

League of Women Voters of Duluth • 32 East First Street, Duluth, MN 55802 •

**Redlining in Duluth. It Happened Here.
Late February - Date to be Determined
Early Evening via Zoom**

Kathy Wilson, AICP certified planner for the City of Duluth, will speak to our membership in late February about the research she did to document Duluth’s history of redlining. These redlining practices created and existed over 8 decades resulting in racial inequities that persist to this day.

Watch for the date and time of this important and enlightening program in an E-News that will be sent to your email. Knowing the uncomfortable truth of our past helps us understand our role in the present to undo these unjust policies.

Ms. Wilson’s presentation will be held in the early evening on Zoom.
To sign up for the event and receive a Zoom link,
email Gail Schoenfelder at Gail4duluth@gmail.com.

Calendar	2
President’s Letter	2
Keep Informed	2
We the People: A Day of Remembrance and Action	3
Redistricting	3
Membership	4
Why I am a Member	4
LWV Duluth Book Club	4
New Members	4
Event Videos Online	4
Opportunities to be Involved	5
Observers’ Reports	6
Sharon McMahon - Women Of Influence	7



**LWV Duluth International Committee
Duluth Sister Cities
Monday, February 28 at 7:00 pm via Zoom**

Join the International Relations Committee Zoom meeting on Monday, February 28th, at 7:00 p.m. for a discussion on how our Duluth Sister Cities are coping with climate change and with the pandemic.

Contact Liz Taylor (taylorjet@aol.com) for the Zoom link

**SAVE THE DATE!
Women of Influence
April 6, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom
Speaker: Sharon McMahon**



Sharon McMahon has a mission to “curate facts, fun, and inspiration by educating Americans on democracy, politics, and history.” She has 711k followers on Instagram and is the host of the top-rated SHARON SAYS SO Podcast.

Sharon has appeared on CNN, The Daily Show with Trevor Noah, and Good Morning America.

Read more about Sharon on page 7.

**Women of Influence is Open to the Public.
Please share the information.**

Our Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Officers

President	Meg Litts
Vice President	Mary Faulkner
Secretary	Gwen Thorson
Treasurer	Nancy Aldridge
<hr/>	
Editor	Julie Seidelmann

Calendar

February

- 2-2 LWV Duluth Board Meeting
 2-28 International Relations Committee
 Duluth Sister Cities
 2-28 Natural Resources Committee
 TBD Redlining in Duluth

March

- 3-17 LWV Duluth Board Meeting
 3-24 Sisters Book Club

April

- 4-6 Women of Influence

Keep informed about League of Women Voters



Natural

LWV Duluth
www.lwvduluth.org

LWV Duluth

LWVMN
www.lwvmn.org

LWVUS
www.lwv.org



President's Letter

New Year's Greetings!

We often think that things will slow down after the holiday hubbub, but in true Minnesota fashion, that is not true. We kicked off the year with a Peaceful Vigil to Take Back Democracy on the anniversary of the insurgence last year. This vigil was well attended on what was certainly the coldest day of the week, with over 100 community members in attendance and a diverse slate of powerful speakers sharing messages of inspiration and a call to action. The credit for this successful event goes to Sandy Grandmaison, who assembled a phenomenal team to pull this off. Thanks also goes to all who were able to attend—your enthusiasm and endurance throughout the event (we did try to keep our speeches short) showed the strength of our commitment to upholding the promises of our Constitution and this government of “we the people.”

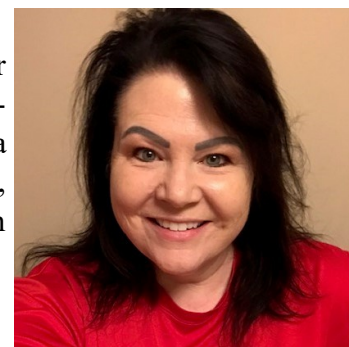
We are also helping sponsor the “Like You, Like Me” exhibit at the Duluth Arts Institute. This event is free and will be on display through March, so be sure to make time to visit and support our local artists.

January 15 marked the 93rd Anniversary of the birth of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 54 years following his assassination. This year I found myself reflecting on his sermon, “The Drum Major Instinct.” In it, he lists how he would like to be remembered, including as a “drum major for justice.”

While many took part in events on this day or the federally recognized holiday of January 17th, our work in continuing to advocate for civil rights and dismantling systemic racism is not limited to holidays. Nor do we have to live larger-than-life activism in order to make a difference. Like many of our successes in New Year's Resolutions, for those who make them, the key is in our day-to-day consistency.

This is the power of the League of Women Voters and all our committees. No matter what your passion or interest, we have opportunities to get involved and make a difference. I encourage everyone to find something that they are passionate about - be it a fundraiser you would like to organize, participating in our state or local observer corps, joining our book club, registering people to vote, or considering serving the League on our many committees.

In hope and solidarity,
 Meg Litts, League of Women Voter of Duluth President



LWV Duluth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

League of Women Voters of Duluth realizes that creative and innovative policies and practices are forged out of diverse points of view. We believe that diverse perspectives are necessary for responsible and representative decision making. Let us pause to acknowledge our commitment to welcome and facilitate diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of our work. We strive to include people from a mix of abilities and backgrounds in all of our activities.

We The People: A Day Of Remembrance And Action



The January 6th rally at the Duluth City Hall was a memorable and meaningful event, with over 100 attendees in -18 degree weather! Thank you to all who joined us, but we have a long way to go to protect our democracy by making sure eligible voters can exercise their right to cast a ballot without intimidation and unnecessary impediments.

Please contact Senators Klobuchar and Smith to thank and encourage them for the work they are doing to get voting legislation through the US Senate. Contact President Biden and tell him we support his efforts to make voting rights a priority in 2022. Contact your friends and family and ask them to do the same.

We are just a few months from the 2022 midterm elections, and already 19 states have passed legislation to enact laws to restrict mail in voting, restrict early voting, reduce or eliminate drop off boxes for ballots, reduce the number of polling places and the hours for voting, and in some cases, State Legislatures are changing how and who counts the ballots by taking it out of the hands of election officials and the elected Secretary of State!

Misinformation and disinformation about the legitimacy of the 2020 election abounds, discouraging citizens from voting by sowing doubt about the legitimacy of our elections.

We must persist in our efforts. This is not a one and done situation! Please take the time to stand up and speak up.

Thank you,
Sandy Grandmaison, Events Committee

Redistricting

Maps are still being drawn and the time for Communities of Interest to influence those maps is NOW!!!!

Paul Huffman, LWVMN Redistricting Coordinator, reminds us that with the public activity on state congressional and legislative maps largely complete, pending any further action to review maps in the Minnesota State Senate, our PPFM (People Powered Fair Maps) focus is now exclusively on local redistricting. Counties, cities with wards, and school districts where board members are elected by electoral districts, and any other bodies with positions elected by districts, are all required to complete local redistricting this spring.

With the expected issuance of new congressional and legislative district maps by the Special Redistricting Panel on February 15, revised precinct and City Council boundaries (where applicable) are required to be complete by March 26, with other boundaries are required to be updated by April 29.

With the exception of electoral precinct boundary changes (most of which will remain unchanged), **cities and counties have had the information they need to plan for redistricting since September.** Local districting has a significant impact on opportunities for representation and determines which voices are being heard in local policy issues, such as water and resource management, public safety, elections, transportation, public health, and social services, to name a few.

Local redistricting is largely conducted out of public view with minimal public awareness and involvement. Contact your county commissioners, city council representatives and let them know that you expect them to be transparent and provide opportunities for public feedback.

Submitted by Ellen Wiss



Join us for a LWV Duluth MeetUp!

Would you like to meet with a couple of other League members to discuss League activities in a social setting, such as a restaurant? Need to be vaccinated and boosted. We'll be following Covid protocols.

Please contact Anita if this interests you.
Anita Gille 218 428-7232 anitagille@gmail.com

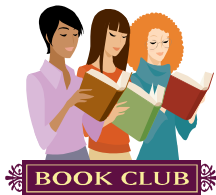
Why I Am A Member By Diane Sauer



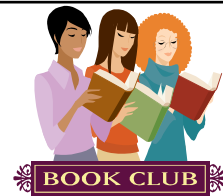
We have been residents of the Denfeld neighborhood for 4 years, following my retirement from Early Childhood Family Education in a small school south of Bemidji. We moved here to be closer to our son and grandkids (13, 10). In addition to grand mothering and gardening, I volunteer at Great Lakes Aquarium.

I joined LWV after a front yard chat with my neighbor Anita Gille. We started talking about gardening and quickly progressed to discussing the state of the world, the previous election, and our shared concerns about underrepresented peoples. When Anita suggested I might like to join LWV she didn't even have to twist my arm! I had been noting a need to be part of a local group working toward social justice in its many forms. And I have long admired the League's commitment to voter education.

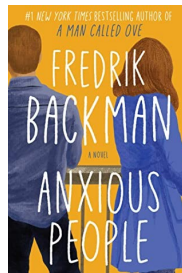
For me, some of the best parts of LWV have been the committees I meet with (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion; book club; plant and book sale) and the many learning and training opportunities. The latter can be and have been painful lessons, especially as I confront my own privilege as a middle-class white woman.



LWV Duluth "The Sisters" Book Club Thursday, March 24 6:30 pm via Zoom



Questions: Gay Trachsel 218-728-5478
Zoom link will be sent the week of March 24



Book: "Anxious People"
Author: Fredrik Backman
A book about the enduring power of friendship and hope in the most anxious times that takes place in an open house for an apartment.
Discussion Leader: Nancy Aldridge

Welcome New LWV Duluth Members

Mary Lou Donovan
Barbara Harris
Beth Hippert



Megan Hornby
Scott Lucas
Stephanie Simmonds

Did you miss a LWV Duluth Event?

Most of our events have been recorded and are posted on our website so you can view them anytime.

Click the link below or go to our website and click on Videos of LWV Events under the Events and Newsletter tab.

<https://www.lwvduluth.org/videos-of-lwv-events.html>



Opportunities to Make a Difference; Become Involved in a LWV Duluth Committee
Check website at www.lwvduluth.org or E-News emails for updates.

Committee	Contact	Next Meeting Date
Voter Service: Registration & New Citizens	Sue DeNio cornelia_road@hotmail.com Theresa O’Gara tntogara@gmail.com	Opportunities registering voters, developing youth engagement, monitoring and educating for voting rights. Training online. As needed.
Voter Service: Forums	Mary Faulkner: faulkner.marykatherine@gmail.com Pat Castellano castellanop4@gmail.com	As needed
International Relations	Liz Taylor 393-0703 (cell)	Monday, Feb. 28 th , 7 p.m. Discussion on how Duluth Sister Cities are coping with climate change and the pandemic. See page 1. Contact Liz for Zoom link
Membership	Anita Gille 218-428-7232 anitagille@gmail.com	Join us for an LWV MeetUp! See page 4.
Citizens in Action,	Rosie Loeffler-Kemp 341-2014 Ellen Wiss 612-310-9797	2023 Date to be Determined
Natural Resources	Sally Munger 728-0711 Gay Trachsel 728-5478	Meeting via Zoom - 4th Monday of the month - Monday, February 28, 5pm. Link sent before meeting
Newsletter Mailing	Sally Munger 218-728-0711 Gail Schoenfelder 218-310-8678	Generally last Wednesday of the month /Call Sally for information
Observer Corps	Sue Henke 218-340-9383	Depends on Board or Commission
Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee (formerly Cross Cultural Committee)	Janet Kennedy 218-349-8057 Interim Co-Chair Gail Schoenfelder 218-310-8678 Co-Chair gail4duluth@gmail.com	No DEI Committee meeting Feb. 12. Guest speaker, Kathy Wilson, AICP City Planner for Duluth, in late February (Date and time TBA) who will speak on "Redlining in Duluth". See page 1.
Book Club	Gay Trachsel 728-5478 (home)	Thurs. March 24, 6:30 via Zoom “Anxious People” by Fredrik Backman.” Discussion Leader: Nancy Aldridge. See page 4.
Plant & Book Sale, Saturday June 11	Zandy Zwiebel 218-341-6099	Email Zandy with intent to donate plants or books and/or to volunteer
Communications	Julie Seidelmann 348-1209 (cell) Gwen Thorson 624-4756 (home)	As needed
Equali-TEA Date TBD	Gail Nouska 218-206-4682 Newska519@hotmail.com Jean Farmakes 218-724-4186 jfarmake@yahoo.com	Contact Jean or Gail if you are interested in helping.
Events Women of Influence	Sandy Grandmaison, 348-7589 srgrandmaison@gmail.com	Contact Sandy if interested Women of Influence April 6 at 7pm See page 1

