

# Democracy Maine Boards of Directors Meetings

Saturday, March 20th, 2021 ♦ 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Via Zoom

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**Present:** Jill Ward, Micky Bondo, Pamela Cox, Ben Gaines, Chris Hafford, Susana Hancock, Ann Luther, Lilli Martin, Alison Smith, and Polly Ward.

**Absent:** Jamie Kilbreth

**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 9:03 am.

The Board wished Chris Hafford a happy birthday.

Jill Ward was notified on January 29 of Linda Washburn's resignation from the Board. On behalf of the Board, we thank Linda and acknowledge her distinguished service, first to the Ed. Fund Trustees and then to the League State Board. She was instrumental in founding the CLL, and she continues to be one of our strongest boosters, working behind the scenes for our success. Thankfully, she continues in her leadership role in the Downeast League and especially in producing the award-winning Democracy Forum radio shows.

### **Minutes**

- **VOTE:** Alison Smith moved to approve the Board minutes of the January 23rd, 2021 meeting. Susana Hancock seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

### **Compliance Report**

- Ann Luther and Nadya Mullen presented the Compliance Checklist noting that the PPP loan forgiveness application has been submitted, and we are waiting for approval. Lobbyist reporting is ongoing.

### **Treasurers Reports**

- Ann Luther presented the combined organizations' statement of cash flow and budget v. actual reports and the restricted funds accounts.
- The Board discussed the restricted funds held for the chapters, and Lilli Martin will share the report with the CLL. Anna Kellar noted that LWVUS is convening a working group to assess chapter structures that may have downstream impact on how we manage funds on behalf of the chapters that do not have their own bank 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)**

Jill Ward updated the Board on the work of the Nominating Committee and shared the list of people shortlisted. Nominating Committee members are continuing the outreach and confirming interest and commitment to joining the Board. It was noted that cultural fit in terms of working style was key to success on the Board, although we have to leave room for people who share our mission to adapt to our internal culture, as well. The final slate will be shared with the Board for approval, and Board members will be invited to meet the final slate of candidates prior to Convention. Alison Smith brought up MCCE's influence or ability to influence the nomination of candidates and there was clarification of what MCCE's role was through this nominating process. The board of MCCE Action should convene for that purpose.

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

- The Convention planning group has had rich discussions about the format and theme: looking forward to our next 100 years including DEI, youth/intergenerational work. There will be a Friday evening keynote by Barbara Turner from LWVUS followed by breakout sessions. Saturday will start with the standard plenary session to present the board slate, budget, and program followed by a speaker on civic education in conversation with our Youth Council. Voting on the plenary proposals will take place in the afternoon and potentially another workshop. Convention will be virtual but the group is exploring how to support members to participate together safely and what follow up can be done to maintain excitement and momentum. Announcements will be made through all channels, including a newsletter to be mailed in early April.
- Amy Adamson has left the organization, however she is still interested in volunteering. Her position will not be filled as reviewing upcoming staffing needs as part of budget and program planning is underway.

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

- Polly Ward presented the revised LWVME By-Laws, which include changes required by LWVUS and addition of the Youth Council to the LWVME structure and to the Board. **VOTE:** Pamela Cox moved to approve the LWVME By-Laws and for them to be presented at Convention to be voted on by the members. Polly Ward seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**
- The updated Policy on Decision-making between Board meetings was presented. **VOTE:** Polly Ward moved to approve the Policy on Decision-making between Board meetings. Susana Hancock seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

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

- The Development Committee is due to meet shortly and will be focusing on our grant and major donor projections for the coming year, which will feed into the budget.
- Anna Kellar shared the list of donors who are due thank you calls and asked Board members to sign up to make at least one call and to update the spreadsheet when completed.
- Anna Kellar presented the final Centennial Campaign results. We met our goal in February. They noted with pleasure that \$113,850 in pledges came from Board members.
- The Executive Committee, acting as the Budget Committee, will review the draft budget, and that will be followed by a board call to field questions and finalize for the board to vote on via email prior to Convention.

