

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

## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Citizens In Action Virtual Workshop Friday, January 28, 2022 9:00am -11:00am

Theme: Misinformation and Media Literacy

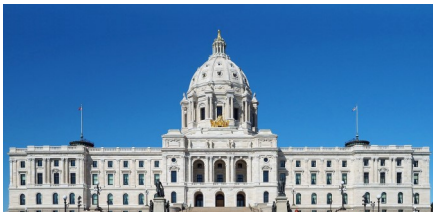
- \*Strengthening your ability to be a critical consumer of information
- \*Addressing the impact of disinformation on our political process
- \*Identifying bias and other slants in a variety of communication

This virtual workshop will include speakers and an opportunity to learn more from your area elected officials.

More information will be coming soon through our LWV Duluth E-News on registration and additional background workshop information.

2022 Citizens In Action Planning Committee: Rosie Loeffler-Kemp, Ellen Wiss, Candy Winkler, Stacey DeRoche, Sarah Mikesell

In keeping with years of tradition, there will indeed be a Legislative Roundtable, in Zoom format, prior to the start of the 2022 Legislative Session.



### 2022 Legislative Roundtable Sunday, January 23 1 - 2:30 p.m.

**Format:** Some prepared questions on issues that LWV is currently focused on and some from the audience.

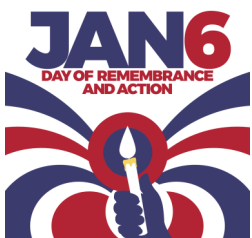
Confirmed: Senator Jen McEwen, Rep. Jen Schultz, Rep. Liz Olson  
Asked - Not yet confirmed: Rep. Mary Murphy

**Look for E-News with Zoom information prior to the Event!**

We look forward to seeing many of you on January 23!  
Sally Munger and Jane Gilley, Planning Committee

### SAVE THE DATE!

**“We the People January 6<sup>th</sup> Day of Remembrance and Action”  
Vigil on January 6, 2022  
Duluth City Hall, noon - 1:00pm**



January 6, 2022, marks one year since the violent insurrection of our national Capitol. This was the start of ongoing attacks on our democracy throughout the year resulting in many states passing laws that make it harder to vote. On January 6, we will come together to build community, condemn the actions from the insurrection, and work to pass key voting rights legislation.

Contact Sandy Grandmaison at 218-348-7589 to help, to attend, or for more information.

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### 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
Editor	Julie Seidelmann

### Calendar

#### January

- 1-6 Day of Remembrance and Action
- 1-8 Diversity Inclusion Equity Committee
- 1-11 Judicial Elections Forum
- 1-20 LWV Duluth Board Meeting
- 1-23 Legislative Roundtable
- 1-24 Natural Resources Committee
- 1-24 International Relations Committee
- 1-27 LWV Duluth Book Club
- 1-28 Citizens in Action

### Keep informed about League of Women Voters



**LWV Duluth**  
[www.lwvduluth.org](http://www.lwvduluth.org)

**LWV Duluth**

**LWVMN**  
[www.lwvmn.org](http://www.lwvmn.org)



**LWVUS**  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)



### President's Letter

Winter Greetings!

We have entered the season of giving thanks, gathering together, reflecting on the past year, and setting intentions for the new year. As a Board, we have been moving to action on two big intentions: creating a land acknowledgement and creating a program task force.

The program we've had in place for 2017-2019 was largely the re-adoption of the program approved in 2015. With COVID, putting together a new program was difficult to make happen and we were, like many organizations, focused primarily on making events happen in the new Zoom format. A Program, however, is different from events in that the program consists of action to implement the principles of the LWVUS Program and those local governmental issues chosen for concerned study and action. It should also be in alignment with the state LWV MN Program. You can find the old program on our website: <https://www.lwvduluth.org/lwv-duluth-program.html>

We have had discussions in the past about creating and adopting a land acknowledgement, and the Board has authorized me to work with the Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee to draft one. I firmly believe and support the guidance and stance from our Indigenous leaders--specifically Christina Woods, Jane Hovland, and Karen Diver--that action must follow creating and implementation of a land acknowledgement. I am committed to working with not only our DEI Committee but in leading our LWV Chapter to do this respectfully and authentically. The LWVUS provides some [guidance](#), though not an actual statement, which I believe is appropriate since each League needs to truly acknowledge the specific tribes whose land we took and that we are responding with action, not merely words.

In this time of giving thanks, the LWV MN has put together a [page](#) under the "For Voters" tab on their website for us to GIVE THANKS to our Local Election Officials, including a sample letter that could be sent to the officials and/or the local paper or even on social media to recognize the work of these people in making our elections run smoothly. This could include some of our own members who have served as election judges, and certainly we have greatly benefited from our own Chelsea Helmer and the City's Carmel Petersson for all they do year round. So take a moment to pause in the middle of holiday busyness and say, "Thanks!" to the many who make our system work. January 3, 2022 is the deadline they have set for us to send thank-yous.



In hope and solidarity,  
Meg Litts, 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.

## Voter Services

### Educational Forum - Voter Services "Judicial Selection and Elections" Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Join Chief Judge Michael Cuzzo and Judge Dale O. Harris as they give some background about our district, the different ways people can become judges, the special rules for judicial ballots and campaigning, and sources of information about judicial candidates. They will share a brief presentation and then open up for questions. This is a great opportunity to learn about how to get information about that part of our voting that stymies many of us.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://lwwmn-org.zoom.us/j/89581351682?pwd=SzRXa3ozODBIIdmo2VEZrcUQrNi81dz09>



Judge Cuzzo is chambered in Lake County, but he also serves Cook County District Court. Elected in 2010 and 2016. Current term expires in Jan. 2023.

Click below for a bio:  
[Judge Michael Cuzzo](#)



Judge Harris - Judge, Sixth Judicial District (Duluth), 2010 - present. Appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty on Mar. 8, 2010. Elected in 2012 and 2018. Current term expires Jan. 2025.

Click below for a bio:  
[Judge Dale O. Harris](#)

Submitted by Sue DiNio

## LWV Duluth Voter Services

In December, the LWV Duluth submitted its report for the LWVMN Martin and Brown grant. This grant provided \$1000 to support voter services activities this past election season. We held 6 candidate forums, 6 voter registration events, and a community mapping workshop. LWV Duluth volunteers gave over 375 hours to make these events so successful. We are grateful for their time and commitment to civic engagement. We'd like to thank our community partners including: Duluth NAACP, Lake Superior Sustainable Farming Association, Chester Bowl Improvement Club, Lester River Rendezvous, Duluth Public Library, Duluth Public Schools, and the YWCA.

Submitted by Mary Faulkner

## Youth Civic Engagement Fellow Natalie Miller

From Natalie Miller:

During the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>, I presented voting information to 5 Government and Politics classes (~150 high school seniors). My presentation detailed how to register to vote both prior to and on Election Day and how to vote in college/military/abroad. The presentation coincided with teachers' lessons on local city council and school board elections, which worked out well. I also discussed the voter information platform, Textedly, and had 15 students confirm that they had signed up for it. In future months, I plan on coordinating with the Executive Board of my school and others to set up voter registration events.

From Sue DeNio, League of Women Voters of Duluth advisor:

Natalie created and presented a slide show using LWV materials for these classes. She has also attended some of our online programs, and in the spring she will be coordinating voter registration events at multiple schools. Glad to have you, Natalie!

Submitted by Sue DeNio

## LWV Duluth Committees and Groups

### Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee Saturday, January 8, 2022 10:00 - 11:45 am



The next Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting is on Saturday, Jan 8.10 -11:45 via Zoom. Join us to watch and discuss the Midwest Emmy award winning documentary *Jim Crow of the North*. The documentary tells an important story meant for all Minnesotans as it exposes some of the reasons why Minnesota continues to experience some of the worst racial disparities in the nation. The roots of these racial disparities are seen through a new lens in this film. *Jim Crow of the North* is an important vehicle for education and conversation that can lead to action and transformative policy making. Knowing the uncomfortable truth of our past helps us understand our role in the present.

Contact Gail [gail4duluth@gmail.com](mailto:gail4duluth@gmail.com) for a Zoom link.

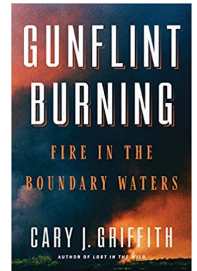


### LWV Duluth “The Sisters” Book Club Thursday, January 27 6:30 pm via Zoom

**Book:** “Gunflint Burning-Fire in the Boundary Waters” recounting of the Ham Lake Fire.

**Author:** Cary J. Griffith

**Discussion leader:** Barb Huberty



Questions: Gay Trachsel 218-728-5478

**Zoom link will be sent the week of the meeting**

### International Relations Committee Zoom Meeting Monday, January 24, 7:00 p.m.

Terrie Shannon will talk to the group about support needed in bringing 4-5 Afghan refugees to Duluth through a program called *Sponsor Circles*.

