

LWV of Marquette County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

In Attendance: Jo Foley, Sandy Breitenbach, Lynnette Ewbank, Sandy Meyskens, Barb Owdziej, Joan Park, Laura Petrie, Laura Sabo, Jeanne Sekely, Johanna Worley

Absent and excused: Andie Balenger

Guests: None

1) Open and Welcome at 10:00am.

2) Approve Agenda: Motion made to amend order of Treasurer's Report and topic of League Liaison. Motion made by Laura P. to approve agenda as amended, seconded by Jeanne, motion carried.

3) Approve Minutes from August 27, 2025 Board Meeting: Motion made by Lynnette, seconded by Sandy M, motion carried.

4) Approve Minutes from September 10, 2025 Special Board Zoom meeting. Motion made to approve by Johanna, seconded by Lynnette, motion carried.

5) Treasurer's Report - Laura P: Documents were sent to all Board members earlier this week for review. Laura is now utilizing "Quicken" program for reports. Explained the new system and how it displays entries. All accounts are balanced and in order. Discussed recognizing individual donations to our local league, as all funds now go through the LWVUS membership portal. Laura P. and Jeanne will coordinate to recognize these donations and send thank-you notes. In future, Jo will mention to all members to specifically "click" the routing of their donations to LWVMC if that is their intent.

6) League Liaison – Laura P: With the pressure of fulfilling responsibilities of Treasurer and Fundraiser, Laura asks to resign from the League Liaison position. League Liaison is a presidential duty (along with Convenor and Spokesperson). Duties of the Liaison include attending monthly "Presidents and Leaders calls" and reporting back to the local League Board of Directors. The Liaison also is the primary point of contact back to the LWVMI and LWVUS when the local League wants to communicate. Discussion of the structure of our League. Some parts of League Liaison have already gradually been picked up by other board members. Johanna has been attending "Unite and Rise 8.5" meetings as initiated by the LWVUS. Laura S has been communicating with the LWVMI regarding communications concerns. Several board members will be attending the

“Presidents and Leaders call” tomorrow. Discussion of potential to appoint an additional board member for this role. BOD will be exploring options. Resignation by Laura P accepted.

7) Report on “Unite and Rise 8.5” – Johanna: Reviewed for the Board of Directors this LWVUS initiative, links, and current Power Play Book. In summary, League members are to be encouraged to respond to Action Alerts, participate in events and Vote411, commit to Unite and Rise 8.5, practice daily democracy practices. Many of these suggested activities are already being promoted by LWVMC. Johanna suggested sending a LWVUS information sheet on this to members. Sandy B and Johanna will compare requirements on our tracking sheet and the Unite and Rise 8.5 tracking requirements to see how they mesh. Lynnette suggested that with monthly membership event documentation and programming, that perhaps we can likewise streamline the tracking requirements that are being requested by LWVMI.

8) Need to Appoint Peer Reviewer of our Finances – Laura P: A qualified member has been asked and hopefully will accept.

9) Report from Candidate Forum Team and Vote 411 - Jo: Candidate forums will be held on Tuesday, September 30 in the City of Marquette City Commission Chambers, 300 W. Baraga Ave. Doors open at 5:30 and event will be 6pm – 8pm. For media coverage, Jo agreed to be interviewed by a reporter from TV19 this Friday. Questions are being composed and more are requested from the membership and the public. Candidates for the Marquette Board of Light and Power will have their forum first. Next will be a presentation by Jo on the circulating initiative petitions for the 2026 state ballot. A LWVMI power point will be the primary tool for this with some added content. Lastly, the Marquette City Commission candidates will have their forum. Jo outlined who will be filling roles (moderators, question screeners, wranglers, timer, pages, and information table). Sandy B will create a sign-up genius to obtain more volunteers for the event. A team meeting will be held in the City Commissioner Chambers at 4pm on September 26. Of note, one of the six invited candidates has not responded, necessitating that a registered letter be sent to him.

Sandy B has sent out invitations to the candidates to participate in Vote411. Planning for 500 copies of a printed guide and will get a quote from Pride Printing today.

10) Preparation for Strategic Planning Retreat – Jo reviewed the number of participants that have confirmed attendance. Several more members will be invited with the goal number of 16 – 20 participants.

11) Update on National Voter Registration Day activities (NVRD) - Voter Services Committee – Sandy B: Planning for Tuesday, September 23rd at Marquette Alternative High School, and early

October for Munising High School. Potential for “text banking” to promote voter activity and also digital postcards. The goal is to encourage registered voters to get on the permanent absentee ballot list. Potentially we members will gather to undertake text banking.

Johanna has researched getting two cloth tablecloths for LWVMC to use at our tabling events to have a more polished, professional look. Pride Printing could provide, at approximately \$151 each. To defray costs, a BOD member offered to purchase one of them as a donation in kind.

12) Shall we apply for a Holiday Tree again at PWPL: Group decided “yes.”

13) and 14) Motion made to Table items 13 and 14 until a future BOD meeting– Due to time constraints today, motion was made by Barb, seconded by Sandy B to table these topics. Motion passed. [These items were “Discuss process of nominating and awarding Annual Awards and Belle Ringer Awards, and Discuss gifts/swag for speakers/candidates.]

15) Decision of whether to publicize (to all members) the LWVMI Zoom Forum September 24th
– Discussion of need and/or rationale for emphasizing LWVMI events in general. Members are expected to read emails from LWVMI and to frequently review postings on our LWVMC website. Joan made the motion to send a separate email for this Zoom event, Sandy B seconded it. Eight voted “yes,” two voted “no.” Motion carried and thus an email publicizing will be sent to all members. The BOD will have continuing discussions about how many and to what events membership should be invited via email. We also emphasized checking dates of events against dates of religious holidays.

16) Committee Reports:

a. Nominating: No update.

b. Membership: Already completed.

c. Voter Services: Text banking idea already covered.

d. Communications: Next newsletter will go out approximately September 22nd.

e. Administration/Records Management: Laura S: Discussed confidentiality with access to the member roster. With the membership list policy, still need to map out who has access. Discussed that we do not need to record attendance at General Membership Meetings and that individual names need not be listed in the Minutes. The important record is the number of members present. Convenor and Secretary (or their delegates) must be at meetings.

f. Education: Dr. Robert Van Howe, Medical Director of the Marquette County Health Department, will be our presenter at next general membership meeting on Wednesday, October 15th. Discussed of who would be introducing him.

g. DEIA Committee: Completing report on correction and new goals with our League calendar. Events had been scheduled on religious holidays and were impacting attendance for some LWVMC members and other community members.

h. Environmental Committee - Joan: The Michigan House of Representative approved \$50 million of taxpayer money to improvements in Wakefield County for infrastructure development. This is the site of a proposed development, Copperwood Mine, near Porcupine Mountains State Park. The bill is now before the Michigan Senate.

Next meeting of this committee will be on Thursday, October 9th from 5pm – 6pm in the Shiras Room at PWPL, 217 N. Front St. There will be a presentation on community solar by former MI Representative Jenn Hill.

A tour of the municipal water treatment plant is also upcoming, details to follow.

i. Fundraising – Laura P: The direct mailing of 500 letters requesting donations is underway. The Bathing Suit Fundraising (as created by a fellow LWV of Michigan member) will occur on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Marquette Regional History Museum. Details to follow.

17) Draft Agenda for the Wednesday Oct 15th General Membership Meeting: Discussed and reviewed. Jo will send to members when completed. To be held in the Heritage Room at PWPL, 6:45pm – 8:15pm. Social time begins at 6:30pm.

18) Board Comment: No further topics offered at this time.

19) Adjourn at 12:14pm

Next General Membership Meeting: As above in item #17.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 22, at 10am. PWPL Conference Room, first floor across from drinking fountains.

Submitted by Jeanne Sekely, Secretary

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