Observer Corps Reports

St. Louis County Board Meeting, January 4, 2022

The Annual Meeting began at 9:35 a.m. The meeting was convened by Nancy Nilsen, Auditor-Treasurer. Paul McDonald was elected Chair of the County Board of Commissioners for 2022. Patrick Boyle was elected Vice Chair of the County Board of Commissioners for 2022.

Chair Commissioner McDonald named the committee chairs for the following standing committees:

- Health and Human Services: Patrick Boyle, 2nd District
- Public Works and Transportation: Keith Musolf, 5th District
- Environment and Natural Resources: Mike Jugovich, 7th District
- Finance and Budget: Keith Nelson, 6th District
- Public Safety and Corrections: Ashley Grimm, 3rd District
- Central Management and Intergovernmental Relations: Frank Jewell, 1st District

The Consent Agenda was approved.

The Regular Agenda included multiple items, including approval of 1) the 2022 County Board meeting schedule, 2) the 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting schedule, 3) the 2022 County Board Workshop schedule, and 4) resolutions of appointment for approximately 25 related boards, committees, commissions, etc. (e.g. Arrowhead Regional Corrections Executive Board, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, Election Canvassing Board, Duluth International Airport Joint Zoning Board, St. Louis County Historical Society Board of Governors, Seaway Port Authority), and 5) awarding bids for legal publications for St. Louis County for 2022.

After the Annual County Board Meeting, the St. Louis County Housing and Redevelopment Authority convened.

Submitted by: Gwen Thorson,

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, January 12, 2022

This was a straightforward meeting that elicited no public comments.

The links below give details for the topics covered.

Amanda Crosby introduced James Jones as a new commissioner representing District 4.

Presentations were delivered on Courage Kenny (Eric Larson), the Natural Resource Management Plan (Diane Desotelle), and the Duluth Lakewalk Renewal and Brighton Beach Resiliency Plan (Cliff Knettel).

Courage Kenny (<https://www.facebook.com/Couragekennynorthland>) has been providing adaptive recreational options for persons with disabilities, both permanent and temporary such as a hip replacement. Participants range from 4-91 years of age.

The Natural Resource Management Program Plan (Draft: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/00abecfcf0124d2b9e7c6d103e7ad63f>) largely focuses on the process to be used in making plans for management of natural resources. The page on Plans for 2022 (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/00abecfcf0124d2b9e7c6d103e7ad63f?item=5>) shows maps of proposed projects. For some of the dots, selecting the dot yields a description of the project. But, “Most of these proposed projects are not funded, and therefore, the NRMPP partners are responsible to determine ultimately what work can be accomplished and what will have to be postponed. It is highly likely that most of the initial work will be centered around seeking funding.”

