

**League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Zoom**  
**February 5, 2024**  
**5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

**SECRETARY MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Jane Hovland, Nancy Aldridge, Gwen Thorson, Ellen Wiss, Sandy Grandmaison, Jeri Quest, Sue Henke, Sue DeNio, Theresa O’Gara

**Members Absent:** Anita Gille, Kay Allen, Candy Winkler, Pam Kramer, Katherine Rasley, Lori Dando

**1. Call to Order & DEI Statement:** The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by President Jane Hovland. The DEI statement was read by Sandy Grandmaison.

**2. Citizens in Action summary:** Rosie Loeffler-Kemp, CIA Planning Committee Chair, addressed the Board, thanking them for their support of the 26th Annual Citizens in Action workshop, and encouraged the Board to provide feedback about the event. She also thanked the CIA planning committee (Stacey DeRoche, Ellen Wiss, Candy Winkler, Sarah Mikesell) and the kitchen crew volunteers. Finances for the event have been settled with LWV Duluth.

**3. Community Norms (LWVMN recommendation):** A **motion** was made (S. Henke) and **seconded** (J. Quest) to adopt the “LWV Community Norms,” applying them as we conduct business. **Motion passed.** Note: These norms will serve as a check for us as we interact in meetings.

**4. Consent Agenda (including Secretary’s Minutes, Treasurer’s Financial Statements, Reports of standing committees – DEI, Membership):** The Consent Agenda was approved by consensus.

**5. Committees without reports or information for Consent Agenda:**

- a. Environmental Action (EA): A successful program on “Putting Duluth on a Low (Road) Salt Diet” was held on January 17, 2024.
- b. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI): The committee has been studying the “Truth in Healing” bill, in the Senate. The committee is considering an educational/outreach presentation about Indian boarding schools, in April. It will be open to the public.
- c. Observer Corps: Sam Streukens, Civic Engagement Director for LWVMN will provide training via Zoom, February 8, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- d. Voter Services: S. DeNio reported 1) We are hoping to get permission to include the link to the recorded Symposium on Voting Rights, sponsored by *Fair Vote Minnesota* and a multitude of other voting rights agencies. 2) We will be a pilot program for LWVMN to allow our members who have been trained to be a trainer,

to conduct forum moderator training in Duluth. (Pass on the names of any people who would be good moderators to Mary Faulkner, Ellen Wiss or Pat Castellano.)  
3) Youth Civic Engagement Fellows hosted Secretary of State Steve Simon at East High School. Approximately 200 high school students hear him talking about voting rights for youth and their option to apply to be election judges. Afterward, he met with the Student Government reps and the students were very actively involved. 4) LWV Duluth received a \$600 grant from national LWV for registering youth that must be used this spring. Youth are working on plans.

## 6. Discussion/Action Items:

- a. **Conflict of Interest Policy:** Following brief discussion, it was determined that J. Hovland and P. Kramer will work on this policy. It will be readdressed at the March Board meeting.
- b. **Bylaws changes:** It was determined that there will be **no changes** in the bylaws for LWV Duluth, **except** for language regarding electronic meetings (as required by LWVMN). Note: This required change of language does not require total membership vote.
- c. **Proposal for a Finance Committee:** There was a brief discussion about our changing needs for fund raising and the upcoming changes in our dues structure. A **motion** was made (N. Aldridge) and **seconded** (S. Henke) that a Finance Committee be created. **Motion passed.** Note: The committee will include four members—president, treasurer, one Board member, one member from the general membership.
- d. **Proposed partnership with Duluth News Tribune:** J. Hovland has been in communication with the editor of the newspaper regarding the possibility of LWV Duluth submitting a monthly column and working together on voter forums. Following discussion, it was determined that we will move forward with this partnership. It was recommended that columns focus on “voting” (i.e. registration, security, etc.) and not on “issues.” Any cooperation on forums must follow the parameters that work for LWV.
- e. **Proposal for survey of membership re: program planning priorities:** J. Hovland proposed the creation of a survey of membership for program planning priorities. She provided Board members with a list of suggested issues and stated that LWVMN can help us with the creation of the survey. **E. Wiss made a motion** to defer to the LWVMN Program and present that Program to our membership at the Annual Meeting with an explanation of why we are doing so and how we will proceed in the future. There was no second. Discussion began, but ended, as time was limited.

**7. Other:** T. O’Gara reported that the Nominating Committee reviewed the recommendations of the Task Force on LWV Duluth Leadership Transition and determined that there should be no changes in terms of office for president and first vice president. (Therefore, no bylaws change is needed.) It was determined that the Past President will be asked if they are willing to continue on the Board as a director, but this third-year

commitment would be entirely up to the Past President. Regardless of their decision to continue on the Board, the Past President will be asked to be available as a consultant to the new president and vice president, when requested.

#### **8. Information:**

—**Announcement:** ERA Bus to St. Paul for Equal Rights Amendment Rally at State Capitol Rotunda, Monday, February 12, 10:00 a.m. Cost: \$30/person. Bus leaves Duluth at 6:45 a.m. (Perkins on 40th Ave. W.) and returns at 4:00 p.m.

—**Announcement:** LWVMN Council meeting, Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., via Zoom

—**Announcement:** “Give Minnesota” page for LWV Duluth.

—**Announcement:** S. Grandmaison requested that Board members bring treats to the Women of Influence event on February 15. J. Hovland will send an email reminder to Board members.

#### **Adjournment:**

A motion was made (S. Grandmaison) to adjourn.  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

#### **Next Meeting:**

Monday, March 4, 2024, 5:00-6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary