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7th Annual Report

May 2025

LWVMC is all hands on deck

Leadership Team's Report

Courtesy of the Convener

We thought we would relax a bit after a very busy and productive summer and fall of 2024. We had conducted three candidate forums, hosted numerous Hooked on Voting events (including the huge Blueberry Fest event), worked the election, and our expanded Observer Corps covered five counties' Boards of Canvassers. We produced printed and online Voter Guides. We shared voting information throughout our county and with our partners at Northern Michigan University. Now, we would finally have time to focus on our organizational needs, finances, and frazzled minds.

But NO... 2025 dawned with a growing constitutional crisis, attacks on the rule of law, and threats to voting rights.

How does the League respond? We do so by educating ourselves and our community about the issues, such as the recent presentation on immigration to our membership; by responding to Action Alerts from state and national League advocacy committees; by supporting the League in lawsuits; and by finding all the ways we can disseminate clear information about the consequences of proposed federal actions.



2024-2025 Board Members seated left to right: Pri Burnham, Voter Services Coordinator; Madalyn Koval, Treasurer; Susan Holliday, Director. Standing left to right: Johanna Worley, Director; Lynnette Ewbank, Director; Sandy Breitenbach, Director; Laura Petrie, League Liaison; Jeanne Sekely, Secretary; Barb Owdziej, Director; Jo Foley, Convener; Laura Sabo, Communications Coordinator; Andie Balenger, Spokesperson.

The League also urges any member to engage in lawful activities that express their values and concerns, from protests to phone calls to running for office. However, we ask that the League is not represented unless it specifically supports the action.

The League is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. Deliberately, the League engages in measured, thoughtful, and studied actions without aligning with any party or candidate. Experience from our more than one hundred years of existence has shown that political parties and candidates may change their stances or condone questionable actions regardless of their name. Therefore, the League supports issues, democracy, and the Constitution while maintaining integrity.

LWVMC will continue to work locally in the same way. We have grown to over 130 members and have become a trusted, clear voice in our community. As League of Women Voters members, our voice is magnified a million-fold nationally. Let us stand by the League of Women Voters Oath to Democracy.

Jo Foley, LWVMC Convener

Recognizing Democracy at Work

By Andie Balenger



We do solemnly swear that we will empower voters and defend our democracy.

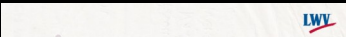
That we will faithfully execute our civic responsibility as nonpartisan advocates.

We do this fearlessly, reflectively, and collectively. We act from a place of hope and collective power.

We affirm that we will work to provide democracy education and election administration support, restore and defend voting rights protections, abolish the Electoral College, protect democracy organizations, and fight for reproductive freedoms.

We will not be deterred from these tasks.

So join us to protect life, liberty, freedom, and justice.



The second annual “Making Democracy Work” award was presented to the 2023-2024 Marquette Area Public Schools (MAPS) Board for its commitment to community engagement and transparency during the search for a new school mascot. This award, created by the League of Women Voters, recognizes and celebrates community members who demonstrate committed, visionary leadership that strengthens our democracy.

Voter Services Coordinator Pri Burnham presented the “Making Democracy Work” award at the LWVMC’s annual meeting in June 2024.

“During the past year’s search for a new name and logo for the high school ... the board sought input from and listened to the voices of community members, students, and one another,” Burnham said. “In the words of the Mining Journal’s editorial, the board ‘held true to its mission and process and saw the issue through to its conclusion.’”

The inaugural “Making Democracy Work” award was presented in 2023 to Marquette County Clerk Linda Talsma for her dedication to ensuring efficient, secure, and honest elections in our county



Pictured accepting the Making Democracy Work award from left to right: School Board members Kristen Cambensy (President), Jennifer Ray, Glenn Sarka, and Cheryl Maddox-Smith. Board members not present: James Hewitt, Jennifer Klipp, and Jason Zdunek.



Pictured above: Members of the Observer Corps team meet to discuss issues at The Crib coffee shop in Marquette.



Observer Corps

The Observer Corps for Marquette County is in its ninth year. We currently have ten observers who follow the Marquette City Commission, the City of Marquette Board of Light & Power, the City of Marquette

Downtown Development Authority, the City of Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, the City of Marquette Planning Commission, the Marquette Area Public Schools Board, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners, the Marquette County Board of Health, and the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority. Additionally, our members observed the Marquette County Board of Canvassers for the 2024 elections, and we wrapped up following the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Our group meets about once per quarter for information and updates from members. We hope to hold one of these sessions at an upcoming membership meeting so that members can learn more about what is happening in local government and see how our group operates. There are plenty of openings if you want to join us! Teams of observers can also follow a single entity, and our current members are available to observe with you as you start. Contact David Allen at lwvmqtco@gmail.com for more information.

