

Democracy Maine Boards of Directors Meetings

Saturday, September 19th, 2020 ♦ 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Via Zoom

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

Apologies: 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 9:05 am.

Minutes

- **VOTE:** Susana Hancock moved to approve the Board minutes of the July 25th, 2020 meeting. Polly Ward seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Email Vote

- LWVME and MCCE (Democracy Maine orgs) voted unanimously to join the Coalition on Racial Equity on 8/17.

Compliance Report

- Ann Luther and Nadya Mullen presented the Compliance Checklist.

Treasurers Reports

- Ann Luther presented the combined organizations' statement of cash flow and budget v. actual reports.
- 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: Since July we've gone into full election mode. All of our program teams are working at full steam. With the addition of three new staff

members, we are doing more than we've ever done before. We have brought on three new people since July. Sadie Faucher is leading the election protection and poll worker recruitment project and is full time through December. Amy Adamson is our permanent part time data and administrative coordinator working to help us speed up and be more sophisticated in the use of data. Additionally, we are splitting a temporary organizer position with Maine Students Vote (MSV) through November. Gail Johnson will support our high school outreach and youth votes work and the MSV student fellows at colleges around the state, linking high school and college outreach programs. Ideally we'd like to expand the work in this area long-term with a different structure that will be discussed more at the November board meeting.

- We've been getting a lot of good media coverage recently, and we are working to make the League the primary spokes-organization for election and voting issues. We received national press coverage via a FairVote press release on RCV. This additional media attention provides us with more of a platform to do our work.
- The website redesign is mostly done and has been soft-launched. Some items will be spiffier after the election - eg. events page. The new site is much easier for people to navigate and to find their way quickly to news items. If you notice anything - let Jen know. Congratulations to her for this achievement ahead of the initial February 2021 planned launch.
- 325,000 voters to be reached through our various campaigns, and they all point back to the website. This includes our first foray into commercial radio PSAs on stations north of Bangor.

Governance Committee Report

- Polly Ward updated the Board on the Board orientation process and materials, which is 85-90% done. The folder features a list of contents that are divided into categories to simplify finding files. The folder and materials will be tested on the newest board members.
- Polly Ward reported on the status of the board nominating committee. The LWVME Bylaws require a minimum of the following membership: two people from the Board, one from MCCE Action, one from the CLL, and one from suggestions provided by board members. Jill Ward and Micky Bondo are the two board members, and Andy Bossie has agreed to serve for MCCE Action. The CLL has provided a comprehensive list of potential candidates and a shortlist has been developed to be approached. The Executive Committee has provided a list of their suggestions. The Governance Committee will shortlist and approach potential nominees. Jill Ward encouraged other board members to serve if they so wish and Susana Hancock volunteered. The timeline for the nominating committee to start its work after the election.. The Governance Committee will provide the Nominating Committee with tools for that process.

Development Committee Update

- Anna Kellar presented the fundraising update. The really good news is that we are very close to hitting our \$1 million centennial goal. We are in the final 150k stretch.

Donors feel that Maine and the current situation mean that LWVME is a good place to support work. They noted the key new donations received since the last meeting.

- Anna Kellar updated the board on the October and End-of-Year appeal plans. October appeal is election focused. There will also be a normal end of year appeal in early December focusing on the work of 2021. Additionally there will be some social media fundraising, also emphasizing that smaller contributions are of great value.
- The Development Committee has been making calls to those who make \$100 or more donations. Anna asked the rest of the board if they would help to make these donor calls to spread the load so that it's not a heavy lift for anyone.
- Thank you for your input into the Print Bookstore list, which is another fun way to engage with people and raise money.
- Pamela Cox reminded the board that the aim is to achieve 100% board giving - regardless of the dollar amount..
- Anna was asked to provide the number of donors on a 12 monthly rolling average.

Membership and Volunteer Committee Report

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

- The committee is struggling to find it's footing at the moment. There is still some work to do to determine what the committee should be doing and the Governance Committee is asked to join the conversation.
- On the volunteers side, all data is now in Civi and Amy is working on creating metrics. Lane is spending a lot of time on bringing new volunteers on board.
- The Committee is working on redefining affiliation to include all the dimensions from volunteering to donations and/or membership.
- Membership is currently at 613 - 150 more than at the start of the year. Growth varies by chapter - busier chapters have more growth. Those that are less active are showing low or no growth. This is in part due to uneven adoption of best practices. Eg. Portland does excellent outreach to new members. Those that do not do outreach are not growing.

Program Committee Report

Ann Luther reported on behalf of the Program Committee.

- We have two priority bills for the upcoming legislative session - passing the Corporate Contribution Ban and joining the National Popular Vote Compact.
- Election work is involved with working with the Secretary of State, the Governor, and town clerks to promote support for a safe and smooth election in November. Much of the work is within the Election Protection Coalition, which Anna is leading.
- Members are encouraged to reach out to state candidates in their districts to discuss their positions on the corporate contribution ban and the NPV compact.

Council of Local Leaders

Lilli Martin reported that Local Leagues are involved in voter registration drives and in particular, as a result of the retreat focus on DEI, Leagues are reaching out to underserved communities. Peg Balano is leading the effort to reach out to high schools to provide them with voter registration and absentee ballot requests for eligible students. A lot of candidate forums are now taking place. The CLL received an orientation on google docs and facilitation training. Kari Suva will be talking to the Council about youth outreach. Their charter is continuing to be developed. Liliias agreed to share the charter draft at a future meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:33 am.

MCCE

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 am.

Minutes

- **VOTE:** Susana Hancock moved to approve the Board minutes of the July 25th, 2020 meeting. Micky Bondo seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Email Vote

- LWVME and MCCE (Democracy Maine orgs) voted unanimously to join the Coalition on Racial Equity on 8/17.
- The Executive Committee approved a short term, full time contract to support Maine Students Vote project on 9/11.

Treasurers Reports

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

LWVME Education Fund

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 am.

CI Study Consensus

- Ann Luther presented the Citizen Initiative Consensus Statement. Following the tabling of the vote at the July meeting, there was a meeting to allow Board members to ask questions and further discuss the work of the study committee. Ben Gaines

and Alison Smith provided valued input to the updated statement before the Board. She noted that there were some areas of concern where no consensus was reached - eg. in the statutory drafting process, and these were not included in the statement.

- **VOTE:** Alison Smith moved to adopt the Consensus Statement. Jamie Kilbreth seconded. Jamie Kilbreth reflected on the recent CMP petition that failed to be put on the ballot and irregularities in the process due to Covid and he noted concern about the attempts to repeal CIs. Ann Luther noted this was one of the areas where there was no consensus reached on a remedy. John Brautigam noted that the drafting and revising process is somewhat adversarial and changing this approach would be helpful. The Board is extremely grateful to the Committee and the member participants for their hard work and especially to Valerie Kelly for her leadership. **The motion passed without objection.**
- Jill will send a note of thanks to those involved with the study committee.

Minutes

- **VOTE:** Jamie Kilbreth moved to approve the Board minutes of the July 25th, 2020 meeting. Ann Luther seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:59 am.

MCCE Action

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

Jamie Kilbreth called the MCCE Action Board to order at 10:59 am.

Ann Luther moved to approve the Board minutes of the July 25th, 2020 meeting. Chris Hafford seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

The MCCE Action board had a call to discuss the potential appointment to the Nominating Committee. Andy Bossie, with his depth of understanding of the MCCE Action and his broad network was the choice..

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:01 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Nadya Mullen, Operations Director