

**LWV of Marquette County
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

June 12, 2024, 6:32 – 7:06 p.m.

Ore Dock Brewing Co., 114 W. Spring Street, Marquette, MI

Members In attendance: Darlene Allen, David Allen, Andie Balenger, Elizabeth Bates, Olivia Benbow, Sandy Breitenbach, Pri Burnham, Mary Burtch, Barb Coleman, Peter Dohrenwend, Lynnette Ewbank, Jennifer Figler, Linda Fleury, Jo Foley, Marge Forslin, Patty Gagnon, Julie Hagstrom, Susan Holliday, Rich Johnson, Janet Joswiak, Madalyn Koval, Judith Krause, Meredith Kulisheck, Alec LaPlante, Peggy Lorinser, Bob Lorinser, Sandy Meyskens, Laura Miller, Joanna Mitchell, Marie Moisio, Barb Owdziej, Jane Pajot, Joan Park, Mary Pelton-Cooper, Laura Petrie, Darcy Rutkowski, Laura Sabo, Karen Schmitt, Jeanne Sekely, Susanne Smith, Mary Snitgen, Michelle Storms-VanHowe, Susy Swanson, Nina Van Den Ende, Christie Wagner, Anna Wild, Johanna Worley, Ruth Ziel (48)

Guests: David Arnold, Lizabeth Binns, Kristen Cambensy, Cathy Greer Cole, Fred Cole, Virginia Eckenrode, Zosia Eppensteiner, Theodore Gagnon, Heidi Helminen, Nancy Hughes, Kathryn Kurtz, Denise Mika, Mark Miller, Ruby Miller, Mark Petrie, Kate Pouliot, Jennifer Ray, Monica Regis, Taylor Ruotsala, Joe Sabol, Glenn Sarka, Cheryl Maddox-Smith, Joshua Smith, Brock Tessman, Michael Uschold, Mary Margaret Wagner, Robert Ziel (27)

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

- 1. Welcome:** Convener Jo Foley welcomed everyone especially today's guests. Jo called attention to the new Annual Report with its list of the year's projects. She offered special thanks to:
 - the Membership Committee for planning the meeting and recruiting/retaining members,
 - Jane and Rich Pajot for funding the venue rental,
 - Janet Joswiak for funding the AV support,
 - Madalyn Koval for funding pizza for all,
 - the musicians of the Just for Fun Trio: Patty Gagnon, Monica Regis, and Mary Margaret Wagner,
 - and the Ore Dock & staff for providing a community gathering place.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Ruth Ziel, seconded by Madalyn Koval, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by David Allen, seconded by Ruth Ziel, to approve the minutes of the general membership meeting of May 1, 2024. Motion carried.
- 4. Announcements of June/July/August Events--Jo:** There will be no general membership meeting in July. Instead, members are encouraged to march or ride with the League in the July 4th Parade in the City of Marquette.
 - **July 28, 6-8 p.m. Candidate Forum—Jo:** The forum for the 109th District State Representative candidates will be held in the Marquette Township Community Center. Doors open at 5:30 with setup beginning at 3:30 p.m. All 6 candidates agreed to participate. Each will answer the same questions from constituents without cross talk or debate. Submit your questions for the candidates to lwvmqtco@gmail.com. League question screeners will edit questions for clarity and merge questions on the same topic. Questions must be pertinent to the office and as many questions as possible will be asked. The League will livestream and record the event for later viewing. In addition, WZMQ 19 CBS will livestream and record the entire forum on their website and mobile news app.
 - **July 1-12, Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Postcard Campaign—Joanna Mitchell:** Our League is joining in the League of Women Voters of Michigan's 2024 GOTV Postcard Campaign. The state

league is supporting local leagues by creating a postcard design and paying up to \$1,000 of our printing and postage costs. Research has shown that hand-written postcards to voters have a positive effect on voter turnout. For the August 6th Primary Election, the Board has agreed to send out 1,000 postcards to newly-registered first-time voters across Marquette County. Members are invited to attend a postcard party or take a packet of 20 postcards home to complete. Three postcard writing events are planned: (1) July 7th at Sue Holliday's house, (2) July 8 at Joanna Mitchell's, and (3) Friday July 12 at Pri Burnham's. To participate, contact [Darlene Allen](#) or [Joanna Mitchell](#).

- **Voter Services Events—Pri:**
 - i. **City of Marquette July 4th (Thurs.) Parade.** Members are invited to decorate Belle, Pri's green truck, at 11 a.m., by the offices at 375 N. McClellan and march or ride with the League in the parade, give pinwheels to children or handouts to interested adults. The parade kicks off at 2 p.m.
 - ii. **Skandia Community Days Parade:** Join Pri to represent LWV at 10:30, July 20 at Maple Grove Sports on Krieger Drive.
- **Blueberry Fest—Barb Owdziej:** LWVMC will have a booth 10:00-7:00 p.m. July 26. Members are needed to sign up for 2-hour shifts.
- **August 14 Special General Membership Meeting—Jo:** The next monthly meeting is a week later than usual for a special program. After a brief business meeting, Attorney Mark Brewer will present on election pressure points.

5. **What is on the Primary Election Ballot?—Sandy Breitenbach:** The August primary ballot includes two partisan columns that confuse voters. The voter must choose candidates in only one party's column. If they "crossover," the entire partisan section of their ballot will not be counted. In a polling place, the tabulator will return the ballot to the voter who can correct the error, but this is not an option for absentee ballots, so absentee voters must be warned to avoid crossvoting. There is also a nonpartisan section where all the proposals and candidates for nonpartisan races are shown. Sandy presented the many contested races and proposals in the County's townships and cities.

Vote411.org : Sandy has populated Vote411 with all the county ballot information and sent out email requests to all candidates to participate by entering their biographical information and answering questions prepared by LWV. The Vote411 team is phoning candidates to urge them to participate. Vote411 will go live to the public on June 25th so that voters, entering their own address, can see what's on their ballot and compare candidates. If a candidate failed to respond to questions, please put pressure on the candidate using his/her email address which shows in Vote411.

Voter Guides will be printed by the [Mining Journal](#) based on Vote411 data that Sandy provides. The [Mining Journal](#) will fund and issue the guides to subscribers on October 18th. Also, the Marquette County Community Foundation has awarded a grant of \$750 to the League for printing an additional 1,000 Voter Guides that will be distributed by our members to popular locations throughout the County. To help with distribution, contact [Pri Burnham](#) and describe the geographic area you'd like to be assigned.

6. **Announcement of Quorum—Jo:** For an Annual Meeting, a quorum consists of one-fifth (23) of the total (114) membership. Representing the Membership Committee, Madalyn affirmed that a quorum is present (48 members in attendance.) All items presented for a vote were sent to members more than one month in advance for consideration and were formally presented to those attending the general membership meeting on April 3, 2024.

7. **Vote on Bylaw Changes—Jo:** A two-thirds vote of all members present is required to pass the proposed bylaws amendments. Motion by Jen Figler, seconded by Madalyn Koval, to amend the bylaws. Motion carried unanimously.
8. **Vote on LWVMC Priorities 2024-25:** Motion by Sue Holliday, seconded by Barb Owdziej, to approve the Priorities for 2024-25. Motion carried.
9. **Vote on LWVMC Budget 2024-25:** Motion by Sandy Meyskens, seconded by Jeanne Sekely, to approve the Proposed Budget for 2024-25. Motion carried.
10. **Vote on LWVMC Candidate Slate:** As Chair of the Nominating Committee, Darlene Allen recognized committee members Barb Owdziej and Sandy Meyskens for their work throughout the year. Darlene presented the Election Slate of candidates for the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee. Because candidates are running uncontested, a voice vote is sufficient for the election. Motion by Sue Holliday, seconded by Jen Figler, to approve the entire slate of candidates as presented. Motion carried.
11. **Member comments:** none
12. **Adjourn meeting to Membership Committee for Program:** Motion by Madalyn, seconded by Barb. O., to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Next General Membership Meeting: Wed., AUGUST 14th, 2024, 6:45-8:15 p.m. (6:30 social time)

Peter White Public Library, 217 N. Front St., Marquette, MI

Program: Attorney Mark Brewer presents on election pressure points

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 19, 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.