

Democracy Maine Boards of Directors Meetings

Saturday, November 21st, 2020 ♦ 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Via Zoom

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

Absent: Linda Washburn

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

LWVME

The LWVME Board was called to order at 9:36 am.

Jill Ward presented a proposal from the Executive Committee to award all staff the cash equivalent of two time-off days as a bonus. Ann Luther moved to approve the bonuses. Susana Hancock seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Additionally, Jill is working with Anna to arrange gift cards for areas of personal interest for each staff member. The Board is invited to contribute.

Minutes

- **VOTE:** Susana moved to approve the Board minutes of the September 19th, 2020 meeting. Pamela Cox seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Compliance Report

- Ann Luther and Nadya Mullen presented the Compliance Checklist noting that the tax accountant has not correctly filed our extension for the Ed Fund 990s, and we are working to get that filed ASAP. There is a small chance of a penalty being assessed for being late.

Treasurers Reports

- Ann Luther presented the combined organizations' statement of cash flow and budget v. actual reports and the report from the financial review.
- 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: We're in a transition period with our temporary staff - Sadie will be on staff until the end of the year. She is currently writing reports and working to transition election protection volunteers to other projects. The contractor (Gail Johnson), who was hired to support high school and college engagement work, has completed her contract.
- We are heading into 2021 with a staff of 8 (one is PT), and this means we'll be in good shape for the work going forward. In an ideal world we would have an additional organizer working specifically with the youth projects. If we can fundraise for this, we will bring in that second organizer. Currently, Lane, Evan and Lado are stepping in to cover this area.
- The Maine Youth Votes program is a fiscally sponsored organization. Their Director, Meg McCormick, has ideas on long term, rather than campaign-cycle-based programming, and we're looking at the potential to bring MYV under the Democracy Maine umbrella. There will be more to report at the January board meeting.
- Normally, we switch to advocacy mode now but we're working on how to also maintain momentum of engagement work. There are two teams of people working on publications and education work, respectively.

Governance Committee Report

- Betsy Sweet and Joyce Maker joined the meeting.
- Polly Ward presented the list of proposed members of the Nominating Committee. She briefed the Board on the Nominating Committee role and the process by which it operates.
- **VOTE:** Polly Ward moved to appoint the members of the Nominating Committee. Alison Smith seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Development Committee Update

- Anna Kellar presented the results of the October appeal, which we sent for the first time. This appeal was directly focused on the election.
- There will be another standard End-of-Year appeal, which will be split between the League and MCCE. People on both lists will get both appeals. They will be very distinct in the asks.
- The election report will be completed and shared with donors before the next appeal.
- Anna Kellar shared the list of donors who are due thank you calls before the next appeal - board members are invited to review their assignments and make swaps if desired. Please complete by December 4th.
- The Board reviewed the progress to date on the Centennial Campaign.

Membership and Volunteer Committee Report

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

- The current membership numbers were shared - 667 members to date but this is significant growth from the beginning of the year. Growth has been across the board, though concentrated in MALs and Portland Area.
- Jill Ward reminded board members to continue to recruit from their networks.

- The mask gift worked well, and there will be enameled pins to give to new members going forward.
- Converting election-focused volunteers to ongoing work is an area of focus.

Program Committee Report

Ann Luther reported on behalf of the Program Committee.

- She reviewed the Legislative priorities for the 130th Legislature developed by the Advocacy Committee.
- We have two priority bills for the upcoming legislative session - passing the Corporate Contribution Ban and joining the National Popular Vote Compact.
- There are additional areas that we'll be supporting along the way, including online voter registration, election audits, and a post-COVID package to enshrine changes that took place this year.
- The Board revised the criteria list to include how it impacts our internal and external goals in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- **VOTE:** Ann Luther moved adoption. Micky Bondo seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

Council of Local Leaders

Lilli Martin presented the new Charter.

- She noted that Brunswick was planning to fold as a chapter and would link in with the state via the Portland Area league. Ann Luther clarified the difference between a chapter and a MAL unit in terms of how the national organization views them vs. how we treat them within our state organization.
- There is concern about how the State can present ideas, new projects, and test programs. The Board discussed how to facilitate this interaction with the CLL.
- Lilli is working with Jen Lancaster to refine the email communications to distinguish between state and local communications.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:39 am.

MCCE

The meeting was called to order at 11:39 am.

Minutes

- **VOTE:** Chris Hafford moved to approve the Board minutes of the September 19th, 2020 meeting. Jamie Kilbreth seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

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 11:41 am.

LWVME Education Fund

The meeting was called to order at 11:41 am.

Minutes

- **VOTE:** Susana Hancock moved to approve the Board minutes of the September 19th, 2020 meeting. Chris Hafford seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:41am.

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 11:41 am.

Chris Hafford moved to approve the Board minutes of the September 19th, 2020 meeting. Ann Luther seconded. **The motion passed without objection.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Nadya Mullen, Operations Director