

League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
“Zoom” meeting
June 4, 2020
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SECRETARY MINUTES

Present: Candy Winkler, Sandy Grandmaison, Gwen Thorson, Nancy Aldridge, Theresa O’-Gara, Barbara Johnson, Karin Haidos, Mary Faulkner, Jane Hovland, Julie Seidelmann, Gail Nouska, Sue DeNio, Ellen Wiss, Gay Trachsel

Absent: Pat Castellano

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Co-President Candy Winkler.

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

Consent Agenda—Approval of the Minutes:

A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (S. Grandmaison) to approve the minutes.

Motion passed. The minutes from the May 7, 2020 board meeting will be filed.

Consent Agenda—Approval of April Financials:

A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (S. Grandmaison) to file the financial report.

Motion passed. J. Seidelmann reported that she has been paying the fee for the League’s website “visibility,” which has been charged automatically. Following discussion, a **motion** was made (G. Trachsel) and **seconded** (K. Haidos) to discontinue this fee payment. **Motion passed.**

Committee Reports:

- **Communication** (J. Seidelmann and G. Thorson)
 - There will be no “Voter” until August 2020.
 - Discussion was held about the current status of a League “Zoom” account. Candy Winkler and Nancy Palmer continue to work on arranging for payment. Committee chairpersons (and board members) will be given information for arranging meetings.
 - Discussion was held about how to ensure that the entire membership can find “important” information online (including notifications from the state and national LWV). It was suggested that this information be included with a letter about membership renewal information, in early August. (Other announcements could also be included, such as information from the Voter Services Committee.)
- **Cross Cultural** (G. Trachsel)
 - The committee requests board support for: 1) sending a statement to all League members regarding the issue of racial and social justice, and the death of George Floyd; 2) sending a letter to the editor of the Duluth News Tribune about the same issue. **Drafts of both statements will be sent to board members via email, requesting final approval prior to publication.
 - The committee hopes to organize a forum about these topics in fall 2020.
- **Events** (S. Grandmaison)
 - Equali-TEA will officially be “cancelled” for 2020 (not “postponed”) and preparations will be made for 2021, using the previous plan—already in place.

- Equilibrium3 Pay It Forward PPE Project: G. Trachsel reported that this project will be held Thursday, June 18, 2020, from 8:00 - Noon. There is a need for 35 volunteers and 28 people have already responded. It was recommended that an E-News will be sent to all members. Non-profit organizations that participate will receive \$1000.
- **Membership** (T. O’Gara)
 - No significant new information. In June, the committee will be brainstorming ideas about getting the word out.
- **Natural Resources** (J. Hovland)
 - The Natural Resources Committee agreed to meet throughout the summer, given the environmental issues facing the state and region.
 - We continue to participate in Minnesota Environmental Partnership and other alliances focused on improving air, land and water.
 - There is a pending contested case hearing over the issuance of permits for copper nickel mining in the BWCA.
 - There will be a documentary on Facebook about the St. Louis River Estuary, the watershed of our region, on June 9.
- **Observer Corps**
 - Mary Jane Peterson, a non-board member, has been co-ordinating this committee.
 - T. O’Gara will obtain information and report to the board.
- **Voter Services** (E. Wiss and M. Faulkner)
 - M. Faulkner and P. Castellano will meet to arrange and plan forums for the 3rd District County Commissioner and 7th District State Senate.
 - M. Faulkner, P. Castellano, E. Wiss, and C. Winkler are working on grants and financing for “creative” ways to do voter registration and absentee ballot application at sites such as food shelf, housing, and shelters.
 - Trying to get 1000 face masks from “On the Limit,” to create a couple of PSA’s especially pushing “vote from home”), and to have information cards included in food boxes.
 - Not sure if we will be able to do voter registration as usual, as a result of COVID-19.
- **Health Care** (J. Hovland)
 - G. Nouska and J. Hovland are working on this committee and encourage others who are interested to join them.
 - The committee’s work is “on hold” until members can meet together.
 - J. Hovland has contacted Terry Hill, who stated that he would be willing to be a keynote speaker at a future event. (Terry is director of the National Rural Health Resource Center.)

New Business:

- Board Retreat has been cancelled for now.
- Discussion was held about how to modify our board meeting schedule for more efficiency. There was a suggestion for “committee reports” to be submitted in writing, and only emerging issues/issues requiring board action be included on the agenda.

Adjournment: A **motion** was made (S. Grandmaison) and **seconded** (G. Trachsel) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary