

League of Women Voters of Duluth: Board of Directors Meeting
“Zoom” meeting
September 1, 2022
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SECRETARY MINUTES

Members Present: Mary Faulkner, Jane Hovland, Anita Gille, Gwen Thorson, Nancy Aldridge, Sandy Grandmaison, Sue DeNio, Katherine Rasley, Jeri Quest

Members Absent: Meg Litts, Ellen Wiss

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Mary Faulkner.

Diversity Statement: The LWV Duluth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement was read by Sandy Grandmaison

Consent Agenda—Approval of the Minutes and Financials:

A **motion** was made (J. Hovland) and **seconded** (S. DeNio) to approve the minutes and financials, as provided. **Motion passed unanimously.** The minutes from the April 14, 2022 Board meeting and May 12, 2022 Annual Meeting will be filed.

Unfinished Business:

A. Kickoff Planning: The Kickoff will now be a Zoom event. Laura Helmer, LWVMN president, will provide a recorded statement. Kathy Heltzer will provide an entertaining introduction. Sally Munger will provide trivia questions. Jane Hovland will provide LWVUS prizes. Mary Faulkner will provide a Sara’s Table gift card and wine. Mary Faulkner will organize the pre-event meeting process.

B. Communications: There are no co-chairpersons for this committee, to date. M. Faulkner reported that there are templates for E-News (and webpages) used by previous co-chairpersons, Julie Seidemann and Gwen Thorson. Julie and Gwen are continuing to help with the website. M. Faulkner knows how to use Mailchimp, now; she will create the electronic “Voter” newsletter. (The first newsletter will be available on September 2.) M. Faulkner has researched what other Minnesota leagues are doing in this area and has consulted with Michelle Witte, LWVMN Executive Director. M. Witte stated that LWV Duluth should do whatever we can, but be consistent. M. Faulkner said that the newsletter, mail and website are 3 priorities—and to expect “Communications” to be revisited at Board meetings as the League continues to search for additional members who would be interested in helping with this committee.

New Business:

A. Voter Services: Mary Faulkner and Pat Castellano are co-chairs for Voter Forums; Sue DeNio and Jody Elwell are co-chairs for Voter Registration. Because of current concerns, a new position has been created: Voter Education. Ellen Wiss has agreed to coordinate this area. Discussion followed about the need for LWV to educate voters about election security, misinformation about the 2020 election, etc.

B. Program: Jane Hovland proposed that LWV Duluth not pursue a study of county governments, as previously suggested. Rather, she proposed that the League work to its strength, especially given the current climate—voter services, especially voter registration and voter action. Following some discussion, the general consensus was that Mary Faulkner should invite Michelle Witte and Sam Streukens, Civic Engagement Director for LWVMN, to provide training for LWV “program.”

C. Fundraising: Mary Faulkner has applied for the Whole Foods GIVE program, on behalf of LWV Duluth. She is also exploring the possibility of our League’s participation in the area’s “Giving Tuesday” program. During discussion, it was suggested that: 1) the sale of LWV Duluth T-shirts to our members be explored and 2) a “smaller” group meet to generate additional fundraising ideas.

For the Good of the Order (Announcements, Questions, Concerns):

A. Events Committee: (S. Grandmaison): S. Grandmaison reported that the Building for Women will not be an appropriate space for a “holiday social” this year, given the status of COVID. Our commitment there will be cancelled. General discussion was held regarding alternatives, including a suggestion that members be asked, at the Kickoff, if they would be willing to pay for a “holiday social” and participate in an auction.

B. Golden Rule Project event: September 8, noon, UMD, Brown Bag, Alworth Institute

C. Rally for Peace: October 1, 12:00-3:00 p.m., Leif Erickson Park

D. Treasurer: The treasurer, Nancy Aldridge, states that the Board and committee chairpersons, especially, should pay attention to the budget for each committee and monitor spending. Members should be thinking about donation and fundraising.

E. Voter Services: Sue DeNio reported that 2 out of 4 of our youth volunteers have quit (all from Denfeld). Attempts will be made, with the assistance of remaining volunteers, to find new volunteers.

F. Environmental Action Committee: Jane Hovland reported that the committee will co-sponsoring an event with the Izaak Walton League, on October 19.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Board Meeting, Thursday, October 6, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary