

**League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting**  
**“Zoom” meeting**  
**December 1, 2021**  
**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

## **SECRETARY MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Meg Litts, Mary Faulkner, Gwen Thorson, Nancy Aldridge, Julie Seidelmann, Gay Trachsel, Jane Hovland, Anita Gille, Gail Nouska, Sue DeNio, Sandy Grandmaison

**Members Absent:** Theresa O’Gara, Ellen Wiss

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by President Meg Litts.

**Diversity Statement:** The LWV Duluth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement was read by Anita Gille.

### **Consent Agenda—Approval of the Minutes and Financials:**

A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (M. Faulkner) to approve the minutes and financials, as provided. **Motion passed unanimously.** The minutes from the November 18, 2021 Board meeting will be filed.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Written reports from the Communications, Membership, and Natural Resources committees were made available for review.**
- **Budget** (N. Aldridge)
  - A financial report will be provided at the Board meeting in January 2022.
- **Communications Committee** (J. Seidelmann)
  - See written report.
  - “Voter” deadline for the January issue is December 15.
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee** (M. Litts)
  - M. Litts has informed the committee of the Board’s decision to have the committee draft a “land acknowledgment statement.” The next committee meeting will be held in January 2022.
- **Events** (S. Grandmaison)
  - The committee will begin work on the virtual “Women of Influence” event. S. Grandmaison has some ideas about potential speakers, but welcomes more suggestions.
  - Following brief discussion, it was decided that LWV will have a virtual Annual Meeting. The committee will try to have a main speaker from out-of-town.
- **Membership** (A. Gille)
  - See written report.
  - We need to remind people who are attending committee meetings, that they should pay their membership dues.
  - We now have 172 paid members.
- **Natural Resources** (G. Trachsel)
  - See written report for details.
  - G. Trachsel reminded everyone about the LWV Duluth-sponsored presentation on “The Status of Copper Nickel Sulfide Mining in Minnesota,” by JT Haines. It will be held, via Zoom, on December 2.
- **Observer Corps** (G. Trachsel)
  - J. Seidelmann has contacted Sue Henke (Observer Corps chairperson). Sue will contact observers about the inclusion of their complete reports in the newsletter and remind them to be as concise as possible.
  - A **motion** was made (G. Trachsel) and **seconded** (S. DeNio) that LWV Duluth print “Observer Corps” reports in their entirety in the “Voter” newsletter, in the edition following their receipt. Any additional mailing costs will be absorbed by LWV Duluth, recognizing the importance of education of the membership on issues facing local governmental bodies, and in appreciation of the efforts of

Observer Corps volunteers. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Voter Services** (S. DeNio and M. Faulkner)
  - S. DeNio reported that there will be a virtual presentation on “elections for judges” on January 11, 2022.
  - M. Faulkner is working on the Martin & Brown grant in the amount of \$500.
- **Redistricting** (M. Faulkner)
  - E. Wiss is waiting for information from Paul Huffman (LWVMN) on redistricting maps.
- **State Board Update** (J. Hovland)
  - LWV Minnesota is part of a redistricting lawsuit. We need to continue to monitor redistricting. Today (December 1) is the last day to submit comments/testimony on draft state maps.
  - February caucuses: If any of our LWV Duluth committees have resolutions they want to present at caucuses, the state League (LWVMN) will help with wording: Contact Michelle Witte (and “cc” Nick Harper).

#### **Old Business:**

- **Land Acknowledgement**
  - Discussion continued regarding suggestions of people (non-members) who could assist with this task.
- **Programming/Activities**
  - They will be virtual until further notice.
- **Zoom Use and Training**
  - The Communications Committee will email committee chairs about a process for using the LWV Duluth’s Zoom account and need for training additional Zoom hosts/co-hosts (at least 3/committee).

#### **New Business:**

- **Program/Advocacy**
  - There is a need to begin to facilitate program and advocacy actions and align to our bylaws.
  - A **motion** was made (S. DeNio) and **seconded** (J. Hovland) that the board appoint a task force to develop a strategic plan for re-developing a program committee and also developing an advocacy action group. The results will be presented to the Board at the February or March 2022 Board meeting. (The task force should include at least 3 board members and one person from the bylaws review group. Someone with connections at the state level would also be helpful.) **Motion passed.**
- **Sandy Hook Vigil co-sponsorship**
  - The Northland Brady Chapter is going to hold a December 14 memorial to honor the victims of the Sandy Hook shooting, at 11:30-1:00, at Peace Church. People could light a candle, bring donations for CHUM, and leave if they want. It will be a COVID safe event. Brief remarks will occur at noon. A **motion** was made (G. Trachsel) and **seconded** (J. Seidelmann) that LWV Duluth co-sponsor this event. **Motion passed.**

#### **Announcements:**

J. Hovland announced that she has “Prove It” (re: copper nickel mining) lawn signs available. Contact her if you want a sign.

#### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary

**ADDENDA: (See next page.)**

**ADDENDA** (Business occurring after the regular meeting on December 1, 2021. Voting completed electronically):

**December 18, 2021 – Request for action by LWV Duluth:** A **motion** was made (S. Grandmaison) and **seconded** (M. Litts) that under the guidance and instruction of LWWUS, that LWV Duluth take the lead role in **organizing a vigil on Thursday, January 6, 2022** to (1) demonstrate our commitment to a democracy that works for all people, (2) condemn continued efforts to subvert free and fair elections, and (3) demand that the U.S. Senate pass legislation to protect voting rights—namely, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

**Motion passed.** 9 people responded, each voting “yes.”

**January 5, 2022 – Request from LWV Duluth President, Meg Litts:** A **motion** was made (M. Litts) and **seconded** (S. Grandmaison) to **co-sponsor the gallery book for the “Like Me, Like You” exhibit** at the Duluth Art Institute.

**Motion passed.** 11 people responded, each voting “yes.”

Discussion: This exhibit focuses on the life of Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans (APIDA). There will be no cost. LWV Duluth will promote this event with our email list and social media.

**January 14, 2022 – Request for action by LWV Duluth:** A **motion** was made (A. Gille) and **seconded** (G. Trachsel) to **co-sponsor with the UUCD congregation, a Zoom discussion on January 19, 2022, of End-of-Life Option Bills, SF132 and HF1358** (Minnesota Senate and House), presented by Dr. Rebecca Thoman of the Minneapolis League of Women Voters.

**Motion passed.** 9 people responded, each voting “yes.”

Additional Information for LWV Board: LWV Minneapolis will bring this to the 2022 LWV MN State Convention to be included for concurrence vote which, if passed, would allow LWV MN to lobby in support of the passage of this bill. Background: Both bills allow a terminally ill, mentally capable adult with a prognosis of six months or less to live, who is a resident of Minnesota, the option to request, obtain and take medication — should they choose — to die peacefully in their sleep if their suffering becomes unbearable. The bills are modeled after the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, which has been in practice for 20 years without a single instance of abuse or coercion.