



LWV of Marquette County
BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2023, 9:02a.m.-10:46 a.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, Johanna Worley

Guests: Darlene Allen, Laura Petrie, Karen Schmitt

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Sue Holliday and seconded by Pri Burham to approve the agenda as amended to add two items: the Email Vote (3) and the MI Senator’s Town Hall (5.d.) Motion carried.
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Sandy Breitenbach and seconded by Barb Owdziej to approve the October 18, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **Email Vote to revise the LWVMC Organization document:** Motion made by Joanna Mitchell and seconded by David Allen to enter into the minutes the following vote conducted by electronic mail since the last meeting:
11/01/2023 Motion made by Joanna and seconded by David that the LWVMC Organization document be changed to (1) delete all phone numbers and (2) add the mission statement for the Fundraising Committee. Motion carried (9 yes,1 silent)
4. **Treasurer’s Report—Madalyn:** The unrestricted balance available at the end of October is \$12,730.74. Restricted funds consist of \$5,185.07 in dues held for annual per-member payments to the state and national LWV. Madalyn distributed a midmonth November report as well. The reports will be held on file for review with thanks to Madalyn. The Rotary grant covered the Kaufman rental and a portion of the advertising. The LWVMC credit card comes with cash back, including \$25 for first use. Renewals are rolling in fast. Madalyn submitted the IRS 990-N e-postcard as required each year to declare that the LWVMC “gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less.” Laura Petrie has completed the financial peer review of LWVMC records for FY 2022/23 and submitted the peer review report.
5. **LWVUS/LWVMI Report—David Allen:**
 - a. **DEI:** On November 15th at 7PM the LWVMI DEI Team will be sponsoring a virtual DEI program on accessibility of polling locations.
 - b. **Communications Network:** The LWVMI Communications Network meets on Monday, **Nov. 20 at noon** featuring a brief tutorial on Constant Contact. Here is the registration link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApceMvrT8rGdTChiRm0qGHZla3A3ZWLPdE>
Laura S. plans to attend.
 - c. **Denver League letter:** Unlike Denver, Leagues in Michigan (to our knowledge) do not have tiered membership (mixing donation with named membership levels). The issue raised by the Denver LWV is not relevant in our area. Local leagues are already encouraging members become accustomed to donating to their local League separate from dues payment.
 - d. **MI Senator’s Town Hall:** Motion by David and seconded by Pri to inform LWVMC members of Thursday’s Town Hall and ask members not to wear LWV identification or represent the LWV in speaking if they attend the meeting. Motion carried. Time is too short for the LWVMI Board to develop a League statement on the package of energy bills passed by the legislature.

6. **Nominating Committee interim report—Darlene:** The Nominating Committee has been meeting and interviewed the 4 Board members whose terms expire in 2024. They are recruiting only for the positions of Secretary and League Liaison, but not the “shadow” roles. Jo will be looking for a member to shadow the role of Convener. Sandy B. is seeking someone to back up her Vote 411 work and a coordinator for the Education Committee. If a current Board member is interested in either the Secretary or League Liaison position, they are asked contact the Nominating Committee now. Board members were encouraged to mention these roles to their committees or in other encounters with members. Board members are asked to consider & suggest names, but the official invitation to consider a position should come from the Nominating Committee. The Committee will consider who to approach at its Dec. 4th meeting.
7. **Update on Office Supplies—Laura S.:** All the supplies (magnets, stickers, business cards, bookmarks, return address labels & trifold brochures) are back from the printer and invoiced. Kudos to Laura S. for coordinating this swift turnaround and the great designs. Laura S. will store the supplies. Yard signs for Vote411 & election worker support will be needed in 2024. Voter Services will develop a proposal for designs and distribution.
8. **Report on Candidate Forum Debrief—Jo:** The video of the Oct. 12 forum has had 324 views, second highest of all LWVMC forum videos. David noted that local forums are the signature LWV event & top priority.
 - a. Candidate Paul Schloegel suggested extending the time for candidate’s answers. 1 ½ minutes seems feasible if the number of candidates is not too large.
 - b. Conduct forums earlier: week before or week of absent voter ballot distribution.
 - c. Have a sit-down meeting of the Forum team prior to the Forum.
 - d. Use smaller venues than Kaufman: Library Community Room, Marquette Township Hall, City Commission Hall with overflow room available.
 - e. Talk to AV people at NMU, PWPL, Nick at nick@sidecarprod.com about live-streaming and recording capabilities and costs.
 - f. Get our own tripod. Consider getting a microphone connecting to our camera for recording presentations with better sound. Consider getting dedicated phone/camera.
 - g. Have a specific time/space for press interviews with candidates.
 - h. Marketing: Consider buying an ad. Increase FB/Instagram sharing. Public announcements on Public Radio and TV. Announcement on TV6? Others? Encourage word of mouth. Cheaper posters with standard format and posting team.
9. **Zoom Protocol for Adverse Weather:** Laura S. drafted a Hazardous Weather Policy for review. Motion made by Pri and seconded by Johanna to approve the policy. Sue offered to inform PWPL of any venue change.
10. **January Membership Meeting—Jo:** Motion by Madalyn and seconded by Sue to cancel the January general membership meeting. According to Bylaws Art. VII, Sec. 1.a. the league is required to have “at least 6 membership meetings each year.”
11. **Committee Introduction and Roundtable—Jo:** The November meeting introducing the committees complements the brief orientation of new members. Motion by Madalyn and seconded by Sue to devote one general membership meeting each year to presenting an overview of each committee followed by opportunities for members to speak with committee representatives.
12. **Swim Meet—Barb:** The swim meet timing went well with a brief scramble as poll workers had conflicts that morning.

