



LWV of Marquette County
MONTHLY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2024, 6:42-7:16 p.m.

Peter White Public Library, George Shiras III Room
217 N. Front St., Marquette, MI

Members In attendance: David Allen, Charles Blaksmith, Sandy Breitenbach, Pri Burnham, Peter Dohrenwend, Jennifer Figler, Jo Foley, Marge Forslin, Amy Frieden, Stephanie Gencheff, Susan Holliday, Janet Joswiak, Diane Kent, Madalyn Koval, Judith Krause, Nancy Kreft, Bob Lorinser, Peggy Lorinser, Sandy Meyskens, Laura Miller, Joanna Mitchell, Marie Moisiso, Carolyn Myers, Barb Owdziej, Jane Pajot, Joan Park, Laura Sabo, Karen Schmitt, Susanne Smith, Michelle Storms-VanHowe, Susy Swanson, Robert Van Howe, Christie Wagner, Anna Wild, Johanna Worley, Ruth Ziel (36)

Guest: Gloria Alexander, Patti Clancy, Amber Dohrenwend, Eleanor Dohrenwend, Bill Joswiak, Meredith Miller, Pam Miller, Gretchen Preston, Claire Twohey, Robert Ziel

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m.

1. **Welcome:** Jo Foley, Convener, welcomed everyone especially today's guests and new members who have joined since our last meeting (Maura Davenport and Christine and Don Wilson).
2. **Land Acknowledgement:** Sandy Breitenbach offered the land acknowledgement.
3. **Moment of Remembrance--Jo:** Jo acknowledged two members of the local league who have died recently, Robert Niemi and Roberta Henderson. Also, Dr. Deborah Turner, President of the national LWV died in January.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Johanna Worley and seconded by Madalyn Koval to approve the agenda as amended to add Committee Reports. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of minutes:** Motion made by Ruth Ziel and seconded by Sandy Meyskens to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 6, 2023 as amended to add Marie Moisiso to the attendance list and to include the member comments at the end of meeting. Motion carried.
6. **Treasurer's Update & Semiannual Budget Comparison—Madalyn Koval:** For July-December, 2023, income is over \$2,000 more than expected for the year. The unanticipated income is from generous donors and from LWVMI reimbursements for some election-related expenses. Expenses are in line with expectations. Email Madalyn at r.koval@sbcglobal.net if you would like a copy of the budget comparison or monthly report.
7. **State and National League Report—David Allen:**
 - a. LWVMI grants are being offered for town halls to educate the public on new voting rights and legislation: \$300 for the first and \$100 each for subsequent events up to \$600.
 - b. LWVMI has a new part time position to promote Vote411.org and coordinate with MLive.com.
 - c. More league volunteers are needed after each election this year to serve as observers of county Boards of Canvassers in Michigan.
 - d. The LWVUS national convention will be held June 27-30, 2024 in Washington, D.C. Registration is \$550 to attend in-person and \$125 via Zoom. Lodging is \$239 per night. LWVMI is allowed 3 delegates.
 - e. A new [LWVMI chart](#) summarizes legislative advocacy for 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions.
 - f. Program planning is underway in advance of the convention for leagues wishing to change LWV policy positions or create new ones.
 - g. At the state level, periodic Zoom meetings and activities for are available in a variety of interest areas: Membership, Observer Corps, Voter Services, Communications and others.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Nominating Committee—Sandy M.:** Jo Foley (Convener), Sandy Breitenbach (Director), Darlene Allen and Sandy Meyskens (Nominating Committee members) have agreed to be nominated for another term. Jeanne Sekely has agreed to be nominated as Secretary. Ruth Ziel agreed to be nominated as League Liaison. Nominations will close in April. The Slate will be sent to members in May.
- b. **Voter Services Committee—Pri:** Watch for volunteer opportunities in voter services coming in 2024.
- c. **Membership Committee—Barb Owdziej:** The Committee and organizes recruitment and retention of members, plans the Annual Meeting and administers annual awards. Consider nominating members for awards throughout the year. The committee will meet on Feb. 23.
- d. **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion—Sandy B.:** The Committee is working on land acknowledgements, ASL interpreters, and welcomes volunteers.
- e. **Education Committee—Sandy B.:** In conjunction with PWPL's Media Smart Series, the Committee is planning the Media Misinformation Panel to be held in conjunction with the next membership meeting on Feb. 28. Local news media representatives will discuss the prevalence of misinformation and its impact on their work.
- f. **Environmental Committee—Karen Schmitt:** Maura Davenport spoke at a recent meeting. She and Jo Foley started the Marquette City battery recycling program and aim to expand the all-volunteer effort.
- g. **Observer Corps Quarterly Report—David:** Observers attend meetings of governmental entities, bring information and issues back to the League and public and identify questions for candidates in LWV forums and Vote411/voter guides. David identified a dozen entities currently being observed. Observers meet quarterly to exchange information and advice.

9. **Guidelines for Members to Add Agenda Items—Jo:** Jo read a proposed policy distributed with the meeting notice and invited comment.

10. Member Comments:

- a. Jen Figler announced that a new law takes effect Feb. 13 that expands eligibility to register to vote to age 16. Also, Planned Parenthood is looking for volunteers for fundraising efforts.
- b. Jo called attention to the County's [schedule of Public Accuracy Tests](#).
- c. Diane Kent announced that the City of Marquette has complete coverage for early voting and Primary Election Day. Election inspector training is good for two years and enables a poll worker to serve in any jurisdiction in Michigan that needs help.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Karen Schmitt, Environmental Committee Coordinator, introduced Josh Wales to give a presentation on Recycle 906. Josh is the Materials Management Supervisor of the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority.

**Next General Membership Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024,
6:15 Business Meeting, 6:30 Media Misinformation Panel**

Peter White Public Library, **Community Room**, Lower level, 217 N. Front St., Marquette, MI

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 10:00-Noon

Community Meeting Room at Baraga Place, 129 W. Baraga Ave., Marquette, MI

All members welcome. To request an invite and agenda, email jfoley1950@gmail.com

Submitted by Joanna Mitchell, Secretary

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.