



Volume 59

Grosse Pointe Crisis Club Newsletter

Serving the Community Since 1956

4th Quarter 2025

Number 4



From The President

Once again Comedy Night was a huge success with over 185 attendees. Thanks to Jim Flannery and Rick Higgenbottom for finding three talented comedians. Jimmy Nahra at Lakeland Manor is a terrific host and the food and service were excellent.

Also, our annual membership meeting at Assumption was very well attended. Thanks to Tony Marchiori and his staff for another outstanding night. Steve Graus secured Eddie Murray, former Detroit Lions kicker, as our guest speaker. Eddie spoke about his involvement with Hope Network, a charity with a budget of over \$140 million. Can you imagine if we had a tenth of that budget, how many Crisis Cases we could handle? He had an interesting journey on his way to becoming a professional football kicker playing hockey, rugby and soccer in Canada.

Continued on Page 4

GROSSE POINTE CRISIS CLUB GI ING TUESDAY -SAVE THE DATE- Tuesday, DECEMBER 2, 2025

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Giving Tuesday kicks off the charitable season of giving.

You can be a part of the celebration by giving to the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club for the benefit of the community. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 2, 2025.

Please consider a donation to the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club this year in the spirit of Giving Tuesday. The Club is now facing an increased number of Crisis cases now that we are going into the Holiday Season. Send your donation payable to the GPCC in care of Treasurer, Creighton J. Weber, 5340 Hollow Dr., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302.

You are receiving the Newsletter after Giving Tuesday. Nevertheless, please consider the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club this charitable season.

Celebrating 69 Years Of Helping Those In Need



Grosse Pointe Crisis Club
18640 Mack Ave., Unit 36243
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Web: www.gpcrisisclub.org
A 501(c)(3) Public Charity

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William R. Turner

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Creighton J. Weber

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Linda C. Bertges

Crisis Case Director
Donald H. Vormelker

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Term Ending Dec. 31, 2025
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Mike Norris
Bill Meredith

Term Ending Dec. 31, 2026
Jim Ellis
William R. Turner
Rich Grossfield

Term Ending Dec. 31, 2027
Eugene (Bud) Casazza
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Tim DeMeulenaere

Term Ending Dec. 31, 2028
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Richard Bertges
Creighton J. Weber

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Assistant Crisis Case Director
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Advertising Chairman
Jimmy Maniere

Legal Counsel
F. Peter Blake

Membership Chairman
Richard Grosfield, Sr.

Nominations/Elections
William Turner
Steve Graus

Roster Chairman
George Strachan

The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club is pledged to act in an emergency or "Crisis" not covered by the policies of other charitable organizations. Cases requiring continuing aid are best handled by others.

PLEASE NOTE!

We encourage our members to refer people or families in a possible crisis or emergency, but we ask our members to contact the Crisis Director or any Trustee in person. Please do not give anyone the hot-line number, or the telephone number of case investigators or any other Crisis Club member.



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Paul D. Alandt
Crisis Club Member

Crisis Case Corner

By Donald H. Vormelker, Crisis Case Director

Case #1908 D. Vormelker

A social worker from the Webber Cancer Center contacted the Club about a 60 year old married man who had very advanced cancer. Both he and his wife work full time. However his wife was in danger of losing her job due to excessive time off to care for her husband. They were struggling financially and requested assistance with their mortgage. The social worker was looking into any possible available financial assistance for them. Unfortunately, before the Club could set up an interview the client passed away and the social worker indicated no financial assistance was required at this time.

Case #1909 M. Norris - D. Vormelker

A Van Elslander Cancer Center social worker recommended a single woman who was diagnosed with stage 4 uterine cancer. She had not received her short term disability through work. She was facing possible eviction and has no history with eviction. The Club paid two month's rent to stop possible eviction and gave her Meijer gift cards for food and necessities.