13. **Environmental Committee request for approval of presentation—Karen Schmitt:** Motion by Johanna and seconded by Pri to approve the presentation script and handout for the Dec. 1st Climate at Noon on Ten Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gases. Motion carried. The examples are geared to Michigan and local resources. Karen will invite the Planning Commissions of the County and City of Marquette to review the material and invite them to attend the event. The Communications Network is getting permission for use of the photos in the last two slides of the Environmental Committee’s presentation.
14. **Donor Fundraising—Laura P.:** Motion by Madalyn and seconded by Sue to approve sending the fundraising newsletter to membership via Mailchimp. Motion carried. To date, the printed newsletter has been mailed to 200 non-members. The version sent electronically to membership will include an expanded version of Andie Balenger’s article with interviews. The Board thanked Laura for leading this project.
15. **Partnership with PWPL on Mis- and Dis-information series—Sandy B.:** PWPL Director Andrea Ingmire invited the League to work with the library on a series of events on this topic scheduled for Feb. 19-March 2 possibly to include a keynote speaker, book discussions, a panel and a documentary screening. The Education Committee would like to pursue this. PWPL has funding for programming on challenging topics. Both PWPL and LWVMC share non-partisanship and a strong interest in the topic. Motion by Pri and seconded by David to approve partnering on the mis- and dis-information series. Motion carried. The Board asks that the Education Committee inform the Board as the list of programs and LWVMC’s role become clearer as planning is underway.
16. **December General Membership Meeting Agenda:**
 - a. Open and welcome
 - b. Announcements: No general membership meeting in January 2024.
 - c. Land Acknowledgement
 - d. Approve Agenda
 - e. Approve minutes from Nov 1
 - f. Financial Peer Review Report
 - g. League report—David
 - h. LWVMC Website Presentation—David (members can bring laptops to follow along)
 - i. US Electoral College: Why we have an election system no one on Earth has copied--Jo. (Need projection cart, chairs facing southern wall). David will bring a projector.
 - j. Adjourn to Cognition Brewery, 1034 N. Third Street in Marquette), a.k.a. Kognisjon Bryggeri
17. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Membership Committee:** When incoming renewals slow down, a second email message will be sent as a reminder to those who have not yet renewed. New Member Orientation will be held at 6 p.m. before the February 7th general membership meeting.
 - b. **Voter Services Committee:** Sue will deliver the letter and books to the winners of Hooked on Voting. On Nov. 27, the results will be presented to the Marquette City Commission. The children and their parents are invited.
 - c. **Observer Corps** meets at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13th at the Crib.
18. Board Comments: none
The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

***Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Community Meeting Room at Baraga Place, 129 W. Baraga, Marquette***

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