

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

**Our Democracy at a Crossroads:
Voting Rights in Minnesota
Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 7:00-8:00pm
Virtual Event...Open to the Public...**

There is an effort nationwide to suppress voting through legislation. Minnesota is currently facing similar pressures. This program will expose legislation in MN that will influence, change, or threaten your voting rights. Please join us for this important event to find out how your Voting Rights are at risk!

State Representative Emma Greenman, State Representative Jennifer Schultz, and Duluth City Clerk Chelsea Helmer will be presenting. We will have time set aside for Q &A.

Please join us for this important discussion and invite your friends and family.

See bios for the presenters on page 3.



State Representative
Emma Greeman



State Representative
Jennifer Schultz



Duluth City Clerk
Chelsea Helmer

**LWV Duluth is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Our Democracy at a Crossroads**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/87398997142>

Dial: 1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 873 9899 7142

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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
<hr/>	
Editor	Julie Seidelmann

Read about these upcoming events in the this Voter.

November 2 and 9 Alworth Lecture Series – [page 8](#)

November 13 - Raising Awareness and Visibility of Asian Americans - [page 4](#)

December 2 - The Status of Copper Nickel Sulfide Mining in Minnesota - [page 4](#)

Calendar

November

- 11-2 General Election
- 11-2 Alworth Lecture
- 11-9 Alworth Lecture
- 11-13 Raising Awareness and
Visibility of Asian Americans
- 11-16 Voting Rights in Minnesota Event
- 11-18 LWV Duluth Book Club

December

- 12-2 Copper Nickel Sulfide Mining

General Election - November 2, 2021

Here are some websites that have voting information



Minnesota Secretary of State:

mnvotes.org

Duluth City Clerk

<https://duluthmn.gov/city-clerk/elections-voter-services/voter-services/>

League of Women Voters :

[Vote411](https://www.vote411.org)

President's Letter

October Greetings!

I want to take this opportunity to let you all know how much I appreciate being part of the League of Women Voters. The shared passion and commitment to the work we do—to ensuring equity in voting rights, to empowering others with voter registration and candidate forums, and to educating ourselves and others such as with our recent Redistricting and Critical Race Theory Zoom events—is phenomenal. Coming into a new community, it has meant so much to be welcomed into this group of women who challenge, uplift, and inspire me regularly.

The work we are about in ALL our committees has a significant impact on our community. As many of us are also passionate about leaving the world better than we found it—for our kids, for our grandkids, for posterity—the work we put into these issues matters. I want to thank each one of you who has taken time to participate in our many events:

- Attending and inviting others to attend the Fall Membership Kickoff
- Book club
- Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee (formerly the Cross Cultural Committee)
- International Committee
- Natural Resources Committee
- Candidate Forums
- Redistricting trainings
- Critical Race Theory Forum
- Voter Registration
- Renewing your membership!

There will be many more opportunities like these coming up, so stay tuned, stay connected, and please do invite others to attend. They may be looking for a group that shares your passions and interests too!

Lastly, for those who serve us so diligently and faithfully writing the newsletter, maintaining the web site, sending out E-News email updates, and managing all our finances—THANK YOU! We simply could not do any of this without you!

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.

Our Democracy at a Crossroads: Voting Rights in Minnesota - Virtual Event Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 7:00 - 8:00pm



Emma Greenman represents the communities of South Minneapolis and Eastern Richfield (District 63B) and is an Assistant Majority Leader in the Minnesota House of Representatives. She is a voting rights lawyer with over 15 years of experience working on democracy and justice issues as an attorney, a policy expert, and an advocate. Before entering the legislature, she led the Center for Popular Democracy's national voting rights and democracy program, managing policy development and advocacy to empower communities to drive a democracy agenda that protects and increases access to the ballot at every level of our democracy. Rep. Greenman also practiced law as a public defender and as a civil litigator at Maslon LLP where she served as pro bono counsel to the ACLU-Minnesota on voting rights litigation. She holds a law degree from UC Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, a BA from George Washington University, and is a proud Minneapolis South High graduate

Jennifer Schultz represents District 7A in the Minnesota House of Representatives, serving the eastern portion of the city of Duluth. Currently serving her fourth term, she is the Chair of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee. In 2020, she passed a robust HHS budget bill with significant funding for personal care assistants and home and community-based services. In 2019, she championed a groundbreaking package of eldercare reforms to protect Minnesotans living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She also serves on the Taxes Committee, the Health Finance & Policy Committee and the Redistricting Committee. Outside the Legislature, she is a professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth in the Department of Economics and is Director of the Health Care Management Program. Her fields of research include health economics, health insurance, and health policy. She received her M.A. in economics at Washington State University and her Ph.D. in economics and health services research from the University of Minnesota.



