

**LWV of Marquette County**  
**MONTHLY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

August 14, 2024

Peter White Public Library, Shiras Room

**Members in Attendance:** David Allen, Robert Anderson, Sandra Breitenbach, Priscilla Burnham, Barb Coleman, Jo Foley, Marge Forslin, Patty Gagnon, Stephanie Gencheff, Janet Joswiak, Iris Katers, Madalyn Koval, Alec LaPlante, Laura Miller, Joanna Mitchell, Barbara Owdziej, Jane Pajot, Joan Park, Laura Petrie, Kathryn Pouliot, Karlyn Rapport, Jeanne Sekely, Susanne Smith, Suzy Swanson, Christie Wagner, Christine Wilson, Johanna Worley, Ruth Ziel (28)

**Guests:** Ilona Andersen, Tom Bratton, John Forslin, Laurie Kibler, Mike Kibler, Mark Petrie, Dar Shephard, Robert Ziel

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

1. Welcome: Convener Jo Foley welcomed everyone, especially new members and guests. Membership now totals 126 members.

2. Approve agenda: Motion made by Johanna Worley, seconded by Pri Burnham, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Barb Coleman, seconded by Ruth Ziel, to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on June 12. Motion carried.

4. Announcements:

- Recognition given for all those who serve as election inspectors and also as Board of Canvassers (BOC) observers. If interested in becoming involved with BOC observing, contact Pri Burnham. Training is available.
- During Marquette's Blueberry Festival, 326 children participated in "Hooked on Voting" and "elected" the Coho Salmon as the favored fish (winner). The LWVMC booth at the Baraga Block Party, upcoming on Sunday August 18, is seeking more volunteers, as is the NMU Fall Fest on campus Monday, August 26. Sign-up sheets are in the lobby near the sign-in sheets.
- Adopt a yard sign program: Vote411 signs and thank you signs for clerks (city, township and county) will be available soon, at a cost of \$15.
- Vote411 will go active in September. See Sandy Breitenbach to volunteer with this important voters' tool implementation.
- Forum: Potential candidate forum for Marquette Area Public School Board (MAPS) on a date early in October. Hopefully will be able to use Community Room here at library. A potential second candidate forum may be held later in October, possibly for a Negaunee

governmental entity. Jo Foley is encouraging members to come forward for development as future moderators. See Jo for more details of the role.

5. Annual review of nonpartisan policy that all members are required to adhere to presented. Of note, members may not display candidate-promoting yard signs at same time as LWV-themed signs (such as Vote411).

6. Member comments: None.

7. Adjourned business meeting at 6:42pm

8. Member David Allen introduced our special guest, Mark Brewer: Mr. Brewer is a Michigan election law attorney who has focused on union-side labor, election, campaign finance, and non-profit law. He has been a pivotal figure in numerous election cases since the 1980s, spanning issues such as redistricting, presidential primaries, recalls, and voting rights. Brewer's expertise extends to drafting ordinances, statutes, and state constitutional amendments in areas ranging from campaign finance to ethics reform.

The title of his PowerPoint presentation is:

"Issues in the Administration of Michigan Elections"

Presentation was live streamed and will appear on the LWV of Marquette County YouTube site. Highlights will also appear in an upcoming newsletter.

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**Next General Membership Meeting: Weds September 4, 2024, 6:45 – 8:15pm (6:30p social time).** Peter White Public Library, Studio 1, lower level.

**Next Board Meeting: Wednesday August 28 at 10:00am – Noon.** Community room at Baraga Place, 129 W. Baraga Ave., Marquette. All members welcome. To request an invitation and agenda, email [jfoley1950@gmail.com](mailto:jfoley1950@gmail.com)

Submitted by Jeanne Sekely, 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.*