Hope you will join us!

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/87945781111?pwd=czBTOVVYZDdvTjZnN3R5bXVJYnB3dz09>

Meeting ID: 879 4578 1111 Passcode: 722331

Liz Taylor  
International Relations Committee



### Coming Soon to League of Women Voters of Duluth! A Program Committee for Education, and an Advocacy Team.

A task force is laying the groundwork for these two new options for involvement. We hope to have them approved by the Board in February, with training soon after. By spring, both could be in full force!

Contact Sue DeNio if you have any questions:  
[cornelia\\_road@hotmail.com](mailto:cornelia_road@hotmail.com)

### Help LWV Duluth Zoom into the Future!



It appears that virtual meetings using the Zoom application will continue to be a part of our lives even when face-to-face meetings begin to happen once again. We are looking for members to help LWV Duluth “Zoom” into the future by learning to host and co-host Zoom meetings using the LWV Duluth Zoom account. The LWV Board feels it is important that each LWV committee learn to use Zoom. Committee chairs are asked to identify at least three people to participate in Zoom training. We also recommend that Committee Chairs learn to host and co-host Zoom meetings.

If you have interest in learning to host and co-host Zoom meetings or if you already know how to host and co-host Zoom meetings and would like to help, please contact Julie Seidemann [jtseid@gmail.com](mailto:jtseid@gmail.com) or Gwen Thorson at [gonthorson@aol.com](mailto:gonthorson@aol.com).



## LWV Membership

### League of Women Voters of Duluth Membership

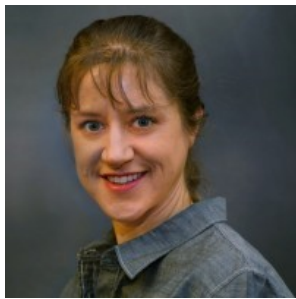
# YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

A big "Thank You" to everyone who renewed their LWV Duluth membership dues for 2022! Every year there are individuals who miss the December 31 deadline for payment for a variety of reasons. If you are one of these individuals or you are unsure whether your dues were paid, contact Anita Gille. If you still plan to renew, please complete a membership form online at [lwvduluth.org/](http://lwvduluth.org/)

as soon as possible. Click on "Join or Renew" or use the form located on the last page of the Voter newsletter. Full and partial scholarships are always available to anyone by checking the box on the membership form - no questions asked.

Please contact Anita Gille at 218.428.7232 or [anitagille@gmail.com](mailto:anitagille@gmail.com) and she will be happy to assist you with any membership questions or concerns you may have. Thank you from the entire Membership Committee!

### Why I Am A Member by Katherine Rasley



I joined the League of Women Voters for the first time this September after receiving a very warm welcome at the LWV Duluth booth at the Chester Park Fall Fest. As I was civically engaged from a young age, I had heard about the League of Women Voters and its history-but never lived near a chapter. I joined because I believe in the work that the League is doing to help educate the electorate but I have been excited to learn about everything else the chapter is doing. It has been energizing to meet the intelligent, thoughtful members who share many of my same passions. I look forward to continuing to learn about the work of the various committees and the broader League in the months and years to come. Thank you for being such a welcoming community.



## January Jumpstart



### MEMBER TRAINING

January 25-27, 2022

Join us for our January Jumpstart training for League members! These sessions are especially designed for local League Leaders, to help jumpstart your planning and activities for 2022, **but all League members are welcome!** Register for as many of these free sessions as you'd like. We will be recording these Zoom sessions so you can watch them at a later date if need be.

[More Info & Register](#)

<https://www.lwvmn.org/january-jumpstart>

### Welcome New LWV Duluth Members

Susan Brashaw  
Eugene Kramer  
Sean Watson



Kathleen Hanson  
Joe Nelson  
Daniel Lew

### Attention Long Time League Members!

Have you been a league member for 50 years or more?  
If so, e-mail Nancy Palmer at [nancykeelerpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:nancykeelerpalmer@gmail.com) .

