



LWV of Marquette County
BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES

December 20, 2023, 9:07 a.m.-11:00 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: Eric Maillard, Christie Wagner, Ruth Ziel

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. NMU's Student Leadership Fellowship Program: Convener Jo Foley welcomed Erik Maillard, SLFP Director to speak about SLFP and how LWVMC might serve as a Community Service Internship site. In the second year of the SLFP, students partner with a non-profit, government entity or community organization for 100 hours of service. The students choose their agency in winter semester. The internship may begin in summer or more often in the fall. Three students have expressed interest in voting, elections, and civic engagement. Motion by Susan Holliday and seconded by Sandy Breitenbach that LWVMC sign up as a Community Service Internship site. Motion carried.
2. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Pri Burnham and seconded by Madalyn Koval to approve the agenda as amended to move items 9 and 10 to a closed session at the end of the meeting. Motion carried.
3. **Review and Approval of Minutes of the November Board Meeting:** Motion made by Johanna Worley and seconded by Sue to approve minutes of the Board meeting held on November 15, 2023. Motion carried.
4. **Review and Approval of Minutes of the Special Program Planning Meeting:** Motion by Pri and seconded by David Allen to approve the minutes of the special program planning meeting held on November 15, 2023 as amended to correct the date of the July general membership meeting to July 10. Motion carried.
5. **Email Vote on Aug. 7 program on Election Pressure Points:** Motion made by Joanna Mitchell and seconded by Pri to enter into the minutes the following vote conducted by electronic mail. Motion carried.

Motion by Pri and seconded by David that the Board authorize David to invite Mark Brewer for an August 7 presentation and offer to cover his travel costs (round-trip by car or plane plus overnight lodging and meals) plus an honorarium capped at \$100 if he is willing to come in person and give his presentation in a larger setting than the PWPL studio (i.e., someplace that would hold LWVMC members plus clerks and other invited guests, not necessarily open wide to the public); otherwise, an honorarium of \$200 if he can do either a 2-hour zoom presentation or 2 one-hour presentations for members and invited participants (allowing for questions) on the 'soft spots and potential vulnerabilities' of our electoral system, State and Federal, unless he's willing to forego the reimbursement/honorarium in exchange for us wining and dining him. Motion carried. (9 yes, 1 silent)

6. **Treasurer's Report—Madalyn:** The unrestricted balance available at the end of November is \$12,430.91. Restricted funds consist of \$6,153.94 in dues held for annual per-member payments to the state and national LWV. The reports will be held on file for review with thanks to Madalyn. Some generous donations have been received from members and nonmembers. Since Nov. 30, several new members joined for a total of 122 members and \$1,754.64 was received from LWVMI to reimburse LWVMC for various election-related expenses. Thanks to Madalyn for capturing receipts and David for applying.
7. **LWVUS/LWVMI Report—David:** There is talk about LWVMI providing more funding to local leagues to support public education concerning mis- and disinformation education and new election reforms.
8. **List of Current Committee members:** Board members are asked to send a list of the active members of each LWVMC committee to Jo, Darlene, & Joanna. This will help the Nominating Committee and others identify members that may be willing to take on a task or a position and help determine the level of active participation.
9. **Change in Membership Programming--Jo:** The schedule of program topics is being shuffled for these upcoming general membership meetings:
 - a. Feb. 7: Environmental Committee program with Josh Wales of Marquette County Solid Waste on recycling/materials handling
 - b. Feb. 28 (instead of March 6): The Education Committee partners with PWPL to create a panel presentation on Mis/Dis-Information
 - c. April 3: The Education Committee will create a program on civic engagement and local government.
10. **Arrange to take down Holiday Tree by Jan 5:** Pri and Sue will to take down the tree with other volunteers at 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 2.
11. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Membership Committee--Madalyn:** Renewals are coming in; about 40 members have not yet renewed. Next year, they'll consider sending a letter to all inactive members. The policies for [dues assistance](#) and free membership for students will continue until a national uniform dues plan takes effect in 2025. Members will be urged to make their donations to their local league separately from paying membership dues. Orientation for new members will be held at 6 p.m before the February general membership meeting.
 - b. **Voter Services Committee--Pri:** The December meeting was well attended. New member Chuck Blaksmith is interested in pursuing public service announcements and other local publicity. Table tents with voting messages and QR codes are being designed for countywide distribution. NMU student member Kate Gunville will help facilitate publicity on campus.
 - c. **Communication—Laura Sabo:** Media Meet will host LWV panelists from LWVMC (Sandy Breitenbach), two LWV Copper County members and Marquette County Clerk to discuss Vote411 and recent election and voting reforms. The show will be recorded Feb. 5 and aired Feb. 10-12.

Jo and David's presentations are posted on the LWVMC YouTube channel accessible to the public. Rotary has invited Jo to speak on the Electoral College in July. In general, the Board can determine when to speak on behalf of the League or as an individual depending on the nature of the content. If we want other local leagues to be able to use a presentation or if we would like LWVMI to make it part of their support material, then copyright permissions and LWVMI review would be needed. Local presentations may be posted for a short period while other videos such as candidate forums may remain posted longer. AV needs for 2024 and beyond were discussed to support recording/livestreaming membership meetings and special forums to post on public channels. Christie Wagner has

- joined the Communications Network bringing welcome expertise and spoke to the power of brief videos for messaging and learning. Christie, Laura and Jo offered to explore options within our means for ensuring consistent recording quality particularly for public forums. Laura S. said other Michigan leagues use video in many ways as well, such as recruitment, fundraising, and member interviews.
- d. **Education Committee--Sandy:** Panelists representing local media are being recruited for the mis/disinformation panel.
An ad hoc committee may be convened in January to coordinate and plan the August 7 visit and presentation by Mark Brewer.
 - e. **DEI Committee—Sandy:** The Committee met with Prof. Jud Sojourn from the NMU Center for Native American Studies.
 - f. **Observer Corps—David:** At its 2nd quarterly meeting, members agreed to alternate note-taking at the meetings and present for 5-10 minutes at a general membership meeting. David has answered a number of questions about the LWV Observer Corps for writer Doug Garrison of Word on the Street, so an article may be forthcoming.
 - g. **Environmental Committee—Johanna:** Representatives from the Committee continue to attend the Marquette County Climate Adaptation Task Force. Maura Davenport presented on the battery recycling project which she and Jo led. Reaction to the LWVMC presentation at NMU's Climate at Noon was enthusiastic. The event drew community leaders and students into discussion. The Committee toured the Marquette Solid Waste Management Authority. The Committee tapped Josh Wales to present on recycling at the Feb. 7 general membership meeting.
 - h. **Fundraising Committee:** The mini-newsletter and donation form have paid for themselves in donations. Unless a donor uses the donation form from the newsletter, it's not always clear what prompted a particular donation.

12. January Look Ahead:

- a. **Budget Committee—Joanna:** The Bylaws require the Board to appoint a Budget Committee to prepare a budget for the next fiscal year. Usually we do this in January, but we already have two great volunteers to serve on the Committee. Motion by Joanna and seconded by Pri that we appoint a four-member Budget Committee: Joanna (chair), Laura Petrie, Jane Jansen, and Madalyn (ex officio). Motion carried. In preparation for a January Board meeting discussion, Board members are asked to begin identifying any unusual expenditures for the Fiscal year that begins in July 2024.
- b. **Priorities; Bylaw, Policy, Form review—Jo:** In January, the process of developing LWVMC priorities for 2024/25 begins. Review of LWVMC bylaws, policies and forms normally begins in January so that any changes to the bylaws can be brought to a vote at the annual meeting.

13. Board Comments: none.

The business meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to continue briefly in closed session.

***Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – noon
Community Meeting Room at Baraga Place, 129 W. Baraga, Marquette***

***Next Membership Meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 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