

**League of Women Voters of Maine
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, November 7, 2015 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Maine Center for Economic Policy (conference room)
One Weston Court, Suite 103, Augusta, Maine

Present – Jill Ward, Ann Luther, Polly Ward, Barbara Kaufman, Sarah Woodard, Stephanie Philbrick, Helen Hanlon, Barbara McDade

Call to Order: by President Jill Ward at 9:09 am.

Approval of Minutes from September 26 Meeting: The minutes were amended to remove Barbara Kaufman from the list of participants at the September meeting. Barbara Kaufman moved approval of the minutes as amended, Ann Luther second. APPROVED unanimously.

Treasurers' Reports: Local League (Downeast, Portland and Brunswick) filed for financial review. State League will be filed for financial review when the corrected version is available.

Board Operations and Governance

Signature Authority – Ann Luther informed the Board regarding the signatories on each of the accounts (State, Ed. Fund, Portland, Downeast and Brunswick).

- State: Ann Luther, Barbara McDade
- Brunswick: Ann Luther, Michelle Small, and Colleen Tucker
- Downeast: Ann Luther, Pam Person (both checking and savings)
- Portland: Ann Luther, Polly Ward
- Ed. Fund: Ann Luther, Jill Ward

Ann Luther made a motion to remove Michelle Small as a signatory for the Brunswick account. This will leave Ann Luther and Colleen Tucker as signatories. Polly Ward second. APPROVED unanimously.

Issue Forum Policy – motion by Polly Ward, second by Barbara McDade to readopt the policy as written. APPROVED unanimously.

Review of Goals and Strategies – These will be a part of every agenda to provide for reflection on the progress being made toward their accomplishment. It was suggested that this item be considered after the Committee Reports at future meetings.

Calendar Review – Stephanie Philbrick presented an initial draft of a League calendar which will include upcoming events and tasks that need to be done.

Discussion to diversify Ed Fund Trustees – the LWVME Board of Directors appoints the Trustees of the Educational Fund. Ann Luther moved and Barbara McDade seconded to appoint two (2) off Board members to the Ed Fund Board of Trustees. APPROVED unanimously. Helen Hanlon will collect names of possible off Board Trustee candidates and draft a process for selecting off Board Trustees.

Committee Reports

Advocacy – Ann Luther discussed the status of the Committee’s work. Stephanie Philbrick and Gina Coppens are working on a report to identify the League’s impact on issues since 2007. The list of new bills for the coming legislative session is available. Ann Luther will look over the list to determine if there are any new bills that the Committee should be following. Ranked Choice Voting will come to the Legislature as will Clean Elections funding. It was suggested that we may wish to do something in the spring to recognize certain legislators. This should be a collaboration between the Events, Advocacy and Fundraising Committees.

Communications – the Committee has not met. The calendar is one initiative of the Communications Committee. In addition, there is a need for the Committee to develop a social media policy. After the first of the year, Jill Ward will be starting a bi-weekly newsletter to Board members.

Fundraising – Sarah Woodard provided a list of potential grantors and would like feedback on the list. Sarah Robinson will be sending a letter of intent to one of the potential grantors by December 1, 2015. The Fundraising Committee would like ideas from Board members for projects to include in grant applications. The end of year fund raising letter should go out by December 1, 2015. Barbara McDade volunteered to print, stuff and mail the letters.

Membership – Ann Luther provided the current number of members.

Program Events

- Jill reminded the Board about Quad States and shared information from the most recent Presidents’ meeting.
- Linda Lord is working on a recognition of the 100th anniversary of the suffragette movement at the Maine State Library in November 2019.
- There was a discussion of Next Step Run, possibly using it as a membership recruitment event either in Bangor or Lewiston/Auburn.

Coalition Partners Updates

MCCE & the Clean Elections Initiative –the Board celebrated the successful passage of Question 1 on election day. Discussed the effort that went into making the initiative and congratulated Ann Luther on all of her efforts in this regard. Ann Luther explained what the next steps for this effort will be.

Committee for Ranked Choice Voting – Polly Ward shared the events related to the turning in of 70,000+ signatures to the Secretary of State on October 19, 2015. Further, the Committee for Ranked Choice Voting has formed an advisory group to help plan the efforts going forward. Polly Ward and Jill Ward have been asked to participate on the advisory group. There is also a conference call every other Friday with FairVote and members of the campaign to develop plans for the next year. One of the first things that has to be done is to develop a shared vision on how a recount will work and the anticipated time that a statewide recount might take.

Coalition for Maine Women/Choice Coalition – Jill Ward reported on the most recent meeting of this group. The two organizations are trying to merge and are working to define the purposes of a reconstituted organization.

Maine Freedom of Information Coalition – John Brautigam reported that there was a phone meeting of the Coalition, but there wasn't a quorum so no action was taken. The next meeting will be in January.

LWVUS Update

Jill Ward reported that the LWVUS has hired a new Executive Director.

Local League Development

Portland – held a mayoral forum in Portland with the Committee for Ranked Choice Voting on October 6, 2015; and an Open House for Clean Elections on October 13, 2015. There will be a Consensus Meeting on the Constitutional Amendment study on November 21, 2015 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at Preti Flaherty; an open meeting on December 9, 2015 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Portland Public Library featuring Joanne D'Arcangelo on Communicating Effectively with Your Legislator; and a book group at the Portland Public Library on January 21, 2016 at lunchtime featuring Madison's Music.

Downeast – there will be two meetings on the Constitutional Amendment study and a book group featuring What's the Matter with Kansas. There will be two meetings in January on the Money in Politics study. Ann Luther will be going to Vermont on November 8th to do a presentation on money in politics.

Brunswick – nothing to report.

Bangor – activities include Naturalization ceremonies, a consensus meeting on the Constitutional Amendment study and a book group featuring Madison's Music.

Other

The next Maine Voter is due to go out in January. Barbara McDade volunteered to compile it. Jill Ward will identify the articles and make sure that they get submitted in a timely basis.

The Executive Committee had an email conversation regarding a request from the Committee on Ranked Choice Voting to partner with them on a grant to provide education on Ranked Choice Voting next year. LWVME would be the lead partner and fiscal agent. Discussions are preliminary at this time.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 12:28 pm.