

**League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting**

**“Zoom” meeting**

**March 2, 2023**

**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**SECRETARY MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Jane Hovland, Anita Gille, Nancy Aldridge, Sandy Grandmaison, Jeri Quest, Sarah Mikesell, Lori Dando, Katherine Rasely, Candy Winkler, Mary Faulkner, Sue DeNio

**Members Absent:** Ellen Wiss, Gwen Thorson

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by President M. Faulkner

**Diversity Statement:** The LWV Duluth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement was read by A. Gille

**Consent Agenda—Approval of the Minutes and Financials:**

A **motion** was made J. Quest and **seconded** C. Winkler to approve the minutes and financials, as provided. **Motion passed unanimously.** The minutes from the February 2, 2023 Board meeting will be filed.

**Unfinished Business:**

**B. Annual Meeting Update/Women of Influence Update/Equali-Tea Updates:** S. Grandmaison reported that the *Annual Meeting* will be held on May 4, 6:00-7:30 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth. Guest speaker will be Janet Kennedy, Duluth City Council President. There will be no fee. Board members will provide “sweet treats” and coffee, tea and water will be provided. RSVP will be required (to insure quorum). Mary will create an RSVP to collect attendees.

S. Grandmaison reminded members of the *Women of Influence* webinar event on March 28, 7:00-8:00 pm. The speaker will be Eileen Reavey, who will speak about the “National Popular Vote.” Board members were encouraged to participate on the recent Action Alert on this topic. Also, Equali-Tea is Saturday April 1 and a flier was sent to all members and board will call members reminding them to register by March 24.

**C. 2023 Former and Currently Incarcerated Persons Voter Registration Grant Update:** E. Wiss reached out to SOS to see what kind of guidance they will be providing on how to proceed with registration. The law does not go into effect until July.

**D. “Gifts in Honor of/in Memory of” Recognition Update:** J. Hovland suggested discussion of gift donations at Annual Meeting and that “in memory of” recognition be an on-going part of “The Voter”. C. Winkler suggested placing names in the Annual Meeting

slide show. N. Palmer to be consulted about what data can be collected in PayPal regarding gifts.

***E. Communications Committee Update:*** M. Faulkner shared that an ad hoc committee has been formed consisting of G. Thorson, J. Seidelmann - who will manage website, A. Gille and M. Faulkner who will manage “The Voter” e-news and updates throughout the month and member roster.

***F. Land Acknowledgement Statement - Next Steps - Update:*** M. Faulkner reports this fell to the back burner, but plan is to ask committee chairs how they address land acknowledgement and will check with E. Wiss who has offered to help with language and aspects of use to make it meaningful.

#### **New Business:**

***A. Budget Committee & Fundraising:*** N. Aldridge reviewed the budget and budget audit process as outlined in LWV Duluth bylaws. A **motion** made by S. Denio to approve the budget and **seconded** by J. Quest. **Motion passed unanimously.** Budget will be published in “Voter” in April.

Fundraisers were discussed. M. Faulkner shared that survey about LWV T-shirt sales indicated there was not enough interest to pursue as a fundraiser. S. DeNio shared the idea of buying LWV vests instead of T-shirts that go over shirts/jackets that could be used as marketing vs. fundraising and worn at various events. S. Grandmason shared that there is consideration being given to conduct a silent auction at the holiday social.

***B. Anti-Nuclear Proliferation Resolution & International Women’s Day Event March 8 at noon, City Hall:*** M. Faulkner shared that LWV Duluth was approached by Grandmas for Peace to be a co-host of this event and for M. Faulkner to speak at the event. Various board members commented that we should be involved and that some of our members are already involved. A **motion** made by J. Hovland to co-host event, and **seconded** by N. Aldrige. **Motion passed unanimously.**

***C. Joyce Benson Memorial Scholarship:*** N. Aldridge provided background about Joyce Benson and her integral role in LWV and the community. She explained there is \$1500 donated in her honor. Discussion by members ensued regarding scholarship structure. A **motion** was made by J. Quest and **seconded** by K. Rasely to form a Joyce Benson scholarship committee. **Motion passed unanimously.** N. Aldridge will convene a meeting. K. Rasely and J. Hovland agreed to be on the committee. S. Grandmason will make an announcement at the Annual Meeting. J. Hovland suggested a box for donations be placed at the annual meeting. M. Falkner will place an announcement in the April “The Voter”.

***D. Nominating Committee:*** C. Winkler, Nominations Chair, announced that the committee will have their first meet next week and asked board members to forward potential board candidates to her. Slate to be published in the March newsletter.

***E. Fall Kick-Off Planning:*** M. Faulkner opened discussion about Fall Kick-Off. Open discussion ensued about whether Kick-Off was a board event or event committee event? Open discussion about Kick-Off ensued about venues and timing. J. Hovland suggested a summer picnic to start the year earlier than September.

S. DeNio shared that voters services registers voters every Saturday from August 27-October 18 and asks that Kickoff be planned to allow voter registration volunteers to attend. It was mentioned that we should be using the Building for Women since we are paying for the space and in support of their mission. S. Grandmason will not be in town at that time to provide event committee support. Discussion ensued that the board must plan the Kick-off event. M. Faulkner explained that she has a planning document from last year including venue locations and capacity. A. Gille noted that a Kick-off date should be chosen before the Annual Meeting so that an announcement can be made to Annual Meeting attendees and new members who join over the summer.

***E. LWVMN Convention - June 2-3, 2023 in New Ulm:*** M. Faulkner and J. Hovelnd shared that they will be attending and suggested others consider doing so as they are able. J. Hoveland shared that convention business/voting will be in person (not on zoom or in absentia) and that LWV Duluth has 13 delegate slots. Questions from board members ensued about how to be a delegate. Information will be shared in the April “Voter”. Convention information can be accessed at <https://www.lwvmn.org/convention-2023>

**For the Good of the Order (Announcements, Questions, Concerns):**

S. Denio reports that co-chair of voter registration is Meghan Hornby.

J. Hovland shared LWV MN gun study Consensus Reports have been submitted to the LWV MN from the local leagues. More information will be provided at the LWV MN Convention.

**Adjournment:**

A **motion** was made J. Quest and **seconded** J. Hovland to adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at

**Next Meeting:**

Board Meeting, Thursday, April 6, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Anita Gille, On Behalf of LWV Duluth Secretary

**ADDENDUM** (Business occurring after the regular meeting on March 2, 2023—Voting completed electronically):

**3/5/23**—The Board approved, by majority the following composition of the 2023 Nominating Committee:

1. Sally Munger, off-board member
2. Theresa O’Gara, off-board member

3. Gay Trachsel, off-board member
4. Susie Darley Hill, off-board member
5. Nancy Aldridge, on-board member
6. Anita Gille, on-board member

**3/29/23**—The Board approved, by majority: Sponsorship to financially support the third printing of the St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trail Map