David Allen, Observer Corps Coordinator

ADVOCACY

Federal Judiciary Study

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Comments from participants:

“I learned a lot about a part of our federal government that I had never really looked at before.”

“It was interesting and enjoyable to discuss and learn from my fellow participants.”

Federal Judiciary Study

By Jake Guter

Recently, ten LWVMC members volunteered to participate in a study of the Federal Judiciary as part of a national initiative. In 2024, the LWVUS decided at its annual meeting to develop a position on the Federal Judiciary as an essential component of democracy in the United States. The goal was to develop consensus positions on policy changes related to all Article III federal courts, including the Supreme Court. A national committee then gathered background information, held a recorded town hall with legal experts from various political viewpoints, and developed a list of consensus questions with discussion topics. This information was then distributed to the local chapters for their use in developing consensus recommendations.

During February and March 2025, the local committee studied, reviewed, discussed, and agreed on the 12 consensus questions. The committee’s final report was then written, reviewed, approved by the chapter, and submitted to the LWVUS Study Committee, which will develop recommendations to submit to the biennial LWVUS Council for consideration and possible adoption.

Introduction to the Federal Court

By Sue Holliday

On April 10, 2025, members of the League of Women Voters and the Northern Center for Life Long Learning were invited into the austere world of the Federal Court as part of Supreme Court Justice John Roberts’s effort to engage the federal courts in civic outreach and enhance accessibility for citizens.

Attendees took their seats in the jury box and the pews “behind the bar,” surrounded by likenesses clad in the black robes of every Federal judge who has served in the historic courtroom since 1937.

A brief introduction, accompanied by a map illustrating the geographic area covered by the 6th District (Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee), was followed by insights into each department involved in the process. The audience was captivated by the intersectionality of the departments and the personal stories of those working within the federal court system. Cases before the court include criminal, civil, tribal, prisons, maritime, and social security.

We learned that several decisions made by retired Judge Allan Edgar, the only federal judge born and currently residing in the Upper Peninsula, were appealed to the Supreme Court – and upheld. Other speakers from different locations expressed shock upon discovering their assignment to Marquette, but all admitted that once here, they had come to love the area.

The program ended with questions from the audience and a tour of the lockup with the Federal Marshal.



An Introduction to the Federal Court

Thursday, April 10 | 4:00pm-6:00pm

Enjoy a visit to the U.S. District Courthouse in Marquette, including presentations by a retired federal judge and various members of the court family, plus a look at the US Marshal Service lock-up as time allows!

4:00pm Arrival and Security Screening
4:45pm Presentation

Attendees must bring a drivers license or other form of ID card



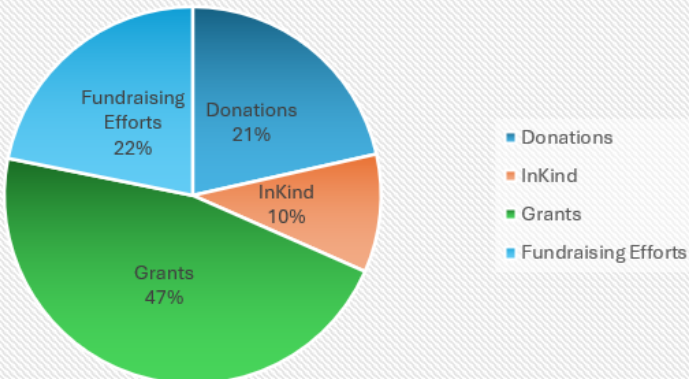
Phones are allowed, but will be held by court security while attendees are in the courtroom



This civic outreach event is a program of the City of Marquette Senior Center, in partnership with the U.S. District Courthouse. The event is free to attend, but **pre-registration is required**. To sign up, or for more information about upcoming programs, please contact the Marquette Senior Center at (906) 228-0456.

Fundraising

2024-2025 Fundraising Total \$12,238.43



With the expectation that 2025 would be a quieter year for Voter Services, the decision was made to focus on grants during the busy 2024 election season and return to fundraising events in the new year. As it turns out, 2025 has been just as busy!

However, 2024 was a banner year for grants. In June 2024, we received \$1,545 in donations from a direct mailing to Marquette County residents that included a flyer for the 109th District House of Representative Candidate Forum. Additionally, we received many write-in questions from the community to ask the candidates.

The State League supported us with grants for the candidate forums, the “Get Out the Vote” postcard campaign for first-time voters, misinformation/disinformation town halls, and the printing of 1,000 voter guides. Additionally, we received grants from the Community Foundation of Marquette, the Rotary Club of Marquette, and the Marquette West Rotary, totaling \$5,600.

Funds received from grants are usually designated for specific events, allowing us to recognize the contributing organization during the event. In addition to community visibility, a benefit of fundraisers is that donations can be used for various purposes: printed information for schools, events like the Fourth of July parade, Blueberry Festival, and office expenses.

In the spring of 2025, Sue Holliday organized a Bag-for-Donations at Super One grocery store on April 17. Twelve League volunteers kept busy bagging groceries and distributing LWV bookmarks from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition to raising community awareness, we raised \$327.52.

May 30-31, 2025 is the “What Goes Around Comes Around” biennial garage sale. We expect to raise \$2,000 from the event. Our garage sale in 2023 raised \$5,000.

A special thanks to Jane Pajot and Mary Burtch, who sorted and counted Tadych’s receipts for a donation based on sale receipts collected from members and submitted. This year, we received \$347.57

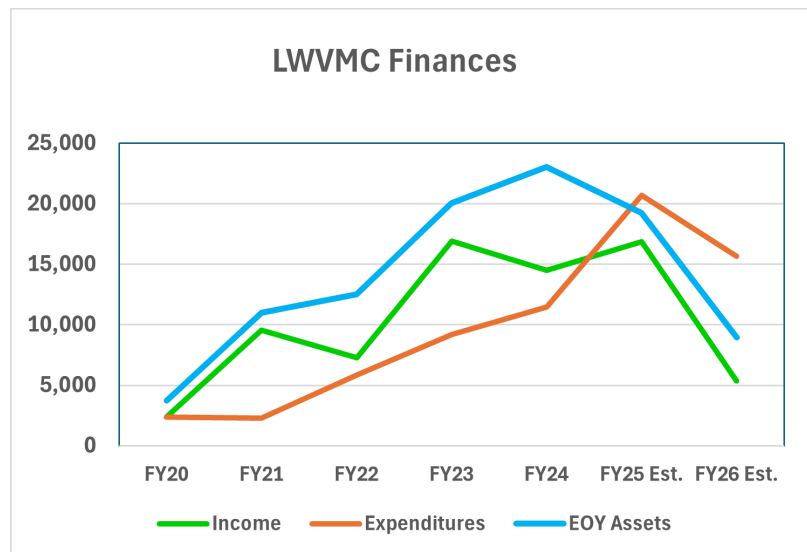
This is the third year for the Fundraising Committee. Calling it a committee is a slight exaggeration. Basically, Sue Holliday comes up with ideas for fundraising events, and Laura Petrie pursues grants with the assistance of board members. We are still working to form a committee that will help find ways to support the ambitions of our League. Please let Sue Holliday or Laura Petrie know how you can help.

***Susan Holliday, Fundraising Committee Board Liaison
and Laura Petrie, Grant Writing***



*Fundraiser: Bagging at Super One.
From front to back: Marie Moisio,
Joan Park and Sue Holliday.*

Financial Report Year 2024– 2025



Much of what has been accomplished this year is due to the work of the budget committee. This is “behind the scenes” work that goes on quietly to keep the League running well.

Let’s take a moment to recognize how many of the Budget Committee’s past recommendations have been fulfilled. In 2021, the Committee recommended developing a “fundraising strategy to predictably cover annual expenses and enable special initiatives.” By 2022, it was clear that income from fundraising would exceed its cost even in the first year. The Committee asked the League to continue building fundraising capacity, manage overhead, and evaluate the outcome. By summer 2023, two rounds of successful donor fundraising were held, the first garage sale netted over \$5000, and both local community and LWVMI grants boosted income and increased assets by 80% for FY23. In 2024, the Committee recommended using this reservoir of assets to improve the quality of AV services for public forums, upgrade website accessibility, and increase printing of Voter Guides to reach a wider audience in presidential and midterm election years.

The League has really stretched its wings this year to accomplish this and a great deal more. During the 2024-2025 fiscal year we updated our Web Site, held forums, townhalls and have livestreaming capability. We produced the Voter Guides and distributed thousands of brochures and handouts. Election year clearly was the time to offer more.

2024-2025 also called for a complete change in how we gather dues. Now that LWVUS gathers dues, our revenue is undergoing changes and this affects our budget. Next year will be a challenge in growing revenue, but we are up to it. I am proud of the work we have done and how much we have grown. It has been an honor being your treasurer these last few years.

Madalyn Koval, Treasurer

Communications Network

League communication is designed to elevate the League's messages, promote League events, provide information to the public, and build community trust. The communications team helps the League accomplish these goals by reviewing and coordinating content and the distribution of the messages and information shared with the public through our newsletter, *The Voter*, our website, social media, and through the local press and other communication outlets.

The LWVMC website is a source of information about our League and local voting and election information. This past year, the LWVMC's website was redesigned with a new look and several new capabilities. The redesign of our website allowed us to increase accessibility for our users.



Accessible websites benefit those with disabilities but are considered to create a better experience for all users. The redesign also allowed us to consolidate access to all our social media sites and provide direct community sign-up for our newsletter.



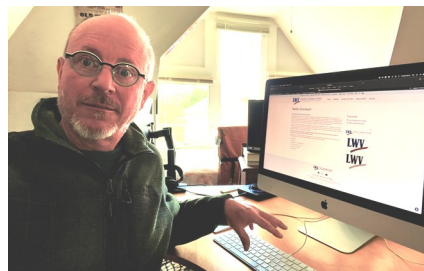
Communications Team pictured left to right: Andie Balenger, Laura Sabo, Christie Wagner, Joanna Mitchell, Laura Petrie and Marge Forslin. Roving members Include Andrea Ingmire and David Allen.

The League's presence on social media continues to grow. Recording and posting our events to our YouTube Channel has allowed us to expand community access to our content, including the use of closed captioning and transcripts. The recordings of our 2024 Candidate Forums generated over 1,120 views in addition to the onsite attendance and live-streamed viewing. The subscribership to our YouTube Channel increased from 67 to 96. Our followers on Facebook increased from 651 to 795 this past year, and our followers on Instagram increased from 179 to 233.

Members of the Communication Network help with media outreach by promoting our activities and events in various local media outlets. We maintain media contact lists, help keep the press aware of our events, and monitor our visibility in local media sources.



Our spokesperson and the board monitor the messages and content shared with the public to ensure they represent our league accurately and well. We also rely on our state and national leagues for guidance in messaging. These steps help us to ensure that the League speaks with one voice and adheres to our non-partisan mission, which is essential for our effectiveness as an education and advocacy organization.



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility



The DEIA Committee with presenter Caroline LaPorte from NMU. Pictured left to right: Christie Wagner, Diane Chielens, Barb Coleman, Andie Balenger, Sandy Breitenbach, Caroline LaPorte, Lynnette Ewbank, and Marge Forslin. Members not pictured include Kathy Flagstadt and Judy Krause.

Meeting posters

Education about diversity in our community was the main focus for the DEIA Committee this year. We updated our DEIA policy **and added accessibility** to our name to indicate that we want to invite everyone into our League community and “open the door” **for all**.

At the October Membership meeting, the DEIA program focused on living with disabilities and how this impacts voting and other activities. Barb Coleman presented information on respectful language regarding people with disabilities, after which Bob and Dorothy Dickey spoke about their experiences living independently with visual impairment. They are truly models of positively confronting challenges and choosing happiness.

The Land Acknowledgement, read at all meetings, was updated by Andie Balenger to include more details about the Treaties that led to land loss and its subsequent consequences in Indian Country. It references action groups associated with current crises, including MMIWR (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives) and VAWA (Violence Against Women Act).

Land Acknowledgment

Marquette County is located on Anishinaabe Akiing, the ancestral and present-day homelands of the Anishinaabe Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibway, Odawa, and Potawatomi nations. Gichi-namebini Ziibing (Marquette) has been cared for by the Anishinaabeg for generations. While the land was ceded to the United States through the Treaties of 1842 and 1836, the Anishinaabeg retained the rights to hunt, fish, gather, and live on the land, continuing their practices based on deep knowledge and respect for the land.

However, the loss of ancestral homelands has perpetuated colonial violence, particularly against Anishinaabekwe (Anishinaabe women). The epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR) stems from the breakdown of Indigenous social structures caused by policies like the Indian Civilization Fund Act of 1819 and the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The League of Women Voters of Marquette County remains committed to advocating for the rights of women, girls, and relatives, as outlined in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), through education, awareness, and advocacy.

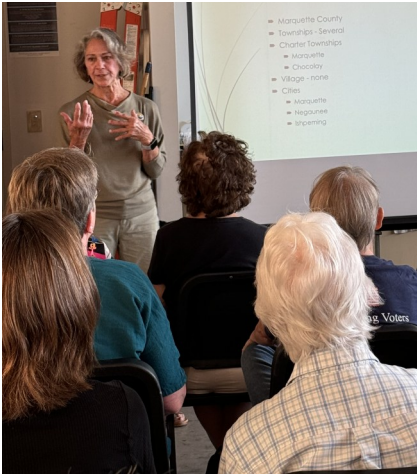
For more information on MMIWR, please visit the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center's website at niwrc.org.

Caroline LaPorte, the department head and associate professor of Native American studies at NMU, delivered a special presentation on the MMIWR epidemic in the United States and Canada. LaPorte's presentation highlighted how the forced removal of Indigenous peoples from their ancestral lands has perpetuated colonial violence, especially against Anishinaabekwe (Anishinaabe women), and how the MMIWR epidemic results from the breakdown of Indigenous social structures due to federal policies like the Indian Civilization Fund Act of 1819 and the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The League's regular membership meeting space was full, with nearly 90 attendees, including 42 non-members.

To educate members about immigration, the Latinx Student Union and Refugee Outreach Collective of NMU delivered a presentation on historical and current immigration policies in the US. Once again, we had a full audience. Lauren Melendez-Rivero, Emily Aguero, Juliet Noriega, and Cole Edgcombe's presentation was riveting. The perception was that greater attention needs to be given to this issue. We hope to collaborate with other immigration and refugee organizations in the area for a larger event this fall.

Sandy Breitenbach, DEIA Committee Chair

Education Committee



Marquette Mayor Sally Davis discusses local government.

Understanding our local government was a prime focus for the Education Committee.

Sally Davis, a member of LWVMC and the current Mayor of Marquette, gave a presentation on local

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NIGHT

government at the September membership meeting. She provided an overview of the various forms of local government structures, including charter and general law townships, and how our cities are managed.

Due to her expertise in the City of Marquette, we got a deep dive into the budget and the complexities of tax revenues, including how the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Brownfield entities fit into the overall picture. The audience was highly engaged, and many members' questions were addressed. We all learned something new and gained greater appreciation for our city leaders.

Due to the popularity of Sally Davis's presentation, a panel discussion, "Know Your Local Government," was planned for the May membership meeting. Karen Kovacs, Marquette City Manager, and Dana LaLonde, Marquette County Board of Commissioners [District 4 (Ishpeming City and Negaunee City)] Commissioner, talked about how they became involved in local government. It was a lively discussion about their respective communities, how they work together, and how residents could get involved.

Sandy Breitenbach, Education Committee Chair



Education Committee with presenters.

Pictured left to right presenters Dana LaLonde, Marquette County, and Karen Kovacs, Marquette City Manager, and League members Sandy Meyskens, Sandy Brientenbach, Jane Pajot, Barb Coleman, Karlyn Rapport and Jane Jameson.



Membership Committee

Building a strong community

What happens when curious, caring folks get together to make things better? That's the League of Women Voters of Marquette County in a nutshell. We

are your neighbors, coworkers, and friends—all working to build a more informed, fair, and active community.

This year, the League shifted membership registration and renewal to the national level to make it easier for people to join. The goal is to remove barriers and welcome more voices from all backgrounds.

We are nonpartisan and proud of it. Our focus is helping voters get the facts and the access they need—not just on Election Day, but all year. We show up for town halls, participate in national League position studies, and help people sort through the noise with trustworthy tools like VOTE411.org.

The Membership Committee is where the people part

happens. We greet folks, hand out name tags, help new members settle in, and host fun events like the annual meeting, which allows members to learn more about the League's work and connect with different activities and committees.

If you like connecting with people or making others feel welcome, we would love for you to join—not just the League but also the Membership Committee. It's a great way to get involved and make a real difference.

Whether you want to register voters, introduce kids to the importance of voting, celebrate at Pride Fest, or just show up and be a friendly face, there's a place for you here. No pressure—just possibilities!

If you've ever thought, "I wish I could do something," this is your moment. Come say "hi." We would love to meet you.

Barb Owddziej, Membership Committee Chair



The membership committee plans and welcomes attendees to the annual meeting every year.



***Learn more about
our League, join us,
and donate at
our website.***

SCAN TO TAKE ACTION



*League of Women Voters
of Marquette County.*

Environmental Committee



Tour of the Partridge Creek Farm and Compost sites



NMU Earth Fest tabling event including "Stump the Dump" game to determine if items should be recycled, reused, put in the landfill, or hazardous waste.

Pictured from left to right: League members, Johanna Worley and Joan Park, with Josh Wales of 906 Recycle.

Interested in environmental issues?

Would you like to discuss our environment in detail? Please consider joining us on the first Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. at the Peter White Public Library.



Volunteers at monthly battery recycling for the county held in Chocolay Township garage.

A Year Driven by our mission statement:

"Educate and increase civic engagement and awareness by our League members and the residents of Marquette County to promote responsible stewardship of our precious natural resources and protect life-sustaining ecosystems for future generations."

In addition to monitoring local, state, and national legislation, our focus on education and civic engagement has led us to explore a fascinating variety of speakers and organizations within Marquette County.

Brian Hummel, the Marquette County Emergency Management Program Coordinator, led a discussion on how climate change has fueled extreme weather. We learned steps to protect ourselves and serve as volunteers in crises.

