

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



You are invited!
League of Women Voters of Duluth
Virtual Fall Kickoff
Wednesday, September 22, 2021
7:00 - 8:00 pm
Social Hour 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Meet LWV Duluth Board of Directors.

LWV Duluth President, Meg Litts, will present vision/priorities/focus areas for 2021-2022 - Who We Are - what we have accomplished locally and nationally.

Learn about LWV Duluth committees and how members can engage in LWV Duluth through involvement in various committees and action groups.

Meet new LWV Duluth members.

Renew your Membership!
Invite anyone who might be interested in learning about League of Women Voters to join this meeting.

Zoom Meeting information:

<https://lwmn-org.zoom.us/j/93415037428>

call-in only: 1 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 934 1503 7428

Questions: Contact Anita Gille at 218-428-7232 or anitagille@gmail.com

Reshaping Policing and Public Safety in Duluth
Saturday, September 11, 10:00 am via Zoom
Cross Cultural Committee invites you to this event.

Police misconduct disproportionately affects Black and Indigenous people and people of color. During the past year groups across the country studied and considered options to reshape policing and public safety in their communities so that public safety systems work for everyone.

Find out about the policing reforms that the Duluth's Community Safety Initiative (DCSI) is proposing for Duluth on Saturday, September 11, 10:00 AM, Zoom. Email Gail at gail4duluth@gmail.com for the Zoom link. Guest speaker Blair Powless will discuss DCSI's "Proposals for Community-led Police Accountability in Duluth" and what the response to these proposals has been to date.

Mark your calendars for Sept. 11, 10:00 AM.
See you on Zoom for an enlightening discussion.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Calendar | 2 |
| President's Letter | 2 |
| Membership Renewal | 3 |
| Why I am a Member | 3 |
| LWV Duluth Book Club | 3 |
| New Members | 3 |
| International Relations Committee | 3 |
| Voter Registration | 4 |
| Plant and Book Sale | 4 |
| People Powered Fair Maps | 5 |
| Voter Service - Forums | 5 |
| Opportunities to be Involved | 6 |
| Observers' Reports | 7-9 |
| Keep Informed | 9 |

Our Mission

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

Officers

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

Calendar

September

Membership Renewal Month
Voter Registration dates on page 4

- 9-11 Cross Cultural Committee Meeting
See information on page 1
- 9-16 LWV Duluth Book Club
- 9-22 LWV Duluth Virtual Kickoff
- 9-27 Natural Resources Committee Meeting

September is Membership Renewal Month



See page 3 in this Voter for membership renewal information

President’s Letter

This is my first letter as President of LWV Duluth, and I want to share gratitude for the many remarkable people who make our organization run. Though many have not met throughout the summer, that hasn’t kept us from being engaged. Just as Terresa Moses urged us in her keynote address at our Annual Meeting, our beliefs must result in action. The time is now.

One of the first actions our Board took at our August meeting was to determine that we will not be holding any in-person indoor meetings at this time. We will continue to follow CDC, MN Dept. of Health, and St. Louis County guidelines in revisiting this topic, but keeping people engaged safely is of the utmost importance. With a year of Zooming, we have a wonderful tool to help us do just that.

Setting goals and crafting a program are two of our top priorities this year. Both of these rely on members to engage with the process, and already I have heard from so many of you about our concerns for the infringement on voter rights and access. Though (and possibly because) it is not a Presidential Election year, some may feel they have the opportunity to restrict voter rights unnoticed. That means we have our work cut out for us, and we have a powerful group committed to this work! Our Voter Services Committee is on this and already putting together candidate forums. The Cross Cultural Committee has met to plan upcoming events that will educate many of us on the burning issues, bringing clarity and opportunity for action.

We’ve all been watching as our world is ravaged by floods and fire, and our waters are threatened. Our Natural Resources Committee is a great place for folks to engage with meaningful action to make real change.

At our Kickoff Event, which our Membership Committee has been busy planning and pivoting to hold next month, we hope each member will think of at least one person to invite to the virtual kickoff so that they can learn more about what a dynamic group we are that is doing meaningful work for our community.

A huge thanks to Candy Winkler and Sandy Grandmaison for their mentorship as I take on this new role, and to my Board officers who have been so gracious and supportive as I learn the ropes. Together we are going to do great work this year!

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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renew Your Membership Today

September is renewal month. 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.

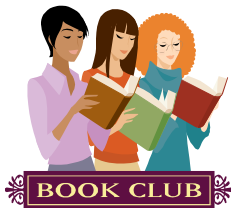
**If you have questions about your membership, call Anita Gille at 218- 428-7232 or anitagille@gmail.com
Together we can make democracy work!**

Why I Am A Member by Pakou Ly

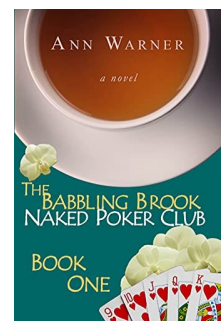


Please welcome new member Pakou Ly!

