

League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
“Zoom” meeting
January 20, 2022
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SECRETARY MINUTES

Members Present: Meg Litts, Gwen Thorson, Nancy Aldridge, Julie Seidelmann, Gay Trachsel, Jane Hovland, Anita Gille, Sue DeNio, Sandy Grandmaison, Theresa O’Gara, Ellen Wiss

Members Absent: Mary Faulkner, Gail Nouska

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:41 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** (S. Grandmaison) to approve the minutes and financials, as provided. **Motion passed unanimously.** The minutes from the December 1, 2021 Board meeting will be filed.

Committee Reports:

- **Written reports from the Communications, Events, Voter Services, and Membership committees were made available for review, as well as a report from the Ad Hoc Advocacy and Program Task Force.**
- **Budget (N. Aldridge)**
 - A financial report was provided. Although we continue to cover expenses, our checkbook balance is steadily decreasing. (Except for the 2021 Plant & Book Sale, there have been no fundraisers since the beginning of COVID.) Board members were reminded that only \$5 of member dues is available to LWV Duluth, the remaining amount going to LWVUS and LWVMN. Discussion indicated that there is a need for “fundraising” and that it should be separated from our “events.”
- **Communications Committee (J. Seidelmann)**
 - See written report.
 - There was extensive discussion about how LWV Duluth can enhance their ability to be more visible, how to “get the word out” to members and the public. Suggestions related to the calendar display, exploring the use of a student intern for assistance, and consulting with LWVMN.
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee (M. Litts)**
 - There was no written report.
 - The committee presented the documentary, “Jim Crow of the North,” on January 8.
 - A presentation on redlining in the Duluth area is in the planning stages for February.
 - The committee wants the Board to appoint a Task Force to craft a “land acknowledgement statement.” This suggestion was rejected. M. Litts will continue to work with the committee and involve some community members to assist with the task.
- **Events (S. Grandmaison)**
 - The “We the People, January 6, Day of Remembrance and Action” vigil received much media coverage. Over 100 people participated on a cold day (-18).
 - The virtual “Women of Influence” event will be on Thursday, April 6. Sharon McMahon will be the featured speaker.
 - The committee invites the Board to make suggestions for a speaker at this year’s Annual Meeting. (Send ideas to S. Grandmaison.) It was determined that the meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022.
- **Membership (A. Gille)**
 - See written report.
 - There are now 199 members of LWV Duluth, including 5 lifetime members.

- **Natural Resources** (G. Trachsel)
 - There was no written report.
 - G. Trachsel reminded everyone that the next committee meeting will be the week of January 24.
- **Observer Corps**
 - No report.
- **Voter Services** (S. DeNio)
 - See the written report.
- **Redistricting** (E. Wiss)
 - E. Wiss reported that the city of Duluth will be addressing redistricting in early to mid-February, to meet their deadline of March 29, 2022. The county has not begun significant work on this and anticipates little change.
- **Ad Hoc Advocacy and Program Task Force Report** (S. DeNio)
 - See written report.
 - It was suggested that “Advocacy” become a subcommittee of “Program Planning.”
 - S. DeNio will help recruit a “Program Chair.” She will have “job descriptions” for the Program Chair and Advocacy Chair by February.
 - Program Survey needs to be completed and returned to LWVUS by February 1, 2022. G. Trachsel, M. Faulkner, and E. Wiss will complete the survey.

Old Business:

- **Zoom Use and Training**
 - Zoom training will be held 11:00-12:00 on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. It will be conducted by Kristin Smith, Communications Director for LWVMN.
- **Programming/Activities**
 - A **motion** was made (S. DeNio) and **seconded** (J. Hovland) that LWV Duluth continue its current position of holding meetings and events virtually—and review this position in March 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.**

New Business:

- **April Board Meeting**
 - Date yet to be determined.

Announcements:

E. Wiss reminded members that “Citizens in Action” will be held on Friday, January 28, 9:00-11:00.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary