

League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
“Zoom” meeting
November 18, 2021
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SECRETARY MINUTES

Members Present: Meg Litts, Mary Faulkner, Gwen Thorson, Nancy Aldridge, Julie Seidelmann, Ellen Wiss, Gay Trachsel, Jane Hovland, Anita Gille, Gail Nouska, Sue DeNio

Members Absent: Sandy Grandmaison, Theresa O’Gara

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by President Meg Litts.

Diversity Statement: The LWV Duluth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement was read by Meg Litts.

Consent Agenda—Approval of the Minutes and Financials:

A **motion** was made (A. Gille) and **seconded** (G. Trachsel) to approve the minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.** The minutes from the October 6, 2021 Board meeting will be filed. A **motion** was made (G. Trachsel) and **seconded** (A. Gille) to approve the financial report. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Reports:

- **Written reports from the Communications, Events, Membership, and Natural Resources were made available for review.**
- **Budget** (N. Aldridge)
 - Funds are adequate, now, for LWV business. We need to be aware that if we do not have fundraisers we will be challenged. If we are unable to have in-person fundraisers, for awhile, it was suggested that we consider doing them online and that we investigate an endowment effort.
- **Communications Committee** (J. Seidelmann)
 - See written report.
 - There will be no December “Voter.” “Voter” deadline for the January issue is December 15.
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee** (J. Seidelmann)
 - This is the new name for the committee formerly known as the “Cross Cultural Committee.”
 - Recording of “Raising Awareness and Visibility of Asian Americans” event, held November 13, 2021, is now available online. (See LWV Duluth website.)
- **Events** (Mary Faulkner for S. Grandmaison)
 - See written report.
 - Committee wants board input re: an in person or virtual Annual Meeting.
 - Committee welcomes suggestions for a speaker(s) for the virtual “Women of Influence” event, which will be held in March—hopefully.
- **Membership** (A. Gille)
 - We have 2 new “lifetime” members: Judy Bailey and Marree Seitz.
 - We now have 224 members (9 new members in October 2021).
 - 59 members are due for membership renewal.
- **Natural Resources** (G. Trachsel)
 - See written report for details.
 - It was suggested that members go to the “Equilibrium 3” website for ideas.
 - J.T. Haines will speak, via Zoom, on December 2, about the status of copper-nickel-sulfide mining.
 - Committee is monitoring implementation of the Bag-It ordinance which took effect on October 15.
 - Committee may consider a reusable bag give-away in the future.
- **Observer Corps** (G. Trachsel)
 - A **motion** was made (G. Trachsel) and **seconded** (G. Nouska) that LWV Duluth print “Observer Corps” reports in their entirety in the “Voter” newsletter, in the edition following their receipt. Any additional mailing costs will be absorbed by LWV Duluth, recognizing the importance of education of

the membership on issues facing local governmental bodies, and in appreciation of the efforts of Observer Corps volunteers. Discussion followed re: unknown amount of postage increase, varying length of reports from month-to-month, potential for development of a report “template.” **Motion was tabled. J. Seidelmann will consult with Sue Henke, Observer Corps chairperson.**

- **Voter Services** (S. DeNio)

- The “youth civic engagement” intern has begun, a senior at East High School. Grant funds are used to reimburse \$250 for expenses and a \$250/year stipend for the intern.

- **Redistricting** (E. Wiss)

- A **motion** was made (G. Trachsel) and **seconded** (A. Gille) to send letters immediately, to City of Duluth and to St. Louis County staff to learn more about how these entities will implement the redistricting process and their plans to facilitate transparency and community input. **Motion passed unanimously.**

New Business:

- **Land Acknowledgement**

- A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (S. DeNio) to task the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee with drafting a land acknowledgement statement, which will receive final approval from the LWV Duluth Board of Directors. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Zoom Training**

- We need more people to help, to function as hosts, co-hosts. It was suggested that there be 3 people per committee. A **motion** was made (S. DeNio) and **seconded** (J. Hovland) that each committee provide—to the communications committee—names of 3 people, who will attend Zoom training to learn how to host and co-host their committee meetings. **Motion passed.**

Announcements:

Discussion of the possible creation of a “program and advocacy committee” should be held at the next Board meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary