

Democracy Maine Boards of Directors Meetings

Saturday, January 23rd, 2021 ♦ 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Via Zoom

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

Absent: Micky Bondo

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.

Jill Ward notified the Board that Beth Basham resigned from the Board two weeks ago. She acknowledged Beth's service on the board and especially her work on the Citizen Initiative Study.

Minutes

- **VOTE:** Pamela Cox moved to approve the Board minutes of the November 21st, 2020 meeting. Susana Hancock seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Compliance Report

- Ann Luther and Nadya Mullen presented the Compliance Checklist noting that we were billed for the late filing of the LWVME Education Fund. We are appealing the charge. Lobbyist registrations are also now complete.

Treasurers Reports

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

Nominating Committee Update (Jill Ward)

The Nominating Committee met on January 13th. The Committee discussed where the organization is, our aspirations and needs in recruiting new board members. The group is soliciting potential candidate names and reconvening on February 5th to review the names and create an outreach plan to have a solid list by the March board meeting. Board members will be called to discuss interest in being re-nominated. Attention will be given to differentiating the C3 and C4 boards in recruiting.

Executive Director's Report (Anna Kellar)

- There are many opportunities in the policy and government side and the work we can do in the community. The worry that interest would drop off after the election has not been borne out.
- In relation to the upcoming end of our 100th anniversary year - we'll have a week of activities that will be a combination of live events and readings. Each day there will be a different theme with speakers and activities.
- This year is the State Convention, and we will be moving forward as a virtual event. The LWVUS format and experiences last year will help inform our plans. Board members are asked to join an ad-hoc committee/working group to work along with the staff team (Nadya, Jen and Lane) to build an exciting and engaging program. Alison Smith, Ann Luther and Jill Ward volunteered to participate.

Governance Committee Report (Polly Ward)

- Presentation of revised Privacy Policy. **VOTE:** Polly Ward moved to approve the Privacy Policy. Susana Hancock seconded. Ann Luther offered two friendly amendments to the policy. **The motion with amendments passed without objection.**
- Committee will next work on by-laws changes to align with the LWVUS bylaws where required and a proposal to include a representative from the Youth Council on the Board. Both sets of changes will be incorporated into new bylaws to be approved by the membership at Convention.

Development Committee Update (Pamela Cox)

- Nearing \$1 million centennial goal, now only \$33k away goal. And we have achieved 100% board giving.
- Anna shared the timeline for achieving our Centennial membership and fundraising goals. Board members are asked to assist by sharing the emails and Facebook posts within their networks.
- There has been a resurgence of interest in Money in Politics, and we are aiming to use this to speak with the MCCE voice that has been semi-dormant recently.
- Anna presented the results of the year end appeal which demonstrate the value of sending appeal letters from both organizations to people on both lists as some people donate to both.
- Anna shared the list of donors who are due thank you calls and asked Board members to sign up to make at least one call.

Membership and Volunteer Committee Report (Ann Luther)

- The current membership now stands at almost 700 members. Growth is in almost all member units/chapters. The number of expirations is of concern to the Committee, and it will be focusing on reducing those numbers.
- The Committee has been working with staff to create a new Volunteer report, which Anna reviewed. Emails will go out to people who are volunteers but who are not members. The lists will also go to project team members and to chapter leaders for follow up. Feedback on the report is welcomed so that it can be refined to provide useful data.
- Board members are encouraged to help spread the word to recruit new members.

- Anna confirmed that the Pay as You Can membership level is ongoing. The Committee will be reviewing the membership renewal letters.

Program Committee Report (Ann Luther)

- Advocacy work is ramping up. We have about a dozen bills already in our areas of interest, and we'll be testifying on as many as 7 or 8 dozen overall. The National Popular Vote is a major focus. It will be a busy session.
- Week of Action leading up to LWV Feb 14 anniversary.
- Voter engagement is still of key importance, and work is being done to move from the type of work that happens in the lead up to an election to post-election work. Evan has led some brainstorming sessions that will lead to multiple new projects. We'll be starting up our canvass again with a voter education component.
- The Committee has begun working on program planning for Convention split along the Advocacy and Voter Engagement pathways.
- Anna reminded the Board that we are the fiscal sponsors Maine Students Vote, which is focused on the college student population. We are moving forward bringing that work under the Democracy Maine umbrella. Student engagement work will continue on campuses in much the same way as our engagement work is refocusing on non-campaign year work. A budget and program plan is being developed, including some joint fundraising to support this work.
- Our election coalition work is continuing - temporarily named Mainers for Modern Elections. Also maintaining presence with Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition and the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition, among others.
- Vision for an Equitable Maine is a project put together by Maine Equal Justice that will focus on common areas of interest across a broad group of organizations. The Advocacy Team recommends endorsing the value statement. This does not require supporting all positions. This is a useful way to engage with the high level values how they relate to our issue areas.
- The LWVUS letter of priorities for the Biden Administration letter doesn't just cover democracy reforms and reflects a broader agenda than the LWVUS has prioritized in recent years.

Council of Local Leaders

Lilli Martin noted that the CLL hasn't met since the last board meeting. The next meeting in early February will focus on program and budget planning. There are members leaving and others joining which will prompt reflection on the first year of the CLL and its future.

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

MCCE

The meeting was called to order at 11:32 am.

Minutes

- **VOTE:** Susana Hancock moved to approve the Board minutes of the November 21st, 2020 meeting. Alison Smith seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Treasurers Reports

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

Governance

- **VOTE:** Ann Luther moved to approve the Privacy Policy as amended. Polly Ward seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

LWVME Education Fund

The meeting was called to order at 11.35 am.

VOTE: Ann Luther moved to approve the Board minutes of November 21st 2020 and the Privacy Policy en bloc. Polly Ward seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

MCCE Action

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

Absent: Jamie Kilbreth

Chris Hafford called the MCCE Action Board to order at 11:36 am.

VOTE: Ann Luther moved to approve the Board minutes of November 21st 2020 and the Privacy Policy en bloc. Alison Smith seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Nadya Mullen, Operations Director