



LWV of Marquette County
BOARD of DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING: PROGRAM PLANNING
MINUTES

November 15, 2023, 12:10 p.m.-1:16 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, Johanna Worley

Committee Representatives: Darlene Allen (*Nominating & Observer Corps*), Diane Chielens (*DEI*), Sandy Meyskens (*Education*), Laura Petrie (*Newsletter, Observer Corps, Fundraising*), Karen Schmitt (*Environmental*), Jeanne Sekely (*Communications Network*), Christie Wagner (*DEI*)

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

1. **Open Meeting & Welcome:** Convener Jo Foley opened the meeting to plan programs for 2024 general membership meetings based upon the topics recommended by members in Sandy Breitenbach's recent member survey. Jo welcomed committee members, thanked everyone for joining in these discussions and initiated a round of introductions.
2. **Meetings settled in advance:**
 - a. There will be no general membership meeting in January.
 - b. One meeting will be part of a series of events on Mis- and Dis-Information held Feb. 19-March 2 and created in a partnership between LWVMC and Peter White Public Library.
 - c. Orientation to the functions of LWVMC committees & opportunities. The member survey suggested "the League's internal workings."
3. **Programs that are already underway or committees are already planning:**
 - a. **Environmental Committee:** A field trip and presentation with the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority concerning the landfill, recycling, and Michigan's new Materials Management Planning (MMP is part of EGLE).
 - b. **Observer Corps:** In anticipation of the November 2024 election, the League will be ramping up their program to monitor election processes with teams of election challengers, poll watchers, and Observers for meetings of County Boards of Canvassers. To enable participants to become more expert in these roles, David Allen proposed a presentation on the pressure points on elections. A presentation by Mark Brewer on the topic before the 2020 election was prescient pointing to the vulnerability of state Boards of Canvassers.
 - c. **Membership R&R Committee:** Madalyn advocated for one meeting focused on helping members to get to know one other better. This matches the survey topic **How to have fun in the league.** Send ideas to Barb.
 - d. The December 2023 general membership meeting will feature presentations by David on **Navigating our league website** and Jo on the **Electoral College**. Pri Burnham already gave a presentation on the **National Popular Vote** at the April 2023 general membership meeting.
4. **What topics can be covered together:**
 - a. **Civic Engagement & Local Government:** Roll several topics into one program:
 - Information on volunteering at Polls (jobs, hours, amt paid, etc.)

- Roles within city and county legislative bodies
- Local boards and committees (what they do and how to get on one)
- Getting students into leadership (perhaps by involving 8-18 Media and high school student organizations in these topics)

5. **What topics appeal to committees:**

- a. **Disability and homeless issues in voting**—The Education Committee is interested in conducting a forum or panel on barriers to voting for people with disabilities and perhaps other populations.
- b. **New voting rules and procedures**—The Voter Services Committee is interested in offering a program, including clerks, to a general membership meeting and later as a public voter education town hall.

6. **2024 Calendar:** A tentative 2024 calendar of programs & assignments follows:

- **January** No general membership meeting in January
- **February 7** Civic Engagement & Local Government topics—Education Committee
- **March 6** Mis- & Dis-Information—Education Committee & PWPL
- **April 3** Recycling, Solid Waste Mgmt., Materials Mgmt.—Environmental Committee
- **May 1** Orientation to Committees/LWV internal workings—Membership R&R Com.
- **June 5** Annual Meeting—Membership R&R Committee
- **July 10th** New voting rules and procedures—Voter Services Committee
- **August 7** Election pressure points/Recruiting observers—Observer Corps
- **Sept. 4** Volunteer recruitment for voter services—Voter Services Committee
- **October 2** Voting for people with disabilities & other populations—DEI Committee
- **November 6** Uncertain, may be canceled (day after the general election)
- **December 4** Social/How to have fun in the League—Membership R&R Committee

7. **Comments:**

- a. **Climate Resolution--Karen:** LWVMI encourages local leagues to adopt a climate resolution. The Board will welcome a proposed climate resolution for discussion & adoption.
- b. **Voter Registration & Education:** Medical facilities, public health departments, and veteran homes are potential venues for reaching underserved populations and will be considered in 2024 by the Voter Services Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.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***

Submitted by Joanna Mitchell, Secretary