Jim Borowski, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Upper Michigan and Northern Wisconsin, explained the Goodwill business model. This talk covered Goodwill's hiring philosophies and how our electronics and clothing are reused, repurposed, and recycled.

In September, we visited the UP Geological Repository. In addition to ensuring that Michigan mines operate within strict regulations, their extensive rock library of core samples is used for national research. A double tour of the Partridge Creek Farm and Compost sites convinced us to join their curbside compost collection program while renewing our interest in urban gardening.

A dedicated group of volunteers meets monthly to sort used batteries collected in the County.

Our participation in the NMU Earth Fest tabling event was a great success. Our table featured a "Stump the Dump" activity for people to participate in. It was a game where participants could look through a box of garbage and determine if it could be recycled, reused, put in the landfill, or hazardous waste. We partnered with Josh Wales, the Materials Management Supervisor at the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (Recycle 906), and he answered any questions we could not. We also had samples of washable feminine products from Days for Girls and milkweed seeds to give away. It was a fun way to spend a rainy afternoon. Of course, we also had League information.

Anna Wild, Environmental Committee Chair

Community Connections



At the Polls

Eighteen plus LWVMC members served as poll workers, counters, and Board of Canvassers observers in the primary and November general elections.

Voter education and registration at Pride Fest

We provided information about voting and had a special display about Eleanor Roosevelt's book, "When you Grow Up to Vote."

Adopt-A-Highway

This will be our third year picking up trash along highways in Marquette County for the MDOT Adopt-A-Highway program. We began at a site on M-35 near Gwinn and have been out each year in the fall and spring. Initially, we were not as "visible" as we would have liked, but we still heard shouting out and horn honking from passersby's as we worked. This spring, we were fortunate to be able to change locations, allowing us more visibility and easier access for members to join in this community-based project. Our new location is on US-41 between Green Garden Road and M-480. All can help support our community by active trash pickup! After the trash pickup, we visit a local restaurant to enjoy social time and discuss the interesting items picked up along the route.



Pictured from left to right at Pride Fest 2024: Sandy Breitenbach, Joanna Mitchell, Jeanne Sekely and Laura Sabo.



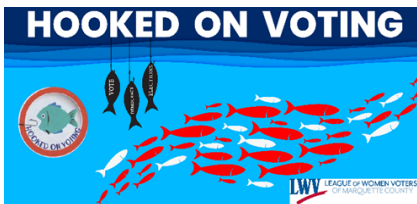
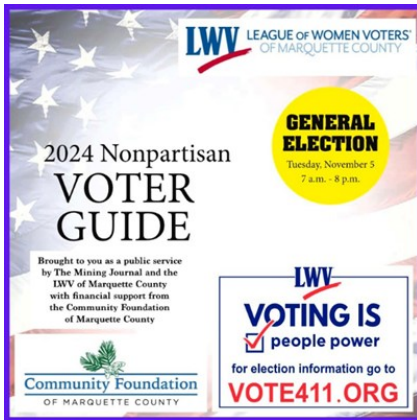
Our third tree in Peter White Public Library's Winter Wonderland Walk. Left to right: Iris Katers, Sue Holliday, Laura Sabo, Jo Foley, Pri Burnam and Madayln Koval.

4th of July and Skandia Day Parades

League members always enjoy all the positive feedback from the crowd at the annual Fourth of July Parade in Marquette. We also participated in the Skandia Lion's Club "Skandia Day" parade. At both events, LWVMC distributed pinwheels and candy for the crowd.



Voter Services Committee



Hooked on Voting, Children's Museum Baraga Days.



Members "rehearsing" for Blueberry Festival Hooked on Voting.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Your local League was busy this past year:



Marquette Areas Public Schools (MAPS) Board of Education Candidate Forum, Peter White Public Library.



Negaunee City Council Candidate Forum, Negaunee High School.

Three candidate forums were held, including for the Michigan House of Representatives 109th District Primary, the Marquette Area Public Schools (MAPS) Board of Education, and the Negaunee City Council elections. The turnout, views of the recordings of the events, and feedback suggest the voters value these candidate forums.

There were 105 races and 19 ballot measures in Marquette County for the November 2024 election, and all were included in the **online VOTE411** voter guide. All the contested races with candidate responses appeared in the **printed voter guide** (candidate participation was up). In addition to the guides going to **Mining Journal** subscribers, we distributed thousands more printed guides around the County, along with the LWV of Michigan Guides.

Voter registration events in collaboration with the Secretary of State (SOS) Mobile Unit were held at Superior Central High School, Westwood High School, the NMU Coffee Crawl around town, and at tabling events on NMU's campus, including Fall Fest, the Farmer's Market, Voices United, and on multiple occasions in Jamrich Hall.