Case #1910 M. Norris - D. Vormelker

A social worker from Orchards Children's Services contacted the Club about a single mother with four children who was in a domestic violence relationship. She left her ex-husband and relocated her family into a shelter. The oldest child passed away and they are working on survivor benefits. She is working two jobs trying to save towards relocating to stable housing for her family. She located a rental property in a gated community that she could afford but needs relocation expenses and gift cards to purchase household necessities. The Club paid the security deposit and first month's rent so she could relocate and gave her Meijer gift cards to purchase household items.

GPCC Members Please Note:

It has been approved to assist families in need at Christmas with Meijer gift cards as we have done in past years. If any member knows of a family that could use assistance, please contact the Crisis Director or any Board Member.

Service Report

We are sad to report, belatedly, the death of **David Letscher**, who was 77 when he passed away, peacefully, on June 21, at his home in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI. Dave grew up and spent most of his life in Grosse Pointe and was a general contractor here in Southeast MI.

To Dave, a day spent golfing with friends, a cigar, a cold beer and laughter in the clubhouse was perfect. Dave is survived by his wife, Kathy, sons Matthew, Brian and Aaron, six grandchildren and siblings Joslen and Michael.

We must also sadly report the death of **Sam Hakim, Sr.**, age 70, who passed away on November 21 at Henry Ford St. John hospital. A longtime member of the Crisis Club, Sam was the owner of Emily's Delicatessen and was known for his service to others, work ethic, hospitality and dedicated support of the Club. Sam was predeceased by his wife, Mary Jane; and is survived by sons, Joseph, Matthew Anthony, Sam Jr. and Christopher, his brother, and fellow Crisis Club member Roy and his sisters Mary and Joann, nine grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

It was great to see **Bob Fleming** at Comedy Night, even as he continues with rehabilitation at the Michigan Veteran Home in Chesterfield Township.

We are advised that **Larry Smith** recently had an extended hospital stay as well as surgery. Larry is now recovering at home.

Bob West was recently hospitalized as a result of an infection. Bob is out of the hospital and celebrated by going deer hunting with family and friends.

Please keep Dave and Sam, along with their families, as well as Bob, Larry and Bob in your thoughts and prayers. We're sure those members recovering from hospitalization and surgery would appreciate a call or an email.

CRAIN'S 40 under 40

Every year, Crain's Detroit Business recognizes 40 young professionals from Southeast and Northern Michigan who are driving change. On November 20th Crisis Club member and former Trustee Andrew Casazza was named to the 40 under 40 class of 2025. Our Treasurer, Creighton Weber, is a member of the 1993 class. Congratulations gentlemen.



Happy Birthday



OCTOBER

3 Dennis Brescoll
7 Darryl A. Spicher
10 Larry E. Smith
10 James Tigani
11 Ana M. Brajak, DDS
11 James M. Flannery
13 Tom Vasilos
15 Richard D. Ray
17 Timothy Rose
18 Anthony Sam Abraham
19 Robert James Bendzinski
19 Walter S. Cytracki
20 Jack Patterson
22 Eric Goosen
25 Charles D. McLeod
26 George Strachan
28 Michael J. Norris
31 Veronica M. Michalewicz
31 Michael R. (Tim) Sullivan



NOVEMBER

7 Brian Milstead
8 Richard Higginbottom
9 Paul D. Alandt
10 Wayne J. Babbish
10 Ed Kropa
12 Donald H. Vormelker
13 John Starr
15 Margaret Gatiff
15 Gerard D. Antonelli
15 Ludwik Labaj
15 Anthony E. Gatliff
15 Sabrina Oviatt
18 Holden Pierce Jenkins
19 Linda Carol Bertges
20 William C. Schaefer
21 Roy J. Hakim
23 Steven C. Graus
23 James L. Maniere, Sr.
24 Margaret (Maggie) E. Fitzgerald
24 Peter T. Huthwaite, Sr.
25 Fred Ottis Hannah

26 James S. Gompers

26 Don Edward Schmaltz

27 Julie Miller

DECEMBER

1 John A. Bogdziewicz
1 Tim F. Couvreur
3 Richard Grosfield, Sr.
4 Paul Grosshans
4 Jeffrey A. Stieber
5 David Dietz
8 Bernard J. Youngblood
10 Tom Blake
15 Catherine Bulgarelli
16 Kenneth DiLaura
20 Philip Aziz
20 Christopher L. Cooper
20 Kenneth R. Dornbrook
20 Kurt Flemming
22 Tracy L. Sullivan
26 James Anthony Simpson
27 Brian Kean
31 Jeremy Payton

From the President *Continued from Page 1*

During the two events we received 8 new member applicants. The 50/50 drawings during these two meetings were won by individuals who submitted their applications during the events: Tim Northy at Comedy Night and George Chevalier at our General membership meeting. George was attending as a guest and before the drawing decided to become a member.

The next Trustee meeting will be Thursday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Grille. The three Trustees whose terms are expiring have agreed to serve another term. Our 3 digit Raffle sold out for the 10th year and we are paying out every night in November. Thanks to all who purchased and/or sold tickets.

Finally, with great sadness I am resigning my position as the President of the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club. I have truly enjoyed working with the Officers and Trustees this year, They have all been a great help to me in my year as President.

Thank you to all members who have attended our events and otherwise contributed to the Crisis Club. Without you we could never help those in crisis and I wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jim Ellis, President



The annual Ted Eikhoff Comedy Night on October 18th, proved, to the 185 members and guests in attendance, to be an outstanding evening of food, cocktails and, above all, lots of laughs.

Member Jim Nahra, and his staff at Lakeland Manor, did an impeccable job of providing dinner, beverages and above all, attentive service.

Comedy Night would not be the success that it has been without the tireless efforts of another member, Rich Higgenbottom. Not only is Rich the Master of Ceremonies for both Sports Night and Comedy Night, but is responsible for searching and securing the right comedians for our shows.

We look forward to again presenting Comedy Night in the fall of 2026.

SAVE THE DATE



**2026 SPRING
SPORTS NIGHT**
Monday, April 6th, 2025
Assumption Cultural Center

**2026 GROSSE POINTE
CRISIS CLUB
"KOTCHER'S KAPERS"
GOLF OUTING**
Monday, August 3rd, 2026
Gowanie Golf Club



Presidential Trivia

- A. Did not allow a Christmas Tree in the White House
- B. Gave shortest inaugural speech
- C. First to wear long pants at inauguration
- D. He had a secret child

See Page 8 for Answers

RAFFLE REPORT

BY BUD CASAZZA

The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club Raffle sold out for the 10th consecutive year. The top sellers this year were Mike Kennedy, Creighton Weber and Jim Ellis. Great thanks to all who purchased and/or sold the 1,000 tickets for another sell out.

Name _____
Address _____
City/Zip _____
Phone _____
Seller _____

\$20.00



RAFFLE
GROSSE POINTE CRISIS CLUB
Michigan daily 3 digit evening drawing
November 1st – November 30th 2025
\$20.00 per ticket

\$250.00 winner each day except
\$500.00 winner each Saturday

If the ticket for the daily 3 evening number has not been sold,
a drawing from the pool of tickets sold will take place between
7:30pm & 8:00pm that day at 255 Moran – Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

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Upcoming EVENTS

2025

December 9th - Trustee meeting
at the Village Grille

2026

January 13th - Trustee meeting at TBD
March 10th - Trustee meeting at TBD
April 6th - Spring Sports Night at Assumption
August 3th - Kotcher's Kapers
at Gowanie Golf Club

**NOTE: Trustee Meeting dates
are subject to change**

POTENTIAL ADVERTISERS

Dear Members and Friends:

In order to continue to furnish the Membership and the present ADVERTISERS with our wonderful communicative ROSTER AND NEWSLETTER, we need to ADD MANY NEW ADS to be able to absorb our every increasing costs. We need more of the Regular \$330 ads and Double Size \$450 ads. Our Membership, and/or their Companies can be added and the pages increased.

INDIVIDUAL COMPLIMENTARY ADS ARE ALSO WELCOMED!!!

We continue to seek NEW Advertisers, and we can increase our advertising space. Our hope is that you, Our Members and supporters, consider promoting your Company or Service in one of our Crisis Club advertisement opportunities.

Below are rate and size specifications for the best advertising buys to be found. If we can add a page or two of advertising, we can keep our rates at these extremely competitive levels. Non-members are welcome at a slightly higher cost (unless they care to become a Member at the \$100 application fee, which includes their first year's dues).

Please call me or email me with your interest or any questions, and THANK YOU for considering the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club in your marketing efforts. We will prepare your ad at no cost.

Regards,

James (Jimmy) Maniere Sr., Advertising Chairman – (586) 230-3310 or djmaniere@comcast.net

2026 Continuing Advertising Descriptions & Rates

Publication	Ad Description	Dimension (in.)	1X	2X	Annual
Member Roster					
	Inside Front Cover	3 1/2W x 6 3/4H			\$350.00
	Center Fold, and Page 2	3 1/2W x 6 3/4H			\$300.00
	Inside Back Cover	3 1/2W x 6 3/4H			\$300.00
	Back Cover Ad	3 1/2W x 6 3/4H			\$350.00
Newsletter					
	Regular Ad	3 7/8W x 1 1/8H	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$400.00
	Double Size Ad	3 7/8W x 3 H	\$300.00	\$400.00	\$500.00
	Triple Size Ad (vertical)	3 7/8W x 5 H	\$300.00	\$400.00	\$750.00
	1/2 Page Ad (vertical)	3 7/8W x 10 1/4H	\$350.00	\$450.00	\$850.00
	1/2 Page Ad (horizontal)	8 W x 5 1/4H	\$350.00	\$450.00	\$850.00
	Full Page Ad	8 W x 10 1/4H	\$500.00	\$750.00	\$1,200.00

NOTE: Display Newsletter ads will be printed in black and white, but can appear in color in the online version of the Newsletter, available on our website.

Enroll Now In the Kroger Community Rewards Program

If you shop at Kroger, please enroll for the Kroger Community Rewards Program and designate the Crisis Club as the beneficiary of your shopping. There are two options to sign up: go to krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the prompts to designate the Crisis Club as your charity of choice or call 1-800 KROGERS, follow the prompts to #4, and the Customer Service department will answer and ask you for the number on the back of your plus card. Tell Kroger to add the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club as your charitable designate and you're done. Remember that your friends, family and business associates can also join to help us have more people enrolled. Please sign up using the new Rewards number of AC852.

Thank you.



KROGER UPDATE

We received a Kroger check in the amount of \$127.79 from the period of August 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025. We now have 54 households participating. We remind all our Members to go to Kroger online, sign up for Community Rewards and name the GPCC as your charity of choice. Kroger has assigned the Club a new Rewards number. Please sign up using the new Rewards number of AC852.

Thank you for your help.



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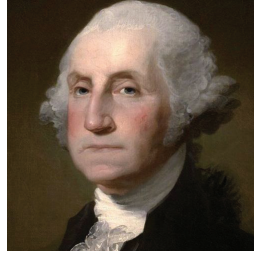
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Grosse Pointe Crisis Club Members
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**NEW HOTLINE
NUMBER**

313-685-0086

Presidential Trivia Answers

- A. T. Roosevelt
- B. Washington
- C. Quincy Adams
- D. Harding



2025 ROSTER

As previously reported, the Crisis Club is no longer publishing a hard copy Roster booklet. The Roster is now on the website and is password protected. George Strachan is the Roster Chairman. If you need to update your information or need the password, email George at Geostrac@sbcglobal.net.

Newsletter Availability

If you would like an additional copy of our Newsletter for family, friends or business associates, please stop by the following establishment:

Irish Coffee Bar & Grill, Grosse Pointe Farms,

Crisis Club Contact Information

Web: www.gpcrisisclub.org

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Jason Hill - Crisis Club Member

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