

April 2020

LWW[®] *the* Marquette County **VOTER**

Website: <https://lwvmqt.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMarquetteCounty/>

Hello League members and welcome...

...to the League of Women Voters of Marquette County **VOTER**. Due to several member requests for a newsletter and a few members willing to take on the task, this is the first issue of our local League newsletter. With this issue we are testing out your interest in future newsletters and your ideas for newsletter content. We would like to share stories, information and updates about the work of our local League in enjoyable and meaningful ways.

You often hear from me through emails and you can stay up-to-date with notices and events on our Facebook page and website (<https://lwvmqt.org>). If you like photos and haven't visited our website page you should. Our member, Janeen Rastall, keeps our website lively with photos from our activities and events. One of the best ways to stay current with League events and get involved with projects is to join us for our membership meetings the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00–7:30 p.m. Those meetings are usually held at Peter White Public Library, but for now, due to COVID-19 we are meeting via Zoom.

We recognize that not everyone is able to make those meetings so we follow-up by sending the meeting minutes to all members. As you can see there are several ways to stay informed about our local League. We hope to hear from you with your thoughts and suggestions about the

newsletter and the other ways that we use to “keep you in the loop.” Stay safe, take care and I hope to see you on Zoom May 6th (watch your email for an invitation and agenda.)



Darlene Allen, President

Calendar

APRIL 2020

- 28 Email to all members: LWV Board elections
- 29 Follow-up email: LWV Board elections

MAY 2020

- 6 Virtual membership meeting, 6–7:30 p.m.
Watch for Zoom invitation via email
To learn more about zoom visit:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>
- 20 Virtual board meeting, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

JUNE 2020

Annual in-person meeting cancelled.
See emergency meeting directive on Page 5 of this newsletter.

Monthly editions of LWVMI's League Links are at <https://lwvmi.org> under Member Resources.

Follow LWVMQT on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMarquetteCounty/>

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Imagining a Democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Econo Foods Fundraiser Help Needed

Turning in Econo Foods receipts is the main fundraiser for our local League. It raises a nice amount of income for us.

Jane Pajot coordinates it, but she is concerned with the current situation we may not be able to get our receipts in time for her to tally and submit them for reimbursement to Econo Foods in July. It would be helpful for her if the receipts can come in over time so she can manage creating the adding machine tally.

So, please continue to save your Econo Foods receipts for our League projects and send them periodically to Jane Pajot, 1119 Pine, Marquette, MI 49855. Once we start meeting in-person again the receipts can be brought to the membership meetings.

Best of Intentions, but...



In March there was a plan to visit the Cooper County LWV and see their exhibit, but weather and the Michigan stay in place directive changed that. Although we were not able to attend they shared this YouTube video link "[Petticoat Patriots: How Michigan Women Won the Vote Virtual Tour](#)" Carnegie Museum of the Keweenaw.

Hopefully, we will get a chance to enjoy in person this coming October in Escanaba.

Madalyn Koval



FY20-21 election

Board of Directors

Candidates for Open Board Positions

President	Darlene T. Allen
Secretary	Joanna Mitchell
Director	David Allen
Director	Sandy Breitenbach

Candidates for Nominating Committee

Chair	Janet Joswiak
Member	Laura Keller Petrie

Watch for forthcoming emails to cast your votes for these candidate and/or others. You will be given a chance in that first email to nominate others for these positions.

The nominating committee spoke to each member being considered. We asked what they thought their position required and their feelings about serving on the board. Each was knowledgeable and enthusiastic. We even had one Zoom interview after the Stay Home, Stay Safe rule was enacted for Michigan.

The committee would like to thank the present board and membership for the help, guidance, and inspiration they have provided.



Janet Joswiak, chair (left), Madalyn Koval (center), Jeanne Sekley (right) Nominating Committee

Michigan needs you.

Apply today to serve on Michigan's first-ever **Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission** and help draw fair election districts.

You'll make a difference and be compensated for your service.



Voter Services Committees

Our local League has three distinct Voter Services committees—Vote 411, Voter Registration/Education, and printed Voter Guide. All are coordinated by our Voter Services Director.

*Pri Burnham,
Voter Services Director*



Vote 411

We would like *your* help in developing Marquette County candidate questions for the Vote411.org website and future candidate forums. Some of the upcoming races are: Marquette City Commission, Negaunee City Commission, Ishpeming City Council, BLP, Marquette County Township Officers, and all Marquette County school boards. We are especially seeking questions that address issues of concern by the constituents in each municipality. Send ideas to Pri, priburnham@gmail.com

*Karen Schmitt,
Vote411 Coordinator*



Voter Registration/Education

We are a dedicated team of 28 members and had trained and were ready to disperse to events scheduled around Marquette County in March, April, and May. However due to the pandemic, we now anticipate exploring how best to conduct our voter education remotely.

