

League of Women Voters of Maine
Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, March 12, 2016 ♦ 9:00am – 2:00pm
Maine Center for Economic Policy
One Weston Court, Suite 103, Augusta, Maine

Present Joanna Bowers, John Brautigam, Helen Hanlon (arrived at 10:24 am), Linda Lord (arrived at 10:37 am), Ann Luther, Barbara McDade (arrived at 9:51 am), Stephanie Philbrick, Jill Ward, Polly Ward

Call to order: by President Jill Ward at 9:11 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from January 9, 2016 Meeting: Ann Luther moved to accept the minutes, Joanna Bowers second. Approved unanimously.

E-mail votes for the record:

- Vote in January to provide the RCV Committee with the names and addresses of Portland area residents from the LWVME master list for the sole purpose of mailing invitations to a February 2 House Party on Ranked Choice Voting. 11 yes votes, two abstentions. APPROVED.
- Vote in February to amend the drafted LWVME program proposal developed at the January Board of Directors meeting to include language suggested by the LWVPA. 12 yes votes, one abstention. APPROVED.

Treasurer's Reports: State and Local League (Down East, Portland, Brunswick) reports filed for audit. Ann Luther moved, John Brautigam second, a motion to close the LWVBA checking account at Key Bank and move the funds to the LWVME state account. The LWVME will pay the PMP in July from these funds and put the remainder in a reserve for the Brunswick chapter. Approved unanimously.

Board Operations & Governance

Sarah Woodard resignation - Sarah Woodward has resigned from the Board. Hopefully, she will be able to return to the Board in the future. Motion to accept her resignation with regret and great appreciation for her contributions to the League by Jill Ward, second by Polly Ward. Approved unanimously.

Policy on Candidate Debates – Ann Luther moved to adopt the revised policy as amended with the change that a candidate would have 30 days rather than 45 days to confirm intent to participate in a scheduled debate. Polly Ward seconded. Unanimously approved. It was agreed that there would be a future conversation regarding whether the League should have a broader policy statement with an election-specific procedure.

Ed Fund Trustee recommendation – a motion was made by Polly Ward to appoint Regina Coppens as a trustee of the LWVME Education Fund. Second by Stephanie Philbrick. Approved unanimously.

Recommendation to Ed Fund Trustees – Ann Luther moved that the Board recommend to the Ed Fund that the education/outreach project activities identified in the FairVote Maine Palmer Grant be structured as a re-grant to the Ed Fund. Barbara McDade second. Approved unanimously.

Ann Luther moved that the Board recommend to the Ed Fund a project totaling \$15,750 for the statewide Voter Guide in the fall 2016. John Brautigam second. Approved unanimously.

Ann Luther moved that the Board recommend to the Ed Fund a project in the amount to \$1,505 for the production of 1000 brochures on voting. Second by Helen Hanlon. Unanimously approved.

Sarah Robinson contract – Ann Luther moved to allow the contract to expire on its expiration date of March 31, 2016. Helen Hanlon second. Approved unanimously.

Grasshopper phone answering service – the service works very well when callers select an extension. Jill Ward volunteered to field calls left on the main phone number.

Summer Intern – Sarah Palmer, a student at Wheaton College, has applied to be a summer intern with the LWVME. Some of the activities that she might work on are the RCV education project and the library voter registration effort. Members were asked to brainstorm some additional projects for her.

LWVME sway/ merchandise options – Ann Luther provided information on materials that could be available from CafePress.com. Helen Hanlon volunteered to do additional research on options. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Calendar Review – Stephanie Philbrick reminded members to let her know about events so they can be posted on the LWVME calendar.

Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee: Ann Luther reported that the legislative session is winding down. There has not been a huge amount of work for the committee to do this year. Gina Coppens and Stephanie Philbrick have compiled an Impact on Issues for the LWVME. It is still being reviewed by the Advocacy Committee.

Communications Committee – Jill Ward thanked Barbara McDade for her efforts to get the winter Voter out. The timeline for the spring Voter is approaching. Jill will send a schedule out soon. MPBN has contacted Jill about doing some underwriting when we wish to publicize activities/information. This would be a good opportunity for us.

Fundraising Committee – The May appeal is approaching. The committee will miss Sarah Woodward's leadership. The Ed Fund is in good shape financially. The c4 side of the organization is in need of support. The Board discussed relationship building with potential supporters. Ann Luther will send out a list and each Board member will take a name to begin the relationship building process.

Membership Committee – the committee is scheduled to meet at the end of the Ed

Fund meeting. Lists of recent and pending lapsed members were distributed for follow-up.

Program/ Events:

- Quad States – scheduled for April 9 & 10, 2016 in Wells, Maine. It appears that all six New England states will send representatives. It is a good program this year.
- Request: Voter Rights/Election Process session, Parent Ambassador at Educare Central Maine in Waterville – Sept 15th from 5-6:30 pm. LWVME is committed to doing this.
- 100th anniversary suffragette event/Maine State Museum – Nov. 2019. Nothing new to report.

Coalition Partners Updates

- MCCE & the Clean Elections Initiative - Ann Luther reported on the status of MCCE and the Clean Elections Initiative – the remaining \$1million called for in the legislation has been transferred. There is a bill before the Appropriations Committee of the legislature to restore the \$1.7 million that was removed from the fund in 2015.
- Committee for Ranked Choice Voting – Polly Ward reported on meetings with the Coalition group and the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is working to refine the education/outreach presentation that will be used in schools.
- Coalition for Maine Women/Choice Coalition – Helen Hanlon reported that the two organizations have merged and will be called the Maine Women’s Alliance going forward.
- Maine Freedom of Information Coalition – John Brautigam reported the on the activities of the Coalition.

LWVUS Updates

- New LWVUS board slate – Ann Luther reported that a new slate of officers and Board members will be nominated at the convention in June. There will be no continuing members on the new slate.
- League Easy-web – Ann Luther reported on the status of League Easy-web.
- Convention planning – Jill Ward will be attending Convention. She has been asked to participate in a session on Ranked Choice Voting. Other league members who may be interested in attending are Marsha Bingler, Joanna Bowers, and John Brautigam.

Local League Development

- Portland – Portland reported on the Moderator Training scheduled for March 16, 2016, preparation for its Annual Meeting on May 11, 2016 and Voter Registration drives to be conducted in schools during April.
- Downeast – reported on its upcoming book group and the radio shows being held through WERU on participatory democracy.
- Brunswick – Stephanie reported on the book group meeting to be held on Sunday, March 13, 2016 featuring the book by Anne Gass regarding the suffragette movement.
- Bangor – Barbara McDade reported on the upcoming Naturalization ceremony in Bangor.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:23 pm