We hosted "Hooked on Voting" events, the LWVMC's popular program aimed at "future voters," at the Maritime Museum's Lake Superior Day, Peter White Public Library, Ishpeming Library, Blueberry Fest, The Children's Museum Baraga Days, and Superior Hills combined kindergartens. Kids fished for prizes and voted for their favorite Lake Superior Fish.

We sent out **1,000 postcards** in the 2024 "Get Out the Vote" campaign to newly registered voters in Marquette County, encouraging them to "Get Out the Vote."

We handed out thousands of VOTE411 bookmarks, put eyeballs and cameras on the SOS QR code, and answered hundreds of questions about registering and voting during 2024.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to a successful and busy year.



"Get Out the Vote" Postcard

Pri Burnham,
Coordinator of Voter Services

NMU Connections

Our local League benefits from our partnerships with NMU and its students in many ways

The LWVMC became a Community Service Internship site for NMU's Student Leader Fellowship Program (SLFP) last year.



Our first intern in the program, Libby Myren, bridged the gap between "town and gown" through her involvement in community projects such as National Voter Registration Day, Candidate Forums, Electoral Inspector training, poll working on Election Day, Fall Fest, and Hooked on Voting with our League. Libby conducted two "Skill Builders" programs for her SLFP responsibilities: "Voting 101" and "Mis and Disinformation," the latter for which we received a monetary grant from the LWVMI. Libby graduated from NMU and the Skills Builder program this May and earned the Top Block award for exceeding the basic SLFP requirements.

We are proud to announce that the relationship between SLFP candidates and the League will continue. We look forward to working with two students from the program, Christina Korotko and Iris Bailey, who are eager to apply their knowledge in community service, voter education, and bridging gaps for Northern students.

- The Environmental Committee hosted a table at NMU's Earth Fest, providing information on local recycling opportunities.
- Voter Services collaborated with Campus Partnership on voter registration and educational activities, participating in NMU's Fall Fest to share voting and registration information.
- The DEIA Committee collaborated with NMU's Native American Studies Department Head, Caroline LaPorte, for a presentation on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR) at a membership meeting.
- NMU's LatinX Student Union educated us on immigration at a membership meeting.

Below: League members staff a voting registration information table at NMU's Fall Fest. Pictured left to right: Sandy Breitenbach, Jeanne Sekely, and SLFP intern Libby Myren.



League members again served as backup timers for an NMU swim team meet this past fall at the NMU PEIF swimming pool. Like previous years, it was an incredibly fun and rewarding experience.

Progress Report

May 2024 - May 2025

2024 May [114 members](#)

- LWVMC awarded \$750 grant from the Community Foundation of Marquette County's 2024 Community Impact Grant Cycle for printing 1000 Voter Guides for the November presidential election. (5/17)
- Adopt-a-Highway roadside cleanup (5/21)
- Observer Corps dinner, meeting, and movie (5/23)
- Visits to Forsyth and Republic Twp. Board meetings to introduce Vote411
- Local member, David Allen, serves as one of the LWVMI Observers to monitor the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as they revise Detroit metro area Senate district maps.

2024 June

- 2nd fundraising flyer mailed to 400 community members announcing and soliciting questions for the 109th District Candidate Forum and inviting donations (6/7)
- Pride Fest 2024 (6/8) (visitors =65 adults+16 children)
- Making Democracy Work award given to Marquette Area Public School (MAPS) Board at Annual Meeting (6/12)
- Quarterly meeting of township clerks with speaker Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel (6/13)
- Presented the "Making Democracy Work" Award to all Board Members at the MAPS Board meeting (6/24)
- LWVUS 2024 Convention (6/27-6/30) (2 LWVMC delegates attend virtually)
- State 109th House District Representative Candidate Forum, primary election (6/28) (5 candidates, 30 members on forum team, 111 public audience+24 LWV members, 70 livestream viewers; 605 views of recording on YouTube)

2024 July

- Participated in City of Marquette July 4th Parade (7/4)
- "Get Out the Vote" postcard campaign; 1000 postcards mailed to newly registered voters in Marquette County (7/7-12)
- Participated in Skandia Community Days Parade (7/20)
- "Hooked on Voting" and LWV information table Maritime Museum's Lake Superior Day (7/21)
- "Hooked on Voting" and LWV information table at Marquette Blueberry Festival (7/26)
- Vote411 goes live with candidate responses from local candidates (for August 6 primary election)

2024 August

- Primary Election – LWVMC members volunteered as poll workers, other roles, and observed Boards of Canvassers in Marquette, Alger, and Dickinson Counties (8/6)
- Voter Services collaborated with Campus Partnership on voter registration/education (8/13)
- LWVMC members attended Youth Round Table w/ Secretary of State (SOS) Jocelyn Benson (8/15)
- "Hooked on Voting" and LWV information table at Baraga Block Party, U.P. Children's Museum (8/18)
- Mark Brewer presents at general membership meeting on "Issues in the Administration of Michigan Elections", (34 views of recording on YouTube) (8/14)
- Voter Services and LWV voter information table at NMU's Fall Fest (8/26)

2024 September

- Sally Davis, Marquette City Mayor and member, presented on our local government at the general membership meeting (9/4) (29 views of recording on YouTube)
- Environmental Committee field trip to UP Geological Repository (9/5)
- Environmental Committee field trip to Partridge Creek Farm and Partridge Creek Compost Facility (9/12)
- Voter Services National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) event at Superior Central High School (9/16)
- Voter Services Table event at NMU's Farmers' Market in collaboration with the Marquette City Clerk's office (9/17)
- Voter Services NVRD event in partnership with SOS Mobile Unit at Westwood High School (9/20)
- "Hooked on Voting" and LWV information table at Peter White Public Library (9/21)
- Adopt a Highway roadside cleanup (9/21)
- LWVMC members attended taping of 109th Candidate Forum at WNMU TV-13 (9/23)

2024 October

- Vote411 goes live with candidate responses from local candidates for Nov 5 general election
- The DEIA committee presented on living with disabilities and how that affects voting and other activities. Bob and Dorothy Dickey talked about their lives living independently with visual impairment. (10/2) (22 views of recording on YouTube)
- LWVMC hosted and attended election de-escalation training (10/5)
- Presentation on changes in election laws to Noon Rotary (10/7)
- Candidate Forum for the MAPS Board of Education (10/10) (8 candidates, 30 members on forum team, 100+ public audience, 505 views of recording on YouTube)
- "Hooked on Voting" and LWV table at Ishpeming Library for Home Schoolers (10/11)
- Candidate Forum for the Negaunee City Council election (4 candidates, 20+ public attendance, 166 views of recording on YouTube) (10/15)
- NMU SkillBuilders program Presentation "Voting 101" by LWVMC SLFP Intern Libby Myren (10/21)
- Printed Voter Guides distributed for Nov. 5 general election (Oct. 25)
- "Hooked on Voting" and LWV table at Superior Hills combined kindergartens (10/25)
- LWVMC volunteered as back-up timers at Northern Michigan University swim meet (10/26)
- Voter Services Table event at NMU (10/30)

2024 November

- General Election – LWVMC volunteers worked the polls in various roles (11/5)
- LWVMC volunteers observed Board of Canvassers in Marquette, Alger, and Dickinson Counties (11/6-11/12)
- Attended planning session for Introduction to Federal Court for LWVMC members (11/26)
- LWVMC newly redesigned website, providing increased accessibility goes live (11/27)

2024 December

- Decorate LWV "Winter Wonderland" tree at PWPL (12/3)
- Environmental Committee hosted guest speaker Brian Hummel, Marquette County Emergency Management Director (12/5)

2025 February

- Attended Town Hall on expedited LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study (2/4)
- Presentation on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives by Caroline LaPorte, Dept. Head and Associate Professor of Native American Studies at NMU coordinated by LWVMC DEIA Committee (2/5)
- Began participation in LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study (2/12)

2025 March

- New Member orientation (3/5)
- Environmental Committee hosted Guest Speaker Jim Borowski, CEO of Goodwill for Northern Wisconsin and the UP (3/6)
- NMU SkillBuilders' presentation on Mis-and-Dis-information by LWVMC SLFP Intern Libby Myren (3/10)
- Voter Services spoke to Methodist Women about LWV and SAVE Act (3/20)
- VOTE411 online guide published with two measures – Gwinn Area Community Schools Bond Proposal and Richmond Township Renewal for General Operating (3/29)

2025 April

- Presentation on immigration by Northern Michigan University LatinX Student Union in collaboration with the Refugee Outreach collective, coordinated by LWVMC DEIA Committee (4/2) (64 views of the recording on YouTube)
- LWVMC attended "An Introduction to the Federal Court" at the Federal Court in Marquette (4/10)
- Completed participation in LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study (4/14)
- LWVMC volunteers bagged groceries at Super One (4/17)
- Environmental Committee hosted LWVMC Table "Stump the Dump," in collaboration with 906 Recycle, at NMU Earth Fest Tabling event (4/25)

2025 May [132 Members](#)

- "Know Your Local Gov't" panel presentation at Membership meeting, coordinated by the Education Committee (5/7)
- Adopt-A-Highway roadside cleanup (5/10)
- League of Women Voters of Michigan Convention (5/16-5/18), Grand Rapids, MI. 8 LWVMC delegates attended
- Garage Sale Fundraiser (5/30 and 5/31)