Chelsea Helmer grew up in the Duluth area and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Minnesota Duluth. She holds a law degree, Summa Cum Laude, from the Mitchell Hamline School of Law, where she was a Dean's Scholarship Award Recipient. Ms. Helmer holds the position of Director of Administrative Services with the City of Duluth, managing the Information Technology, Human Resources and City Clerk Divisions. She also carries out the role of City Clerk, a position she has held since 2018. Ms. Helmer has extensive experience working in municipal government. Prior to her role with the City of Duluth, she served as an Associate Attorney at the law firm of Maki & Overom, Ltd where she provided legal support to local governments in the region. She also previously served as a Research Law Clerk for the League of Minnesota Cities. Ms. Helmer is a past President of the League of Women Voters of Duluth and served on the Board of Directors of that organization for six years.

Keep informed about League of Women Voters

LWV Duluth
E-News



LWV Duluth
www.lwvduluth.org

LWVMN
www.lwvmn.org

LWVUS
www.lwv.org



Raising Awareness and Visibility of Asian Americans via Zoom Saturday, November 13 at 10:00 am

We will hear from members of the Twin Ports APIDA Collective, a group of Pacific Islander Desi Americans. Join us to learn about what they are doing in the Duluth/Superior area to advocate for awareness and equity of the Asian American community and what League can do as allies to support their work.

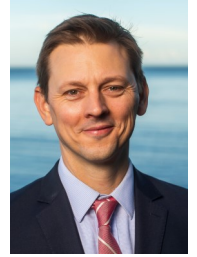
A link to the meeting will be sent out in an E News two days before the presentation. Join us to welcome our guests, Pakou Ly and Julia Cheng.

Heads Up: January-March 2022 the Collective is sponsoring an exhibit at the Duluth Art Institute titled "Like Me, Like You". Watch for details as the time gets closer.

Submitted by the Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee (formerly Cross Cultural Committee)

The Status of Copper Nickel Sulfide Mining in Minnesota

Who: JT Haines,
What: Update on the status of Copper Nickel Sulfide Mining in Minnesota
When: Thursday, December 2, 7- 8 p.m.
Zoom link will be sent by E-News shortly before the event.



The LWVMN recently signed on to the Move Away from Polymet campaign. Copper/Sulfide /Nickel mining risks and transparency in government agencies has been an ongoing issue for the Duluth LWV's Natural Resources committee for many years. So that everyone understands why the State League which incorporates Duluth has taken that step, the **Natural Resources Committee** decided to invite JT Haines, League member and Northeastern Minnesota Director for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, a lead litigant in the ongoing Polymet court cases, to provide an update on the Polymet cases and discuss Twin Metals and other potential mining sites in Minnesota.
 Submitted by Sally Munger and Gay Trachsel

For Redistricting, no news is not good news!

According to Paul Huffman, LWVMN Redistricting Coordinator, no matter what local government staff or elected officials may tell you, in most places (counties, cities with wards and some school districts) local redistricting is happening **NOW!** As a reminder the timeline for local redistricting is as follows:

- October 2021 – January 2022: City/County Governments decide on local redistricting process; draft maps
- February 15, 2022: Court Issues Final Redistricting Order
- February – April 2022: Local Redistricting Hearings
- March 29, 2022: City redistricting complete
- April 26, 2022: Other local redistricting complete (counties, school districts)

Urgent Actions:

- Provide written testimony to MN Senate Redistricting Committee (unclear what the deadline is for this)
 - Provide testimony to Special Redistricting Panel by 10/29 related to congressional and legislative redistricting
- Engage city and county staffs and elected officials to ask how local redistricting will be done, especially opportunities for public involvement (input and review) and transparency in the redistricting process. This is urgent to get principles and processes in place to enable public involvement.

There are many ways the you as individuals or communities of interest can impact the final decisions on how these maps are drawn. This is a call to action but the actions will vary significantly for each government entity that is subject to redistricting. Choose your objective and take the appropriate action.

If you need help, please contact Paul phuffman@lwvmn.org or Nick Harper nharper@lwvmn.org.

