

League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
“Zoom” meeting
August 6, 2020
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SECRETARY MINUTES

Present: Candy Winkler, Sandy Grandmaison, Gwen Thorson, Nancy Aldridge, Theresa O’-Gara, Barbara Johnson, Karin Haidos, Mary Faulkner, Jane Hovland, Julie Seidelmann, Gail Nouska, Sue DeNio, Ellen Wiss, Gay Trachsel

Absent: Pat Castellano has resigned from the Board.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Co-President Candy Winkler.

Diversity Statement: The LWV Duluth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement was read by Co-President Sandy Grandmaison.

Consent Agenda—Approval of the Minutes and Financials:

A **motion** was made (G. Trachsel) and **seconded** (E. Wiss) to approve the consent agenda, including a correction to the minutes. **Motion passed.** The reports from the July 9, 2020 board meeting will be filed. It was noted that our check will be returned from the Chester Bowl Fall Fest due to event cancellation AND that \$1000 has been received from Equilibrium.

Committee Reports:

• ***See attached reports from the Communication, Membership, Natural Resources, and Voter Services Committees for more information. There is no Health Committee report at this time. Additional comments follow:***

• ***Cross Cultural*** (S. Grandmaison)

- There will be no committee meeting in August 2020.
- Committee will meet with SURJ.
- Members are studying the following books: “How to Be an Antiracist,” by Ibram X. Kendi and “My Grandmother’s Hands,” by Resmaa Menakem.

• ***Membership*** (T. O’Gara)

— A virtual (Zoom) Fall Kick-Off is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2020. The kick-off will include:

- (1) A welcome and overview of the 2020-21 LWV year by the co-presidents
- (2) a 10 to 15 minutes presentation, “The Impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 Elections”, delivered by Chelsea Helmer, Duluth City Clerk and former LWV President of Duluth
- (3) presentations by committee chairs highlighting the work they plan for 2020-21
- (4) a Census Update
- (5) a Membership Renewal Promotion and
- (6) possibly a social period where attendees are randomly divided into small groups for conversations.

— Board members are encouraged to submit questions they want answered regarding the 2020 election and the impacts of COVID-19 to Sally Munger prior to August 27th.

—A list of new LWV Duluth members will be sent to all Board members in the next week. The membership committee is asking board members to choose a mentee from the list. Reply all when you choose a mentee so they will not be chosen twice.

—A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (G. Trachsel) that the Membership Committee and Cross Cultural Committee work together, as soon as feasible, in a deliberate/concerted way to recruit people of color and/or limited income. **Motion passed.**

• **Voter Services** (E. Wiss and M. Faulkner)

—M. Faulkner stated that the pre-primary forums are now available on our website. General election forums will be scheduled after the primary election.

—E. Wiss reported the following:

- (1) 150 “Vote from Home” signs are coming; also: posters, pens and hand sanitizer
- (2) Secretary of State is printing “fact sheets” (which saves money for our League)
- (3) Secretary of State is conducting “weekly updates;” anyone can join the discussion
- (4) We can access a list of all registered voters in the 8th District from the Secretary of State for \$30.
- (5) We want to make up voter registration packets for organizations (e.g. CHUM, Damiano, etc.
- (6) Masks: too expensive
- (7) Ellen will submit questions for candidates to “411.”
- (8) Will be printing envelopes and will consider ordering “VOTE” magnets
- (9) Need volunteers
- (10) Census: 78% filled out; still needs help with phone banking

Land Acknowledgement Statement:

—Gay Trachsel has brought a Land Acknowledgement Statement to the Board for our review. It was proposed that the LWV hold a board retreat following the general election. Discussion was tabled with a commitment to hold a retreat on diversity and creation of a Land Acknowledgement Statement in January, date to be determined.

Announcements:

—The proposed By-Laws and Policies revisions are almost done. They will be distributed to board members for review—and prior to board training.

—The “Voter” deadline is August 15.

—Terresa Moses has agreed to speak at the 2021 annual meeting. It was agreed that LWV Duluth will pay for her gas expenses.

—Reminder: Still open to suggestions for a speaker(s) for the 2021 Women of Influence event.

Adjournment:

A **motion** was made (S. Grandmaison) and **seconded** (J. Hovland) to adjourn.

Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DULUTH
COMMITTEE REPORTS – AUGUST 2020**

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

**July 2020 Communications Committee Report
for August 6 Board Meeting**

LWV Duluth Zoom account was set up.

LWV Duluth email account was checked regularly, and emails were forwarded to the appropriate people.

E-News emails were sent out in July:

Women's Suffrage Documentary & Discussion - July 6 & 7

Voter Service Committee Zoom Meeting - July 15

LWV Duluth's "Letter to the Editor"

July 15 Voter Services Zoom Meeting Invitation

Action Alert: Pass a Clean Environment Trust Fund Bill

Pre-Primary Candidate Forums – Recordings

LWV Duluth website and calendar updated

2020 Voting Information banner was placed on the homepage

2020 Voting Information including VOTE411 and VOTE FROM HOME was posted on the website.

Zoom meetings were put on the website calendar

Candidate Forum recording and Forum Information were posted on the website.

