

# Democracy Maine Boards of Directors Meetings

Saturday, October 23rd, 2021 ♦ 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Via Zoom

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**Board Present:** Jill Ward, Micky Bondo, Pamela Cox, Laura Genese, Chris Hafford, Ann Luther, Lilli Martin, Melissa Murphy, Alison Smith, and Polly Ward.

**Absent:** Ben Gaines, Susana Hancock, Jamie Kilbreth, and Joyce Maker.

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

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## *LWVME*

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The LWVME Board was called to order at 9:05 am.

### **Administration (Jill Ward)**

- Jill Ward announced the resignations of Micky Bondo and Kalie Hess and acknowledged their valuable service on the Board.
- Minutes approval - **VOTE:** Pamela Cox moved to approve the minutes of the July 17th, 2021 board meeting. Melissa Murphy seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
- Ann Luther and Nadya Mullen presented the Compliance Checklist.

### **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.
- **VOTE:** Ann Luther proposed that the Board authorize the Executive Committee to dip into reserves as required. Alison seconded. The Board discussed the need for a procedure in which the Executive Committee would convene the board for a vote on dipping into reserves rather than authorizing today. The motion was withdrawn.
- The Board received the financial reports from the Portland Area and Downeast chapters. Nadya will work with LWVPA to be briefed so she can make the report going forward.
- All reports were received and filed for financial review.

### **Executive Director's Report (Anna Kellar)**

- Retreat Debrief - We had very good feedback from the retreat - and some of the conversations during the event are continuing in other venues, eg. the EIM Committee.
- Staff Update - We hired a new director for MSV Allyson Gardner, who will be starting in mid November. She comes from Maine Youth Action Network and will bring a lot of strong networks and relationships to the work. Staff leads have been assigned for each of the five program areas and this will help move our work forward more cohesively.
- LWVUS Structure Task Force - Anna is on this task force which is looking at making significant structural change to the 3 tiered federated organization. A majority of the ideas we're already doing in Maine. We should expect some of the changes to be presented at the next Convention. The group is working now on priorities, workflow etc. and will hold a retreat in DC in mid-November.

## **Governance Committee Report (Polly Ward)**

- The Policy on Candidate Forums was presented. **VOTE:** Polly Ward moved to approve the revised Policy on Candidate Forums. Pamela Cox seconded. It was noted that the previous policy was drafted around FCC rules for broadcast and the recommendation is to develop a version for each election. The polling section relevant to management of the process. It was suggested that different protocols for federal v. state and local be developed. The motion was withdrawn and board members were asked to provide feedback directly to the Governance Committee.

## **Development Committee Update (Pamela Cox & Anna Kellar)**

- There are some immediate tasks that are relevant to our cashflow now, including funding applications that are still pending and that we're due to hear about any day. These grants would relieve pressure on us through January.
- A budget for Election 2022 work has been developed and Anna will be taking this to the national and state funders who supported our work in 2020.
- The end of year appeals are in process. League and MCCE appeals to overlapping audiences, so some people will receive both. The goal is to have the letters go out in the week leading up to Thanksgiving. Board members will be asked to hand write notes on major donor letters.
- There is separate fundraising on Maine Students Vote.
- Covid is continuing to restrict fun activities around fundraising - eg. beer launches.
- The board is reminded that they will be prompted to make major donor thank you calls. A list of current major donors who need thanking will be shared in case someone knows them and wants to make the call. Unclaimed donors will be assigned.
- We still have a relationship with Erica De Vries to get feedback on our plans.

## **Equity, Inclusion and Membership Committee Report (Ann Luther)**

- The Membership Report was reviewed and noted that numbers are holding steady following the expected post-election drop off.
- Volunteer Dashboard - there is a significant increase in the number of members who are now volunteering. And also a move from volunteer to super volunteer. Overall membership may be down but the people who are staying are engaged.
- The Committee had a number of post-retreat follow up activities but in particular trauma-informed facilitation and mental health conversations, which ties into the accessibility work. Lane is looking into more formal training as a next step.
- We have started hosting a monthly advocacy call for members and volunteers in an effort to make sure we're cultivating a diversity of ways for people to volunteer.

## **Program Committee Report (Ann Luther and Anna Kellar)**

- Deb McDonough joined the meeting to discuss Proportional Representation. She presented that the Portland League will be asked to take a position and the state league to follow on later at a more relevant time. The board welcomes the opportunity to learn more about PR before the state league is asked to take a position. Work on-going to improve explanation/messaging around it.

- Advocacy Update - No proactive legislation for the short session. We have some ongoing work on audits, semi-open primaries, tribal sovereignty, racial impact statements. Plenty to work on but a relatively calm session. Also planning for 2023.
- Fair Elections Portland - There are two sets of parallel processes. There was a Charter Commission hearing and the results being very positive - their approach is that it's not a question of if, but what type for public funding would be included and we are regrouping to give them specific language. At the City Council hearing this past Monday, the Council has essentially reaffirmed their stance on the charter amendment, issues with violations of due process by the city, FEP is considering continuing the lawsuit.
- Westbrook RCV campaign - The charter amendment is on the November ballot and we are working closely with local Westbrook campaigners and national organization Represent.US. This work has led us to consider how we set up structures for conducting this type of short campaign work supporting local initiatives like this. Nadya, Anna and John will discuss this post-election.
- Foreign Contribution Ban Citizen Initiative was presented. There is a signature drive going on now. MCCE Action and the League board should support and encourage members to sign the petition. **VOTE:** Ann Luther moved to endorse the position. Pamela Cox seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

### **Council of Local Leaders (Lilli Martin)**

- Lilli Martin reported on the CLL event series - Understanding Dawnland Today. There was good turnout on the first two events and both recordings are available on the League website. There are two more upcoming events as part of the series. She noted that the CLL meeting minutes are part of the board packet. They are holding their next meeting next week.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:57 am.

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### *MCCE*

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The meeting was called to order at 10:57 am.

### **Minutes**

- **VOTE:** Ann Luther moved to approve the minutes of the July 17th, 2021 board meeting. Melissa Murphy seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

### **Treasurers Reports (Ann Luther)**

- C3 reports were presented. Nadya Mullen updated the Board on the status of the fiscal sponsored organizations.
- All reports were received and filed for financial review.

### **Program Committee Report (Anna Kellar)**

- Case for Support - This document tightens up the link between our goals approved at Convention and the work we're doing on the ground. This will be used for a range of

donor meetings. LWVME Education Fund work for 2022 is divided into five areas with specific goals. Board members are invited to provide feedback. It will have detailed program plans and associated budgets for all ranges of donors.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

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***LWVME Education Fund***

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The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am.

**VOTE:** Melissa Murphy moved to adopt the minutes of the July 17th 2021 meeting. Pamela Cox seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

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***MCCE Action***

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The meeting was called to order at 11:19 am.

- Email vote: The MCCE Action Board approved the Nonpartisan Policy and Policy on Fundraising on August 7th 2021.
- Foreign Contribution Ban Citizen Initiative
  - The position on the Foreign Contribution Ban Citizen Initiative was presented. The MCCE Action board should support and encourage people to sign the petition. **VOTE:** Ann Luther moved to endorse the position. Chris Hafford seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nadya Mullen, Operations Director