Our team will be learning more about how to encourage online voter registration, voting from home, and voting safely. We will be updating our procedures as information becomes available.

*Judy Kitchen (top) and Sue Wilson
Voter Registration/Education Co-Coordinators*



Other Committees

Membership

Currently we have 87 members. Our goal? 100 members during this 100th anniversary of the founding of the national League of Women Voters. So if you know someone you think might be interested in joining us, please invite them to check us out on Facebook or our website <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMarquetteCounty/> <https://lwvmqt.org/>.

We welcome anyone, male or female, over the age of 16. You decide on the level of involvement that fits your interests, from supporting member to participating in voter services, such as registering voters or helping with candidate forums, to finding a niche for your creative talents!

Note to members who ordered tee shirts: If you weren't able to pick up yours at the last meeting and you want to show your colors on Zoom or during your 6:30 Marquette Moment, email Pri Burnham (priburnham@gmail.com). She will let you know where to send your check and find out where to send your order.

*Kim Winokur,
Membership Director*



Educational Programs

The Educational Programs Committee has contacted Shirley Brozzo, an Anishnaabe from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community who works at the NMU Center for Native American Studies. She agreed to do a presentation to us at one of our upcoming general membership meetings on Native American voting rights. Our committee also discussed holding a joint LWV-Marquette community meeting on Election Security and Absentee Voting. However, like so many events during the pandemic, all of this is in limbo right now.

*Jane Pajot,
Educational Programs Director*



Observer Corps

The Observer Corps remains active, despite the pandemic. We are monitoring meeting minutes, video recordings of meetings, or live streaming, depending on availability. In addition, we will be assisting the Vote411.org and candidate forum teams with questions for candidates, based on what we've learned from monitored meetings. Contact David Allen at pdavidallen2@icloud.com if you'd like to join or learn more about Observer Corps.



*David Allen
Observer Corps Director*

Newsletter

We hope you are enjoying the inaugural issue of what we hope will be a monthly newsletter, **The Voter**, for the LWV of Marquette County. Feel free to contact Marge Forslin, editor mforslin2@charter.net with any comments or suggestions for articles in future issues.



*VOTER Editor:
Marge Forslin (left)*

*VOTER
Assistant Editor:
Peggy Jensen (right)*



It's Not Too Late to Respond to the Census

COVID-19 has impacted the 2020 Census in the following ways:

- Deadline for responding to the Census, either online, by phone, or by mail has been postponed until October 31, 2020.
- However, in filling out the Census Questionnaire, Heads of Households still must answer questions based on where household members were living on April 1, 2020. That April 1 date has not changed.
- Census Bureau in-person follow up with those who haven't responded to Census has been delayed until August.

Michigan's response rate as of April 12 was 54.7%, third in the nation. Minnesota was first and Wisconsin second. The U.S. response rate was 48.1%.

Remember the 3 "Cs": the Census is confidential, convenient and crucial.

LWVMC Emergency Directives for Handling League Business

April 15, 2020

The League of Women Voters of Marquette County Board of Directors approved the following emergency directives on 4/15/2020.

LWVMC will temporarily suspend strict compliance with Robert's Rules of Order to the extent necessary to conduct League business during this emergency situation due to COVID-19 pandemic and in order to allow the LWVMC membership the opportunity to conduct the annual meeting business that includes:

- Election of board officers, directors and the nominating committee
- Approving the fiscal year budget 2020-2021
- Adopting the local League priorities 2020-2021
- Adopting the previously supported amendments to the bylaws submitted with application packet for independent League status

Given that all current League members have email, the opportunity to participate will be offered by email. By May 1st an email with the slate, as determined by the Nominating Committee, will be sent to all members with a call for any further nominations. One 24-hour period will be allowed for further nominations. Because our bylaws require these materials be sent to membership one month prior to a vote, by May 3rd a second email will be sent to all members with the slate including any further nominations, the fiscal year budget, the priorities and the amended bylaws. In one month, a 3rd email will be sent out to all members requesting a vote by each member on each item to be received no later than June 10th, the scheduled date for our annual meeting. If circumstances change allowing an in person annual meeting, the board determines that it is appropriate and we are able to hold an annual meeting, then voting will occur in person at the annual meeting by those members in attendance.

Until the governor's directives restricting in person meetings are suspended and until the LWVMC board believes that it can safely conduct membership meetings, any membership meetings held via zoom or other remote meeting technology be considered an official membership meeting where membership business may be conducted and the meetings will count towards the 6 membership meetings required annually in our bylaws.

Any acts taken during this period that are not authorized by our bylaws will be ratified at our first in person membership meeting.