraiser in November. At left is nominations committee chair Harry Kalogerakos and, at right, club president Gary Bresnehan.

## Busy year ahead

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Our annual picnic will be Thursday, June 16, at the Tompkins Community Center in Windmill Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Park. We hope to have a featured speaker and perhaps a forum for local races that will be decided in the August primary.

At the upcoming Feb. 9 membership meeting, we will elect 2016-2017 officers and board of directors members. I want to thank the board members who served on the previous board for all their hard work and efforts. With their dedication and commitment and our strong membership, we are able to do great things for our community.



State Rep. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, was an outstanding guest speaker at the fundraiser.

Lastly, please renew your membership for this year because your donations allow us to continue the great work we do for our party and candidates.

Let's go out and win this year!

### Proposed slate of 2016 officers and executive board

**President** Gary Bresnehan (GP)  
**Vice President** Jackie Kalogerakos (GPF)  
**Vice President** Aaron Tavalire (GPF)  
**Treasurer** Kirk Garey (GPW)  
**Secretary** Larry Macdonald (GPW)

#### At-large members

Doug Barnes (HW)  
 Margaret Beck (GPF)  
 Tim Bledsoe (GP)  
 Beverly Brown (DET)  
 Francesca Catalfo (GPF)  
 John Clark (GPS)  
 Emily Everett (GPW)  
 \*Bruce Sullivan Feaster (HW)  
 Ed Keelean (GPP)  
 \*Peter McGrath (GPP)  
 Constance Merritt (GPF)  
 Bob Murphy (GPP)  
 La Vern Rutledge (HW)  
 Roland Samaroo (GPF)  
 \*Ricardo Thomas (DET)  
 (\* new member in 2016)

#### Ex-officio members

Tim Killeen (DET)  
 Valerie Kindle (HW)  
 Veronica Paiz (HW)

#### Past president Harry Kalogerakos (GPF)

*Thanks to those who served last year and have chosen not to run for another term:*

Carlos Borrego  
 Brianna Fritz  
 Christopher Quinn  
 Betty Ruud  
 Rebecca Thompson

## ELECTION INFO

The presidential primary is Tuesday, March 8. Polls will be open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

If you plan to vote absentee, you can pick up an application at your city clerk's office, download an application from the secretary of state or your local clerk's office website or mail a written request to the clerk's office no later than 2 p.m. Saturday, March 5, to have it mailed to you. You have until 8 p.m. election day to complete the ballot and return it to the clerk's office.

You can get an absentee voter ballot if you are 60 or older, unable to vote without assistance at the polls, expecting to be out of town on election day, in jail await-

ing arraignment or trial, unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons or are appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

For more information, go to [michigan.gov/sos](http://michigan.gov/sos), [detroitmi.gov](http://detroitmi.gov), [grossepointecity.org](http://grossepointecity.org), [grossepointefarms.org](http://grossepointefarms.org), [grossepointepark.org](http://grossepointepark.org), [gpshoresmi.gov](http://gpshoresmi.gov), [gpwmi.us](http://gpwmi.us), or [harperwoodcity.org](http://harperwoodcity.org).

Also on the elections calendar this year are the Aug. 2 Michigan primary and Nov. 8 general election. Voter registration deadline is July 5 for the August primary and Oct. 11 for the general election.

# Committee chair reports

## Community services

I am very proud of our new partnering with Services for Older Citizens (SOC) to deliver meals to senior citizens in the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods for the holidays. We started on Labor Day, delivered dinners on Thanksgiving and Christmas and we will do it again for Easter.

While we are responsible for the holiday delivery, Meals on Wheels continues to contribute to the overall well-being of seniors by providing regular nutrition and daily contact with a caring volunteer.

The Community Services Committee is the active volunteering arm of the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club, for as Democrats we believe we are our brothers' keepers and we must show we care about everyone's well-being and quality of life. We cannot just vote and support a particular candidate but must continue to volunteer and help out in our communities.

I am very proud of the turnout we had at SOC. I want to thank everyone who showed up and helped make this a very successful event. As always I am a very proud Democrat and happy to be a part of the Grosse Pointe Dems!

*Valerie Kindle*

## Fundraising

We had our annual fall fundraiser Nov. 9 at Bogart's, a new place for us now

that the Blue Pointe is closed. It was roomier and we enjoyed hearing Jeff Irwin, state representative from Ann Arbor, talk about many current issues.

We raised more than \$2,300 and there were more than 80 people in attendance. Thank you to all who participated.

Please start saving gently used items for my garage sale to benefit the club. The sale is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. May 20-21 at 445 Moran Road (14th house off Mack Avenue), Grosse Pointe Farms. We need items to sell, taggers, sellers, organizers, sign makers, etc. For information and to volunteer and drop off items, contact me at [margretbeck@comcast.net](mailto:margretbeck@comcast.net) or 313-882-7775.

*Margaret Beck*

## Precinct Delegate Action

The recruitment effort by the Precinct Delegate Action Committee is underway for all 108 precincts in Michigan State House Districts 1 and 2. The deadline to file as a candidate is May 3 to get on the ballot for the primary on Aug. 2, when delegates are elected. I will be at the monthly 14th Congressional District meetings on the second Saturday of each month and our club's membership meetings to provide the necessary form, notarization and filing. I am also available to attend neighborhood or club meetings to explain the position and sign up interested candidates.

In under-represented precincts, the committee will do a mailing and reach out to party activists identified by the VAN (Voter Activation Network) list provided by the Michigan Democratic Party and making personal contact to enlist more candidates. Club members and other recipients of this newsletter are encouraged to help the committee identify prospective candidates for delegate, as this position is a critical element of voter education and turnout in this important election year.

Notably, our biggest vacancy is that of the late David Greenspan in Grosse Pointe Farms Precinct 5. Let us all work together in his memory to spread the gospel of the Democratic Party and honor his long service as a precinct delegate by achieving our highest percentage of active delegates.

Contact me at 313-618-6067 or [eckeelean@comcast.net](mailto:eckeelean@comcast.net).

*Organize – Build Power – Win Justice*

*Ed Keelean*

## Membership

The primary fundraiser for the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club is member dues. This month we start our 2016 campaign for renewals and new memberships. Your contributions support Democratic candidates and the local campaign office we will open.

Be part of the 2016 election of a Democratic president by joining the club or renewing your membership. Mail your check today.

*Constance Merritt*

## In the holiday spirit

Neither rain nor cold could stop Grosse Pointe Dems from marching in the Grosse Pointe holiday parade the day after Thanksgiving. Harry Kalogerakos took this photo of marchers, from left, Aaron Tavalire, Bob Kalogerakos and Kirk Garey, and then joined them for the walk down Kercheval Avenue.



## Congrats, Councilor

Grosse Pointe Dems board member Veronica Paiz was elected to a four-year term on the Harper Woods City Council. Veronica can be reached at [vPaizHW@gmail.com](mailto:vPaizHW@gmail.com).



*Got club news? Send it to [emlyeverett@gmail.com](mailto:emlyeverett@gmail.com).*



Grosse Pointe

DEMOCRAT

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club  
PO Box 36881  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
www.gpdems.com

*See you at the general membership meeting on Feb. 9  
and at the polls on March 8!*

## Grosse Pointe Democratic Club 2016 Membership

PO Box 36881, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

**Circle a category: Member \$15 • Club \$25 • Sponsor \$50 • Century Club \$100 • Life \$500**

**If information below is the same as your previous year, just print your name.**

\* Email \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Employer \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* Address \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\* Required for club announcements

\*\* Required by Michigan campaign finance law

Donations are not tax-deductible.