

League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
“Zoom” meeting
February 2, 2023
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SECRETARY MINUTES

Members Present: Mary Faulkner, Jane Hovland, Anita Gille, Gwen Thorson, Nancy Aldridge, Sandy Grandmaison, Sue DeNio, Ellen Wiss, Jeri Quest, Katherine Rasley, Candy Winkler, Sarah Mikesell, Lori Dando

Members Absent: Mary Faulkner, Sue DeNio, Katherine Rasley, Candy Winkler

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Vice-President Jane Hovland.

Diversity Statement: Members offered personal reflections about the statement. Then, the LWV Duluth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement was read by Sarah Mikesell.

Consent Agenda—Approval of the Minutes and Financials:

A **motion** was made (E. Wiss) and **seconded** (S. Grandmaison) to approve the minutes and financials, as provided. **Motion passed unanimously.** The minutes from the January 5, 2023 Board meeting will be filed.

Unfinished Business:

A. Report from Citizens in Action: Rosie Loeffler-Kemp thanked the Board for their support/help, especially Sarah Mikesell and Ellen Wiss. She reported that there were 6 people on the planning committee, 7 businesses and organizations that donated, 20 organizations that co-sponsored, and 17 elected officials that participated at the event. She also reported that many positive comments were received from participants and that co-sponsors appreciated connecting with other organizations.

B. Annual Meeting Update/Women of Influence Update: 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 required (to insure quorum).

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 speak about the “National Popular Vote.” Board members were encouraged to participate on the recent Action Alert on this topic.

C. 2023 Former and Currently Incarcerated Persons Voter Registration Grant:

E. Wiss reported that LWV Duluth has received a \$500 grant from LWVUS. President

Mary Faulkner has signed the contract and we will receive approximately 3/4 of the amount initially. E. Wiss has attended a LWVUS training. We are still developing plans and hope to work with other organizations in the community.

D. "Gifts in Honor of/in Memory of" Recognition Update: G. Thorson reported that she and Julie Seidelmann are working on this issue. A new and separate webpage for "Donations" is being considered.

E. Land Acknowledgement Statement-Next Steps: Not discussed; will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

New Business:

A. Budget Committee: General discussion of the budget committee, its composition, and its deadlines was held. Note: The budget will be approved by the total membership at the Annual Meeting.

B. Response to the murder of Tyre Nichols: Discussion was held on this topic. Individual responses and a letter to the editor were suggested.

C. Calls to Members for Upcoming Events by Board Members: Board members were reminded, especially, about the upcoming events of which we are not co-sponsors. Board members were encouraged to attend (e.g. "The Life, The Work, The Fight: Black Duluth in History" on February 3; "Fannie Lou Hamer: Stand Up" on February 25.)

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

A. Treasurer: N. Aldridge proposed that the Board approve the purchase of a tent for use at voter registration events (and the plant and book sale), as recommended by S. DeNio. Board approved this action unanimously.

B. Environmental Action Committee: J. Quest announced 3 opportunities to take action on issues important to the EAC: 1) Solar Panels on Schools: Tell school board members you support their application. 2) Local/District 3 Support needed for the 100% Clean Action Bill. 3) Boundary Waters Protection: Urge your Congress member to support Boundary Waters Permanent Protection Bill.

C. Announcement: J. Hovland reminded members of the LWVMN "Firearms in MN" Consensus meeting, February 9, 6:00-8:00 pm, via Zoom.

D. Announcement: G. Thorson reminded members of the need to review the LWV by-laws next year and suggested that volunteers be selected this spring

Adjournment:

A motion was made (J. Quest) and seconded (S. Grandmaison) to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Board Meeting, Thursday, March 2, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary

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

February 8, 2023—The Board approved, by majority: Signing on to a letter to the Duluth City Council requesting their approval of a resolution in support of our country joining the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.