



**LWV of Marquette County**

**BOARD of DIRECTORS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

March 27, 2024, 9:57 a.m.-12:30 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, Laura Sabo, Johanna Worley

**Absent:** Barb Owdziej

**Guests:** Laura Petrie, Jeanne Sekely, Anne (Annie) McIlhagga, Todd Carter, Michaeleen (Mike) OSullivan

The meeting was called to order at 9:57 a.m.

1. **Introduction of Student Leadership Fellowship Program candidate:** Sue Holliday introduced Annie McIlhagga as the Community Service Intern through the NMU Student Leader Fellowship Program. She is active in NMU Northern Votes and works at the office of the Marquette City Clerk supporting elections. She has been a poll worker in East Lansing. LWVMC is a SLFP Community Service Internship site. Annie will be available this summer and fall to embark on a 100-hour internship with the Voter Services Committee.
2. **Proposal for LWVMC collaboration in Art Week project:** Jo Foley introduced Todd Carter and Mike OSullivan who presented their Art Week 2024 Rosewood Walkway Installation Proposal: "Women Who Grew Marquette". They asked if LWVMC members would suggest women to be depicted, offer photos or advise on attire. Motion by Pri Burnham and seconded by Sue to collaborate on the "Women Who Grew Marquette" project. Motion carried.
3. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Pri and seconded by Sandy Breitenbach to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
4. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Sandy and seconded by Pri to approve the February 21, 2024 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
5. **Email Votes to approve:** Motion made by Joanna Mitchell and seconded by David Allen to enter into the minutes the following votes conducted by electronic mail since the last meeting:
  - a. 3/14/2024 Motion by Pri Burnham and seconded by Johanna Worley that the Voter Services Committee be authorized to proceed with plans for a meet and greet with Aghogho Edevbie on March 27, cost limited to \$50 for coffee/snacks or other incidentals, and explore the possibility of partnering with Northern Votes and enlisting the help of Linda Talsma. Motion carried unanimously.
  - b. 03/22/2024 Motion by Sandy Breitenbach and seconded by Jo Foley to submit the Community Foundation Grant application written by Laura Petrie. Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Treasurer's Report—Madalyn:** February and preliminary March reports were submitted. Major cost in March so far are a Mining Journal ad (\$354) and Sidecar Productions services (\$325). Two more donations arrived resulting from volunteer surveys. The unrestricted balance available at the end of February is \$15,376.32. Restricted funds consist of \$8,067.43 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.
7. **LWVUS/LWVMI Report—David:** Refer to David's email message of Feb. 18 for the notes from the February LWVMI Presidents/Leaders' meeting.

## 8. Committee Reports

- a. **Membership Committee--Madalyn:** Motion by Johanna Worley seconded by Sandy to change date of the Annual Meeting from the first to the second Wednesday of the month, June 12, 2024, to secure the venue. Motion carried. Committee Coordinators will be asked to supply the gift basket for their table. The Committee is planning a “round robin” of LWVMC committees for the May 1<sup>st</sup> general membership meeting.
- b. **Voter Services Committee:** Kate Gunville (Northern Votes) is interested in tabling with LWV this spring at NMU. The Committee is working on yard signs to support Vote411.org and election workers. New LWVMC Elections Connections magnets are available.
  - i. **Candidate Forum for 109<sup>th</sup> MI House District—Jo:** The date is changed from June 25 to June 28, 2024 due to a candidate’s schedule conflict. All candidates have been notified by email of the change of date, but some have not yet responded. Jo and Sandy will follow up to urge them to participate. The location is the Marquette Township Hall. Sidecar Productions is responsible for audiovisual services. Ruth Ziel agreed to be the Candidate Forum Coordinator. She will ask the AAUW Board if AAUW would consider supporting the Forum with a grant or as a partner. Motion by Pri seconded by Madalyn to authorize Jo to draw up a memorandum of understanding for partnering with AAUW on candidate forums under LWV forum guidelines. Motion carried.
  - ii. **Voters Guide—Pri:** Janet Joswiak and Sandy met with Mining Journal Publisher Ann Troutman. Subscribers will be notified in advance of the upcoming Voters Guide by a front-page banner. The cost to print an additional 1,000 copies will be \$965.62. The list of locations for distribution will be categorized by geography. A Project Proposal Form will be submitted for the Voters Guide.
  - iii. **VRVE presentation** at Marquette Breakfast Rotary on March 14 went well and received favorable comments. They suggested LWVMC apply for a grant.
  - iv. **NVRD presentations:** Alternative H.S. March 14, Superior Central Senior Seminar April 10, Munising H.S. April 16, Westwood H.S. April 25.
  - v. **Tabling:** Sue applied for a table at June 8 Pride Fest 2024 and Barb applied for a table at Marquette’s July 26 Downtown Blueberry Festival.
  - vi. **Deputy SOS meet & greet:** Aghogho Edvebie speaks tonight at 5:30 at PWPL. Clerks were invited. [Michigan has been ranked 2nd](#) for election administration by the MIT Elections Performance Index, up from 31<sup>st</sup> in 2018.
- c. **Communications Network—Laura S:** Prices for working on websites are based on the number of pages with one level at 5-7 pages. LWVMC now has 40+ pages. LWVMI offers information on accessibility. Laura will consult with Nick Steffey in May for advice and to learn about upgrading. The first upcoming events flyer will be issued soon to encourage attendance or volunteers. Laura will create a submission form.  
**Annual Report production and deadlines:** Laura S. will coordinate the Annual Report and the Newsletter Committee will assemble it. Laura will contact the writers of each section with a deadline. Marge Forslin has offered to do the layout. The report will be the next issue of The Voter.
- d. **Education Committee—Sandy:** Sally Davis is interested in presenting on local government at September’s general membership meeting.
- e. **DEI—Sandy:** Currently under discussion is a presentation related to people with disabilities and a book club with books by diverse authors.
- f. **Environmental Committee—Johanna:** John Mallo spoke to the Committee on prospects for a sustainable battery recycling program. The County Climate Adaptation Task Force’s next learning circle is on food production and insecurity. An LWVMI action alert may be coming on community

- solar bills. The LWVMI Environmental Network opened [registration](#) for an April 18 event on native planting. Dave Stensaas will speak at a Committee meeting in May about the City Master Plan.
- g. **Observer Corps—David:** There's a critical need for LWV Observers for Michigan's county Boards of Canvassers meetings in August and November. LWVMI would like to cover 4 counties. LWVMI observers will speak (~ ½ hour) at a general membership meeting, possibly September. Pri will present a quarterly Observer Corps report at the April 3 membership meeting.
  - h. **Fundraising Committee:** Laura Petrie presented a Project Proposal for mailing a fundraising flyer to support the 109<sup>th</sup> MI House Candidate Forum, inviting recipients to attend and submit questions for candidates. Might LWVMI be eligible for nonprofit mailing rates? Motion by Pri seconded by Sue to approve spending up to \$600 for this donor fundraising project. Motion carried.
  - i. Laura P. has submitted the Community Foundation grant application. Results will be announced in May.
9. **Draft 2024-25 Budget—Joanna Mitchell:** The amount of 2024/25 dues income will be corrected to \$6,685 and the total income, income over expenses, and amount to transfer from reserves revised accordingly. Current assets will be updated to reflect the latest Treasurer's reports before sending the formal proposal to membership in May, one month prior to the Annual Meeting. Motion by David seconded by Pri to approve submitting the proposed budget as corrected to membership for consideration. Motion carried.
  10. **Draft Priorities 2024-25—Pri:** Motion by Sue seconded by Johanna to approve submitting the priorities to membership for consideration. Motion carried.
  11. **Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws—Pri:** Motion by Madalyn seconded by Sandy to approve submitting the proposed bylaws amendments to membership for consideration. Motion carried.
  12. **Draft agenda for membership meeting of April 3, 2024:** Add Candidate Forum fundraiser with Sandy Meyskens and a Spotlight on Annie McIlhagga.
    - a. Open meeting
    - b. Land Acknowledgement
    - c. Approve agenda.
    - d. Approve minutes of membership meeting Feb 28
    - e. Request for LWVUS delegates
    - f. Present LWVMI Organization
    - g. Present draft Budget
    - h. Present draft Priorities
    - i. Present draft Bylaw/Policy/Form changes
    - j. Committee Reports
    - k. Observer Corps reports
    - l. Presentation on Candidate Forum with request for questions
    - m. Member comments
    - n. Close meeting
  13. **Date Change:** The date of the May Board meeting is changed from May 15 to May 22.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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

***Next General Membership Meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 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*