



**LWV of Marquette County
BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES**

February 21, 2024, 10:00 a.m.-11:56 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

Guest: Jeanne Sekely

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Pri Burnham, seconded by David Allen, to approve the agenda as amended to add Program Planning under League Report. Motion carried.
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Johanna Worley, seconded by Barb Owdziej, to approve the January 17, 2024 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **Email Vote to approve advertising and AV budget for Panel on Misinformation in the Media:** Motion made by Joanna Mitchell and seconded by Barb Owdziej to enter into the minutes the following vote conducted by electronic mail since the last meeting:
 - a. 02/16/2024 Motion by David Allen and seconded by Madalyn Koval to approve the expenses outlined below, including the color ad. Motion carried. (9 yes,1 silent)

Expense	Cost	Details
Video Recording	\$325.00	total cost of \$650.00 split with PWPL
Name tents (Pride)	25.00	final cost may be less
Participant Flier	75.00	Flier on Misinformation and Fact Checking
Mining Journal Ad	\$354color	
Total	\$779	

4. **Treasurer’s Report—Madalyn Koval:** The unrestricted balance available at the end of January is \$14,735.32. Restricted funds consist of \$7,723.71 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. The donation form included in the member survey of volunteer interests prompted recent donations. Madalyn, Laura Petrie and Joanna attended the LWVMI meeting of local league treasurers Feb. 13:
 - The new centralized membership system starts in 2025. Local Leagues will be asked this summer to sign up for Stripe to receive automatic dues payments from Chapter Spot. Training will begin after the Nov. 2024 election. Encourage members to renew by the end of December 2024 for a clean transition.
 - PMP rates continue unchanged for planning the FY 2024/25 budget. LWVUS will extend the deadline in for Summer 2025 PMP payment based on the January 31, 2025 membership total. That should be the last PMP bill. PMP looks back.

- Urge members to donate directly to the local league separately from paying dues. All local Leagues need to cultivate local fundraising.

5. **LWVUS/LWVMI Report—David Allen:** Local leagues have the option to participate in the LWVUS Program Planning Survey. In addition to Making Democracy Work® recommended by LWVUS, LWVMI called attention to three options that warrant discussion:

- Adding [Climate Change](#) as a Priority Program Item (from LWVUS Climate Interest Group)
- Concurring with LWV VT language to add to the [Privatization](#) position
- Concurring with LWV WA Position on [Local Journalism](#)

Motion made by Pri, seconded by Madalyn, to support continuing the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® and to support the Program change and the two concurrences. Motion carried (8,2). [MDW encompasses voting rights, improving elections, redistricting, money in politics and Electoral College.] David offered to prepare and submit the Program Planning Survey on behalf of LWVMI.

- LWVMI’s deadline for town hall grant applications is May 31, 2024.
- For post-election County Board of Canvassers meetings, Alger and Marquette Counties are covered. If someone wants to observe Dickinson, remember the time zone change.
- MICRC Town Halls on the new maps received so few comments that MICRC will hold a vote earlier than anticipated on Feb. 22.
- Cheers for Wisconsin’s Republican-led legislature which passed new, more competitive, state assembly maps that were drawn by Governor Evers to remedy gerrymandering.

6. **Committee reports:**

- Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee--Barb:** Motion made by Madalyn, seconded by Johanna, to support applying for an information table at the Blueberry Festival [July 26]. The \$125 application fee is refundable if denied. Laura P. is consolidating data from the volunteer interest surveys and will report to the Committee and Board.
- Voter Services Committee--Pri:** Upcoming events:
 - Presentation on election law and voting update for Mqt. Breakfast Rotary March 14
 - VRVE presentation at Marquette Alternative High School, Mqt. Twp. March 14
 - VRVE presentation at Superior Central Senior Seminar April 19
 - The Committee met with a NMU SLFP Community Service Intern Feb.16
 - The Committee is working on a handout of voter information and yard signs for the upcoming election.
- Candidate Forum—Jo:** Both Kaufman and Mqt. Twp. Hall are reserved for the 109th MI House District candidate forum June 25. Sidecar Productions Nick Steffy is available. Jo is sending a save-the-date message to six candidates and has approached Ruth Ziel to be the coordinator.
- Communications Network—Laura S.:** My Web Maestro submitted a \$1,900 estimate for upgrading the website. Laura plans to confirm Sidecar’s estimate and contact Bennett Media. LWV Mount Pleasant Area also uses the WordPress platform and may have advice. Newsletter articles are due Feb. 23 and the release date is March 8. From Facebook/YouTube, Josh Wales’ presentation has drawn 31 views plus a dozen views of the Feb. 7 meeting video which also contains his presentation. In future, attendees will be notified if a meeting is to be recorded.

- e. **Education Committee--Sandy:** The Feb. 28 Panel on Media Misinformation will begin with Andrea Ingmire's introductory statement. Ruth Ziel will present a nonpartisan statement. The format and rules for panelists will be explained. Greeters for the panelists have volunteered. A handout is being prepared. Ruth and Meredith will screen questions. Setup begins at 5:30. Ruth and Laura Sabo were interviewed briefly on the TV6 Morning show.
 - f. **DEI Committee—Sandy:** The Committee is interested in working with others who are considering outreach efforts. It continues to work on the land acknowledgement and ASL interpretation.
 - g. **Environmental Committee--Pri:** On March 7, John Mallo will speak to the committee about the local battery recycling program. He's reaching out to local entities to make the program more sustainable. The Committee continues to work with the Mqt. County Climate Adaptation Task Force and their Learning Circles series.
 - h. **Fundraising Committee—Sue Holliday:** Beth Millner Jewelry is accepting grant applications through May 1. Sue offered to reapply. If awarded, the LWVMC would be obliged to promote the item at meetings and as the funding is used. She will ask about the League's say in the design.
7. **2024/2025 LWVMC Priorities:** Draft priorities were discussed and some revision suggested.
 8. **Budget Committee—Joanna:** The Committee has prepared a proposed budget and the report is being written now for committee review. The proposal will be on the agenda of the March 20 Board meeting.
 9. **Bylaw/Forms/Policy:** The process for members submitting agenda items that was discussed at the Feb. 7 general membership meeting will be considered guidelines and not added to LWVMC policies. Proposed Bylaws changes will be submitted to the Board in March. These are due to be presented to the general membership meeting April 3rd.
 10. **LWVUS Convention, June 27-30, Washington, D.C.:** LWVMC is entitled to 3 delegates at the hybrid convention. The registration fee is \$125 virtual and \$550 in-person. Motion by Barb, seconded by Madalyn, to offer to pay the registration fee for up to 3 delegates. Motion carried.
 11. **Mark Brewer's Presentation—David:** The preliminary date is Aug. 7. Since this falls the day after a primary election when Boards of Canvassers meetings are held, Jo offered to contact Mark about an alternative date. Because he is well known for his expertise, his presentation could draw interest from leagues around the state and locally beyond LWVMC membership. Jo offered to be the Coordinator from our League to negotiate with Mark concerning his interests and expectations to determine an appropriate venue, presentation content & title, level of advertising and AV support and the intended audience. Pri offered to investigate lodging options.
 12. **Number of elected board members--Jo:** According to the Bylaws, the Board may consist of 9 to 11 elected members (2 -year terms) and up to 7 appointed members (one-year terms). There was agreement enlarging the Board from 9 to 11 members would be beneficial if the Nominating Committee agrees this is timely and believes there are members who may be willing to serve by appointment or election.

13. Agenda for Feb 28 General Membership Meeting

- a. Open and welcome, mention that meeting is being recorded for posting on FB/YouTube
- b. Land Acknowledgement
- c. Approve agenda
- d. Approve minutes
- e. Urgent announcements: no meeting March 6. Seeking 2 more delegates to LWV national Convention June 27-30, D.C. Hybrid convention-delegates can participate from home.
- f. Adjourn to Panel Discussion

14. **March Board Meeting:** The meeting date was changed from March 20 to March 27.

15. Board comments:

- a. **Meeting reminder:** Jo will create a meeting notice/reminder about the unusual membership meeting date (Feb. 28) & agenda. Laura Sabo will send a separate message in more detail announcing the panel with a Zoom link provided by Andrea Ingmire for LWV members. [Both messages sent Feb. 21]
- b. **Adopt a Highway—Sue:** Upcoming clean-ups will be in May and September. Twelve volunteers are needed. Laura S. will add this to the upcoming newsletter when the date in is set.

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

*Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, **March 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – Noon**
Community Meeting Room at Baraga Place, 129 W. Baraga, Marquette*

*Next Membership Meeting: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 6:15-6:30 p.m.
LWV Panel Discussion on Misinformation in the Media 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Peter White Public Library, Community Room, Lower Level, 217 N. Front St., Marquette*

Submitted by Joanna Mitchell, Secretary