Facebook and Twitter

Information about voting, forums, and posted videos was made available on Facebook and Twitter.

LWV Voter Newsletter

There was no August newsletter.

The deadline for the September newsletter is August 15.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership Committee Report
August 6, 2020

September is Membership Renewal Month. The following methods will be used to encourage members to renew

- Notices in the Voter
- Notices via E-News
- Social Media (Facebook/Twitter) Notices
- Personal Contacts
- Membership Drive at the virtual Kick-Off
- Goal: have 200 members by December 31st, which is when the PMP is paid to MN and U.S.

Kick-Off (Zoom-Stay at Home Version)

- Goals of the kick-off include: socializing, having fun, getting 80 members/potential members to attend, introducing new members to committees, engaging all members to participate in 2020-21 events
- **Kick-Off details will be revealed at the Board Meeting**
- Please talk it up with your friends and invite potential members to attend

New Members

- The Meet and Greet format is being revamped
- During Covid-19, new members will receive their orientation individually or in small groups
- Board members will again be asked to mentor new members

State Data Base: The State is encouraging local units to participate in their new data base. So far only Minneapolis is doing so. The key people involved in keeping statistics for Duluth, like their own systems, and will not be making the transition at this time

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Natural Resources: MEP conference calls

Legislative Session II-nothing happened in regard to the Env.Omnibus bill-SF 4499 Ingebrigsten Or the Environmental Trust Fund appropriations

Still watching the Cloquet River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy—no information provided on Mercury levels-Tribes are interested in this As well

North shore Mining bringing up Milepost 7 again (taconite) to expand using 1977 EIS

Law suits still in action against Polymet-preparing for Supreme Court
Probably read in the paper the Maui case does apply to MN=victory

Twin Metals has suit filed against them -we are not a part but support the organizations that filed.

Kennecott making noise with its leases near Aiken, Mn—keep letting folks know

A letter is being drafted as to the malfeasance of DNR,MPCA and Dept of AG-questions need to be asked of our candidates.

We discussed the Mn Environmental Policy Act (Minn Statues 116D MEPA 2017 version.

Question whether our government is heeding to principles responsibilities and duties outlined in this legislation—we need to hold them accountable

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Discussion Items for LWV Board Meeting 8-6-20

- 1) Items from LWVMN - New banner, Vote From Home yard signs and posters, pens, hand sanitizer
- 2) SOS will be printing Factsheets - What to order, how to distribute?
- 3) SOS Weekly Updates
- 4) Safely distributing absentee ballot applications and voter registration forms.
- 5) Masks - Do we need them? How to pay for them?
- 6) Absentee ballot applications for unregistered voters in under-served communities.
- 7) 411 Candidate Questions to be submitted by August 10
- 8) Webinars for Communications - How are we getting the word out for our events or general information?
- 9) NVRD partnership with UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE. - Using NVRD to hold events in large open spaces such as church or municipal parking lots to bring voter registration to felons who are off paper and other disenfranchised voters.
 - a) Contacts: Mathew Kopes, U.S. Probation Officer U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services | District of Minnesota; Kito J. Bess Chief U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Officer District of Minnesota and Dan Lew Chief Public Defender for Northeastern Minnesota.
 - b) Possible Partners: NAACP, CHUM, Fond du Lac Community Health, Damiano, Lincoln Park Collaborative, Soar, Life House, Range Mental Health, Judicial Branch
- 10) Printing Needs and other supplies.
- 11) Volunteers - How to organize?
- 12) Census

VOTER SERVICES - FORUMS

Pre-Primary Forums:

State Senate District 7 Forum with Candidates Bergstrom, McEwen, and Simonson is available on LWV Duluth website: <https://www.lwvduluth.org/2020-candidate-forum-recordings.html>

County Commission District 3 Forum with Candidates Grimm and Macor will be available shortly.

After the primary (Tuesday, August 11th), we can plan General Election Forums. We will continue to partner with PACT TV and use their studio as it offers an experience in line with LWV MN guidance during COVID. Under current guidance, only 4 people are allowed in the studio at any given time. We will not be able to do any combined forums.

Anticipated Forums for the General Election: (1) Federal House 8th District, (2) State Senate 7th District, (3) State House Districts 3B, 7A, and 7B, and (4) County Commission Districts 2nd, 3rd, and 5th.

Since there is a limit on people in the studio, we don't have many roles for league members to volunteer. We will circulate questions in advance to receive additions and feedback. For General Election forums, we can identify community partners to co-sponsor. Gail S. has provided a contact at NAACP. I can also reach out to One Roof and the Lester-Lakeside Community Center who have regularly partnered with us in the past. Due to COVID, partnership this year would be limited to submitting questions and assistance with promotion.