

**League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting**  
**“Zoom” meeting**  
**August 11, 2021**  
**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

## **SECRETARY MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Meg Litts, Mary Faulkner,, Gwen Thorson, Nancy Aldridge, Sandy Grandmaison, Theresa O’Gara, Julie Seidelmann, Ellen Wiss, Gay Trachsel, Jane Hovland

**Members Absent:** Sue DeNio, Anita Gille, Gail Nouska

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by President Meg Litts.

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

A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (T. O’Gara) to approve the consent agenda. **Motion passed unanimously.** The reports from the April 1, 2021 Board meeting and May 6, 2021 Annual meeting will be filed. A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (G. Trachsel) that delegates to the 2021 State LWV Convention be asked via email whether they would like reimbursement for the \$25 fee requested of delegates. Discussion followed. **Motion passed 9:1.**

### **Committee Reports:**

- ***Written reports from the Communication, Membership, Voter Services, and Cross Cultural Committees were made available for review.***
- ***Membership*** (G. Trachsel)
  - Annual Kickoff, September 22:*** The committee wants the Board to give direction regarding the event. Suggestions included: introduction of Board members, information from committee chairs, information about voting rights and climate, encourage members to invite guests interested in League membership. A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (T. O’Gara) that the membership (i.e. Kickoff) event be “virtual,” given the current status of COVID. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- ***OTHER***
  - A **motion** was made (E. Wiss) and **seconded** (G. Thorson) that LWV Duluth will suspend all in-person, indoor events until further notice. We will revisit the issue, as needed, following CDC guide lines. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- ***Voter Services*** (T. O’Gara)
  - The committee is working on a “voting rights” program for fall 2021.

### **Old Business:**

- None.

### **New Business:**

- ***Board meeting day and time for 2021-22:*** There was brief discussion and it was decided that a “Doodle” poll will be used to find possible times. It was also suggested that the poll be used to find possible times for a Board “retreat.”
- ***LWV Duluth Program/Goals:*** General discussion was held. It was suggested that this topic could be covered in greater depth at a Board retreat.
- ***Programming***
  - The Cross Cultural Committee has selected a speaker who will address CRT at their October meeting. The event would be an educational presentation for committee members and other interested League members and not open to the public. The Board recommended that Nick Harper (LWVMN) be consulted because of the “sensitive” nature of the topic.
  - The Voter Services Committee is considering a presentation on “voting rights” that would include two panelists, Jennifer Schultz and Emma Greenman. T. O’Gara will consult with Nick Harper (LWVMN) to insure that the program will be perceived as nonpartisan.

—Redistricting and Voter Impact (E. Wiss): We are working with LWVMN to inform our members, community, and faith-based partners about the importance of their participation in drawing fair and accurate redistricting maps. They will be invited to attend a virtual training during the 3rd week of September (Date to be determined). The training will focus on understanding how redistricting determines allocation of resources and why community voices are essential to drawing those maps. Training will also demonstrate the use of census data and mapping software.

**Announcements:**

—None.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary

**ADDENDA** (Business occurring after the regular meeting on August 11, 2021. Voting completed electronically):

**August 19, 2021 – Request from International Relations Committee:** A **motion** was made (T. O’Gara) and **seconded** (G. Thorson) that LWV Duluth co-sponsor the 2021-22 Alworth Lecture Series. **Motion passed.** Discussion: The lecture series would fit into the policies of LWV. We are NOT being asked to contribute financially. We are asked to advertise these lectures to our members.

The series this year will include lectures such as:

**"Russia Against the West (and With the Rest),"** presented by Angela Stent, Director of the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies and Professor of Government and Foreign Service at the Brookings Institution and co-chair of its Hewett Forum on Post-Soviet Affairs.

**"21st Century Dispatches from Latin America,"** presented by Timothy Lorek and Andra Chastain. Lorek teaches courses on Latin American history and politics, world history, and environmental studies at CSS. Chastain's research and teaching interests include transnational history of aid and development, urban and environmental history, and the history of science and technology.

**"How the European Union Rules the World,"** presented by Anu Bradford, a leading scholar on the EU’s regulatory power and a sought-after commentator on the European Union and Brexit.

**"Rivalry Between Saudi Arabia and Iran,"** presented by Kim Ghattas, who spent 20 years as a journalist for the BBC, and 6 years traveling with U.S. Secretaries of State Condoleezza Rice, Hillary Clinton and John Kerry. Ghattas is currently a non-resident senior scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.