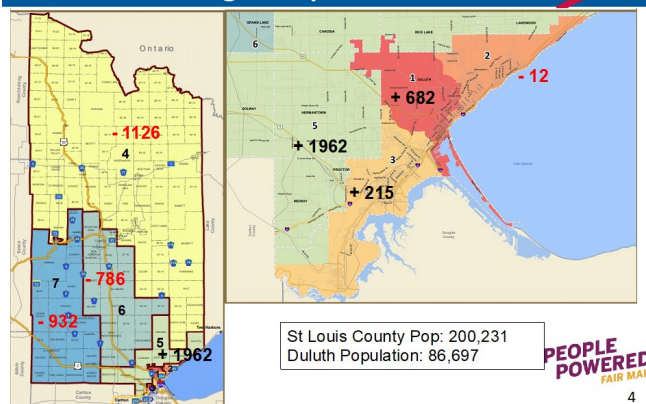
Here is the link to the People Powered Fair Maps Tool Kit.

It is a great resource for your efforts:

<https://www.lwvmn.org/ppfm-action-kit>

Submitted by Ellen Wiss

St Louis County Redistricting Map



Renew Your Membership Today

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Your membership in LWV Duluth is a singular act that reverberates nationally! Your membership supports voter rights, racial justice, defense of our environmental resources and education of our electorate. Financial support like yours is critical to our success. Please take the time now to renew.

You can choose to use the renewal form in this newsletter or renew online and pay by check or PayPal at our website: <https://www.lwvduluth.org/join.html>

PLEASE NOTE: If you are a new member who paid membership dues after January 1, 2021, you do not need to renew your membership until September 2022.

If you have questions about your membership, call Anita Gille at 218- 428-7232 or anitagille@gmail.com

Why I Am A Member by Scott Risdal



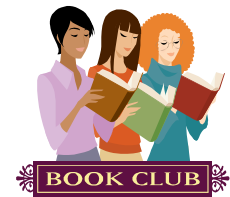
Two words, Integrity and Objectivity.

The League is devoted to getting the best voter information available into the hands of as many people as possible. The most visible of these efforts for me have been the voter guides and support for candidate forums. In all their endeavors, I feel the League works hard to avoid conscious bias and encourages everyone to educate themselves and above all, get out and vote!

The focus on election integrity and providing objective information is refreshing in our world, and that trust in LWV Duluth is why I am a member.



LWV Duluth
“The Sisters” Book Club
Thursday, November 18
(changed due Thanksgiving)
7:00 pm via Zoom
(note time change)

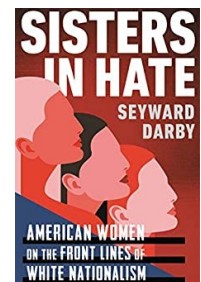


Questions: Gay Trachsel 218-728-5478

Zoom link will be sent the week of the meeting

Book: “Sisters in Hate: American Women on the Front Lines of White Nationalism”
by Seyward Darby

Discussion Leader: Scherrie Foster



Welcome New LWV Duluth Members

Cherie Bridges
Jeri Quest



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.

You may be eligible for a Lifetime membership

Voter Services

Voter Services Candidate Forums Update



With the assistance of PACT TV, we conducted 4 forums for this November's General Election: City Council At-Large and District 2 races and Duluth School Board At-Large, District 1 and District 4 races. Thank you to the candidates for their participation and their commitment to local government. Thank you to our moderators -- Jodi Broadwell, Pat Castellano, and Susan Nelson. We appreciate the hard work of our question-writing team - Carol Burns, Susan Darley-Hill, Eileen Hudelson, and Pakou Ly. We are also grateful to community members who submitted questions to our website. The PACT TV staff has been generous with their time, expertise, and use of their studio. We could not have done it without them.

The forums are posted on the LWV Duluth website under the Voting Tab or click here <https://www.lwvduluth.org/2021-candidate-forum-recordings.html>

Submitted by Mary Faulkner

Voter Registration

This fall, we began using QR (quick response) codes at our voter registration events (in addition to traditional paper forms). We had handout cards with the codes below, for potential voters to take home with them or to use while with us, if they had questions. The advantages of the QR codes are:

- handsfree registration during COVID-19
- human error is reduced (website would let you know of an error)
- greater security for the registering voter
- the card is a reminder to check your registration status

This fall, in 3 registration events, over 50 people selected this option.



Try it out for yourself!

Not sure how to use them? Using the camera on your phone or ipad/tablet, point the phone at the code. Be far enough away from the image that the corners of a yellow frame appear on your screen. Do not take a picture! Without you doing anything except pointing your phone at the image at the right distance, a pop-up should appear on your screen. Touch that pop-up, and it will take you directly to the Minnesota Secretary of State website to either register to vote or check your status. Some phone users might need to have an app to open, depending on the age and make of your phone.

Submitted by Sue DeNio, C-Chair, Voter Services - Voter Registration

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.
Voter Service: Forums	Mary Faulkner: faulkner.marykatherine@gmail.com Pat Castellano Castellanop4@gmail.com	As needed
International Relations	Liz Taylor 393-0703 (cell)	As needed
Membership	Anita Gille 218-428-7232 anitagille@gmail.com	Membership renewal is underway - Click on Join or Renew at: www.lwvduluth.org
Citizens in Action, January 29, 2022	Rosie Loeffler-Kemp 341-2014 Ellen Wiss 612-310-9797	Contact Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Natural Resources	Sally Munger 728-0711 Gay Trachsel 728-5478	Meeting via Zoom - 4th Monday of the month - Monday, November 22 5pm. Link sent before meeting
Newsletter Mailing	Sally Munger 218-728-0711 Gail Schoenfelder 218-310-8678	Generally last Wednesday of the month @ place TBD. 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, November 13 at 10 am via Zoom. Join us for discussion. Contact Gail for Zoom link
Book Club	Gay Trachsel 728-5478 (home)	Thurs., Nov. 18 th 7:00 pm “Sisters in Hate” by Seyward Darby Discussion Leader: Scherrie Foster Zoom link sent before meeting
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 Holiday Social Annual Meeting Other interesting events	Sandy Grandmaison, 348-7589 srgrandmaison@gmail.com	Our Democracy at a Crossroads: Voting Rights in Minnesota, November 16, 7-8 pm. See pages 1 and 3 for more information.

International Lectures in November through the Alworth Center for the Study of Peace and Justice Lecture Series (College of St. Scholastica), and the Royal D. Alworth Jr. Memorial Lecture Series at UMD

Tuesday, November 2 - 7:30 p.m.
21st Century Dispatches from Latin America
Presented by: Timothy Lorek and Andra Chastain

Check the following site for the link a couple days before November 2nd:

[Alworth Center for Peace and Justice lecture series resumes in-person for 2021 - The College of St. Scholastica \(css.edu\)](https://css.edu)

Timothy Lorek is Assistant Professor of Global History in the Department of History and Politics at the College of St. Scholastica. He teaches courses on Latin American history and politics, world history, and environmental studies. He is completing a book manuscript under contract with the University of North Carolina Press, tentatively titled *Making the Green Revolution: Agriculture, Science, and Conflict in Colombia*. He is the editor (with Andra Chastain) of an edited collection titled *Itineraries of Expertise: Science, Technology, and the Environment in Latin America's Long Cold War* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020). He is now working on another project with Helen Curry at the University of Cambridge on the history of the global food system and the multilateral research consortium known as the Consultative Group for International Agriculture Research.

Chastain is a historian of modern Latin America with a focus on twentieth-century Chile in a global context. Her research and teaching interests include the transnational history of aid and development, the global Cold War, urban and environmental history, and the history of science and technology. Her dissertation examines the history of the metro system in Santiago, Chile, in the context of shifting political regimes, foreign aid during the Cold War, and the environmental challenges of rapid urban growth. Because this major public works project cuts across Chile's experiences with Christian democracy, democratic socialism, and military rule, it offers a new perspective on the break between democracy and dictatorship and the shift from state-led development to neoliberalism. Her work has been supported by the Social Science Research Council, the P.E.O. Foundation, and the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University.

Tuesday, November 9 - 7:00 p.m.
Making India Great: The Promise of a Reluctant Global Power
Presented by Dr. Aparna Pande, Director,
Initiative on the Future of India and South Asia, Hudson Institute, Washington D.C.

Check the following site for the link a couple days before November 9th: [International Lecture Series | College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences \(umn.edu\)](https://www.umn.edu)

Dr. Aparna Pande is Research Fellow & Director of Hudson Institute's Initiative on the Future of India and South Asia. She wrote her PhD dissertation on Pakistan's foreign policy. Her major field of interest is South Asia with a special focus on India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Foreign and Security Policy. She has contributed to *The American Interest*, *The Hindustan Times*, *The Times of India*, *The Live Mint*, *Huffington Post*, *Sunday Guardian*, *The Print*, and *Real Clear World*. Dr. Pande's books include *Explaining Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Escaping India* (Routledge, 2011), *From Chanakya to Modi: Evolution of India's Foreign Policy* (Harper Collins, 2017), *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Pakistan* (Routledge, August 2017), and *Making India Great: The Promise of a Reluctant Global Power* (Harper Collins, 2020). A 1993 graduate of Delhi University, Dr. Pande holds a Master of Arts in History from St. Stephens College at Delhi University and a Master of Philosophy in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University. She received a Doctorate in Political Science from Boston University in 2010. She wrote her PhD dissertation on Pakistan's foreign policy.