The planned Lakewalk and Brighton Beach project (<https://duluthmn.gov/media/12488/210260-20211007-lw-bb-report.pdf>) lays out extensive work along the Lakewalk including rerouting of parts to be less susceptible to shoreline erosion. Phase 1 work will be on the section from the corner past Canal Park up to Fitgers along with ADA and safety reroutes from 21st Avenue to 26th Avenue and is expected to be completed by spring 2023. Phase 1 also includes road and shoreline work at Brighton Beach with the new road slated to be completed in 2023. The Parks Commission unanimously approved the Lakewalk Renewal and Brighton Beach Resiliency Plan.

Submitted by Ron Regal, Lane Palmer, and Tom Burns

Sharon Says So

WITH
**SHARON
McMAHON**



SAVE THE DATE!
Women of Influence
April 6, 2022
7:00 pm via Zoom

Sharon McMahon is on a mission to curate facts, fun, and inspiration by educating Americans on democracy, politics, and history.

After years of serving as a high school government and law teacher, Sharon took her passion for education to [Instagram](#) with a mission to combat political misinformation with non-partisan facts on matters of national importance. Sharon has earned a reputation as “America’s Government Teacher” and quickly amassed over 711K followers (and counting), affectionately known as “Governerds.” Sharon is also the host of the top-rated Sharon Says So Podcast where, each week, she provides entertaining yet factual accounts of America’s most fascinating moments and people in history. She also hosts meaningful discussions with some of the nation’s most inspiring thought leaders, government officials, and authors.

In a time where flashy headlines and false information often takes the spotlight, Sharon is a reliable source for truth and logic. Sharon has shared her knowledge with [CNN](#), [The Daily Show with Trevor Noah](#), and [Good Morning America](#).

In all that she does, Sharon encourages others to be compassionate, thoughtful, and world-changing humans. She has led her “Governerd” community in various philanthropic initiatives that have raised over \$3.6 million for teachers, domestic violence survivors, terminally ill children, victims of COVID-19, medical debt forgiveness and more.

About The Sharon McMahon Podcast:

The [Sharon Says So Podcast](#), a top 1 percent podcast, is hosted by Sharon McMahon—a longtime government and law teacher—who dives deeply into fascinating historical stories, state by state.

Sharon shares the history of America you probably haven’t heard; stories of espionage, sled dog heroes, presidential scandals, change makers, law defiers and more.

She is also joined weekly by some of the nation’s most prolific thought leaders, politicians, and creators to discuss ways to keep our humanity and connection in an increasingly divided social landscape. Past guests have included Adam Grant, Mel Robbins, Emmanuel Acho, and Peter Baker.

Social Fans: 711,000

1 Million unique podcast downloads per month

Number 1 Apple Podcast Debut (Summer 2021)

Apple Podcast Top Show in Government (Summer 2021-present)

League of Women Voters of Duluth
32 East First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Return Service Requested

MEMBERSHIP FORM/RENEWAL FORM
Membership Renewals due by Sept. 30

Date: _____

I am a Renewing Member _____ I am a New Member _____

Name: _____ email _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____ 2nd Address: _____

Membership (Check one)

- Individual \$65
- Household \$100 (2 members living at same address)

Name of additional household member: _____

E-mail of additional household member: _____

Phone number of additional household member: _____

- Limited Income \$20
- Student \$20
- Full Scholarship \$0
- Additional support: \$20 \$40 \$60 \$100 Other Amount: _____
- I want to donate \$20 to sponsor a limited income member.

Total enclosed: _____

All members with an e-mail address will receive the Voter newsletter by e-mail. Do you also wish to receive a print copy of the Voter newsletter? _____yes _____no

Make check payable to LWV Duluth & mail to: Nancy Palmer, 444 Hartley Pl., Duluth, MN 55803
OR

To pay online, go to our website: lwvduluth.org