

**LWV OF Marquette County**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
June 19, 2024, 10:00am – 11:39pm  
*Community Meeting Room at Baraga Place*  
*129 W. Baraga, Marquette*

*In Attendance:* Jo Foley, Susan Holliday, Ruth Ziel, Pri Burnham, Sandy Breitenbach, Johanna Worley, Laura Sabo, Jeanne Sekely, Barb Owdziej, Madalyn Koval

1. Open and Welcome New Members. Present and share received materials: Receipt for materials to be added to the LWVMC collection from the Marquette History Museum; AAUW agreement for cooperation with the 109<sup>th</sup> Candidate Forum; Contract with WZMQ TV19 for live stream of the 109<sup>th</sup> Candidate Forum.
2. Approval of agenda: Addition requested by Laura Sabo to add Communications Report to Item 6. Motion to approve the amended Agenda made by Pri Burnham and seconded by Barb Owdziej. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Minutes & Email vote: Motion made by Sandy Breitenbach and seconded by Laura Sabo to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2024 Board Meeting and to affirm and enter into the Minutes the following vote conducted by electronic mail on June 10, 2024. Motion carried.
  - a. Contracting with WZMQ TV 19 to live-stream the 109<sup>th</sup> Candidate Forum
4. Treasurer's Report – Madalyn: Report given. Reports will be held on file by the Treasurer for review.
  - a. The “domain bill,” identified last month as unusual was investigated. It was not a bill the organization owes and that issue is resolved.
  - b. With PayPal-managed memberships it's been noted that rather than \$70, the LWVMC is receiving only 67.91 (as PayPal keeps a \$2.09 service fee). Treasurer will clarify with members to also pay the fee when using PayPal.
  - c. Annual Meeting Costs: Full use of the venue (Ore Dock Brewery) was paid by Jane Pajot and Rich Johnson. They did overpay by \$50 as Janet Joswiak had already paid that \$50 for the Audiovisual service. Decision made to repay them. Madalyn bought all the pizza. Insurance has been paid. Johanna Worley bought flowers and will submit invoice for reimbursement. Overall, the annual meeting cost very little of our LWVMC budget.
5. LWVUS/LWVMI Report – Ruth:
  - a. Has contacted state Sen Ed McBroom, asking him to support bills 401-404 Voting Rights Legislation. Recommends other members do this also.
  - b. Town Hall grants – There is a wide diversity of potential locations statewide.

- c. LWV members are asked to participate in an on-line survey if that member is voting early and will be working at the polls on election day. Apparent effort to collect data.
- d. The ballot proposal titled “Local Choice” failed to secure enough signatures to be on the ballot this year. The group may try again in future. Because this signature effort failed, two potential sites for solar farms in the 109<sup>th</sup> District will be proceeding. Both sites are deemed environmentally contaminated and are unfit for any other purpose.
- e. The monthly LWVMI presidential call is upcoming.
- f. League Links: If we want to promote them, could send Action Alerts to our Facebook and website. Decided that could be discussed as an agenda item at a future board meeting.

The Appointed Board Member, Barb Owdzieg, is willing to be re-appointed for another year. Motion made by Pri Burnham and seconded by Ruth Ziel. Motion carried.

Barb also willing to continue as the board-appointed member to the Nominating Committee. Motion made by Pri Burnham with second by Sue Holliday. Motion carried.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. **Nominating Committee:** Addressed above.
- b. **Communications Network** – Laura Sabo:
  - The Making Democracy Work award was met with a few negative remarks on Facebook. Discussion. Response to be given in answer to negative commentators will be similar to “Thank you for your input.”
  - A community member, Ann Constance, asks if she can be a volunteer with LWVMI, but not join. Discussion. Consensus is that Ms. Constance can be invited to join the League. There are scholarships available. Those participating in League Activities are required to understand and adhere to nonpartisan policies. Others would require supervision.
  - Donors and others have asked to get our Newsletter emailed to them, even though are not members. Of note, the Newsletter does not include announcements of upcoming events. Consensus that if Communications does not mind the extra work of sending the Newsletter, may do.
- c. **Membership** - Madalyn:
  - There were approximately 76 people at the Annual Meeting. Need to set date for next Annual Meeting. Proposed June 4, 2025, at Ore Dock Brewery. Motion made by Barb, seconded by Ruth. Motion passed.
  - Next orientation for new members will be Weds. Sept 4 at 6pm at PWPL.
- d. **Voter Services** – Pri: Report on Clerks’ meeting with Attorney General Dana Nessel. Upcoming events, activities and tabling:

