

Democracy Maine Boards of Directors Meetings

Saturday, July 17th, 2021 ♦ 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Via Zoom

Board Present: Jill Ward, Micky Bondo, Pamela Cox, Ben Gaines, Laura Genese, Chris Hafford, Susana Hancock, Kalie Hess, Ann Luther, Joyce Maker, Lilli Martin, Melissa Murphy, and Polly Ward. **Absent:** Alison Smith

Staff present: Anna Kellar, Executive Director, John Brautigam, Legal Counsel, and Nadya Mullen, Operations Director

LWVME

The LWVME Board was called to order at 9:20 am.

Administration (Jill Ward)

- Minutes approval - **VOTE:** Pamela Cox moved to approve the minutes of the May 14th and May 15th, 2021 board meetings and the 2021 State Convention. Micky Bondo seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
- Ann Luther and Nadya Mullen presented the Compliance Checklist noting that all FY21 items have been completed.
- The new members of the Board have joined the Committees as follows:
 - Laura Genese - Development
 - Joyce Maker - Governance
 - Kalie Hess - Equity, Inclusion and Membership
 - Melissa Murphy - Program
- The next Committee meetings are:
 - Equity, Inclusion & Membership - 10am on August 9th
 - Program - 1pm on August 9th
 - Development - 4pm on August 12th
 - Governance - TBD

Treasurers Reports (Ann Luther)

- Presentation of the combined organizations' statement of cash flow, cash forecast, and budget v. actual reports, as well as the restricted funds accounts.
- Ann Luther and Polly Ward presented the C4 reports for Portland and Downeast.
- All reports were received and filed for financial review.

Executive Director's Report (Anna Kellar)

- Staff Update - Currently we have 7 full-time staff. The temporary staff member working on federal organizing, Fiona Keane, finished their contract at the beginning of July, and Will Hayward is taking over the ongoing text banking work in this area. We have 4 summer interns this year who are fantastic. Three are undergrads, and one is a law student. Three are Maine based and one from California. We still have one position that we have budgeted for - an additional organizer to work with the youth council and

building a Lewiston/Auburn chapter, and we are currently fundraising for the youth work to make filling that position feasible.

- The Maine Students Vote partnership has moved from a fiscal sponsorship to under the Democracy Maine umbrella, and we are rebranding Democracy Maine to include this additional work. This was the original concept of Democracy Maine, and adding this work will help to make the distinction of Democracy Maine as an alliance, not a merger of two organizations. The college campus and student fellow work is exciting, and the format could be used in high school work. Meg McCormick joined as a 30 hr staff member to direct this work.
- An LWVME delegation attended the LWVUS Council that was held virtually this year. Anna, Lado, and Evan from staff and Susana from the board represented Maine. It was noted that our leadership with the youth council development got a lot of attention as well as our GOTV/Neighbor to Neighbor outreach.
- Anna has been invited to be a member of the LWVUS task force on institutional structural reform. Our experience about the balance of state and local will be helpful for them to be in a position to contribute at the national level.

Governance Committee Report (Polly Ward)

- The Policy on Issue Forums was presented. No changes were made and therefore this is a re-adoption of the current policy. **VOTE:** Polly Ward moved to readopt the Policy on Issue Forums. Ann Luther seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
- The Nonpartisan Policy was presented. **VOTE:** Polly Ward moved to approve the revised Nonpartisan Policy. Lilli Martin seconded. The board discussed whether the restriction on holding office in political parties was state level only. It was confirmed that the policy applies to all levels. **The motion passed without objection.**
- The Policy on Fundraising was presented. **VOTE:** Polly Ward moved to approve the revised Policy on Fundraising. Ben Gaines seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Development Committee Update (Pamela Cox & Anna Kellar)

- In mid-late June, both a League appeal letter and an MCCE newsletter with a remit envelope were sent.
- The next steps on mail appeals and print communications include a Democracy Maine newsletter primarily focused on our legislative scorecard and MSV in August, a League newsletter in October, and separate MCCE and League appeals at the end of the year.
- A new process is being implemented for board thank you calls to large donors. Anna and Nadya will manage the process whereby board members will be assigned donors to contact based on location, prior knowledge, etc.
- Anna will also be inviting board members to attend their donor meetings.
- We are working with Erica de Vries, fundraising consultant, on a one-pager with board organizational talking points, and for more proactive outreach work there will be three targeted primers: N2N, youth work, and local government.
- Chris Hafford is leading on planning a fall GOTV beer with Banded Brewing and Foundation Brewing, and it is anticipated that there will be an associated event at Maine Craft Distilling.

Equity, Inclusion and Membership Committee Report (Ann Luther)

- Wisconsin is proposing a change to the LWVUS bylaws to remove the age restriction on membership and has asked for our support. The EIM Committee voted to recommend that the board endorse the proposal. **VOTE:** Ann Luther moved to enthusiastically endorse LWV Wisconsin's membership age restriction proposal and support it at Convention 2022. Polly Ward seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
- The Board reviewed the membership update. It was noted that membership has dropped off since earlier this year, however it is expected that the recent appeal letter will generate both renewals and new members.
- The Board reviewed the latest volunteer dashboard.
- The Committee has been working on ensuring our work is accessible to a variety of groups. It is building a set of resources and best practices that can be used at the state level and shared with the local chapters.

Program Committee Report (Ann Luther)

- This week's Under The Dome recapped our Advocacy work. Some items will be picked up again in the second session. We had the best legislative session we've ever had. More bills than ever and excellent partners and sponsors.

Council of Local Leaders (Lilli Martin)

- Lilli Martin noted that the CLL minutes are now included in the board papers.
- The CLL is developing a four-part series of conversations about tribal sovereignty kicking off in September and concluding with a panel discussion including four members of the Maine tribes.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.

MCCE

The meeting was called to order at 10:52 am.

Minutes

- **VOTE:** Ben Gaines moved to approve the Board minutes of the May 14th, 2021 meeting. Chris Hafford seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Treasurers Reports (Ann Luther)

- C3 reports presented. The restricted accounts were reviewed with note that the Immigrant Housing Coalition received a grant that will support Lado's work on the coalition, and this is a step toward the Coalition becoming a stand-alone nonprofit. The Maine Suffrage Centennial is winding down with final work to put up markers acknowledging leaders in the movement in Maine - a live-streamed unveiling event will take place in October.
- All reports were received and filed for financial review.

Executive Director's Report (Anna Kellar)

- An MoU between the LWVME Education Fund, MCCE, and Maine Students Vote is in place, including MSV as a DBA of MCCE. MSV will develop an advisory committee to guide the work long-term. We will continue to track income and expenses for the MSV work, but it will be part of the overall organizational budget.

Program Committee Report (Ann Luther)

- We're focusing on local government programming, which is an emerging area. There is an extensive and ambitious list of programs, some of which are already in place, some are under development and some are concepts under discussion. The Committee is working with staff to align these programs with measurable goals that tie them to our overall strategic plan.

Governance Committee Report (Polly Ward)

- The slate of officers was presented:
 - Jill Ward - President
 - Pamela Cox - Vice President
 - Treasurer - Ann Luther
 - Secretary - Susana Hancock

VOTE: Pamela Cox moved to appoint the slate of officers. Polly Ward seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

- The Nonpartisan Policy and Policy on Fundraising were presented. **VOTE:** Polly Ward moved to approve the policies en-bloc. Ann Luther seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

LWVME Education Fund

The meeting was called to order at 11:11 am.

VOTE: Polly Ward moved to adopt the minutes of the May 14th Board meeting; the slate of officers as approved by MCCE; and the Nonpartisan, Issue Forums and Fundraising policies en-bloc. Ann Luther seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Nadya announced that the dates of the retreat are 10-11 September. The event will take place on the afternoon and evening of the 10th and the morning of the 11th.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Nadya Mullen, Operations Director