## Membership and Volunteer Committee Report (Ann Luther)

- Ann Luther presented the membership update, noting significant growth in the Midcoast, Capital Area, and Portland Area.
- Anna Kellar highlighted the opportunity to increase membership by Convention by ensuring understanding of the value of being a voting attendee. We have set a goal of reaching 750 by Convention.
- The Board reviewed the latest volunteer report. This is the second iteration of this new report. Trends in the data will be included in future reports.

## Program Committee Report (Ann Luther)

- Program Planning Update - the Committee has been working with staff to develop our program for the upcoming biennium. The committee is reaching out to the local Leagues for their input. Amongst the program plan are potential studies and CLL projects. Anna is doing a briefing for the local leaders and board members are invited to attend.
- Advocacy Update - the legislative session is going fast and furious - we have 7 high priority bills, and we are working in coalition on some of them. Two bills have been passed - racial impact statements (LD2) and earlier processing of absentee ballots.
- Over 250 people participated in live Advocacy training webinars, with more watching the video recordings afterward. Feedback from participants and our partners has been very positive.
- Jill Ward reported that the law school is hosting a panel discussion on LD2 on April 1 as part of its series on racial injustice.
- Alison Smith reported that there is an attempt to repeal the gubernatorial clean elections, amongst other bills that we will be testifying against.
- John Brautigam and Ben Gaines are drafting an amicus brief on the challenge to the City of Portland initiative increasing the minimum wage that was passed last year. The Chamber of Commerce has sued based on a constitutional matter that it's not within the authority of a people's initiative. Our position is to uphold the right of the people to initiate ordinances and object to the curtailment of citizen initiatives. **VOTE:** Alison Smith moved to approve filing the amicus brief. Chris Hafford seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

**Council of Local Leaders** - Lilli Martin reported that the charter has been amended and approved. Lane Sturtevant is now attending the CLL meetings and this is welcomed.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

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*MCCE*

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The meeting was called to order at 10:56 am.

## Minutes

- **VOTE:** Alison Smith moved to approve the Board minutes of the January 23rd, 2021 meeting. Micky Bondo seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

## Treasurers Reports

- Ann Luther presented the C3 reports.
- Micky Bondo inquired about our fiscal responsibility under the fiscal agencies to make sure that expenses are (c)(3) compliant. Ann and Nadya will consider how best to support the board in this appropriate role.
- All reports were received and filed for financial review.

## Executive Director's Report (Anna Kellar)

- Anna Kellar reported that a new MoU is in effect with Maine Students Vote from 1 January - 30 June 2021. Further discussions are underway regarding bringing MSV under the DM umbrella and developing the structure, including an advisory group. Meg McCormick would become a part time staff member directing the work and fundraising for it as well. This will be included in the budget and program to be reviewed.

## Program Committee Report (Anna Kellar)

- A team of Election Observers was out for the special election and our reports were included in media reports. It was pleasing to note that interest in this work has not diminished following the November election.

## Governance

- **VOTE:** Polly Ward moved to approve the Policy on Decision-making between Board meetings. Ann Luther seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

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### *LWVME Education Fund*

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The meeting was called to order at 11:14 am.

**VOTE:** Susana Hancock moved to approve the Board minutes of January 23rd, 2021 and the Policy on Decision-making between Board meetings en bloc. Ben Gaines 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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**Present:** Chris Hafford (chair), Ann Luther, and Alison Smith, with Nadya Mullen

**Absent:** Jamie Kilbreth

Chris Hafford called the MCCE Action Board to order at 11:15 am.

**VOTE:** Alison Smith moved to approve the Board minutes of January 23rd, 2021 and the Policy on Decision-making between Board meetings en bloc. Ann Luther seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:16 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nadya Mullen, Operations Director