

League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
Sara's Table/Chester Creek Cafe Library area
August 7, 2023
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

SECRETARY MINUTES

Members Present: Jane Hovland, Nancy Aldridge, Gwen Thorson, Sandy Grandmaison, Sue DeNio, Ellen Wiss, Katherine Rasley, Jeri Quest, Pam Kramer, Theresa O'Gara
Members Absent: Lori Dando, Anita Gille

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by President Jane Hovland.

Handbook, Schedule of Meetings: President J. Hovland reminded Board members of the availability of the Board of Directors Handbook and schedule of meetings. Meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month, from 5:00-6:30 pm, at the Building for Women unless a holiday interferes. In the case of inclement weather, meetings will be held via Zoom.

Faulkner resignation: Vice President Mary Faulkner has resigned from the Board of Directors. She will continue to work on the Communications Committee to create the electronic newsletter ("The Voter") and on the Voter Services Committee to assist with candidate forums. The nominating committee will assist with finding a replacement, which the Board can approve.

Reports of Standing Committees: Written reports were submitted by the Environmental Action; Membership; Voter Services; and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees.

— **Voter Services** (E. Wiss): The committee received a smaller (\$500, not \$1000) Martin & Brown grant.

Consent Agenda: Following a brief discussion, Board members agreed that there is a need for use of a "consent agenda" (which would include minutes, financials, and committee reports) to assist with meeting efficiency. A motion was made (E. Wiss) and seconded (S. Grandmaison) to approve the consent agenda.

Unfinished Business:

— **Communications Committee:** There is a need for at least 2 more people on the committee to serve as backup for various tasks. The committee will be meeting on August 10, 2023 to review organization and needs for 2023-24. G. Thorson stated that a new "donate page is now available on the website. It was suggested that a "donate envelope" be available at future League events, when appropriate. G. Thorson and N. Aldridge will work on envelope design.

— **Voter Services:** There will be no in-person candidate forums this year due to concerns about security/presence of protesters. Concern about the fee for PACTV was expressed. A suggestion was made that J. Hovland send a “letter to the editor” giving information about access to our forum recordings.

— **Observer Corps:** Sue Henke continues to chair this committee. There is a need for more observers. There will be a push for volunteers at the Kickoff event.

— **Events/Fall Kickoff:** S. Grandmaison reported that the annual Fall Kickoff will be held on *Thursday, September 21, 6:30-8:00, at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Duluth*. Setup begins at 5:30. Board members are responsible for food (chocolate), wine, setup and cleanup. Program will include “elevator” speeches from committee chairs and a brief presentation about the Joyce Benson Scholarship. (The previous suggested program about plans to co-locate the Duluth Public Library and Workforce Center and state of the main library was deferred to a time after the general election, to avoid any perception of bias.)

New Business:

None.

Announcements and other business:

— **Announcement:** S. Grandmaison reported that the *Women of Influence* event will be held in February 2024 (likely February 13 or 15), in-person at AICHO (American Indian Community Housing Organization). Speaker will be LeAnn Littlewolf, co-executive director of AICHO.

— **Announcement:** Citizens in Action Workshop will be January 27, 2024.

— **Announcement:** LWVMN August Academy will be held August 18-24, 2023.

— **“The Voter” deadline:** the 15th of month preceding the month of issue

— **Announcement:** The Communications Committee will be deciding on details for ordering LWV bibs to be used by members when representing LWV Duluth in the community (e.g. voter registration, parades, etc.)

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Monday, September 11, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Building for Women

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary

ADDENDUM (Business occurring after the regular meeting on April 6, 2023—Voting completed electronically):

August 16, 2023—The Board approved, by majority, to notify our members about a presentation on the ERA, by Betty Folliard, a tireless supporter of ERA passage and former MN State Legislator. The presentation will be September 17, at the Unitarian

Universalist Congregation. Betty had asked if LWV Duluth would be invited to attend. This would involve sending an e-news invitation to all members soon. Both LWV US and LWV MN have passage of the ERA on their agendas.