

League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom
April 1, 2024
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SECRETARY MINUTES

Members Present: Jane Hovland, Anita Gille, Nancy Aldridge, Gwen Thorson, Ellen Wiss, Sandy Grandmaison, Jeri Quest, Sue Henke, Sue DeNio, Theresa O’Gara, Candy Winkler, Katherine Rasley

Members Absent: Kay Allen (excused), Lori Dando, Pam Kramer

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by President Jane Hovland.

2. DEI Statement: The DEI statement was read by Sandy Grandmaison.

3. Consent Agenda (including Secretary’s Minutes, Treasurer’s Financial Statements, Reports of standing committees – DEI, Membership, Environmental Action): A **motion** was made (S. Henke) and **seconded** (S. Grandmaison) to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda was **approved** unanimously.

4. Budget proposal for 2024-2025 (N. Aldridge): An increase in Voter Services expenses is expected, so it was proposed that \$500 be moved from checking to allow an increased budget amount of \$2000 for Voter Services. A **motion** was made (E. Wiss) and **seconded** (J. Quest) to approve the budget as amended. **Motion passed.**

5. Grant Proposal (S. DeNio): S.DeNio reported that LWVMN will fund 3 “Youth Civic Engagement Fellows” for 2024-25. There will be efforts to fund a 4th position, allowing for 2 students at each Duluth high school. It was suggested that a line should be added in the financial report. A **motion** was made (N. Aldridge) and **seconded** (S. Grandmaison) that LWV Duluth fund a 4th fellow in 2024-25. **Motion passed.** It was also suggested that all members be informed of special areas of need for possible donation, especially because we no longer have as many fundraisers as in the past.

6. Program Planning (J. Hovland, E. Wiss): A **motion** was made (J. Quest) and **seconded** (S. Henke) to support the program planning proposal. **Motion passed.** ***NOTE:** Final approval will be requested from the general membership, at the Annual Meeting. *Program Planning Proposal includes:* 1) study area related to safe and affordable housing for low-income families in Duluth, 2) advocacy proposals for a) educating city and state about harmful “additives” to municipal, surface and ground water, b) continuing to promote solutions that will slow the impacts of climate change, c) continuing advocacy for passage of a Minnesota Constitutional Amendment for ERA, d) continuing to defend democracy.

7. Nominations Committee (T. O’Gara): T. O’Gara reported that the proposed slate is nearly complete and should be finalized by April 2. The complete slate will appear in the April “Voter” newsletter and/or be sent via E-News to the membership.

8. Annual Meeting (S. Grandmaison): The Annual Meeting will be held on May 2, 2024, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth. Setup will begin at 4:30. Board members should bring a heavy hors d’oeuvre. The committee will supply wine. Following the business meeting, there will be a brief presentation by the Youth Civic Engagement Fellows.

9. Plant & Book Sale (J. Hovland, T. O’Gara): This is a Board event. The sale will be held on June 8 at the Mt. Royal Market parking lot, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Setup begins at 8:00 a.m. The current concern is having an adequate supply of books and plants. Board members are encouraged to volunteer.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nonpartisan Statement, Updated: A motion was made (J. Quest) and **seconded** (E. Wiss) that discussion of “section 2” of the nonpartisan policy be reopened. **Motion passed.** Anita Gille, Candy Winkler and Gwen Thorson agreed to reexamine this portion of the policy and make suggestions for further clarification. It was suggested that Sarah Mikesell also be asked to be a member of this small group.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Nominating delegates for LWVMN Council, April 27, 2024: The Council meeting will be held 8:00 a.m.-noon, via Zoom. T. O’Gara, J. Hovland, N. Aldridge, G. Thorson and S. Grandmaison agreed to attend. (*NOTE: LWV Duluth has 13 delegates.)

2. Request that CIA be reviewed financially as well as for diversity, equity, and inclusion: Discussion was held. It was noted by Board members, who are also CIA planning committee members, that 2024 was an “outlier year” for the event. It was suggested that new members be added to the CIA committee.

3. Planning for the Fall Kickoff event: Planning will begin this summer.

Announcements:

1. Nonprofits at Noon: Wednesday, May 1 at noon, at Lyric Conference Center. Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and Minnesota Council of Nonprofits invites nonprofits to connect with other nonprofit colleagues.

2. Media Day in Duluth: Wednesday, April 10, at Zeitgeist; 5-7 p.m. is a Duluth Media Mixer and 7 p.m. “Covering Politics in Greater Minnesota: A Public Forum”

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. (**Next meeting:** May 2024 at a date and time to be determined)

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary

