

League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
“Zoom” meeting
September 10, 2020
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SECRETARY MINUTES

Present: 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

Absent: Candy Winkler, Gay Trachsel

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Co-President Sandy Grandmaison.

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:

The consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent. The reports from the August 6, 2020 board meeting will be filed. It was noted that our checking account balance was decreasing, primarily because we have had no fundraisers.

Committee Reports:

- ***See attached reports from the Communication, Membership, Natural Resources, and Voter Services Committees for more information.***

- ***Health (J. Hovland)***

- J. Hovland recommended that there be a suspension of forming this committee, given the challenge of COVID-19. It will be reconsidered in the future, when appropriate. Jane also recommended that the committee’s portion of the budget be returned to an appropriate fund.

Additional Committee Reports:

- ***Membership (T. O’Gara)***

- A virtual (Zoom) Fall Kick-Off is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2020.
 - Board members were reminded to attend the Kick-Off, encourage their mentee to attend, and to invite a guest.
 - There are 8 new LWV members who will be in need of mentors.
 - LWV Duluth has received a donation of \$500 to be used for member scholarships.

- ***Events (S. Grandmaison)***

- Women of Influence event will be held via Zoom
 - Suggestion: the speaker perhaps could be a female head of a non-profit agency
 - Suggestion: consider a “virtual” holiday party with a program, possibly including an online auction, or consider an “outdoor” holiday party

- ***Voter Services (E. Wiss)***

- Activity log has been sent to board members.
 - Committee will (and board members reminded to) continue to work on voter registration activities.

—Fond du Lac Reservation is a likely site for LWV Duluth to do voter registration. Joan Peterson is working on this.

—E. Wiss is working on obtaining a list of non-registered voters.

—“Vote from Home” signs and posters are available. Need to work on distribution.

Announcements:

—None.

Adjournment:

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

Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 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 In-gebrigten 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.

