

Democracy Maine Boards of Directors Meetings

Saturday, July 29th, 2023 ♦ 8:30 am - 10:30 am
Via Zoom

Board Present: Pamela Cox, Ellen Dohmen, Maya Eichorn, Susana Hancock, Ann Luther, Rick Lyles, Melissa Murphy, Alex Newell Taylor, Abdikhadar Shire, Alison Smith, Jill Ward, and Tobin Williamson

Absent: Ben Gaines

Staff present: Anna Kellar, Executive Director and Nadya Mullen, Finance and Operations Director with summer interns James Foleno and Abby Bouse.

The LWVME Board was called to order at 8:33 am.

Two of our summer interns who are shadowing this meeting were invited to introduce themselves. James Foleno, he/him, has been involved with the League for 3 years and in the last two years has been able to intern for LWVME over the summer. Abby Bouse is a rising senior from Yarmouth. She was involved with planning a candidate night for school board members in Yarmouth this year and has continued her involvement with LWVME this summer.

It was noted with congratulations that board member Maya Eichorn was on Maine Calling this week talking about youth activism.

Administration (Pamela Cox)

- Minutes approval
 - **VOTE:** Melissa Murphy moved to approve the minutes of the March 25th. Jill Ward seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
 - **VOTE:** Jill Ward moved to approve the minutes of the June 5th Board meeting and the minutes of the 2023 Convention. Melissa Murphy seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
- Ann Luther and Nadya Mullen presented the Compliance Checklist.

Treasurers Reports (Ann Luther)

- Ann Luther presented the combined organizations' statement of cash flow, cash forecast, and budget v. actual reports, as well as the restricted funds accounts.
- The Board received the financial reports from the Portland Area and Downeast chapters.
- All reports were received and filed for financial review.

Board Committees (Pamela Cox)

- The board reviewed the membership of its Committees and noted that the meeting schedules will be adjusted to accommodate availability for the new members.

Governance (Jill Ward)

- Members will be hearing shortly from Jill set a regular schedule.
- Board members are reminded to submit their Conflict of Interest disclosure forms to Nadya.

Executive Director's Report (Anna Kellar)

- Anna reported that the Executive Committee is made up of the officers and supported by Anna and Nadya as staff. It meets every two weeks and reviews the cash flow, compliance and development tracking reports.
- Susana Hancock, Anna Kellar, and Evan Murray attended the LWVUS Council meeting in June this year. This event takes place in alternate years to the LWVUS Convention. Two key areas of focus this year were LWVUS' Moonshot Goal to eliminate the Electoral College via passing the NPV Compact. States are at different points in this - some have passed it already, others will not. Maine has not passed it yet, but this is a key legislative goal for the next session for us. There was also a big discussion of the rollout of the League Transformation and particularly how dues are collected and allocated. The League is moving to a unified dues structure across the entire country. The standard dues rate will be \$75 and the floor for pay-what-you-can will be \$20. LWVME has lobbied strongly for the floor to be lower and has hopes that this will be reviewed in future years. Funds come into a central point and then split 33-47-20 between national, state and local leagues. It will probably be at least a year before implementation of the new dues structure and process.
- The LWVME Retreat will be on Friday, September 8th from 10am-4pm in the Bangor/Orono area - staff, board and local league leaders are invited. We are also holding a fundraising event at Orono Brewing from 5-7pm which will be an opportunity to engage with local members and partners. The Equity, Inclusion and Membership (EIM) committee is working on an agenda. We will likely bring in an external facilitator to help guide structural discussions. One of the agenda items will be reviewing the Democracy Maine structure - we are 5 ½ years in now and time to assess successes and challenges. One of the proposals will be about consolidating to only two corporate entities. This impacts internal structure but would not change the external view of the organizations.
- Staff update: Miles Pulsford has left as a full time member of staff but will be working on a short term contract through the end of the year to continue the clerk work and transition it to a permanent member of staff.

Development Committee Update (Pamela Cox and Anna Kellar)

- Anna presented the grant tracking table and reviewed the current and projected grants for fiscal year 2024.
- Pamela noted that development is something everyone on the board should be involved with - including helping to identify potential grants and major donors, and hosting house parties/events to introduce their networks to the work we do.
- Anna invited board members to join them in outreach to "main street" businesses in key locations where we promote Vote411 for this year (including soliciting sponsorship) and laying the groundwork for distribution of our printed voter guide in 2024.

Council of Local Leaders (CLL) (Rick Lyles)

- The CLL held a retreat on 6/23/2023 as reflected in the minutes included in the board papers. Board members are encouraged to reach out to Rick with any questions.
- The CLL is interested in the upcoming Board retreat and will be in attendance.
- The Portland Area met with Anna and Evan Murray to review some concerns raised by Portland at the CLL retreat regarding scheduling and communication between state and local leagues. Anna reported that Portland will be supported in joining communication channels (eg. Slack and/or google groups) and a joint volunteer appreciation and fall activity event is in the works.
- Portland is going to be the main point of contact for voter registration at the naturalization events for all chapters. Evan Murray and Peg Balano will be running a training.

Program Committee Report (Melissa Murphy)

- The Committee reviewed the results of completed projects and is looking ahead to the program plan for the upcoming biennium.
- Ann Luther gave the legislative update. The legislature adjourned sine die on Wednesday, July 26th. We had some victories and some disappointments during this session. The Advocacy Team and staff will be producing a scorecard next month focusing on 7-8 bills of importance to us.
- It was noted that we are going into an 18 month election mode period with November 2023 referendums, March 2024 presidential primaries, June 2024 state primaries and then the general election in November 2024.

Equity, Inclusion and Membership Committee Report (Ann Luther)

- The Membership Report was reviewed with note that there are ongoing efforts to stem lapsation rates.
- The Volunteer Dashboard was reviewed with note that we should be looking at renewing efforts to convert dedicated volunteers to becoming members. We are still wrestling with presenting the value of membership. The recent uptick in volunteerism is primarily connected to legislative advocacy (eg. contacting legislators).
- The next meeting on August 14th will include a reset of the focus of the Committee.

Bank account changes

Ann Luther moved to replace Chris Hafford as a signer on the League of Women Voters of Maine Key Bank account with Melissa Murphy and authorize Nadya Mullen, Finance and Operations Director, to facilitate this process. Susana Hancock seconded **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.

MCCE

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 am.

Administration (Susana Hancock)

- Minutes approval
 - **VOTE:** Ann Luther moved to approve the minutes of the March 25th board meeting. Alison Smith seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
 - **VOTE:** Ann Luther moved to approve the minutes of the June 5th Board meetings. Alison Smith seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Treasurers Reports (Ann Luther)

- C3 reports were presented.
- All reports were received and filed for financial review.
- Ann Luther moved to replace Chris Hafford as a signer on the Maine Citizens for Clean Elections Bangor Savings Bank account with Melissa Murphy and authorize Nadya Mullen, Finance and Operations Director, to facilitate this process. Susana Hancock seconded **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:14 am.

LWVME Education Fund

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 am.

Administration (Susana Hancock)

- Minutes approval
 - **VOTE:** Ann Luther moved to approve the minutes of the March 25th board meeting. Melissa Murphy seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
 - **VOTE:** Ann Luther moved to approve the minutes of the June 5th board meeting. Melissa Murphy seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
- Ann Luther moved to replace Chris Hafford as a signer on the League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund Key Bank account with Melissa Murphy and authorize Nadya Mullen, Finance and Operations Director, to facilitate this process. Susana Hancock seconded **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

MCCE Action

Alison Smith called the meeting to order at 10:16 am.

- **VOTE:** Alison moved to approve the minutes of the March 25th Board meeting. Ann Luther seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
- Ann Luther nominated Melissa Murphy to the MCCE Action board. Alison Smith seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
- Ann Luther moved to replace Chris Hafford as a signer on the MCCE Action Bangor Savings Bank account with Melissa Murphy and authorize Nadya Mullen, Finance and Operations Director, to facilitate this process. Alison Smith seconded **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:18 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Nadya Mullen, Operations Director