“I joined the League of Women Voters after following the group’s work in Saint Paul and then here in Duluth, and also after being part of the Cross Cultural Committee for several months. I’ve had experience in the past working on city council campaigns in Saint Paul and getting the vote out for immigrant communities and here in Duluth working with the city clerks office as a runner for various voting sites. I hope to contribute using my community relations experience, media relations and connections to communities of color to reach out and encourage voter participation, particularly among disadvantaged communities.”



**LWV Duluth
“The Sisters” Book Club
Thursday, September 16
(change due to Kickoff on September 22)
6:30 pm via Zoom
(as recommended by LWV Duluth Board)**



**Please come with book
and venue suggestions**

Questions: Gay Trachsel 218-728-5478

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

Book: “Babbling Brook Naked
Poker Club - Book One”
by Ann Warner
Discussion Leader: Gay Trachsel

Welcome New LWV Duluth Members

Diane Sauer
Jody Elwell
Maypakou Ly
Marie Zhuikov



LWV Duluth International Relations Committee

The International Relations Committee is planning meetings to discuss current world events/happenings with community individuals who are engaged in world affairs.

If you are not currently on the International Relations Committee email list, please contact Liz Taylor (taylorjet@aol.com) to be included in these discussion sessions.

Voter Registration Action Group

Help more people participate in democracy!

Experience the joy of knowing you made a difference by volunteering to register new voters! You can choose 1 or 2-hour shifts, and will be oriented (a 3-5 minute video you can watch at your leisure) so you know what to expect. COVID-19 protocols will be in place.

- Events: September 11, Harvest Fest at Bayfront, 10-5:00
- September 18, Chester Bowl Fest, 9:30-4:30
- September 25, Lester River Rendezvous, 10-5:00
- September 28, National Voter Registration Day, 10-3:00

Contact Sue DeNio at cornelia_road@hotmail.com for more information or to sign up for a slot to help.



Liz Taylor and Rosemary Guttormsson registering voters at Juneteenth.

2021 Plant and Book Sale

LWV Duluth held its annual, and FIRST in person 2021 event, the Plant and Book Sale which took place on Saturday, June 12 at Mt. Royal Market parking lot. Members sharing via “Word-of-Mouth” promotion, handouts and posting flyers were enthusiastically received as people were excited about getting back into their gardens and looking forward to some good summer reads!

Members and friends donated books, perennials, and garden starters, resulting in \$1,880 total income once Karin Haidos placed the left over plants in her driveway soliciting at-will donations. Extra books were donated to Gabriel’s Bookstore in Duluth.

There was a GREAT team of members who showed up to help on a hot and windy day, and we want to extend a hearty thank you to all of them. We are looking forward to seeing you all NEXT YEAR, Saturday June 11, 2022!

Zandy Zwiebel and Sally Munger – Co-Chairs 2022



Wendy Ruhnke, Susie Darley-Hill, Zandy Zwiebel



Tina Welsh, Sally Munger, Nancy Aldridge



Rosemary Guttormsson, Karin Haidos

The Time is Now to Speak Up for People Powered Fair Maps



Our May Voter left us uncertain about the future of our 8th Congressional District. The good news is that we were able to maintain our 8th Congressional District representation. The other news is that we were only able to maintain that representation by a Census Count of 29 people. I can't help but believe that we kept the 8th District in large part to the efforts made by our members to participate in phone banks and distribute census materials. Kudos to all that volunteered. Special thanks to Linda Vukson who kept us all informed and motivated.

Now that the 2020 Census is complete and we have secured the 8th District, our work to ensure that fair maps are drawn to represent our communities and are focused on shared interests and common needs. Our region is more diverse than ever and the new lines should be drawn to reflect that diversity. Remember we will live with the results of this redistricting for at least the next TEN years.

We were given an introduction to Redistricting at our Citizens in Action event last January. We are scheduling another opportunity for our members, community and faith-based partners to learn next steps to take action to influence how those lines are drawn. The 1 ½ Community Mapping training will be held by Zoom on **September 23rd** (time to be determined). You will receive an invitation to the training with more information early in September. **SAVE THE DATE!!**

Your input is critical because the Federal, State, County, City, and even School Board districts will be determined by hearings either by the Courts or local elected officials. If our voices are to be heard, we need to be prepared to ask for what we need and present alternative maps to meet those needs. Our Federal redistricting will be determined by the Minnesota Supreme Court. A hearing for the 8th Congressional District was held in Bemidji on August 10th. You can stream that hearing at [View Council Meetings - Bemidji, MN](#). Start the video at about the 33:47 point.

When redistricting is based on **partisan** politics and not on populations it becomes another potent, insidious, and long-lasting form of voter suppression. We can't be lulled into complacency by the fact that we have had divided government for many years. Redistricting can change that as soon as 2022 if the voices of communities of common interest are diluted by lines that divide their votes.

We have been informed that New Citizens' Naturalization Ceremonies have been moved from Duluth to Minneapolis until 2023. We are sad to lose this unique and inspiring opportunity to register voters at this event.

Submitted by Ellen Wiss

Voter Services (Forums)



Thank you to our friends at PACT TV and Pat Castellano for their hard work in preparing two taped pre-primary Candidate Forums. And thank you to the candidates of the City Council Districts 2 and 4 and At-Large for your participation.

For the General Election, we are discussing the safest path forward with Candidate Forums considering the high risk of the COVID Delta variant. We will consult with the LWVMN about our options.

Candidate forum recordings can be found on the LWV Duluth website at <https://www.lwvduluth.org/> under the Voting tab.

Submitted by Mary Faulkner

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) | See committee information on page 3. |
| Membership | Anita Gille 218-428-7232 anitagille@gmail.com | Monthly meeting via Zoom or in person when possible. September meeting TBA |
| 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 September 27 at 5 pm via Zoom |
| 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 | Monthly meeting second Saturday, 10 - noon . September meeting - September 11. “Proposal for Community-led Police Accountability in Duluth.” See page 1 for details. |
| Book Club | Gay Trachsel 728-5478 (home) | September 16 (change due to Kickoff on 22). 6:30 vis Zoom. See page 3 for details. |
| Plant & Book Sale, Saturday June 11 | Zandy Zwiebel 218-341-6099 | |
| 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. |

New look for Observer Core Reports!

We are piloting a new approach to observer reports in the September Voter. Because of space constraints, it has been difficult and sometimes impossible to fit all observer reports in the Voter in the month they were submitted. Yet all observer reports are of great importance to LWV members. We want them to be easily accessible. What you will see is a “highlights” summary from each observer report including a direct link to the full, detailed report. Members can review highlights from each commission/board meeting in print. Those members reading the online Voter can then easily access the full report with one click. Those reading the print edition will be able access full reports on the LWV website in a user friendly format. We will let you know the results of the pilot.

**A big THANK YOU from us all to Observer Corp members!
Your work is greatly appreciated.**



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>

Highlights from Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Report, June 9, 2021 Submitted by Tom Burns, Lane Palmer, Ron Regal

Please access Full Report at this link:

https://www.lwvduluth.org/uploads/6/4/8/0/6480315/duluth_parks_and_recreation_commission.pdf

1. Update on the Baywalk Project

- Focus of the Baywalk Project was consideration of repairs and upgrades to the area behind DECC. This could include upgrades to the seawall to enable cruise ships to dock.
- A major consideration will be whether to close off most of Harbor Drive to cars while keeping it open for pedestrians, biking, and delivery and sanitation vehicles.
- *Five Guiding Principles for the project are detailed in full report.*

2. Parks and Rec Master Planning Overview

- The city recently signed an agreement with consultant to lead development of new 10 year Master Plan for Parks and Rec. Timeline for completion is summer 2022.
- Community input will be key to process. *More information including key considerations and City of Duluth contact info is in full report.*

3. Public Golf Committee Update

- The City has begun discussions of the Enger Golf Course Renovation Project with consultants. Two issues are (1) accessibility and (2) where public golf fits in the recreational offerings of the community. Presentation of key concepts for the renovation may be as early as August Commission meeting.

4. Highlights of P&R Divisional Reports

- P&R Dept fully budgeted for staffing but still down 30% due to lack of qualified applicants. Senior dining centers serving meals are now operating as usual.

Observer Core Reports (Continued from page 7)

Highlights from Duluth Public Library (DPL) Board Meeting, April 27, 2021 Submitted by Debbi Rasmussen

Please Access Full Report at this link:

https://www.lwvduluth.org/uploads/6/4/8/0/6480315/duluth_public_library_board.pdf

1. **Library Staffing:** Continuing to hire staff to attain pre-COVID staffing levels
2. **Library Access:** Branches have now opened with “Library Express” concept. Patrons spend limited time and are masked. *See full report for details*
3. **Every Child Ready Duluth:** Continues to meet with community action teams to develop strategic plan. There will be funding from City of Duluth to continue program through 2022 as previously committed.
4. **Library Services/Programming:** Home delivery not available yet due to high reliance on volunteers. Annual Friends of Library Book Sale may not happen until 2022. Mini sales possible. Outdoor programming planned for summer. In-door programming last service to be resumed when safe. New Virtual Reality equipment available for use in library.
5. **Library facilities:** New internet cabling being installed at main library to upgrade internet service.
6. **Library Advocacy Group** met with Mayor Larson and Noah Schuchman. *See full report for details.*

