

Minutes of LWVME Board- April 8, 2010
University of Maine Augusta Student Center

Present: Barbara McDade; Ann Luther; Anne Schink ; Jill Ward (by phone); Michelle Small; Sarah Walton; Colleen Tucker; Polly Ferguson, Martha Dickinson (by phone) and Cathie Whittenburg

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. and the Minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved.

Ann reviewed the Treasurer's reports with us; they were filed for audit. Motion made, seconded and PASSED to allow the Treasurer to determine the percentage of educational materials in the Maine Voter newsletter so as to assess the Ed Fund's share of the cost of publishing same.

Barbara reviewed the email votes made by the Board since our last meeting. These included votes to change the Board agenda; to ratify the Conflict of Interest Policy and the Policy on Making Decision between Board Meetings; and to approve publishing the Op Ed piece in the Bangor Daily News.

Cathy mentioned her work in the Fundraising area. She is compiling a list of women teaching women's studies.

Archives Barbara is working on a grant to hire an archivist. Anne turned over 1929 era Q & A materials from the League and Colleen turned over a copy of a 1890 print of the suffragettes, which she obtained from Sally Bryant.

Policies : the Candidate Debate Policy was amended and re-approved. The Policy on Supporting Other Organizations' Activities was re-adopted.

Keys to Capitol: The Board expressed enthusiastically positive responses to the programs. Colleen will bring the original Proclamation from the Governor and the official expression of sentiment from the 124th Legislature to the next meeting. The Board discussed how to increase attendance next year: Anne suggested working harder with Maine Women's Lobby; Colleen will forward some photos to Cathie to post on the website; Jill mentioned the importance of engaging younger women's groups for membership; Martha mentioned DAR members at the Bangor Naturalization ceremony. This prompted a discussion about Membership. The Board discussed partnering with MCCE and/or MFOIC in a Sunshine Week activity in March.

LWVUS Convention Delegates and Advocacy Priorities for 2010. Ann, Barbara and Colleen will be attending. Once LWVUS recommended program is announced, the delegates will run that by the Board for feedback.

Quad States May 22-23 in Wells: LWVUS President Mary Wilson will be in attendance on Sunday, May 23rd for the presentation of awards to Maine's Congressional delegation for their work on Climate Change. Martha is writing an article about Quad States for the Maine Voter and

will send to Barbara. Barbara is talking with Pam Person to strategize about maximizing attendant and press coverage for the Sisters on the Planet program on Sunday. Anne Schink will contact Laudholm Farm. Ann Luther mentioned Ted Koffman at Maine Audubon and Carol Kelly at Oxfam. Barbara will contact Carol. Invites will be emailed and posted on Facebook. Anne Schink mentioned UNE and a York County Climate Change coalition-Pam is in contact with them.

The Board voted to recommend that the LWVME Ed Fund give \$150 to Quad States.

Membership Michelle reported about new membership letters going out to prospects.

Advocacy

Ann Luther reviewed the legislative bills followed by LWVME. LWVME offered no written testimony on any bill in the second session. Huge thanks were conveyed to Polly Ferguson for attending those legislative sessions held by the Legal and Veterans Affairs Committee on our priority bills.

The Board determined to postpone LWVME's consideration of concurrence on IRV until the Fall of 2010, after the PAC Study consensus is completed. In the meantime, those working on the IRV concurrence will begin gathering educational materials for the local Leagues' consideration. Cathie offered to review the Minnesota State League's IRV Study materials, which are available on the LWVME website in a section devoted to the IRV concurrence and develop an "Executive Summary" that we might use in educating our own members about IRV.

Fundraising: MCCE requested permission to send fundraising letters to 50 LWVME members; the request was moved, seconded and approved.

Coalitions

Anne Schink has replaced Colleen as participant in the monthly WLAC meetings

Ann reported on MCCE activities.

MFOIC Michelle reported that Rep. David Hastings of Fryeburg was given an award by MFOIC as part of its Sunshine Week, and reported on recent legislation determine that the documents maintained by the Registries of Deeds are public documents by that the County Commissioners could determine "reasonable fees" for copying same.

InForMe Anne Schink reported about the distribution/payment for copies of Registry docs, which is a big issue for the InforME Board; Anne will write an article for the next Maine Voter.

ME Center for Investigative Reporting Ann Luther that she will attend a meeting of the new board next month.

Program

Ann reported on the PAC Study: Michelle is finishing up the “Future of Reform” report, and Ann has completed the “Follow the Money” report and is working on finalizing the paper based on the results of the interviews.

Anne Schink reported on the Portland Charter Commission’s deliberations, including its recommendation to use ranked choice voting in the election of City mayor. The Board also discussed the move in Portland to allow non-citizens (legal residents) the right to vote in municipal matters. We will continue to encourage local Portland Leaguers attendance and interest in this process.

Gun laws; Cathie reported on recent Maine law allowing holders of concealed weapons permits to bring loaded guns to Acadia, prompting a discussion amongst the Board members.

Voter’s Service

Easy Voter Guide: The Board indicated its desire to work with Maine’s chapter of the Literacy Volunteers of America in producing this guide.

Forums in a Box: Michelle reported on the availability of Kit St. John, Josh Tardy and other potential candidates to participate in a forum on tax reform. We’d like to hold forums in Ellsworth (Ann), Bangor (Barbara), Brunswick (Michelle) and Portland (Polly). Michelle will get dates and local members will determine the location and arrange publicity.

Board Operations. The Board determined that it would hold its State Council meeting in conjunction with the Quad States event; Council will convene at 8:00 a.m. on May 23, 2010.

The Board adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen P. Tucker
Secretary