- Michigan Artisans this Saturday June 22
  - Lake Superior Day, July 21, 1pm to 4pm.
  - Baraga Block Party
  - Fourth of July parade (decorating the truck starts 11am at law office located at 375 N McClellan; line up at L&M Fleet Supply 12:45 – 1 pm
  - Marquette Farmer’s Market (Pri will get further details)
  - Skandia Farmer’s Market
  - Attorney Mark Brewer here August 14. Dinner at 5pm at the Landmark; Pri requests headcount for dinner. Will invite clerks too. Monthly LWV member meeting will follow at PWPL.
  - Blueberry Festival, Friday July 26. Set up at 9am, tabling 10am – 7pm. Volunteers needed.
  - Announcements: Jo gave Candidate Forum Update. Sandy: Vote 411 Guide goes live by Weds, June 26.
- e. **Education Committee – Sandy:**
- Sally Davis, Mayor, will be guest speaker at September meeting. Also, Observer Corps will be highlighted.
  - Voter Servies will present to Northern Center for Lifelong Learning participants Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, 6-8:15pm, PWPL Heritage Room.
  - Voter Services asks for documentation of numbers of LWV members volunteering at each event and number of community members reached.
- f. **DEI:** No update at this time.
- g. **Environmental Committee – Johanna:** There will be an informal discussion with the city planners about the Master Plan Presentation, July 11, 5:15pm – 6:30 pm at PWPL, Lions Room.
- h. **Fundraising:** Sue Holliday will bring proposal from the UP Rainbow Pride group.
7. Report to Membership on the LWVUS Convention: Members Diane Chielens and Pri Burnham will be attending and plan to present their reports at the September 12<sup>th</sup> member meeting.
8. Discussion of changing day/time of Board meetings. No change proposed at this time.
9. Report on New Board Member Orientation held June 17, 2024, Leadership Circle and decisions on assignment of presidential duties - Jo Foley: Ruth Ziel and Jeanne Sekely have been added to Leadership Circle. Laura has asked for freedom to appoint spokespeople to a greater degree which will be allowed. Ruth Ziel has been added as oversight on financial management (with Jo.) Secretarial: Member Joan Parks will assist in documenting some of the membership meeting minutes routinely. Joanna Mitchell will serve as backup as needed. Joanna also will keep providing the sign-in sheets for member meetings until Secretary assumes this task. Jeanne, Laura, and Jo will be involved in creating next year’s calendar and keeping it updated. Progress reports: Laura will talk with Michelle Storms-

VanHow, whose name has come up as potential delegate for this task (archivist). Discussion regarding Orientation Materials. Budget Committee meets in February. Membership roster list is maintained by Treasurer. Program and Advocacy will be delegated to Jo Foley for now.

10. As above.
11. Committee Liaisons: Motion made to defer this agenda item to the July meeting by Pri with second by Sue. Motion carried.
12. As above.
13. Appointments to the LWVMC Board: Sandy has found good potential within the Environmental Committee for appointment(s) to board position. Will talk with those members about becoming Board Appointees.
14. Board Comments: Pri and Joanna are working on Thank You signs for poll workers. Darlene Allen is the person to contact for postcard writing to new voters.
15. Board Photo: Deferred to July.
16. Close – Meeting adjourned at 11:39am.

***Next Board Meeting: Wednesday July 17, 2024, 10am – Noon***

*Community Meeting Room at Baraga Place, 129 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette*

*All members welcome. To request an invite and agenda, email [jfoley1950@gmail.com](mailto:jfoley1950@gmail.com)*

***Next General Membership Meeting Wed., August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:45 – 8:15 pm (6:30 social time)***

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

Submitted by Jeanne Sekely, Secretary