

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

Critical Race Theory (CRT): A Current Propaganda Tool Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 - 8:30 pm via Zoom

Mark your calendars for a dynamic and educational ZOOM meeting with UMD Professor Jeanine Weekes Schroer to discuss and address questions on CRT (Critical Race Theory) in our local and national midst.



In her presentation, Professor Weekes Schroer will provide historical and educational information on CRT, explanations for why it has been at the apex of a national misinformation campaign, and her perceptions on the divisiveness that has occurred in its regard. She will offer her opinion and a reflection on The Center of the American Experiment, a right wing Minnesota public policy organization that spearheaded the 17 meetings held throughout Minnesota opposed to “teaching CRT in schools”.

Professor Weekes Schroer presentation will be followed by a Q & A. Contact Gail for a link to the October 12th program on Critical Race Theory. (gail4duluth@gmail.com).

Professor Weekes Schroer is Department Head of Geography and Philosophy, Chair of Philosophy and Cognitive Science, and was one of the two UMD professors interviewed in the initial DNT July 2021 article when the CRT “debate” first made its way to Wrenshall schools in nearby Carlton County. Since then, 27 State Legislatures and 165 local and national organizations have made efforts to restrict education on racism. And the effort relentlessly continues.

Professor Weekes Schroer’s teaching and research examines the ethics and politics of social and racial oppression and its remedies. Her research areas include social philosophy, feminist theory, critical race theory (CRT), and epistemologies of ignorance. Her most recent research examines the pernicious way subversive discourse contributes to the oppression of vulnerable social groups.

Calendar	2
President’s Letter	2
Membership Renewal	3
Why I am a Member	3
New Members	3
LWV Duluth Book Club	3
Keep Informed	3
Voter Service - Forums	4
Voter Registration	4
Youth Civic Engagement Fellowship	4
Opportunities to be Involved	5
Voting Rights in Minnesota	6
Observers’ Reports	6-7

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

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

SAVE THE DATE!

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

See page 6 in this Voter for more information.

Calendar

October

10-9 Cross Cultural Committee Meeting
 10-12 Critical Race Theory Event
 TBD Natural Resources Committee Meeting

November

11-2 General Election
 11-16 Voting Rights in Minnesota Event
 11-18 LWV Duluth Book Club

Renew your League of Women Voters Membership

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL**

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>

President's Letter

Happy Autumn!

As an educator at heart, Back-to-School time is always full of excitement and the excitement of both old and new. Likewise for LWV Duluth, September holds the promise of new opportunities as we launch into a new year and hold our Kickoff Event. We get to see familiar faces returning and to welcome in new members—inviting them personally and seeing them at the Kickoff.

As a Board we are also excited about coming together in our annual retreat and creating our plan for the next couple of years in alignment with the LWVMN program. Having a focus for our activities is important, not just the activities themselves. We are committed to this work of being able to see the big picture and ensure that our activities reflect this.

We have already been busy with voter registration and events to inform people about redistricting, which is a big issue this year. Ensuring that voters are adequately represented is no small task, and while this is not a Presidential election year, the election of our local officials is important in having community interests represented where the decisions lie.



Lastly, I would like to take a moment to encourage all of us to stay safe, be kind, and both seek and speak truth. In this time of the Delta Variant and students returning to school at all levels, decisions about public safety have become quite heated. This is on the heels of the sensationalized and controversial topic of Critical Race Theory. We have the opportunity to learn more about this topic in October so that as we read or are engaged in discussions, we are better able to sort through the propaganda and speak to the truth in a nonpartisan manner about our public education system.

In hope and solidarity,

Meg Litts, LWV 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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renew Your Membership Today

Now, more than ever, your voice and your financial support are needed. Your League of Women Voters membership works hard to defend democracy at the local, state and national levels. Amidst the Pandemic, we continue our work for voter rights, education and registration. We educate and empower members and the community to seek ways to dismantle systemic racism, support gender equity, defend our natural resources, and learn about the world through the lens of other cultures. Financial support like yours is critical to our success. Thanks you!

Renew today. 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 Brenna Greenfeld



I moved to Duluth in 2015 for a job at the UMN Medical School. I joined the League of Women Voters during the pandemic in 2020, in part to foster more local connections. My friend Mary Faulkner was already part of the organization and sang its praises. I care about racial and health equity and voting access, and I appreciate the League’s long-standing work in these areas. I have found our local chapter to be well-organized and fun, with many interesting educational events and outreach activities. I have also been impressed with League of Women Voter opportunities at the state level.

I took a course called Academics for Black Lives in 2020 and they focused on collective action instead of individual action when addressing societal concerns. In the past I have acted more individually on social issues, and I wanted to start acting in a collective manner. The League seemed like a great place to start doing so – another reason for joining. I look forward to getting to know everyone more over the coming years, working on voting access and turnout, and being part of the Natural Resources Committee and possibly Book Club.

Welcome New LWV Duluth Members



Lori Dando
Mary Garness
Stephanie Johnson

Malcolm McCutcheon
Ruth McCutcheon
Katherine Rasley



**LWV Duluth
“The Sisters” Book Club
Thursday, November 18
(changed due Thanksgiving)
6:30 pm via Zoom**

Keep informed about League of Women Voters



LWV Duluth
E-News



LWV Duluth
www.lwvduluth.org

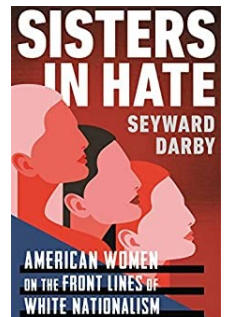


LWVMN
www.lwvmn.org



LWVUS
www.lwv.org

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



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

Voter Services

Voter Services Candidate Forums Update

Due to the ongoing pandemic and out of an abundance of caution, Candidate Forums will be filmed without an audience at PACT TV. Forums will be posted on our website and the PACT TV YouTube channel.



We have invited all candidates from the following races to participate:

City Council District 2,
City Council District 4,
City Council At Large

School Board District 1
School Board District 4
School Board At-Large.

**Forums will be taped the first and second weeks in October.
You will receive an E-News email when the forum recordings are available on our website.**

Submitted by Mary Faulkner

Voter Registration

League of Women Voters of Duluth volunteers registered voters at multiple events in September including Harvest Fest, Chester Bowl Fall Fest, Lester River Rendezvous and National Voter Registration Day. For the first time, prior to their shift, volunteers had the benefit of watching an inclusive training video created by Ellen Wiss, past Voter Service Co-Chair. View the video here, <https://www.lwvduluth.org/2021-voter-registration-training.html> or find it on the LWV of Duluth's website. This September, Duluth also adopted the option of "touchless registration". QR code cards were available to allow people to use their phones to register online and to check their registration status. Hardcopy Registration Forms continued to be available for those not choosing to register online. Thanks to our superb volunteers, multiple citizens were registered to vote and thousands were reminded to vote on November 2nd.



Due to COVID-19 cancellations and restrictions, it is unlikely the LWV Duluth will participate in any formal voting registration events in October. Therefore, it is more important than ever for members to personally **remind friends and acquaintances to vote in the November Election.**

Susan Nelson, Andea Gelb, Ellen Wiss
Chester Bowl Fall Fest

Submitted by Theresa O'Gara

Youth Civic Engagement Fellowship



In August, 2021, Natalie Miller, a Senior at Duluth East High School, reached out to Sue DeNio, co-chair of the voter services committee, for a way to become more involved in civic engagement. After some research, DeNio applied for a Youth Civic Engagement Fellowship from the League of Women Voters of MN. The fellows program seeks to provide a space for youth voices of all backgrounds to engage in all aspects of the voting process (including voter registration and get-out-the-vote initiatives).

On September 10, 2021, Duluth was awarded a fellowship. DeNio will be the primary Duluth contact and Miller will be the youth fellow for this grant. Miller will receive a \$250 stipend and a Youth Civic Engagement Certificate. The League of Women Voters of Duluth will also be eligible to receive an additional \$250 for expenses.

Kudos to DeNio and Miller! Please watch this newsletter for details of their upcoming events.

Submitted by Theresa O'Gara

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 - October date TBD at 5 pm
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
Cross Cultural	Janet Kennedy 218-349-8057 Interim Co-Chair Gail Schoenfelder 218-310-8678 Co-Chair	Saturday, October 9 at 10 am via Zoom. Join us for discussion. Contact Gail for Zoom link
Book Club	Gay Trachsel 728-5478 (home)	November 18 th (change due to Thanksgiving) 6:30 p.m. “Sisters in Hate” by Seyward Darby/Discussion Leader: Scherrie Foster/Zoom link sent before mtg
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women of Influence • Holiday Social • Annual Meeting 	Sandy Grandmaison, 348-7589 srgrandmaison@gmail.com	Contact Sandy if you are interested in helping with any of the noted events.

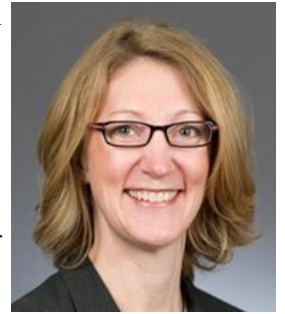
Our Democracy at a Crossroads: Voting Rights in Minnesota - November 16 Virtual Event... Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 7:00 - 8:00pm

Join in the conversation with State Representative Emma Greenman, State Representative Jennifer Schultz, and Duluth City Clerk Chelsea Helmer. You will learn about upcoming legislative bills being introduced in Minnesota, how they are being influenced by restrictive voting bills passed in other states and how that affects us in Duluth. The goal is to end the evening with an action plan to ensure that voting in Minnesota remains accessible to all eligible voters.



Emma Greenman was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in November 2020, representing District 63B. Prior to this, she worked as Director of Voting Rights and Democracy for the Center for Popular Democracy where she worked with local partners in Minnesota and around the country to build an inclusive democracy and fight against voter suppression and disenfranchisement. Rep. Greenman has a BA in Political Science from George Washington University, a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University, and a Juris Degree from the University of California at Berkeley. Her career experience includes working as a lawyer. She currently holds four committee assignments, including the House Redistricting Committee as well as the State Government and Elections Committee, which hears all election-related bills.

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. Chelsea 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. Chelsea has extensive experience working in municipal government. Prior to her role with the City, 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. Chelsea 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.

Observer Core Reports

Duluth Public Library (DPL) Board Meeting, August 24, 2021 Highlights

Every Child Ready Duluth (ECRD) has finished its work with a strategic planner and is moving forward with a wide variety of community activities. Evaluation process has been implemented.

Masks once again required in DPL buildings per City Council policy.

Network recabling at Main Library postponed until fall.

New art exhibit on display at Main in conjunction with Duluth/Superior Pride activities. Mt. Royal art project temporarily delayed.

Four State Park passes available to check out for up to a week.

Library Security contract ended when buildings closed for pandemic. Options to resume a security plan are now under consideration.

Strategic Planning: DPL did not receive federal funds through the American Rescue Act. Current strategic plan is outdated. New plan to be pursued.

Fundraising events planned for fall by both the Library Foundation and Friends of the Library.

Submitted by Debbi Rasmussen

[Click here for the full report on the LWV Duluth website](#)

Observer Core Reports

Natural Resources Commission Meeting , June 2, 2021 Highlights

1. Update on **Strategic Public Lands Realignment Project**. *See full observer report for details.*
2. **Climate Action Work Plan & Sustainability Updates** (Mindy Granley, City of Duluth Sustainability Officer). *Please see full observer's report for details on this presentation, which was the major focus of the NRC Meeting.*
3. **Duluth Citizens' Climate Action Plan** (Lora Wedge, Brett Cease)
Addresses work Duluthians do to mitigate and adapt to climate change. *Please see full observer's report for link to entire Power Point slide presentation.*
4. **NRC Officer Elections:**
Mike Schrage will serve as Chair, Brandon Krumweide as Vice-Chair, Judy Gibbs as Secretary. New Commissioner introduction: Allison Ray.
5. **Natural Resource Coordinator Report** (Diane Desotelle)
Brief updates on ongoing development of the Natural Resource Management Program Plan story map, and a Project Survey on the Decision Support Tool (with the EPA).
6. **Foresters Report** Clark Christenson)
Please see full observer report for announcements regarding Arbor Day, Ash Tree reporting, and Isaac Walton volunteer work.
7. **Directors' Report:** (Jim Filby Williams)
Please see full observer report for updates concerning the Strategic Public Lands Realignment Project, the Infrastructure Bill, and Coastal Resilience.
8. **Announcements:**
Virtual meetings will continue at least through the next meeting, October 6th.

Submitted by Barb Akre

[Click here for the full report on the LWV Duluth website](#)

Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, September 15, 2021

This special meeting, held on WEBEX, focused on the Enger Park Golf Course Renovation Plan. In effect, the plan represents the culmination of months of lively deliberation about the future of public golf in Duluth. The plan is available at: <https://duluthmn.gov/media/12116/enger-park-golf-course-renovation-plan-final.pdf>.

With the termination of the Lester Park golf course, the plan covers needed improvements to the Enger Park course as the remaining public golf course in Duluth. Recommendations are given for four consecutive phases: Phase 1a – critical irrigation improvements, Phase 1b – clubhouse replacement, Phase 2 - critical golf course renovations, and Phase 3 – driving range and course playability improvements. Funding would be through 20 year-bonds to be paid back by course revenue plus receipts from sale of a parcel from Lester Park golf course.

Commissioner comment included a consideration by Commissioner Darland to move the parking lot across Skyline Drive, for safety reasons. Public comment was generally supportive, although there was some concern about “post-COVID” revenue assumptions – course fees, number of season passes sold, etc.

The plan was approved with a unanimous vote; the plan next goes to the City Council for their action.

Submitted by Lane Palmer, Ron Regal, Tom Burns

[Click here for the full report on the LWV Duluth website](#)

Complete Observers' Reports for all boards, councils and commissions are found on LWV 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:
Nancy Palmer, 444 Hartley Pl., Duluth, MN 55803
OR**

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