

**COMING UP**

**General membership meeting, 7 p.m.**

**Thursday, Feb. 9,** Grosse Pointe War Memorial reception room, 32 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms. Guest speaker is U.S. Congressman Dan Kildee of Flint.

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**Michigan Democratic Party spring state convention, 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11,** Cobo Center, Detroit. The 14th Congressional District caucus meeting is 1 p.m. in Room 260, the Portside Room.

**Endorsement: Our club has endorsed Rick Blocker for re-election to district chair. He has been a tireless, dedicated leader for the district, and we are proud to support to him so he can continue his terrific work for all of us.**

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**General membership meeting, 7 p.m.**

**Thursday, April 20,** Grosse Pointe War Memorial library room, 32 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms. Guest speaker is Gretchen Whitmer, former state Senate Democratic leader and 2017 gubernatorial candidate.

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**Garage sale to benefit the GP Dems, May 19-20,** at the home of Margaret Beck, 445 Moran, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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**Annual picnic, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 8,** Tompkins Center at Windmill Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Park.

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**14th Congressional District meetings, 11 a.m. Saturdays: March 11 and April 8** at Oak Park Parks and Recreation, 14300 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, and **May 13 and June 10** at Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers, Detroit.

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

# Still standing!

## Election loss can't diminish our club's accomplishments

**W**e went from heaven to hell in one night, with the worst possible outcome.

Despite our anxiety and anguish for what has been forced on our nation, we must retool and remobilize for the struggles ahead. Because there is a far worse thing than four years of Donald Trump: eight years of Donald Trump, and the Trumps who could follow him.

While a Trump and a Republican federal government will be disastrous, we must regain our footing and continue to fight for issues important to us.

At some point during Trump's term, his supporters will have buyers' remorse, especially when their health care is taken away or drastically changed. That's when they will realize their political act of punching a wall was not in their best interests, and that voting Democratic is the only way working people get ahead.

The Republicans have already begun their assault on the working middle-class and public employees despite an electorate that spoke loud and clear that working middle-class issues must be addressed.

It won't take long for Republicans to overplay their hands and for those voters to realize their mistake. When this



This young Dem's enthusiasm and U.S. Sen. Cory Booker's reaction were among many memorable moments in our campaign office in 2016.

happens, the Democratic Party must be there with a credible alternative and a platform for those voters to know who will protect their interests.

For our part, the national and state parties must re-examine why our Democratic voters strayed and reconnect with them. If we don't, those voters will continue to stay away, leaving us with more losses and terrible outcomes.

We also must be open about why and what issues caused them to stray, and be open to their concerns in order to re-establish trust. And most important, we must be able to handle the truth, so we can implement change and political strategy to meet their needs and ensure future



President  
Gary Bresnehan

*Continued on Page 4*



**Greenspan Award winners for 2016**

**Left:** Liam Walsh, second from right, with (from left) Jackie Kalogerakos, Gary Bresnehan, David Greenspan Jr. and Bill Walsh.

**Below:** Constance Merritt, left, with 2014 campaign office staffers Rob Curis and Tina Berisha.

# Two versatile volunteers win Greenspan Award

Two outstanding volunteers, Constance Merritt and Liam Walsh, share the 2016 David Greenspan Award, in recognition of their exemplary service to the club and the Democratic Party.

The presentations were made Nov. 14 at the club's annual fundraiser.

Constance was an active member of the club for many years. She was a dedicated volunteer at each of our campaign offices, working countless hours doing all the dirty work that makes a campaign function.

As chair of the club's membership committee, she built on the hard work of her predecessor, Carol Romano, and increased our membership to the point where the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club has the most members of any Democratic club in the state.

She was also a member of the Executive Board.

Because she recently moved to Chicago and was not at the November fundraiser, we will make a special presentation when she comes to our picnic on June 8.

Anyone who worked at the campaign office saw Liam, one of our most dedicated volunteers. No matter what task he was given, he took it on.

A Grosse Pointe South High School student, he brought in members of South's LGBTQ club and the Young Democrats of America to work on the campaign. The YDA started at South last fall and Liam was one of the founders.

Grosse Pointe Dems vice president Jackie



Kalogerakos told this story about waking up the morning after the election. "My first thought was of Liam Walsh, a young man who had worked at our campaign office as a fellow for Hillary. He is 16 years old and a tireless worker. I could only think how disheartened he must feel. I was sure this would be his last campaign. At 9:12 Wednesday morning I got his text: 'Last night sucked but what would be the best way for me to help out? Should I work for Debbie Stabenow, Gary Peters or Brenda Lawrence?' That text started me feeling we can get through this."

David Greenspan, who died Oct. 24, 2014, gave a lifetime of service to the Democratic Party, and to our club as a precinct delegate, activist, volunteer and board member to advance the causes of civil liberties, justice and government that serves all citizens equally.

As past president Harry Kalogerakos said, "David Greenspan lived to the age of 100, and he fought for the cause of justice until the very end. In the last weeks of his life, he was making campaign calls for the 2014 election. The fire always burned in him."

## Proposed slate of 2017 officers and executive board

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

**At-large members:**

- \*Jennifer Bagwell (DET)
- Margaret Beck (GPF)
- Tim Bledsoe (GP)
- Beverly Brown (DET)
- \*Shannon Byrne (GPF)
- Andrew Cassaza (GPP)
- Francesca Catalfio (GPF)
- John Clark (GPS)
- \*Olivia Coleman (DET)
- \*Colton Dale (GPW)
- Marc Deldin (GP)
- Emily Everett (GPW)
- Jennifer Fiore (GPS)
- Mary Jo Johnson (GPF)
- Ed Keelean (GPP)
- Peter McGrath (GPP)
- La Vern Rutledge (HW)
- Roland Samaroo (GPF)
- Ricardo Thomas (DET)

\* new member in 2017; other candidates may be added at the membership meeting

**Ex-officio members:**

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

**Past president:**

- Harry Kalogerakos (HW)

Thanks to Doug Barnes, Constance Merritt and Bob Murphy, who served in 2016 but will not be on the board in 2017.



*We mourn the death of board member Bruce Sullivan Feaster on Nov. 10. Bruce was an active and dedicated member of our club and served in many capacities with the*

*14th Congressional District and on many campaigns. His dedication to our club will be missed.*

# Committee chair reports

## Community service

The Community Service Committee of the Grosse Pointe Dems has worked very closely with the Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe Lion's Club to provide food and gifts to needy families in our community.

We will continue to work with Meals on Wheels and to provide a meal for the Harper Woods Public Library reading program that we have been involved with for the past four years.

There are many ways we can and should be involved with our communities. Look around your neighborhood see what you can do to make a difference. We will put out a call for service when we get our next program together.

If you have suggestions, please contact me. Remember we are our brother's – and sister's -- keeper.

*Valerie Kindle*

## Membership

The primary fundraiser for the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club is member dues, and our 2017 campaign for renewals and new members is under way. Now more than ever we must promote the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party, and contribute to the movement to elect Democrats.

Be a part of the effort by filling out the membership form on the back page. Mail it in today or bring it to the general membership meeting on Feb. 9 at the War Memorial.

*Mary Jo Johnson*

## Fundraising

We had a great time at the annual fundraiser on Nov. 14. Our speakers, state Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood of Taylor and club member David Greenspan Jr., gave very comforting messages that we needed after the lost election. We had the biggest group ever and raised more than \$2,700. Many thanks to all who attended and helped.

Please save your gently used items for my garage sale to benefit the club on May 19-20.

*Margaret Beck*

## Precinct Delegate Action

In the last newsletter I reported on results of the August 2016 election of precinct delegates in Michigan House Districts 1 and 2. As noted we have a 32 percent and 47 percent occupancy rate respectively. That's noteworthy but 100 percent is the goal.

The opportunity and the challenge are clear. The committee, the club and the Democratic Party have to get the word out to activists in the precincts on the opportunity and method to get involved and get on the ballot.

Grosse Pointe Park Precincts 3 and 5 illustrate the point. Together there were six positions available, but no candidates on the ballot. However, 19 voters wrote their names in as write-in candidates which failed because they hadn't filed the necessary notice of intent.

This was true in many of the underrepresented precincts.

(If you are one of the unsuccessful write-ins, please call the number below. Since ballots are secret, we don't know who the 19 are.)

The committee is focusing on a systematic and uniform effort to get the message out to the 108 precincts in the two districts for the August 2018 primary, the next opportunity for precinct delegates to be on the ballot.

This will include mailings and personal outreach and an emphasis on networking between current delegates and potential candidates.

Members are encouraged to identify and cultivate members and candidates and volunteer for this committee. If interested, please contact Ed Keelean at (313) 618-6067 or eckeelean@comcast.net.

*Ed Keelean*

# Why we must win governor's seat in '18

Michigan Democrats hoped we could flip nine seats in November and take control of the Michigan House of Representatives. That would have ended total Republican control in Lansing.

But even though the statewide popular vote was split nearly 50-50, we couldn't break through the gerrymandered districts.

Overall, gerrymandering shortchanged the voters of Michigan. That's why we need to win the next statewide race for governor,

which won't be affected by gerrymandering. We need to unite as a party to do that.

In 2016 only one Democrat, Darrin Camilleri, beat a Republican to pick up a state House seat. He ran Downriver in the 23rd District that includes Trenton, Gibraltar and Grosse Ile.

On election night Camilleri was behind by 1,900 votes, but when heavily Democratic Brownstown came in, he won by 320 votes.

Camilleri, with the energy of the 24-year

old that he is, worked harder than any candidate. We pounded away at Gov. Rick Snyder and Republican increases in the vehicle tax. Republicans would switch to Camilleri after considering this issue.

We need to find a governor candidate who can win over a district like Camilleri's. He proved that with a good – OK, great – candidate and hard work, it can be done.

*Dick Olson*

# Volunteer efforts were a big win for us

Continued from Page 1

Democratic victories.

As we have seen and will see in the coming year, elections matter and losing has dire consequences. There is no reward for second place.

The state party must place more resources in our local party organizations, and more attention in the grassroots groups. Part of the failure of this election was the national campaign's and higher party leadership's disconnect with local parties and voters. I'm encouraged by the Michigan Democratic Party's study and action plan to address this disconnect, that I hope will provide more money and resources to assist clubs like ours. This examination is long overdue.

Despite the loss, I want to thank everyone who volunteered in any way at our campaign office on Mack Avenue. We had volunteers who were energized, motivated and dedicated as we canvassed, phone-banked and got out the vote in our communities. I also want to thank the Clinton campaign staff who were part of our political family last fall and did a magnificent job for us.

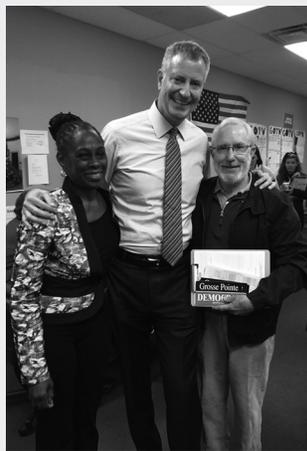
The office was a tremendous success and we all should be proud of our hard work for Hillary Clinton and our Democratic candidates. Our efforts had tangible results. Clinton won the city of Grosse Pointe with a 75 percent turnout and Grosse Pointe Park with a 72 percent turnout, and Trump's margin of victory was small in the other Pointes. In Harper Woods, Clinton won with 78 percent with a 64 percent turnout. Clinton got 2,311 more votes in the Pointes and Harper Woods than Barack Obama got in 2012. Those are terrific results and directly attributable to our outreach and get-out-the-vote efforts.

Now it's time to rebound. In 2018 we must put an end to Republican domination of our state government, particularly so we can have direct input for the redistricting that will occur in 2020. Our next governor will have tremendous influence on that process and we cannot have a repeat of 2010.

In addition, we must re-elect U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow to do our part to regain the majority in that chamber of Congress.

We have a lot of work ahead, which is why we can't dwell on 2016. It's time to turn the page, correct what went wrong, reconnect

## Hard work, good times at our '16 campaign office



with voters and win in 2018 and 2020.

The club will continue to do its part to mobilize Democrats and inform voters. We will have a full slate of meetings and events, starting Feb. 9 with our general membership meeting featuring Congressman Dan Kildee. Our April 20 meeting will feature former Democratic state Senate leader and gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer. These will be terrific events that highlight candidates who will likely run for governor in 2018.

Our state party convention on Feb. 11 at Cobo will feature the election for state party chair and our 14th Congressional District chair. The club has endorsed Rick Blocker for re-election as 14th District chair, and we urge everyone who attends the caucus and convention to support him.

I want to thank last year's board of directors for all their hard work and dedication, and welcome the slate of 2017 members

who will be voted on Feb. 9.

As always, please renew your membership and encourage others to join our club. We make a tremendous impact on our community and the last election results show that our neighbors value what we do. I look forward to seeing you in 2017.

## Just 80,000 votes was the margin of victory

"By flipping three states – Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin – by a total of less than 80,000 votes, he (Trump) won. That razor-thin margin, about six-tenths of a percent of the nearly 14 million votes cast in those states, wouldn't even fill the Big House at the University of Michigan." *From "The Rust Belt gave Trump victory, now they want jobs in return," by Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press, Jan. 18, 2017*



| PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES |                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Vote for not more than 1                                                   |                                  |
| Donald J. Trump<br>Michael R. Pence<br>Republican                          | <input type="radio"/>            |
| Hillary Clinton<br>Tim Kaine<br>Democratic                                 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Gary Johnson<br>Bill Weld<br>Libertarian                                   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| Darrell L. Castle<br>Scott N. Bradley<br>U.S. Taxpayers                    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| Jill Stein<br>Ajamu Baraka<br>Green                                        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| Emidio Mimi Soltyssik<br>Angela Nicole Walker<br>Natural Law               | <input type="radio"/>            |



## ... and in '17, rallying to save health care



Grosse Pointe Dems were among health care supporters at a rally in early January in Warren, where up to 10,000 people came to hear Sen. Bernie Sanders, Senate minor-

ity leader Chuck Schumer, Sen. Gary Peters, Rep. Brenda Lawrence, Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards and others.

**Grosse Pointe  
DEMOCRATIC CLUB**



PO Box 36881 • Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

**Grosse Pointe Democratic Club • 2017 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\* Required for club announcements

\*\* Required by Michigan campaign finance law

Donations are not tax-deductible.

## Pointers for peace & justice

More than 1,200 people – including many GP Dems members – brought signs and high spirits to the Grosse Pointe Walk for Peace on Jan. 21, organized by We GP as a sister march to the Women’s March on Washington. Shannon Byrne, right, was one of the organizers and is also on the slate of our club’s 2017 board members. We GP, which stands for Welcoming everyone Grosse Pointe, is a community-based organization committed to honoring and promoting human rights, diversity, dignity and justice.