Highlights from Duluth Public Library (DPL) Board Meeting, June 22, 2021 Submitted by Debbi Rasmussen

Please Access Full Report at this link:

https://www.lwvduluth.org/uploads/6/4/8/0/6480315/duluth_public_library_board.pdf

1. **Library Staffing** should be at pre-pandemic levels by fall.
2. **Library Access:** All facilities are now open to public including computer access at branches. Hours will increase as staff expands.
3. **Summer library programming** is in full swing including outdoor programming at branches. *See full report for details.*
4. **Every Child Ready Duluth** participated in the 4th Street Wellness Festival at the Damiano Center on June 15th. Details in full report.
5. **Library Facilities**
 - Main Library rearrangement and internet cabling project continue. *See full report for details.*
 - Art Installation at Mt Royal Library should be completed by end of June.
6. Some **American Rescue Act (ARA) dollars** received by City of Duluth may go to library but restrictions on how dollars can be spent need to be better understood.

Highlights from Natural Resources Commission Meeting May 5, 2021 Submitted by Barb Akre

Please Access Full Report at this link:

https://www.lwvduluth.org/uploads/6/4/8/0/6480315/natural_resources_commission.pdf

1. Two amendments to the **Hunting Deer by Bow** Ordinance were unanimously approved:
 - decreasing required setback from active structures from 400 to 250 ft.
 - expediting “hotspot” determination to better react to changes in deer patterns.
2. **Invasive species Control** work continues in many locations in City. *See full report for details.*
3. **Emerald Ash Borer control** remains a priority for City Forester. *See full report for details.* Efforts continue to finalize **acquisition of tax forfeit property**. A final set of parcels may be presented to Planning, Parks, and Natural Resources Commissions in mid to late summer.
4. Sustainability Coordinator Mindy Granley may talk with the NRC regarding her charge to develop a response to Duluth’s recently declared Climate Emergency. *See full report for details.*

Observer Core Reports (Continued from page 8)

Highlights from Natural Resources Commission Meeting June 2, 2021 Submitted by Barb Akre

Please Access Full Report at this link:

https://www.lwvduluth.org/uploads/6/4/8/0/6480315/natural_resources_commission.pdf

Presentation of Duluth's first **Natural Resource Management Program Plan (NRMPP)**.

The Project defines Management Units based on sub watersheds and neighborhoods. Lands include 12,000 acres to set aside based on natural resource values such as "sensitive lands, trout streams, wildlife, biodiversity, and climate-resiliency

Program Projects fall within four categories: Preservation, Repair, Nurturing, and Assessment.

See full report for details

Highlights from Natural Resources Commission Meeting July 7, 2021 Submitted by Barb Akre

Please Access Full Report at this link:

https://www.lwvduluth.org/uploads/6/4/8/0/6480315/natural_resources_commission.pdf

1. Focus of meeting was presentation and discussion of an **EPA Decision Support Tool**, to be used by Duluth and its partners for project prioritization and implementation of Duluth's **NRMPP**.
2. The **Strategic Public Lands Realignment Project** (protecting over 2500 acres of tax forfeit lands which have significant environmental, recreational, and/or storm water management value) was presented to City Council June 21st, and public meetings were held June 29th and 30th.
3. **Grant Application to Plant Trees for EAB** (Emerald Ash Borer infested) **Areas**. *See full report for details*
4. Natural Resource Coordinator Diane Desotelle will be part of a **City Sustainability Advisory Team**.

Highlights from Natural Resources Commission Meeting August 4, 2021 Submitted by Barb Akre

Please Access Full Report at this link:

https://www.lwvduluth.org/uploads/6/4/8/0/6480315/natural_resources_commission.pdf

1. Meeting focused on discussion of **Strategic Public Lands Realignment Project** *See July 7 links for details*
2. Director of Parks, Properties and Libraries, Jim Filby-Williams, requested that the Commission approve the total of 2500 acres of over 1000 tax-forfeit parcels. Discussion that commissioners were not give enough time to review proposal prior to request to approve and did not have questions answered.
3. Commission approved the first parcel list presented by city staff for the five project areas, and Director Williams listed seven specific points describing a closer, integral relationship between City staff and NRC for the selection of future parcels; all approved. In addition, Commissioners requested that they receive information about actions required for permanent protection of acquired parcels
See full report for details of discussion

Keep informed about LWV News and upcoming LWV Duluth events!



LWV Duluth
www.lwvduluth.org

LWVMN
www.lwvmn.org

LWVUS
www.lwv.org

LWV Duluth
E-News Emails



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