

League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
“Zoom” meeting
March 17, 2022
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, Sandy Grandmaison, Theresa O’Gara, Ellen Wiss, Gail Nouska
Members Absent: Sue DeNio

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by President Meg Litts.

Diversity Statement: The LWV Duluth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement was read by Sandy Grandmaison.

Consent Agenda—Approval of the Minutes and Financials:

A **motion** was made (S. Grandmaison) and **seconded** (J. Hovland) to approve the minutes and financials, as provided. **Motion passed unanimously.** The minutes from the February 2, 2022 Board meeting will be filed.

Treasurer Nancy Aldridge reviewed the proposed 2022-23 budget. Discussion followed: LWV Duluth receives only \$365 in dues (with the remaining amount of member dues paid to LWVUS and LWVMN). The possibility of creating a “fundraising” committee* was mentioned and also the need to consider when and if to increase member dues. A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (T. O’Gara) that the Board approve the proposed 2022-23 budget and that it be presented to the general membership (in the April “Voter” newsletter) for final approval at the Annual Meeting. **Motion passed.** *Finance committee members: M. Litts, M. Faulkner, N. Aldridge.

Committee Reports:

- ***Written reports from the Communications, Events, Voter Services, Natural Resources, and Membership committees were made available for review.***
- ***Communications Committee (G. Thorson)***
 - See written report.
 - There is now a new webpage that identifies the next Board meeting date and includes the agenda and Zoom link.
- ***Membership (A. Gille)***
 - See written report.
 - There will be meetings for new members on March 29 and 31, which will include 7-8 new members and 2-3 hosts.
- ***Natural Resources***
 - See written report.
- ***Observer Corps***
 - No report.
- ***Voter Services***
 - See written report.
- ***Diversity, Equity and Inclusion***
 - No report.

Update on Redistricting (E. Wiss):

St. Louis County will not be doing any action until the end of April, because they are still waiting for information from cities and townships. The city of Duluth is within 1%; and are eliminating precinct #20—

putting citizens in the current precincts #19 and #21 areas. LWV needs to be aware and continue to monitor the process.

Tax Forms (E. Wiss):

It was suggested that LWV Duluth develop a mechanism to acknowledge donations for members, and that it indicate "tax deductible donation."

Update on Land Acknowledgement Statement (M. Litts):

We are close to a final form of a statement to be sent to the state for review. The committee is working to include more input from Indigenous people. The statement should be fluid. It is a hope to have a land acknowledgement statement on a webpage, which would also include background information. Two related action statements are also being considered: 1) not charging Indigenous for dues, 2) work to recruit and return people of color to LWV membership and to include them in leadership roles.

Nominations Committee (N. Aldridge):

A slate has been finalized and will be published in the April "Voter" newsletter. A **motion** was made (G. Trachsel) and **seconded** (E. Wiss) that the Board support this slate (without Sarah Mikesell) and that it be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting. **Motion passed.**

Old Business:

- a) Proposal: Separating "Fundraising" from "Events" committee responsibilities. Discussion suggestions included 1) Tell members about where their dues goes. 2) Tie fundraising to a purpose. 3) Move this issue into Financial Committee for discussion.
- b) See today's agenda for updated contact information for G. Nouska and M. Litts.
- c) Need to submit our revised bylaws to LWVMN for their approval. J. Seidelmann and G. Thorson will do this.

New Business:

- a) Nominating delegates for LWVMN Council (LWV Duluth has 12.): Membership will be informed of the opportunity to become a delegate.
- b) Meeting to review LWV positions for voting and voting protocol on issues:) Pre-Council training will be arranged closer to the date of the Council meeting, especially regarding the 2 issues that will be voted on (i.e. medical aid in dying and firearms). 2) The decision about whether or not our League will vote as a bloc will be determined at training.
- c) Women of Influence (S. Grandmaison): Members were reminded that the April 6 event is open to the public and that their promotion of the event would be appreciated. The event flyer will be sent to all Board members.
- d) Annual Meeting (S. Grandmaison): Thursday, May 12, 7:00-8:30. Jodi Slick, guest speaker
- e) Fall Kickoff (A. Gille): Date and venue are needed. Harbor City School was a suggested venue. September 8 or 13 were suggested as possible dates. A. Gille will also explore the feasibility of offering "hybrid" participation (i.e. in-person or virtual)
- f) When to return to "in-person" events: It was **approved, by consensus**, that LWV Duluth return to in-person meetings. It was suggested that event planners "use their best judgment" and refer to MDH and CDC guidelines, if there are questions.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Future Meetings:

April: Thursday, April 14, 5:30-7:00

May: Annual Meeting, Thursday, May 12, 7:00-8:30

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary

