

League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
“Zoom” meeting
June 28, 2023
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SECRETARY MINUTES

Members Present: Jane Hovland, Mary Faulkner, Anita Gille, Gwen Thorson, Nancy Aldridge, Sandy Grandmaison, Ellen Wiss, Jeri Quest, Theresa O’Gara

Members Absent: Katherine Rasley, Sue DeNio, Pam Kramer, Lori Dando

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by President Jane Hovland.

Information for new and returning Board members: (<https://www.lwvduluth.org/lwv-duluth-bylaws.html>)

Direction for 2023-24/Current Status of Committees:

A. Communication Committee (M. Faulkner): The committee is doing a better job of delegating responsibilities. Julie Seidelmann and Gwen Thorson continue to manage the website. Anita Gille and Mary Faulkner work with “databank” for creating email notifications and “The Voter” newsletter. Mary stated that the deadline for Voter article submissions will be mid-month before the issues are sent on the 2nd of each month. She continues to monitor the LWV Duluth email account. The committee will work to increase presence on social media. The committee will decide, soon, on bibs and other “league wear” which would enhance our visibility in the community.

B. Environmental Action Committee (J. Quest): The purpose of the committee is to bring awareness of local, state and federal issues, including the work of our elected officials and legislation around environmental health and justice issues, to League members. Their goal is to provide opportunities for members to contact representatives, information to support independent action, and work on or support EAC initiatives , especially those related to mining, water quality, and climate change.

C. Membership (A. Gille): The committee continues to work toward maintenance of current membership and growth of membership. It is important to be in touch with new members early on, to inform and welcome them—and to direct them to volunteer opportunities.

D. Observer Corps: Sue Henke submitted a written report noting the need for new observers. Currently, only Duluth Parks & Recreation and Duluth Public Library have observers. There is an immediate need for observers of the Port Authority, School Board, Duluth City Council, and St. Louis County Board.

E. Sisters Book Club: The book club meets 5 times per year—September, November, January, March, and May. Meetings typically are held on the 4th Thursday of the month. The next book selection is yet to be determined.

F. Voter Services—Registration (E. Wiss): There are several changes in the process as a result of recently passed legislation: registration for recently incarcerated, registration for absentee voting, registration for 16 and 17 year olds. The committee is working to serve the underserved. More information/training will be available for League members.

G. Voter Services—Forums (M. Faulkner): Pre-primary forums will be filmed between July 5 and 10. The committee hopes that general election forums can be held, once again, in the community. Moderator scripts are being updated and questions are being fielded.

H. Joyce Benson Scholarship (J. Hovland): The newly formed committee has met twice in June to kickoff the development of a scholarship in memory of Joyce Benson from the \$1450 donated to the League in her honor. The committee voted to pursue a multi-year, \$1000 scholarship for a UMD student in partnership with the university foundation. However, it requires a minimum of \$10,000 to get established. The committee will meet with Joyce's family to learn more about Joyce and identify key attributes than can be used to guide development of the scholarship criteria, create a scholarship application and guidelines, and create a brochure and website write-up about the scholarship.

I. Events (S. Grandmaison): LeAnn Littlewolf, co-executive director of the American Indian Community Housing Organization, will be the speaker for the “Women of Influence” event in February 2024. The committee is considering a return of the “Holiday Social” to the Building for Women, in December. J. Hovland and S. Grandmaison will do preliminary planning for the “Fall Kick-Off.” (There is \$300 in the budget for this event.)

J. Budget and Bylaws (J. Hovland): These committees need members along with Jane Hovland and Nancy Aldridge.

K. LWVMN Convention (J. Hovland): Jane attended the state convention, held in New Ulm, June 2-3. The League in New Ulm is active in protection of the Minnesota River. Our League member, Sally Munger, was honored with the “Platinum Member Award.” She was nominated by Mary Faulkner.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary

ADDENDUM (Business occurring after the regular meeting on June 28, 2023—Voting completed electronically):

July 15, 2023—Request for approval of entering into an agreement with UMD Foundation to manage the Joyce Benson scholarship to be distributed according to our criteria and the University’s policies. (The Joyce Benson scholarship committee has reviewed these and will be meeting soon with the Foundation Director to further discuss). **The request was approved (11 of 12 members responded “yes.”).**