

GROSSE POINTE DEMOCRATS

February 2019

Michigan's largest chartered Democratic club

Serving the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and Detroit's east side

COMING UP

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club membership meeting, 7 p.m. Feb. 18, War Memorial Reception Room, 32 Lake Shore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Sen. Adam Hollier and Rep. Joe Tate, our new elected officials from Senate District 2 and House District 2, will give legislative updates. Also, our club T-shirts will be for sale for \$10. If you can't make the meeting and want a shirt, email Treasurer Chris Keelean at cakeelean@yahoo.com.

~~~

**14th Congressional District monthly meetings,** 11 a.m. March 9 and April 13 at 14300 Oak Park Boulevard, Oak Park, and 11 a.m. May 11 and June 8 at Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers, Detroit.

~~~

GP Dems April membership meeting, TBD. Check your email and our Facebook page for meeting info.

~~~

**Garage sale to benefit GP Dems, May 17-18,** 445 Moran, Grosse Pointe Farms. Contact Margaret Beck at [margretbeck@comcast.net](mailto:margretbeck@comcast.net) to volunteer or donate items.

~~~

Annual club picnic, 5:30-7:30 p.m. June 13, Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Park.

For updates, like us on Facebook and go to gpdems.com.

Election results prove it: Our course is the right one!

That was how we do it! Last year I said: "It's now up to us to stop and change what is happening." We certainly did that and 2018 was a terrific year for our party because we made substantial gains in Congress and our state government.

Democrats swept all the state executive offices, gained one seat on the Michigan Supreme Court, took two of our state's congressional seats from the Republicans, passed our supported state ballot proposals and made significant gains in the state legislature.



Message from the president

Locally five of our six endorsed school board candidates in Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods won, and our bond proposals passed.

Thanks to your efforts and Democrats throughout the state, the extremist Republican agenda has been halted and Democrats now can influence decisions made by our federal and state governments.

The people of our state now see that our course is the right

Continued on Page 2



From left, past president Harry Kalogerakos; La Vern Rutledge; Dave Greenspan, whose father's service inspired the award; Beverly Brown, and president Gary Bresnehan.

Two dynamic volunteers win Greenspan Award

The Grosse Pointe Democratic Club proudly awarded the 2018 David Greenspan Award to LaVern Rutledge of Harper Woods and Beverly

Brown of Detroit at the November fundraiser.

Both women worked tirelessly to set up the 2018 campaign office and then volunteered for multiple

shifts of phone banking and other needs leading up to Election Day. Their efforts helped many Democratic candidates win in November.

Dems course is the right course

Continued from Page 1

one, and have turned their backs on the Republican Party.

But our work is not done. We must finish it in 2020 by electing a Democratic president, taking control of the Senate — which includes re-electing Gary Peters — and retaking our state legislature.

Based on our strong voter turnout last year, and the electorate's disdain for the divisive Republican agenda, we can certainly finish what we started in 2018.

I am pleased to report that our 2018 campaign office was again a success, despite some early logistical issues that we had to overcome.

I want to thank the One Michigan Campaign staff who worked tirelessly and all our volunteers who contributed to the office with their funds, time and efforts. It all paid off with the enormous enthusiasm and success that we had with voter turnout.

I want to congratulate Beverly Brown and La Vern Rutledge for being the David Greenspan Award recipients this year, in recognition of their hard work and efforts at the office during the campaign.

I also want to congratulate the “super volunteers” who were recognized at the club's annual November fundraiser for all their hard work and efforts.

Looking ahead

At the state Democratic convention on Feb. 2 at Cobo Hall, we elected officers for MDP, as well as the 14th Congressional District and State Central.

The club endorsed 14th Congressional District Chair Rick Blocker and fully supported his re-election. Rick has been an inclusive and effective leader and has earned our respect and support.

Club members elected to 14th District leadership positions were Harry Kalogerakos, first vice chair; Val Kindle, district vice chair; Jackie Kalogerakos, Neil Sroka and myself, representatives to State Central, and Tim Killeen, honorary vice chair.

We also look forward to working with new MDP Chair Lavora Barnes to make local party growth a top priority, and we encourage her to look to our club as a



Club members at Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's inaugural ball included, from left, Val Kindle, Colton Dale, Francesca Catalfio and Gary Bresnehan.

resource to expand the MDP's grassroots network across the state.

At our Feb. 18 membership meeting at the War Memorial, we will elect our 2019 board of directors, who will review club policies and procedures, and begin planning for the very important election in 2020.

To stay updated on events, please like us on Facebook and check our website, www.gpdems.com. Also, make sure we have your current email address for club notices.

A round of thanks

I want to thank everyone who attended our election night party and the annual fundraiser that featured our new state Sen. Adam Hollier, representing Senate District 2; new state Rep. Joe Tate, representing House District 2, and our Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence. I want to thank Margaret Beck for organizing this great event. We look forward to her annual garage sale that supports our club.

I want to thank Val Kindle for organizing the 14th Congressional District meeting at WCCC in January that was heavily attended by local Democrats.

I also want to thank our 2018 board for their very hard work and dedication, especially when we had to run a campaign office and maintain the usual functions of our club.

Please renew your membership for 2019 because we need your support for continued success in 2020, and to maintain our club's work in the community. I will see you soon at our upcoming events.

Gary Bresnehan

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club slate of proposed officers and executive board

President Gary Bresnehan (GP)
Vice President Jackie Kalogerakos (HW)
Vice President Aaron Tavalire (GPF)
Treasurer Christan Keelean (GPP)
Secretary Larry Macdonald (GPW)

At-large members

Rachael Backer (GPW)
Margaret Beck (GPF)
Beverly Brown (DET)
Sandra Bucciero (GPW)
Shannon Byrne (GPF)
Andrew Casazza (GPF)
Francesca Catalfio (GPF)
* John Clark (GPS)
Olivia Coleman (DET)
Colton Dale (GPW)
Emily Everett (GPW)
* Jeff Greer (GPP)
Ed Keelean (GPP)
* Laura Kellett (GPF)
* Ian McCain (DET)
La Vern Rutledge (HW)
Roland Samaroo (GPF)
Neil Sroka (GPF)

Ex-officio members

Tim Killeen (DET)
Valerie Kindle (HW)

Past president

Harry Kalogerakos (HW)

(* proposed new board members)

Many thanks to board members
who served in 2018

but are not running in 2019:

Jennifer Bagwell, Detroit

Richard Canny, Grosse Pointe Farms
Mary Jo Johnson, Grosse Pointe Farms
Peter McGrath, Grosse Pointe Park

High fives all around!

It was an honor and privilege to work during the general election season with a passionate, dedicated, hard-working group of Detroiters and Grosse Pointers. While there were challenges, our volunteers proved the power of organizing with your friends and neighbors to make a difference. Thank you for recognizing the importance of bringing forth new leadership our state wanted and needed for a progressive, prosperous 2019 and beyond.

While we did some resting and recuperating during the holidays, know we are ready to make phone calls and knock on doors with you again very soon to prepare for 2020. We built a movement together. Let's keep building to show the nation that progress is possible.

Ian McCain, MDP field organizer

We challenged volunteers to treat the office as more than a clubhouse and we tried to make sure everyone, especially Detroiters, felt comfortable being there. It paid off.

Kelly Lett, MDP field organizer

A huge thanks to everyone who loaned and donated items to get the office up and running, and who worked there to make it such a success!

*Board members Chris Keelean
& Emily Everett*



At this year's fundraiser on Nov. 12, the club recognized "super volunteers, for going above and beyond, working at the office for countless hours and pitching in to do whatever was needed": Ricardo Brown, Sandra Bucciero, Olivia Coleman, Emily Everett, Russell Greenfelder, Jeff Greer, Chris Keelean, Ed Keelean, Val Kindle, Sean McGigor, Joanna Porvin, Maria Simon, Terri Smith, Charlie Tazzia and James Thomas.



Adam Hollier, left, new state senator for Senate District 2 and guest speaker at the November fundraiser, and Joe Tate, right, new state rep from House District 2, with club President Gary Bresnehan.

Committee chair reports

Precinct delegate action

The committee was instrumental in conducting a delegate training at the campaign office on Sept. 22 with Moreno Taylor, field coordinator of the MDP, and Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen. More than 30 precinct delegates attended.

The new class of precinct delegates elected last August — including 70 first-timers among the total of 168 — will serve until the next primary on Aug. 4, 2020, and will need to mark their calendars to ensure they file to be on the ballot by the deadline of

May 5, 2020.

In the interim they will be providing the impetus to turn the successful blue wave of Nov. 6, 2018, into the blue tsunami of Nov. 3, 2020. All motivated Democrats need to get involved.

As President Obama said, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Organize – Build Power – Win Justice!

*Ed Keelean, eckeelean@comcast.net
313-498-2409 (new number)*

Fundraising

We had a great time at the annual fundraiser on Nov. 12. The speaker was Adam Hollier, our new state senator representing District 2. More than 100 people came and we raised \$1,922. Many thanks to all who attended, contributed and volunteered.

Please save your gently used items for my garage sale to benefit the club on May 17-18. I could use help with pricing, starting in April.

*Margaret Beck,
margretbeck@comcast.net*



**Grosse Pointe
DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

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

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club • 2019 Membership

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

- Member \$20** **Sponsor \$50** **Century Club \$100** **Life \$500**
- New** **Renewal** **Cash** **Check** **Credit card**

* Email _____

Name _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

** Occupation _____

** Employer _____ ** Address _____ ** ZIP _____

* Required for club announcements

** Required by Michigan campaign finance law

Donations not tax-deductible