Submitted by Liz Taylor
Chair, International Relations Committee

Observer Corps Reports**Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission
October 13, 2021**

The October meeting was made up entirely of presentations and updates on major projects. Brett Cease, Duluth Citizen Action Plan, and Lora Wedge, Duluth Climate & Energy Network, briefed the commissioners about their work and asked the Commission to assist their committees and the city in efforts to abate climate change. Next, Eva Pearce and Bob Nygaard spoke on behalf of the Duluth Amateur Hockey Association. Old business concerned the Harbor Plaza Preliminary Design, the Lakewalk – Brighton Beach Resiliency Preliminary Design, and the Parks' Division Master Plan Survey.

Cease and Wedge stressed four areas for special climate-related attention in order of importance: (1) Food and Agriculture, encouraging further local production and distribution; (2) Transportation, giving priority to street planning and design; (3) Buildings, transforming existing housing into ecologically efficient residences; and (4) Energy Production, noting that despite our efforts the Duluth area still relies on fossil fuels for 40% of its energy.

Pearce and Nygaard noted that annually almost 800 youth participate in hockey across the region through the facilities maintained by neighborhood associations, all volunteers. These citizens maintain the rinks (both for competitive hockey and pleasure skating) annually putting in about 35,000 hours. The fee for playing youth hockey is \$200 with scholarships available for those parents having need. The scholarships can also be used for necessary equipment purchases. The Heritage Center posts rink schedules on its website. Duluth is one of the few remaining locations for truly outdoor hockey left in the USA.

Cliff Knettel, Senior Parks Planner, updated the Commission on the recent evolutions of the Preliminary Plan for Harbor Plaza [<https://duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-planning/progress-in-the-park/seawallbaywalkdecc-waterfront-plan/>]. He emphasized recent attention to Drop-Off plazas, now projected at two, one on the Aquarium side of the DECC and the other across from the Erwin. Also noted were: that new information on the size of cruise ships required modifications to the original plans for pier requirements; the event area will still provide pedestrian access to the harbor even during special events; the traffic pattern on Harbor Drive and 5th Avenue West will remain two-way from Railroad Street to each of the Drop-Off Plazas; there will be no vehicular access on the bay side of the DECC except for emergency and service vehicles. The plan now includes a 10' dedicated bike path along the exterior of the entire zone including in front of the DECC and the Aquarium; a pedestrian-only walkway will run between the Aquarium and the Silos. Perhaps there will be paddling access on the Bay as well.

Knettel continued to have the floor, presenting an overview of the Lakewalk – Brighton Beach Resiliency Preliminary Design. NOTE, see the Parks and Recreation Website, "Progress in the Parks," to access the entire plan as recently presented by the engineering firm, LHB [<https://duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-planning/progress-in-the-park/lakewalk-improvement-project/>]. The salient points included: improving coastal resiliency; creating 11 "pausing places" between Endion Station and 23rd Avenue East; replacing fencing throughout; removing "social trails" (there are over 50 in this section at present) and replacing many with stable materials, especially those providing access to the shoreline; and, whenever possible, widening the central usage lane of the Lakewalk to 15', and everywhere at least 12' with additional 2' side zones in all cases. This widening will typically involve shifting the main walkway towards the railroad, but that will not be possible in all places. The trail at Brighton Beach is about to reopen, and the new roadway is on schedule for completion in the summer of 2022.

Lastly, Jessica Peter, Parks Manager, presented an update on the Master Plan Survey as a part of review process for the "Essential Spaces: Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces and Trails Plan." The Survey itself has two parts: a "statistically valid survey" mailed out to a select group, and a community-wide survey that just opened on-line within the last week and already has almost 300 respondents. TAKE THE SURVEY TODAY [<https://polco.us/n/res/vote/duluth-mn/duluth-parks-and-recreation?>]

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Burns
Lane Palmer
Ronald Regal

Observer Corps Reports**Library Board Meeting
September 28, 2021****Manager's Report:**

The library will close on September 29 for a staff workshop. This will be an opportunity for staff to process the challenges of the past 18 months and identify ways of moving forward productively.

The project to install new data cables at the Main Library, which had been delayed, is now underway and proceeding well with no negative impact on operations.

Open hours at all three library locations expanded earlier in September. Each location opens at 10 a.m. The two branch libraries are open until 5 p.m. three days a week and until 8 p.m. two days a week. The Main Library is open until 5 p.m. four days a week including Saturday and until 8 p.m. two days a week. Community feedback has been positive.

Emergency Connectivity Fund: The library has applied for funding through a federal program to extend connectivity outside of its buildings. Working with city staff, the library proposes installation of Wi-Fi at city community centers. Award details for this funding is not yet clear, but it seems that at least a portion of the project was approved for federal funding.

The library's new mobile circulation software was used for the first time this month by Every Child Ready Duluth at an outreach event in the Gateway Plaza. Using a laptop and Wi-Fi hotspot, staff were able to check out books to library patrons in attendance.

The library's organizational chart is under review with the retirement of two supervisors later this year. An additional supervisory position will be created to provide better balance in the organization and more effective support for the branches.

Foundation Report:

The recent fundraiser, Learning & Libations, was a huge success despite having to change from an in-person to a virtual event. The \$29,000 raised will support Every Child Ready Duluth and the Library Go van.

Friends of the Library Report:

The annual meeting was held this month. Friends report a total of 192 members. Over the last year, \$30,000 was donated to the library through various fundraising approaches, including two book sales. A third will occur at the Mt. Royal branch in early December.

Old Business, updates:

Library usage is picking up since the roll out of new hours, especially at the two branches.

There has been some recent turnover among library technicians. The process to hire replacements is underway.

Supervisor positions are also posted.

Library staff is exploring a partnership with the Clean and Safe team in Duluth as an approach to security through better hospitality, individualized greeting of patrons, conversation, and provision of library information as needed when patrons come in.

New Business:

A new fee schedule for 2022 was presented to the board and approved. Small increases will be made in fees for research help and deposit cards (temporary library cards for persons from out of town). The new schedule will also go to City Council for approval.

Ongoing Business:

The Advocacy Team, with representatives from the Advisory Board, the Foundation and Friends of the Library, will meet October 1 to continue discussion of addressing the need for a new strategic plan with the city.

Submitted by

Debbie Rasmussen

Observer Corps Reports**St. Louis County Board Meeting
October 5, 2021**

The following comments are a summary of observations at the **St. Louis County Board Meeting, October 5, 2021.**

The Regular Meeting began at 9:33 a.m.

The meeting was held at the St. Louis County Government Services Center, Duluth, MN.

7 out of 7 commissioners were present.

One citizen addressed the board on an issue not on the agenda. The citizen expressed concerns about planned sidewalk widening project on the NW corner of Arrowhead Road and Woodland Avenue, which would negatively impact his property, potentially. The citizen reported that he had received no official notification of the proposed construction, noticing only the positioning of ground stakes and reported that there has been no obvious increase in foot traffic in the area.

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

There were no items on the Regular Agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.

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

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

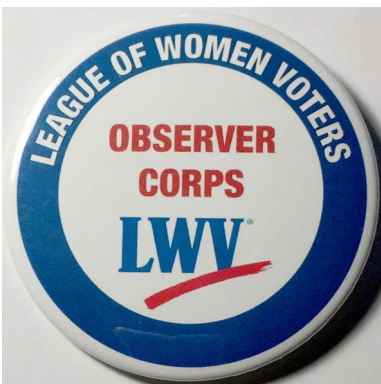
The Environmental & Natural Resources Committee established a public hearing regarding a land exchange for October 26, 2021, at the Brevator Town Hall.

The Central Management & Governmental Affairs Committee reported that Virginia Katz has been named to the library board of the Arrowhead Library System.

The Public Works Committee reported a request from "Path Blazers" to relocate a snowmobile/ATV trail (from Chisholm to Side Lake) at a cost of \$15,000.

Following the meeting of the Committee of the Whole, Commissioners planned to tour the new Essentia Health Care/Hospital project in Duluth, at 11:30 am.

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/Reports 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: _____

Name: _____ email _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____ 2nd Address: _____

Membership (Check one)

- Individual \$65
- Student/Limited Income \$20
- Full Scholarship \$0
- 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: _____
- 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:
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OR**

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