**You may be eligible for a Lifetime membership**

**Opportunities to Make a Difference; Become Involved in a LWV Duluth Committee**  
**Check website at [www.lwvduluth.org](http://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. Forum on Judicial Elections, Tues. January 11, 7 pm via Zoom
Voter Service: Forums	Mary Faulkner: faulkner.marykatherine@gmail.com Pat Castellano Castellanop4@gmail.com	As needed
International Relations	Liz Taylor 393-0703 (cell)	Zoom meeting Monday, Jan. 24, 7 pm. More information - page 4
Membership	Anita Gille 218-428-7232 anitagille@gmail.com	Membership renewal is underway - Click on Join or Renew at: <a href="http://www.lwvduluth.org">www.lwvduluth.org</a>
Citizens in Action, January 28, 2022	Rosie Loeffler-Kemp 341-2014 Ellen Wiss 612-310-9797	Friday, Jan. 28, 9 - 11:30 am via Zoom Contact Rosie
Natural Resources	Sally Munger 728-0711 Gay Trachsel 728-5478	Meeting via Zoom - 4th Monday of the month - Monday, January 24, 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	Saturday, January 8 at 10am Film and discussion “Jim Crow of the North” Contact Gail for Zoom link
Book Club	Gay Trachsel 728-5478 (home)	Thurs. Jan. 27, 6:30 via Zoom “Gunflint Burning - Fire in the Boundary Waters” Discussion Leader: Barb Huberty.
Plant & Book Sale, Saturday June 11	Zandy Zwiebel 218-341-6099	Email Zandy with intent to donate plants or books and/or to volunteer day of sale
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

## Observer Corps Reports

### Duluth Natural Resources Commission Meeting, November 3, 2021

The meeting was held virtually and began at 6 p.m.

**Natural Resource Coordinator's Report** – Diane DeSotelle reported on several items.

Invasives control contract work is underway at various sites, including Hartley Nature Center, where pollinator gardens are being established. Buckthorn is re-emerging at some sites where control activities have been undertaken and this will be an ongoing issue.

Diane provided an update on the schedule for the Natural Resources Management Program Plan. The plan includes approximately 70 projects, about half are ongoing. Staff will be ranking projects for prioritization at a meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The anticipated schedule for moving the plan forward is:

- Public information meeting - November 8, 2021
- Preliminary draft of the plan - December 1, 2021
- Presentation of plan to Parks Commission - January 12, 2022
- Final review by Natural Resources Commission - February 2, 2022
- Approval by Natural Resources Commission - March 2, 2022
- City Council approval – March 2022

Diane also provided a brief update on the Public Lands Project, emphasizing inclusion of a total of 2000 acres, of which 1900 are parklands, 3 acres of trails, and 588 acres of St. Louis River lands.

**Forester's Report** – Clark Christenson reported on a number of activities including:

- The LIDAR project the City is working on with the MN DNR - data is being updated for processing by the U.S. Geological Survey. This process will take 18 – 24 months to complete.
- Buckthorn removal is taking place at Magney-Snively.
- Data compilation is underway for the forest revitalization project.
- A letter is being prepared for property owner(s) along Skyline Parkway regarding tree removal (no specifics provided regarding the particulars).
- Cedar cones are being stratified for planting to provide new seedlings for projects

**Director's Report** – Jim Filby Williams did not have a report.

There were no comments from the 4 members of the public in attendance.

The issue of increasing problems with dumping along Skyline Parkway was raised as a concern; graffiti along trails was also mentioned by a member of the public. Staff shortages and funding limits make it difficult to address this problem. Jim Filby-Williams reported the City has one staff person doing graffiti removal 3 days/week. The park fund is capped at a significant percentage less than the historical budget and DNR funds available for other projects are restricted from maintenance use. Suggestions from other Commission members included a public awareness campaign about dumping and possible use of cameras at commonly used dump areas. Staff will look into the possibility.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 p.m.

Submitted by Julie O'Leary

### Duluth Natural Resources Commission Meeting, December 1, 2021

The meeting was held virtually and began at 6 p.m.

The primary item on the agenda was the review of the Natural Resource Management Program Plan. Natural Resources Coordinator Diane Desotelle and contractor Sarah Evenson gave an overview of the plan, which is in the form of a story map and will be presented virtually. Sarah reviewed the plan elements, which include an introduction to the process and program elements; a section defining the program lands and areas included in the plan; a section on natural resource values and needs, which identifies the four lenses used to quantify values – environment, economy, program, and government; a section on program coordination which addresses implementation parameters and a process for prioritizing projects; a section on goals, recommendations and current projects; and a section on funding. A meeting to be held December 14 with the City technical team and partners will introduce a decision support tool to be used for prioritizing projects for 2022.

Continued on page 8

## Observer Corps Reports

**Duluth Natural Resources Commission Meeting, December 1, 2021 (continued from page 7)**

A draft of the plan /will be posted on the City website approximately December 10 and Commission members were asked to review the plan, identify gaps, and provide comments. Comments and questions from Commission members included a recommendation to include a section on how other cities fund projects, concerns about access for people with disabilities, a suggestion to include video to make the plan more engaging for the public, and suggestions of individuals who could provide photos for the report.

The plan can be viewed here: <https://duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-planning/progress-in-the-park/natural-resources-program-plan/> and the public may submit comments through December 30<sup>th</sup>. The plan will be discussed again at the January Natural Resources Commission meeting.

**Forester's Report** – Clark Christensen reported on a proposal by residents on Skyline Parkway to remove trees in the 1300 block of East Skyline that block their view. Neighbors within 200' of the site were invited to a meeting on the issue. Removal is requested by the residents above Skyline. One person expressed displeasure and concern about runoff to properties below Skyline. Other issues raised were regarding use of the parkway by bikers, walkers and joggers, not just residents, and a suggestion that replacement tree planting be required. Discussion that issues with tree removal have been a problem in the past and progress has been made making people aware of the need to consult the City before removing trees. A motion to allow tree clearing in a specified area passed. Christensen will meet with the residents to approve a plan and mark specific trees for removal and a post-cut plan will be required to address erosion.

**Natural Resource Coordinator Report** – Diane Desotelle reported that St. Louis County approved approximately 1600 acres at Hartley, Piedmont, and Lester as part of the land acquisition process the City is working on. Diane will be departing her position April 1 and her goal is to get the Natural Resource Management Program Plan launched by then. Monthly meetings of the Commission may not be needed in the spring. There was a request to provide updates to the Commission members if meetings are not held. Commission members and one member of the public expressed concern that the public is interested in the Commission's work and the plan and needs to know what is happening, so some kind of information needs to be provided.

**Director's Report** – no report – director was not present.

Submitted by Julie O'Leary

**Library Advisory Board Meeting October 26, 2021**

1. The meeting began with a report from Kristy Nerhaugen, Youth Services, and Stacy Lavres, Adult Nonfiction, on anti-racism work at the Duluth Public Library (DPL). Nerhaugen began by noting that this is lifelong work and that racism doesn't happen in a vacuum – other "isms" must be taken into account as well. The goal is to provide youth programming that is as inclusive and diverse as possible. DPL youth program staff try to organize programming around three overall ideas: 1) Books as mirrors. Children should be able to see themselves in books through characters that look like them. 2) Books as windows. Children should be able to see how others live through books. 3) Books as sliding glass doors. Children should be able to "step into" books, become fully immersed. Activities related to selected books are planned to offer this immersion. Lavres then reported on her work on a diversity audit in the adult nonfiction collection. Data is collected on various points, such as the diversity of communities represented, to assure that the adult nonfiction collection reflects the diversity of the DPL community. She also notes check out and request data for books in the collection, as well as baseline demographic data to help achieve a broad approach to diversity. Lavres noted that her specialty is adult nonfiction, but that similar data collection would be beneficial in the fiction collection and other areas as well. Following the above report, the library manager noted that although Duluth demographics overall reflect a 90% white population, DPL patronage demographics are much more diverse.
2. Manager's Report:
  - a. September Staff Workshop. The September 29 workshop went well. Staff gathered off-site for a mixture of conversation, self-reflection and team building.
  - b. The new mural has been installed at Mt. Royal, and a media event to celebrate it took place on Tuesday, October 19. The mural depicts the importance of connection and stories. It serves as a beautiful and bright focal point located right behind the service desk.

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<b>Observer Corps Reports</b>
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**Library Advisory Board Meeting October 26, 2021 (continued from page 8)**

2. Manager's Report:

- c. Staff member Heidi Harrison, who does a lot of work with teens, is setting up a teen advisory board at the main library. The goal is to create a sense of ownership for teens at the library, get their input on library materials and programs, provide them with an opportunity to build skills and give them a chance to gain volunteer experience. Harrison has received thirteen applications so far from interested teens.
- d. The 2022 One Book Northland project is in the planning stages. The committee has narrowed the list of possibilities down to two finalists. An announcement of the choice will follow soon.
- e. The library's 2022 budget presentation to the City Council is scheduled for their virtual meeting on November 8 at 5:45 p.m.

3. Friends of the Library Report:

- a. There will be a book sale on December 7, 8 and 9 in the hallway at Mt. Royal
- b. The Friends' newsletter will be out in November
- c. A new laptop was purchased for the Friends' office
- d. The Friends currently have \$18,500 in general funds.

4. Old Business

- a. Update on Library Staffing and Services: New staff is getting started. Library supervisor positions are being filled. A Library Technician position will be posted soon. A Librarian 2 position remains to be filled. Library services continue to be mostly outdoor programs at present and will probably be virtual when weather requires.
- b. Update on Library Security: A proposal to hire two Clean and Safe part time ambassadors was given to City Council. These individuals would be based at the Main Library. Their mission would be to help patrons use the library successfully. They would serve in ways such as greeting, giving library tours, and intervening in potential behavioral issues if necessary.

5. Advocacy: There seems to be a common feeling among Library Advisory Board members that strategic planning to update library facilities is unclear. A suggestion was made that a few Board members go to the City Council and simply ask how the Council and the Advisory Board can work together to develop a plan, possibly including a survey of the community again to update needs and ideas. What has been learned from the pandemic situation? The Board notes that Every Child Ready Duluth needs to continue and work on the physical facilities needs to be addressed. Would there be a place for an outside consultant to assist in planning a community survey? And what is the City Council willing to commit to in terms of funding new plans?

Submitted by Debbi Rasmussen

**Duluth Public Library (DPL) Board Meeting of November 23, 2021**

The Board continues to meet virtually.

- 1. Erin Kreeger, the new executive director of the Duluth Library Foundation, introduced herself and provided a report on the last Foundation Board meeting.

2. Manager's Report:

- a. DINOvember is in progress this month featuring dinosaur themed activities for children and youth.
- b. Upcoming virtual winter activities are in the works.
- c. On December 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., celebrated scholar and racial equity advocate Dr. Anton Treuer will present a free online seminar made possible by Every Child Ready Duluth (ERCD).
- d. On January 1, DPL will launch Hoopla, a new streaming service to provide simultaneous access to digital media, available only to cardholders who live within the City of Duluth.
- e. On Saturday, January 29, 2022, ERCD will hold a free community launch event at the Depot from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Twelve community partners and a team of volunteers will provide activities for children, parents and caregivers. More information to follow in January.

Continued on page 10

<b>Observer Corps Reports</b>
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### **Duluth Public Library (DPL) Board Meeting of November 23, 2021 (continued from page 9)**

#### 3. Friends Report

- a. Various activities related to fundraising described.
- b. Poet Laureate program on hold for reorganization.
- c. Donation of \$8,000.00 made to DPL.
- d. Mt. Royal Foods planning a “round up” event to support Friends of the Library.

#### 3. Old Business

- a. Work on staffing continues.
- b. Security: Clean & Safe partnership probably not the best choice for the library. Creation of a position within the library is now under consideration.

#### New Business

Carla Powers presented DPL budget concerns before the City Council on Nov. 8.

#### Ongoing Business:

Need for an updated strategic plan. Representatives from the Library Board, Foundation, Friends and City Council met with the mayor to present needs, concerns and DPL accomplishments. Discussion was productive, focused on difficulty of finding funding for capital projects and possible alternatives.

Submitted by Debbi Rasmussen

### **St. Louis County Board Meeting November 2, 2021**

The Regular Meeting began at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the St. Louis County Government Services Center, Duluth, MN. 7 out of 7 commissioners were present. No citizens addressed the board on an issue not on the agenda.

- Public Hearing was held pursuant to a resolution adopted on September 28, 2021 to obtain public comment and amend County Ordinance No. 51, Rules and Regulations Governing the Sale, Possession and Use of Tobacco and Tobacco-related Device—to bring the county in line with state law (especially as it relates to the legal age of 21 for tobacco use, etc.). Resolution passed unanimously.
- The Consent Agenda passed unanimously. There were no items on the Regular Agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 am.

#### **Following the Board Meeting, the Board convened a Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:45 am.**

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

The Regular Agenda included the following:

1. The Finance & Budget Committee proposed a resolution authorizing a 7-year contract with Paymentus to provide online and IVR payment solutions for property taxes, which passed unanimously. A resolution to approve the 2021 3rd quarter budget changes also passed unanimously.
2. The Public Safety & Corrections Committee proposed a resolution to approve the reallocation of one FTE Deputy Sheriff position to one FTE Deputy Sheriff Sergeant position assigned to the Lake Superior Drug & Violent Crime Task Force, which passed unanimously. This is due to the “skyrocketing” occurrence of opioid overdoses and deaths in the last 6 months.
3. The Central Management & Governmental Affairs Committee held a closed session, at the request of the county attorney, for litigation purposes.

Following regular business of the Committee of the Whole, two presentations were held:

1. Public Health & Communications staff announced the current status of COVID-19 in the county and receiving an Emmy Award for COVID-19 information provided to the public.
2. Bond Sales Summary & Rating Report was provided indicating sale of \$25,650,000. Bonds will fund construction of 3 new maintenance facilities. The county has a AA+ rating.

## Observer Corps Reports

### St. Louis County Board Meeting November 2, 2021 (continued from page 10)

Following the meeting and lunch, commissioners toured the St. Louis County Depot.

Submitted by: Gwen Thorson

### Saint Louis County Board Meeting December 14, 2021

The Regular Meeting began at 9:35 a.m. The meeting was held at the St. Louis County Government Services Center, Duluth, MN. 7 out of 7 commissioners were present.

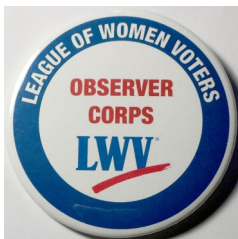
- Several citizens addressed the board on a variety of issues not on the agenda, including the following: efforts of the Gary-New Duluth community at maintaining their veterans' memorial and work in developing a skate board site; comments about the proposed use of body cameras by the sheriff's department—with cautions to develop clarification about the terms of usage and need for transparency, and need for cognizance about concerns of people of color; a concern about the proposed increase in property taxes; a concern that a private property boundary was violated; and a concern about the security of voting machines.
- Public Hearing was held pursuant to a resolution adopted on November 16, 2021, to consider the suspension/ revocation of liquor license(s) for failure to pay real estate or personal property taxes when due. Resolution passed unanimously. (This resolution applies to Boondocks Saloon & Grill, Gnesen Township.)
- Public Hearing was held pursuant to a resolution adopted November 16, 2021, to consider the issuance of an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License to KRL Hospitality Corporation dba Sportsmens Inn, Gnesen Township. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Consent Agenda passed unanimously. One item was pulled from the agenda for further discussion and approved separately (Discussion was for clarification about the "language" of the motion.)

There were 2 items on the Regular Agenda.

- 1) Finance & Budget Committee (Commissioner Keith Nelson, chair): Request for approval of 2022 Budget and Property Tax Levy. The request was approved unanimously. The total budget is \$463,409,827. The budget focuses on the county's emphasis on economic development, substance abuse and mental health, managing the impact of COVID, timely infrastructure work, and investment in technology, etc. Note: Prior to approval, concerns about working with the St. Louis County Historical Society on its budget were discussed.
  - 2) Public Safety & Corrections Committee (Commissioner Ashley Grimm, chair): Request to authorize the purchase and implementation of body worn cameras in the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office. The request was approved unanimously.
- The board meeting recessed at 11:35 am. for a brief meeting of the St. Louis County Housing and Redevelopment Authority and reconvened about 11:45 to report results. The board recessed, once again, at 11:55 am. for a lunch break.

The observer was unable to attend the conclusion of the Board meeting which occurred after lunch. (Following the lunch break, the board met for a Committee of the Whole Meeting, which was immediately followed by the conclusion of the Regular Board Meeting.)

Submitted by: Gwen Thorson



Observer Corps Reports Online Complete Observers' Reports for all boards, councils and commissions are found on League of Women Voters of Duluth website under the Local Committees/Groups Tab.

<https://www.lwvduluth.org/observer-corps-reports.html>

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: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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