

League of Women Voters Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
Building for Women
March 5, 2020
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SECRETARY MINUTES

Present: Gwen Thorson, Nancy Aldridge, Nancy Palmer, Sandy Grandmaison, Linda Vukson, Theresa O’Gara, Karin Haidos, Mary Faulkner, Jane Hovland

Absent: Candy Winkler, Christina Woods, Julie Seidelmann, Sue DeNio, Ellen Wiss, Laura Birnbaum, Jodi Broadwell, Barbara Johnson, Gail Nouska

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Theresa O’Gara, who declared a quorum present.

Diversity Statement: Read by Nancy Aldridge

Consent Agenda—Minutes and Financial:

A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (S. Grandmaison) to approve the consent agenda. **Motion passed.** The minutes from the February 6, 2020 board meeting and the financial report will be filed.

Committee Chair Reports:

- **Budget**—Nancy Palmer and Nancy Aldridge
N. Palmer reminded board members to submit any expenses to Nancy Aldridge by 3/31/20. The Budget Committee will meet March 10. Board members may submit budget suggestions to N. Palmer or N. Aldridge, or attend the budget meeting to offer ideas at that time.
Budget proposal for the next year will appear in the April “Voter.”
- **Communications**—Julie Seidelmann and Gwen Thorson
“Voter” deadline was announced: March 15
LWV Duluth has promoted several events via E-News: Voter Services, voting, Women of Influence, gun safety legislation talk, Equali-TEA, LWVMN action alert
Board minutes now appear on the LWV Duluth website.
- **Cross Cultural**—Janet Kennedy and Gail Schoenfelder
N. Aldridge reported that the next committee meeting will be March 21, 2020 at 10:00. Sharon Witherspoon will talk about the Family Freedom School (rescheduled from February). Committee is preparing a “book basket” for the annual meeting auction.
Announcement: Anthony Ray Hinton will speak at the College of St. Scholastica (Mitchell Auditorium), March 26, 2020. He is the author of “The Sun Does Shine.”
- **Events**—Sandy Grandmaison
 - 1) Women of Influence: February 13, 2020. The event was a success.
 - 2) Annual Meeting: May 7, 2020 at Northland Country Club. Terresa Moses will be the speaker. Invitations (postcards) will be sent. *Note:* Lieutenant Governor was unavailable but she is interested in speaking to LWV Duluth—in June. This will be considered.
 - 3) Equali-TEA: Gail Nouska and Jean Farmakes are chairpersons. The date is March 28, 2020. There are 2 seatings. Tickets are \$30. Readers Theater will provide the program, related to the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment—and should be appropriate for children. The tea is an important fundraiser for LWV Duluth. Board members encouraged to attend and bring guests.
- **Membership**—Theresa O’Gara and Barb Johnson

T. O’Gara reported that there will be a “Meet & Greet” on March 11, 2020, 5:00-6:15 pm.

- **Natural Resources**—Sally Munger and Gay Trachsel

J. Hovland reported for the committee:

The “Bag It” campaign was successful. There will be a 5-cent fee for single-use plastic bags, beginning April 1, 2020.

Mindy Granley is Duluth’s first, full-time sustainability officer; appointed in January 2020.

Poly-Met, Twin Metals permitting: an administrative hearing has been ordered; still contentious; LWV-MN sponsored legal action

- **Nominating**—Maria Isley

The committee will meet on March 11, 2020.

Observer Corps—Mary Jane Peterson

No report.

- **Voter Services**—Ellen Wiss and Mary Faulkner

M. Faulkner reported that there will be an organizational meeting on March 16, 2020 regarding the 2020 election season, redistricting, and the census. Committee hopes to get a sense of commitment from members in the summer and to determine how we can provide education about the census.

- **Health Care**—Jane Hovland and Gail Nouska

J. Hovland reported that she has had no response, to date, from members when they were asked to become involved in this committee. There will be a sign-up sheet available at the Meet & Greet on March 11.

Announcement: The National Rural Health Resource Center is located in Duluth, in the Fitger’s complex. Terry Hill is the Senior Advisor for Rural Health Leadership & Policy; Sally Buck is the Chief Executive Officer. Committee may consider planning an event, in the future, which would include these resources.

New Business:

- LWV Duluth By-Laws: A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (S. Grandmaison) to publish the by-laws on the website. **Motion passed.**
- S. Grandmaison referred “voter suppression” concerns to the Voter Services Committee for further examination. She will ask our 2 co-presidents to contact LWVMN to find out the state’s position and what action may be taken.

Announcement:

April 3: New Citizen Naturalization Ceremony, 1:00 pm, Federal Courthouse, Duluth

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary