

Democracy Maine Boards of Directors Meetings

Saturday, July 25th, 2020 ♦ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Via Zoom

Present: Jill Ward (chair), Pamela Cox, Ben Gaines, Chris Hafford, Susana Hancock, Jamie Kilbreth, Ann Luther, Lilli Martin, Alison Smith, Polly Ward, and Linda Washburn

Apologies: Micky Bondo, Beth Basham

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

LWVME

The LWVME Board was called to order at 9:33 am.

Jill Ward announced that Stacy Stitham has tendered her resignation, and the board offered its thanks for her contributions and service. Polly Ward confirmed that Stacy will remain on the Governance Committee as an off board member.

Minutes

- **VOTE:** Alison Smith moved to approve the Board minutes of the May 16th, 2020 meeting. Susana Hancock seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Email Vote

- LWVME recommended and the League of Women Voter of Maine Ed Fund agreed to serve as a fiscal sponsor for the emerging Immigrant Housing Coalition by unanimous email vote.

Treasurers Reports

- Ann Luther presented the combined organizations' cash flow tracker, statement of cash flow, and budget v. actual reports.
- The Board requested that the reserve be reported separately below the line on the cash flow report.
- Nadya Mullen updated the Board on the status of PPP loan.
- Ann Luther, Polly Ward, and Nadya Mullen presented the C4 reports, including those for Portland and Downeast.
- All reports were received and filed for financial review.

Executive Director's Report

- Anna Kellar reported on the following matters:
 - Staffing update: Lane Sturtevant has replaced Kirk Earl as Organizer, and they are excited to have them already working with chapters and state level teams. Recruiting for the part time Data and Administrator Coordinator is complete - Amy Adamson will be joining the team at the beginning of August. Sadie Faucher will join as an election season organizer focusing specifically on poll worker recruitment from August through December. This position is funded by a grant and will give strength to our election observation work.
 - The Portland Charter Commission presents an opportunity for the League and MCCE to push for public funding at the municipal level. The rules and process for the Commission are still being contested, but in the meantime we are looking at ways to share the work between the State and the Portland Area chapter.
 - Coalition work is a strong area of focus for this summer. In addition to the Statewide elections group, they're trying to get together with pro-charter commission groups where greater citizen/voter power is the unifying theme.

Governance Committee Report

- Polly Ward presented the Policy on Ethics. **VOTE:** Susana Hancock moved to approve the Policy on Ethics. Ann Luther seconded. Jamie Kilbreth suggested an edit regarding the return of documents. The new text will read: "The board member or trustee shall promptly remove all confidential organization documents from their personal electronic files and return to the organizations or destroy all paper documents, reference materials and other property entrusted to the board member or trustee for the purpose of fulfilling their responsibilities." Susana Hancock moved to the friendly amendment. Ann Luther seconded. **The amended motion passed without objection.**
- The Board discussed the requirement to appoint a board nominating committee for LWVME noting that it needs to be formed with enough time to act in advance of the next State Convention scheduled for May, 2021. The Governance Committee will gather recommendations and make a recommendation of choices to the Executive Committee.
- The Board discussed conducting exit interviews with departing board members.
- Polly Ward updated the Board on the Board orientation process and materials.

Development Committee Update

- Pamela Cox presented the fundraising update reporting that we have been very successful and are already \$618,000 toward our \$1,000,00 goal.
- All board members are encouraged to make a gift, regardless of size, so that we have 100% participation rate.
- Anna is now starting to reschedule meetings and follow up on outstanding asks on hold because of Covid 19.
- We are planning an extra mail appeal this year. It will go out in late September and will focus on the urgency of the time leading up to the election.
- The Development Committee is taking on making some thank you calls to large donors.

- Anna reviewed the report on the spring appeal noting that a number of people chose to join the League instead of donate.
- Anna reviewed the grant reporting tracker noting that we got all grants we applied for in FY20 except one, and three got deferred to FY21. They reported on immediate opportunities on the list.

Membership and Volunteer Committee Report

Ann Luther reported on behalf of the Membership and Volunteer Committee.

- Membership is currently at 551 but still not on track for the Centennial membership campaign goal of 1,000.
- She asked for 100% participation by board members in recruiting five members. Please provide the names of the people you contact so we can track.
- Anna reviewed the tools for recruitment that will be shared in the board follow up email. This will be shared with the local chapters as well.

Program Committee Report

- Ann Luther gave an election recap. There is much relief that it wasn't a disaster. The absentee voting percentage was 70% whereas in previous years it has been 30%. [N.B. final absentee rate once all the data was in was more like 50%.] The team tracked some issues and is now looking at November. One concern is that same-day voter registration will be an added pressure on Election Day. We will continue to push absentee voting with the recognition that the volume in November will be challenging for the towns. We have sent a series of suggestions to the Secretary of State and the Governor. An emerging issue is that the ban on rental housing evictions is expiring and the resulting higher rate of homelessness and relocations will be a concern for voting access.
- There is a new lawsuit against RCV. John Brautigam is looking at it and his preliminary assessment is that it's a rehash of 2018. And given that it's coming before the same judge, it is unlikely to have a different outcome.

Council of Local Leaders

Lilli Martin reported that the Council is finishing up work on their charter, including a mission statement, memberships terms, and goals. The Council is participating in moderator training in the next few weeks. The high school voter registration project is being rolled out via the CLL. Their next meeting is in early September.

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

MCCE

The meeting was called to order at 11:12 am.

Minutes

- **VOTE:** Ben Gaines moved to approve the Board minutes of the May 16th, 2020 meeting. Susana Hancock seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Treasurers Reports

- Ann Luther and Nadya Mullen presented the C3 reports.
- Nadya Mullen presented the Compliance report.
- All reports were received and filed for financial review.

Governance Committee Report

- Polly Ward presented the Policy on Ethics as amended. **VOTE:** Alison Smith moved to approve the amended Policy on Ethics. Jamie Kilbreth seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:21am.

LWVME Education Fund

The meeting was called to order at 11:22 am.

Email Votes

- LWVME recommended and the League of Women Voter of Maine Ed Fund agreed to serve as a fiscal sponsor for the emerging Immigrant Housing Coalition by unanimous email vote.

CI Study Consensus

- Ann Luther presented the Citizen Initiative Consensus Statement and recommended adoption by the LWVME Education Fund.
- **VOTE:** Ann Luther moved to adopt the Consensus Statement. Polly Ward seconded. The Board discussed the need for more time to review the statement. Ann Luther withdrew her motion. The board agreed to review the documents. A separate

meeting to be scheduled for board members to query with study committee members. The vote on the statement is tabled until the September board meeting.

Minutes & Policy

- **VOTE:** Ben Gaines moved to approve the Board minutes of the May 16th, 2020 meeting and the Policy on Ethics as amended en bloc. Pamela Cox seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

MCCE Action

Present: Jamie Kilbreth (chair), Ann Luther, and Alison Smith, with Nadya Mullen

Apologies: Chris Hafford

Jamie Kilbreth called the MCCE Action Board to order at 11:30 am.

Alison moved to approve the Board minutes of the May 16th, 2020 meeting and the Policy on Ethics as amended en bloc. Ann Luther seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:32am.

Respectfully submitted,
Nadya Mullen, Operations Director