



LWV of Marquette County
BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2023, 9:07 a.m.-10.:52 p.m.
Community Meeting Room at Baraga Place
129 W. Baraga, Marquette

In attendance: David Allen, Sandy Breitenbach, Pri Burnham, Jo Foley, Susan Holliday, Madalyn Koval, Joanna Mitchell, Barb Owdziej, Laura Sabo

Absent: Johanna Worley

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

1. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Barb Owdziej and seconded by Madalyn Koval to approve the agenda as amended to add one item: Nominating Committee recommendation. Motion carried.
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Sue Holliday and seconded by David Allen to approve the August 16, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **Nominating Committee Recommendation—Barb:** The Nominating Committee recommends that Sandy Meyskens fill the Committee’s current vacancy and Sandy M. has offered to do so. Motion by Barb and seconded by Sue to appoint Sandy Meyskens as a member of the 2023/24 Nominating Committee. Motion carried.
4. **Treasurer’s Report—Madalyn:** The unrestricted balance available at the end of August is \$13,414.82. Restricted funds consist of \$4,931.21 in dues held for annual per-member payments to the state and national LWV. Madalyn will send an update to Board members shortly. The reports will be held on file for review with thanks to Madalyn.
5. **LWVUS/LWVMI Report—David:**
 - a. **LWVMI Advocacy Committee** is active as many bills move through the state legislature on topics related to core LWVMI positions: reproductive rights, health care, clean energy, and elections. See the Advocacy section in Sept. 18th League Links and the LWVMI website [Advocacy 2023](#).
 - b. **Review of LWVMI Positions:** LWVMI is undergoing a thorough review of all state policy positions through the DEI lens.
 - c. **PTV Town Halls:** LWVMI is offering grants of \$300-\$600. Funds will likely continue to be available for Proposal 2 voter education next year.
 - d. **LWVMI Grant:** LWVMI offered an opportunity to Leagues to be reimbursed for up to \$2,000 for expenditures incurred from Sept. 1 to Nov. 7 for projects related to the November election, such as
 - Print media ads or billboards
 - Social media ads, i.e., boosting of Facebook posts
 - Printed Voter Guides
 - Voter registration costs
 - Videography, venue and other expenses for candidate forums
 - Tabling or event sponsorship fees
 - GOTV projects

David submitted an application Sept. 17th to ensure funds will be available to LWVMC. He already received confirmation. A final report is due to LWVMI by December 1st. Expenses must be tracked and receipts or invoices submitted to Madalyn. David will write the final report. Motion by Pri Burnham and seconded by Barb to approve the application to secure funding. Motion carried.

- e. **Sharing Voters:** LWVMI asks that local leagues share their Voter newsletters with all 32 Michigan local league presidents and leaders. The e-mailing list for sending our Newsletter is attached to the Sept. 15 message from David on “September President's meeting.” David will receive the Voters from other local leagues and will forward them to Laura Sabo to discuss with the Newsletter Team.
- f. **LWVUS in the news:** Pri announced that PBS Newshour aired an [interview with Deborah Turner](#), LWV President, on Sept. 19.
6. **Website Changes—David:** Most of the files in Dropbox’s LWV Marquette folder have been copied to the lwvmqt.org website under the heading Dropbox (for LWV members). Files can be downloaded to use or edit. Send new and updated files to David to upload or replace with specific instructions. The structure and file names can be altered for consistency or clarity if we wish. David simplified the color scheme. Files that have been transferred are in a Dropbox folder called “Moved to Web—to be deleted.” Some folders that are frequently updated or contain sensitive content remain in Dropbox: Financial Reports, IRS Documents, Membership Rosters, Minutes, and Observer Corps. All agreed that logo vector files can be deleted; they are available on the LWVUS website. An “Upcoming Events” link has been placed on the Home dropdown menu. During the next month, Board members should review contents related to their groups/activities. Board members should bring laptops or other device to the October Board meeting for further discussion. There was interest in having the minutes of a limited number of recent meetings available on the website.
7. **Peer Review:** A review must be conducted annually of local League’s finances following the LWVMI financial review procedure. Sally Davis performed the review last year. Madalyn recommended Laura Petrie who has been shadowing her work. Motion by Pri and seconded by Laura Sabo to ask and authorize Laura Petrie to conduct the review of LWVMC finances for the previous fiscal year 2022/2023. Motion carried.
8. **Land Acknowledgement--Sandy:** The DEI Committee plans to consult with local individuals, such as the Center for Native American Studies, to enrich the land acknowledgement with some historical context. Committee members plan to rotate preparing and delivering the acknowledgement so that it varies from meeting to meeting.
9. **ACLU/LWVMI Partners for Clerk Outreach--Pri:** Pri talked with Christina Schlitt about implications of the HoughtonDems being one of many partners in this coalition for clerk engagement. It is not clear yet what actions will come of this coalition. If useful nonpartisan ideas or material come out of the partnership, we can consider using them. In the meantime, LWVMC will proceed with our independent plans for clerk outreach.
10. **Prop 2 Outreach-Pri:** The Board was inclined to wait until 2024 to consider the LWVMI Town Hall grant and training material on voting changes implemented by the passage of Proposal 2. Pri reported meeting with Clerk Kyle Whitney about Mqt. City participating in the state’s early voting pilot program for November 2023. LWVMC can help by publicizing early voting dates, times and location. The City is sending postcards to registered voters announcing early voting.

11. **Updates:**

- a. **Vote 411/Voters' Guide—Sandy:** Most candidates have responded and several nonrespondents are being contacted repeatedly. Marge Forslin has used the data to design a mini-Voter Guide for printing. The only contested races are in Marquette and Negaunee. Absentee ballots will be available for issuance to voters on Sept. 28. Vote411 will be live Sept. 22. Members are asked to check the results. The MBLP race appears on ballots only in the City of Marquette. MBLP customers in other jurisdictions cannot vote on that race because MBLP is part of the City Charter.
 - b. **Candidate Forum—Jo:** All candidates except Douglas McMahon have agreed to participate. The Education Committee volunteered to distribute the posters. Most of the Candidate Forum positions are filled though more pages and greeters are needed. A meeting will be scheduled for Forum volunteers at Kaufman. Northern Votes (NMU student organization) wants to partner and will be asked to serve as pages and to get posters permitted on campus. Marge is designing the poster.
 - c. **Sheri Davie Presentation—Laura:** Posters are ready to print, thanks to Marge! Laura Sabo will coordinate printing, distribution and site assignments. Barb will store posters on her porch. The Education Committee will help distribute. Jo, Laura and Sandy set up livestreaming on YouTube.
12. **Education Committee Guidance:** The Committee is pleased with the plan to work with the Board on planning 2024 membership meetings along with representatives of other LWVMC committees from noon-2:00 p.m. on November 15th in the Community Meeting Room at Baraga Place.
13. **Planning November Meeting:** Sue has booked both PWPL studios for the November 1st membership meeting to enable breakout sessions for committees other than Voter Services. Pri and Sue will contact committee coordinators to speak for no more than 5 minutes during the business meeting. They'll present a plan at the October Board meeting.
14. **Membership Survey--Sandy:** The survey is complete & Sandy has categorized responses in preparation for the November planning meeting. She will bring results to the Board at its October meeting. Invitations will go out from Board to Committee representatives to participate after Oct. Board meeting.
15. **Zoom Schedule:** Rather than alternating Zoom and in-person meetings, interest was expressed in meeting in-person except when inclement weather is predicted and particularly if schools close. A policy of switching to Zoom only in inclement weather will be stated in meeting notices this winter and members will be asked to check email the day before meetings in case the meeting is switched to Zoom.
16. **Committee Reports:**
- a. **Nominating Committee—Barb:** The Committee has planned a calendar, identified the four positions with expiring terms and will contact incumbents in October.
 - b. **Membership Committee--Barb:** The Committee prefers the title "Recruitment and Retention Committee." They've set up a calendar of renewal notices. The first was sent by email Sept. 18. With a goal of smoothing out the Annual Meeting planning process, the Ore Dock has been reserved for June 5th, 2024. Henceforth the Annual Meeting will be scheduled when June the monthly meeting would occur—first Wednesday. Award nominations will be solicited throughout the year and encouraged through the newsletter and at meetings.
 - c. **Voter Services—Pri and Sue:** Forty children attended Hooked on Voting at PWPL Sept. 16; parents also were engaged. People leaving a TOPS meeting also stopped in.

Hooked on Voting will be held at the U.P. Children's Museum Sept. 23 and the Negaunee Public Library Oct. 14.

- d. **Observer Corps—David:** In the past, new observers were introduced to their agency by a letter from the LWVMC President. Whether letters to external agencies should be signed by the Spokesperson or the person coordinating the activity was discussed and warrants further consideration. In this instance, David, as O.C. Coordinator, will draft the letters of introduction. Laura Sabo, as Communications Coordinator, will review them before they are sent under David's name.
 - e. **Communication Network--Laura:** The next Newsletter will be released in early December and will be coordinated with the donor fundraising newsletter. Laura circulated a helpful draft template for writing regular articles.
 - f. **Environmental Committee:** Eleven members signed up to tour the Eagle Mine. The next meeting is at 5:15 p.m., October 5th at the Crib.
 - g. **Fundraising Committee:** Laura Petrie has received 130 names of potential donors. The Board would like to review what groups will be targeted and the text of the fundraising letter before it is released to donors. Sue is working on a new fundraising proposal. The Committee has not met as a group.
17. **Canvassing for Early Voting:** The City is sending advance information to all registered voters. For the November pilot program, it seems there will be sufficient publicity without door-to-door canvassing.
18. **October Membership Meeting agenda**
- Welcome and open (thank MRHC/donation request)
 - Approve agenda
 - Approve minutes from Sept 6, 2023 meeting
 - Reminders: Candidate Forum
 - Volunteers needed for NMU Swim Meet timing opportunity 10 a.m. Nov. 4
 - Close business meeting
 - Presentation by Sheri Davie, introduced by Sandy Meyskens
 - Question and answer
19. **Board comments:** none.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

***Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 17, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Community Meeting Room at Baraga Place, 129 W. Baraga, Marquette***

***Next Membership Meeting: Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 6:45-8:15 p.m., 6:30 Social
Peter White Public Library, Studio 1, Lower Level, 217 N. Front St., Marquette***

Submitted by Joanna Mitchell, Secretary