

LWV of Marquette County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
July 17, 2024
Community Meeting Room at Baraga Place
129 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette MI

***In attendance:** Jo Foley, Susan Holliday, Ruth Ziel, Pri Burnham, Sandy Breitenbach, Johanna Worley, Laura Sabo, Jeanne Sekely, Barb Owdziej, Madalyn Koval. **Guests:** Joanna Mitchell, Laura Petrie*

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

- 1) **Open** and welcome to guests
- 2) **Approve Agenda** with following changes: Move #7 to #5, to allow guests to present earlier. Motion to approve agenda made by Madalyn and seconded by Ruth. Motion carried.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes** from June 19, 2024: Motion made by Pri and seconded by Johanna. Motion carried.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report:** Awaiting LWVUS bill to come in for final balance; therefore, the July report is tentative. There are many outstanding checks, including the "state dues." Madalyn is closing the books for the fiscal review at this time. Topic of Peer Reviewer discussed. Requires someone not on the BOD. Suggestion made that member Marie Moisio may be willing to fulfilling this duty and she will be asked.
- 5) **Grant Policy and Guidelines Proposal:** Joanna, Laura P. and Laura S: With recent donations from two groups, the American Association of University Women and the Community Foundation of Marquette County, it has become evident that LWVMC needs a LWVMC Grant Policy. Group also conferred with member Sandy Meyskens who has experience with grant writing. Draft submitted today and reviewed. Discussion. Laura Petrie is agreeable to filling the newly-created LWVMC Grant Coordinator role. Laura was then asked if she would accept appointment to the Board and is interested but wanted time to think about it. Jo will follow up with her. The Grant Coordinator would volunteer as part of the Communications group. Motion made by Pri to approve the LWVMC Grant Policy and Guidelines Proposal with the following amendment: Upon request to the LWVMC Board, allow the donor to include information about the grant in their publications, news releases and social media, and use the LWVMC photos and logo. Motion seconded by Johanna. Motion carried. See the Grant Policy and Guidelines Proposal for further details.
- 6) **LWVUS/LWVMI Report** - League Liaison Ruth Ziel: All members have access to League Links once they have signed-up for them. Ruth is now attending national calls. Ruth will check with prior League Liaison, David Allen, as to whether he attended both the monthly President's Calls and the Leadership Calls (which fall on the third Thursdays). Due

to the timing of those calls and to facilitate discussing them at Board Meetings in a timely manner, it is proposed that the BOD meetings be moved later into the months. Proposal made to move Board of Directors Meetings to the fourth Wednesday of each month, 10am – 12noon. Proposal made by Madalyn and seconded by Sue. Motion carried.

- 7) **Convention Report** – Pri attended as did Diane Chielens, both virtually. The new president, Dianna Wynn, was introduced as well as Celina Stewart, CEO. With outline of directions and policies the national group is striving for, it is noted that LWVMC is well “ahead of the curve” with implementing best practices toward goal (examples, steps made with DEI inclusion, youth engagement, handling of donations). Pri will include some of the highlights in our next Newsletter edition. Some of these highlights include advocating for direct election of US Presidents, conducting an expedited study of the judiciary, ERA passage, statehood for the District of Columbia. It is noted that the LWV is nationally the most trusted organization for unbiased voting information and voter resources. Message from the convention is that we must all be bolder in defending democracy and be willing to “call-out” authoritarianism without feeling it is against our nonpartisan requirement. 2024 Convention update can be found on-line at the LWVUS site. Click on League Management, click on Internal league, click on convention, click on links to main speakers.
- 8) **Candidate Forum Report:** Given by Jo, with Notes that were documented at the follow-up meeting. Discussed.
- 9) **Mark Brewer presentation** at next membership meeting, August 14. Depending on weather that day, we may be able to use the larger Community Room at PWPL, but won’t know until that day. Otherwise, may need to set up an overflow room. Nick Steffey with “Sidecar” has been hired for filming.
- 10) **Consider day change for Board Meetings:** President’s Call vs Leadership Call: This was addressed under item 6 above.
- 11) **Pride Printing, process of ordering:** Laura S requests that this item be moved to a future agenda. Discussed and agreed.

12) Committee Reports:

- a. **Membership:** No update
- b. **Nominating Committee:** This committee will not be called on to help with board appointees.
- c. **Voter Services:** Project and Event Proposal Form submitted for three “Hooked on Voting” Events this summer. A second form submitted for professionally-made yard signs (Pride Printing) to promote Vote411.org and in recognition of county, city, and township clerks. Will start with 25 of each and ask for \$15 donation per sign. Cost to produce is \$12 each. Approved.
- d. **Communications Network** - Laura S: Submitted Project and Event Proposal Form. Primary goal is to update the LWVMC website format and content with a focus on ADA compliance. The secondary goal is to update and organize LWVMC documents to enhance user access. See the completed form. Laura recommends

hiring “My Web Maestro.” The total cost is \$2,040.00; however, if paid in full upfront, the cost will be discounted to \$1,836 (a 10% savings). Motion made by Pri to hire “My Web Maestro” and to pay the full cost upfront to receive the discount. Seconded by Sandy. Motion carried.

On topic of selecting an LWVMC archivist from the membership, no new developments to report.

- e. **Education** – Sandy: The September membership meeting will have member and Mayor Sally Davis as guest speaker. Also, Diane Chielens will report on the LWVUS Convention to membership.
- f. **DEI** - Sandy: No updates
- g. **Environmental Committee**: - Johanna: Member Anna Wild will be co-chair with Karen Schmitt for this committee.
- h. **Fundraising** – Sue: UP Rainbow Pride Proposal will be offered next month.

13. Deciding Committee Liaisons - Assignments:

- **Nominating**: Barb
- **Membership**: Barb
- **Voter Services**: Pri
- **Communications**: Laura S
- **Education**: Member Susanne Smith is interested in being appointed to the board as the liaison with this committee. Sandy has talked with her.
- **DEI**: Sandy
- **Environmental**: Johanna
- **Observer Corps**: Jo
- **Fundraising/Events**: Sue

14. Draft Agenda August 14th member meeting:

1. Open and Welcome
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve minutes from Annual Meeting
4. Announcements/Reports
5. Non-partisan policy
6. Member comments
7. Adjourn business meeting
8. Introduction of Mark Brewer by David Allen

15. **Board comments**: Sue reminds all members that the Northern Center for Lifelong Learning event hosting LWV panelists to discuss the new voting laws still needs panelists. Volunteers requested. Event is scheduled for Thursday, September 12th, 6pm at PWPL

16. Photo taken. Adjourn at 12:04pm