

Minutes of the L WVME
March 22, 2014
UME Augusta, Jewett Hall, Rm 185

Present: Kim McCollister, Cathie Whittenburg; Barbara McDade; Ann Luther; Lorraine Glowczak; Colleen Tucker; Tammy Wing; Barbara Kaufman; Jill Ward; Leslie Harlow; Karla Wight; Polly Ward

Absent: Martha Dickinson; Valerie Marsh

Guest: Andrew Bossie

10:10 a.m. Presentation: Initiatives to Restore Clean Elections – Andrew Bossie presented information gleaned from the recent polling effort.

Call to order by Pres. Barbara McDade at 10:58

Minutes of last meeting: **ACTION:** ANN moved, Cathie seconded acceptance of Minutes, as amended to indicate that Colleen and Polly were the dissenters on the polling funding, were APPROVED unanimously by Board.

Treasurer's report: Our fundraising paying off!!! Anticipated big expenditures with National Convention coming up; Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

EMAIL votes: 1.) to recommend to Ed Fund that it expend \$\$ needed for RCV effort; 2.) to support DE proposal to Climate Change Task Force and not to funding; and 3.) yes to \$100 for League Talk on MCCE February 21

Board Operations & Governance

Michelle Small is willing to re-join the Board and be our representative on the MFOIC Board **ACTION:** Jill moved to appoint Michelle Small to the State League Board; Polly seconded and Board unanimously approved.

Portland League Bylaws review: Polly Ward reviewed the process for the formulation of the Bylaws, which are a reiteration and revision of the Bylaws passed in 1990, made to conform to LWVUS requirements; Ann shared her thoughts for potential revisions; **ACTION:** Jill moved to approve LWVPA Bylaws as amended per discussion by the Board; seconded by Ann and unanimously approved.

Ann requested approx. \$500 to cover charges for the RCV Moot Court event.

ACTION: Motion to recommend to L WVME Education Fund that it expend \$500 for this made by Jill, seconded by Ann and unanimously approved.

Fundraising & Development Committee

Jill introduced language that would augment the existing fundraising policy to include the following paragraph:

“On an annual basis the League of Women Voters of Maine and the L WVME Education Fund will publish a list of member/donor/supporters in an edition of the

newsletter following the conclusion of our fiscal year. Member/donor/supporters are given the opportunity to remain anonymous."

ACTION: Jill moved, Kim seconded, and Board unanimously APPROVED adoption of this additional paragraph to our policy.

Discussion of outreach at retirement communities and holding house parties for fundraising and membership.

Membership

Kim led discussion about debut of new recruitment, new member and renewal membership letters. Ann reported six new members so far; three at the \$25.00 level. Kim reviewed Membership report; with 6 new members, we have a total of 179 members, statewide.

Events Committee

Leslie Haddow discussed a media/outreach game plan. Board brainstormed about an educational speaker. Board determined to delay event until the fall when we could get our intended speaker.

Cathie offered to amend the Task List to incorporate ideas which would increase participation. Ann mentioned that she had been in touch with a lot of groups that are interested in hearing Alex Fernandez-Hertel speak about ALEC. Board decided that press of business warranted waiting until after the November, 2014 election season has passed.

Communications Committee

Ann is doing a great job with marshalling the email communications around events, etc; Marsha nailed down contributions to the next Maine Voter.

Program

Barbara talked about the Quad States event May 3 & 4 in Wells, focusing on energy. Great list of speakers lined up, including Jack Cashman.

ACTION: Motion to recommend to Ed Fund to contribute \$50 to Quad States participants who request assistance in subsidizing hotel room made by Ann; seconded by Jill and passed unanimously.

ACTION: Motion to recommend to Ed Fund to contribute \$100 for Quad States made by Ann, seconded by Polly and passed unanimously.

LWVUS National Convention taking place in Dallas, TX June 6-10. Cathie going; Ann going courtesy of LWVUS inasmuch as she is on the national budget committee; and Barbara Kaufman is considering going.

Agriculture Study:

Downeast met last week, second meeting taking place this coming Wednesday. Portland having its second meeting April 9th.

Advocacy Committee update: Ann reported. Citizens' initiative for Clean Elections reform discussed and our close affiliation with MCCE. We discussed how our participation was founded on it remaining a non-partisan effort, and Jill read LWVME's policy on non-partisan behavior, and how board members could contribute to political candidates as a private individual, but that the President and Voter Service Committee chair cannot actively endorse or be publicly seen to support any particular political candidate.

ACTION: Motion to support MCCE's effort at the Underwriter's Level made by Leslie, seconded by Polly. Kim recused herself from voting due to potential conflict of interest (being married to MCCE Executive Director), and the remaining Board unanimously approved.

Coalitions:

The Board discussed the need to find someone to attend meetings of the Choice Coalition and the Coalition for Maine Women.

ACTION: Motion to pay \$100 renewal membership fee to Choice Coalition made by Ann, seconded by Jill and unanimously approved.

Adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen P. Tucker, Secretary